

**Eastern Michigan University  
Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board Meeting  
October 7, 2020**

Present: Richard Douglass, David Geherin, Gerald V. "Skip" Lawver, Sally McCracken, Barry (Dave) Painter, Gregory Peoples, Jean Bush-Bacelis, 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 due to the pandemic and was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

The minutes of September 2, 2020, were approved.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- 1. Sally McCracken reported that the University of Michigan, Michigan State, and Wayne State are mostly online.** There have been a number of pandemic hotspots. **Eastern Michigan University** on its website indicates the number of cases and where they are, and so far there have not been any serious outbreaks.
- 2. As a result of the pandemic, the MAC schedule** has been changed so that only MAC schools participate. Football begins in the second half of October and ends by Thanksgiving. There will be playoffs for the championship. No fans are allowed in the stands. Only team members are traveling for away-games.
- 3. Financially things are somewhat better than feared.** Enrollment is down about 10%. State support was cut less than expected, and the CARES act passed by Congress is helpful.
- 4. The Emeritus Association Meeting is by Zoom on October 20 from 3 to 4 pm.** Sally will send out an announcement first and then the link will be sent out on the day of the meeting. President Smith will indicate how the campus has adapted to the pandemic, and Provost Longworth will describe academic adaptation to the pandemic. Executive Board members are asked to send to Sally any questions they have or that they think others may have. She also will ask emeritus members in the announcement to send their questions to her.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Sally McCracken will share with emeriti that a Scholarly/Creative page is being created** on the emeritus website right off the news page. Richard Douglass provided the text. Emeriti are being asked to provide their professional activities, for example, during winter and spring before the pandemic.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Sally McCracken indicated that Basic,** which reimburses some of the medigap and Part D of Social Security, has changed its procedures again. This has led to a significant amount of confusion. Sally used to try to

resolve all the issues by contacting Basic herself, but given that the arrangement is between EMU and Basic, she now forwards the complaints to EMU. She shared via email to emeriti what she had learned emeriti need to do to accommodate the latest changes.

- 2. EMU-AAUP proposal to have retired faculty given the option to continue union membership or rejoin.** Keeping the emeriti involved most certainly is a win-win, given that the emeriti, like faculty, are major contributors to EMU. Many emeriti want to stay involved with EMU, and many enjoy the benefits listed in the contract.

There are a number of concerns. One concern is that not all retirees are emeriti, and, as a result, the emeritus organization's list is not as complete as the union's own list of who retired. Another concern is that it is not clear what the new class of membership in EMU-AAUP would entail and whether it would be recognized by the national organization. Beyond this it should be made clear that the fee is for membership in the national organization, that the part paid by the individual retired faculty member is for half of the total fee, the amount of this half, and as David Crary, treasurer of the EMU-AAUP, did in the email to Alida Westman, indicate the source of union funds for the half of the fees which the union will pay in order to decrease the likelihood of complaints about this.

As a result the suggestion is that the EMU-AAUP provide information to individual retired faculty and that each person decide whether to continue membership or become members.

## **REPORTS**

- 1. Howard Booth reported** that the Foundation fundraising is on schedule or even slightly ahead of last year. A draft of the next strategic plan is being created. He indicated that he is promoting having emeriti added as campus stakeholders and added on engagement working groups and attend working sessions.

The plan involves defining diversity. He would like to see age added as an additional dimension of diversity. The proposed plan will be reviewed by a wider group at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be by Zoom on November 4, 2020.