

**Eastern Michigan University
Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board Meeting
September 8, 2021**

Present: Jean Bush-Bacelis, Richard Douglass, David Geherin, Sally McCracken, Barry (Dave) Painter, Gregory Peoples, and Alida Westman.

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

The meeting was by Zoom and called to order at 10:12 a.m.

The minutes of June 2, 2021, were approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Sally McCracken reported that** 47 faculty took the buyout. Some departments lost many more faculty than others. It is not clear how many faculty will be replaced.
- 2. The class of incoming students** is one of the largest which EMU has experienced with about 2700 students. Many more are people of color and Hispanics from Detroit. They are especially interested in technology. Enrollment in other areas is down. Despite the large incoming class, the total number of students enrolled at EMU is down by about 5%.
- 3. With respect to the pandemic,** all sports-related team members must have their first vaccine shot by September 27. Some have accepted the rampant misinformation about vaccines being perpetrated, and, as a result they are hesitant to get the vaccine. For comparison, some athletes at Western Michigan University are suing the university over the vaccine requirement. However, many professional events, such as theater productions at the Fisher Theater, require vaccination.
EMU requires indoor masks in all areas except personal offices. Outdoor gatherings do not require masking unless it is a large public gathering.
People must fill out a Covid form to come to campus and be checked before they are permitted into a building.
- 4. EMU has lost much staff** and is short staffed in many areas. As a result the welcoming package to emeriti did not go out as usual. Consequently many new members have questions about their benefits and how to obtain them. Further, many staff and department heads are following a hybrid schedule with time in their offices and time working from home, so they are harder to reach.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. The Fall Membership meeting is in October.** After discussion it seems most likely that this cannot be in person. Sally McCracken will ask President Smith and Provost Longworth to provide an update on EMU, how the pandemic is dealt with, and how the fundraising campaign is going. She will ask them to put their updates on video, so that people can watch them when they would like to do so. To make sure that the presentations are relevant to emeriti, she will ask emeriti to submit questions beforehand.

- 2. The Fall Social** is scheduled for December. It is sponsored by the Foundation. Further details will be worked out as pandemic conditions become clearer.
- 3. There are problems with sexual assaults at off-campus fraternity parties.** Some women reported being sexually assaulted and seeking help from EMU. A diversity of avenues are being followed to provide the best help and prevent future occurrences. This includes hiring an outside agency to investigate the cases and perhaps having a Greek advisor on staff.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Sally McCracken** handed out the schedule for the 2021-2022 executive board meetings. Whether they will be in person or on Zoom will become clearer as we get closer to each date.
- 2. David Geherin agreed to stay on the Executive Board.** He had indicated that he would like to step down, whereas both Greg Peoples and Barbara Scheffer indicated that they are willing to continue for another term. However, due to the pandemic, David Geherin agreed to continue to serve until elections again are possible. Official years in rank are as follows.
First year: Greg Peoples, Barbara Scheffer, and Dave Geherin until elections are possible,
Second year: Jean Bush-Bacelis, Skip Lawver, Alida Westman
Third year: Richard Douglass, Sally McCracken, and Dave Painter
- 3. Sally McCracken indicated that the emeritus list** needs to be updated. When she has a time and place to do so, she will ask for volunteers. Jean Bush-Bacelis volunteered.
- 4. Sally also indicated that she wants to send out more frequent updates** of relevant information for emeriti to keep them involved. Richard Douglass asked that people be informed of the Scholarship and Creative Activities listing on the website, and ask emeriti to provide information for inclusion. Sally asked for information about Elderwise, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and Washtenaw Community College for posting on the Resources listing on the website. Alida Westman will provide this information. Sally also will add a listing of benefits for the lecturers; they have the same benefits as faculty except for the Medigap reimbursement.
- 5. Parking registration problems.** If there are problems when people try to register their cars, changing browsers frequently will help.

REPORTS

- 1. Sally McCracken reported for Jill Hunsberger** that 80 million dollars of the 100 million goal of the fundraising has been achieved.
- 2. Howard Booth reported** that the emeriti may be asked to help in fundraising by contacting their students.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be by Zoom on October 6, 2021, at 10 a.m.