

**Eastern Michigan University
Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board Meeting
May 5, 2021**

Present: Richard Douglass, David Geherin, Gerald V. "Skip" Lawver, Sally McCracken, Gregory Peoples, Barbara Scheffer, and Alida Westman.

Ex officio: Howard Booth, Emeritus Faculty Representative to the Foundation

The meeting was by Zoom and called to order at 10:09 a.m.

The minutes of April 7, 2021, were approved with the addition under Old Business # 1 that the chair of each department's Personnel Committee has the responsibility to recommend to the department head any retiree eligible for emeritus status.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Sally McCracken reported that the budget from Lansing has just been disclosed,** and, as a result, EMU's financial situation looks even more dire than expected. The faculty are engaged in contract negotiations this summer.
- 2. Emeritus recommendations** will be happening in a timely manner, because Provost Rhonda Longworth is putting the day on which recommendations are due on the academic calendar. This will be more successful than any other strategy.
- 3. The emeritus association now has 698 emeritus faculty and staff.** This includes more than 400 faculty and more than 200 staff.
- 4. Due to financial concerns, many secretaries have been laid off.** Even the provost has functioned without secretary for a while. The secretaries now operate with a secretarial pool where they can request help from other secretaries when the workload requires it. Administrators have taken a pay cut. Perhaps there will be another buyout proposal for faculty.
- 5. Faculty Bargaining Council passed 42-0-7 a proposal to increase Medigap reimbursement** by a flat amount and a COLA based on increase in healthcare costs in the US or for EMU's BCBCM coverage. It also proposes that EMU negotiate a Medigap program with BCBSM. The proposal was passed in part because medical costs seem to be one reason why people are hesitant to retire.
- 6. Complaints against EMU** have been made by 11 women whose identities are not known about inappropriate sexual behavior at an off-campus fraternity party. The women seem to suggest that EMU has not been sufficiently responsive to their complaints; however, no criminal or civil charges have been filed, and as a result the exact nature of the complaints are unclear. EMU has indicated that they have supported the women and will continue to do so.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Flexibility is needed with respect to Fall meetings** due to the pandemic. Rooms have been arranged for the October business meeting and the

December Social, but whether face-to-face meetings are possible or whether people are willing to come is unclear.

- 2. Richard Douglass is updating achievements** on the emeritus website. He himself has very unique African figures and has written a book about them.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Emeritus status** is currently granted to nearly all bargained for units. Some administrators who were faculty but not for enough years as faculty to qualify for emeritus status can be granted honorary status if nominated by their supervisor with supporting letters of recommendation. The only group currently not granted emeritus status are Foundation employees. The unanimous consensus of the Executive Board is that the Foundation employees should also receive emeritus status if they meet the requirement of 15 years of service and supported by their supervisor with letters of recommendation.

REPORTS

- 1. Howard Booth reported** that the kickoff of the EMU campaign was very successful. More than 1200 have watched the video, and parts of the video will be used to target specific audiences. A 2.5 million dollar Windgate grant was received for a 3-D arts center. Another million dollars is coming from Roush Industries racing cars, and a faculty member knew someone in an organization to which Walmart donates and this too led to a large donation. People are urged to consider their networks to spot people who may be able to influence donors. Faculty like to donate especially to scholarships.
- 2. There is interest in having emeriti mentor** students and to help in ways that do not interfere with union activities.
- 3. Gregory Peoples and Bette Warren will receive the John W. Porter Distinguished Service Award at the Alumni Awards Ceremony** on May 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be by Zoom on June 2, 2021, at 10 a.m.