

**Eastern Michigan University  
Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board Meeting  
April 7, 2021**

Present: Jean Bush-Bacelis, Richard Douglass, David Geherin, Gerald V. "Skip" Lawver, Sally McCracken, Barry (Dave) Painter, Barbara Scheffer, and Alida Westman.

*Ex officio:* Howard Booth, Emeritus Faculty Representative to the Foundation and Jill Hunsberger, Associate Vice President for Advancement

The meeting was by Zoom and called to order at 10:08 a.m.

Approved were the minutes of December 2, 2020, (moved by Richard Douglass and seconded by Barbara Scheffer) and March 3, 2021, (moved by Richard Douglass and seconded by Howard Booth).

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- 1. Sally McCracken reported that current plans for EMU's Fall schedule stresses flexibility** to be able to respond to the pandemic circumstances at the time. Younger people now are getting Covid-19, and the period of being immune after having had the disease seems to be very limited. It is recommended that prior to the Fall term both students and faculty must be vaccinated. Right now there are face-to-face and online classes, and many students prefer the online course offerings.
- 2. Quirk theater has been renamed to honor Judy Sturgis Hill.**
- 3. The College of Technology has been updated** and renamed to the Game Above College of Engineering and Technology to reflect the emphasis on engineering and the contributions of the Game Above. It looks very good.
- 4. There is concern about enrollment** in part due to the pandemic. Federal funds reimburse for protective equipment, but state funding is unclear. There is a suit in court triggered by allegations of a failure to respond adequately to sexual assault. Sally McCracken will get more information about this and the budget concerns when she meets with administrators.
- 5. Richard Douglass responded to the enrollment concerns by indicating that excellence by people associated with EMU are not adequately publicized.** For example, who came up with the idea that sewers could be checked for the SARS-CoV-2 virus to be alerted to where the virus currently is? The strategy drew national attention. Walter Kraft, VP of Communications, could help publicize this.
- 6. The Board of Regents has three new members** which are excellent appointments.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Many department heads seem not to be aware that they or a faculty member need to recommend retiring people for emeritus status.** Solutions include Sally McCracken attending a Dean and Department Heads Meeting to make the information known, suggesting that department heads forge a helpful association with the previous department head, having the information included in the employee's Exit Interview conducted by HR,

posting the information on the emeritus website, sending a welcome letter to new department heads which includes the information, and having Jill Hunsberger distribute the information.

Biology has an excellent listing of the duties of the department head which is provided to the incoming head, and Howard Booth will assist Sally McCracken in writing a welcoming letter to department heads which includes the relevant information. Sally also will discuss the issue with Provost Rhonda Longworth. Having a designated date on the administrators' calendar would be very helpful toward getting the recommendations submitted.

- 2. Revisiting the Emeritus Association Executive Board vacancies for 2022.** There will be one vacancy, because David Geherin would like to step down; however, he has agreed to continue to serve until the membership can meet, because it is important to have the membership vote on who serves on the Executive Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. A future face-to-face meeting of the General Membership** is not likely before October. The Fall Social is scheduled for December. Jill Hunsberger has reserved the places requested. Like EMU's Fall schedule we need to be flexible. Most likely the emeriti will be vaccinated, but the status of food service and wait staff may not be clear. Also whether people vaccinated no longer pass on the virus needs to be studied further.
- 2. A Zoom membership meeting can be scheduled** in the Fall if it is not possible to meet in person.
- 3. Future programs at meetings** may include a presentation on electric or self-driving cars. However, Skip Lawver does beautiful woodwork, and a presentation of his creations would be a marvelous change of pace. See further Woodlandturnedart on Facebook.
- 4. A "Seats at the Theater" campaign** was very successful. Seats from 1968 in Quirk theater should be used for fundraising.
- 5. People are not reporting their scholarly and creative activities.** Please send updates to Richard Douglass for entry on the emeritus website. Howard Booth has been practicing hurdles and sprinting. Skip Lawver can present his woodwork. Sally McCracken will include a reminder in her next letter to the emeriti.

## **REPORTS**

- 1. Jill Hunsberger reported that the Foundation's big fundraiser** was rolled out very successfully on Zoom on March 25. It is hoped that 30 million dollars will be raised in the next 3 to 5 years. Further, EMU applied for a two million dollar Windgate grant to create a 3-d arts center, and hopefully this was successful.
- 2. Howard Booth reported** that faculty like to donate especially toward scholarships.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be by Zoom on May 5, 2021.