

**Eastern Michigan University
Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board Meeting
November 3, 2021**

Present: Jean Bush-Bacelis, Richard Douglass, David Geherin, Gerald V. "Skip" Lawver, Sally McCracken, Barry (Dave) Painter, Gregory Peoples, 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 10:00 a.m.
The minutes of October 6, 2021, were approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Sally McCracken reported** that the search for a Dean of the College of Education would be restarted. Dean Mike Saylor retired.
- 2. Staffing levels are so low** that many telephones are not answered. If there are no instructions to leave a message, then people may not do so and become frustrated. To make EMU function better, it is recommended that students be hired and trained to take messages carefully and to have an additional message following this interaction that the person also can leave a longer message at a specific, provided phone number or email address.
- 3. There now are 729 emeriti** with 20 more expected this academic year. Emeriti donate about 10% of all campaign funds.
- 4. New emeriti should receive practical information** about their benefits. EMU can verify emeritus status of a person if there are questions about eligibility.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. President Smith and Provost Longworth are creating a videotaped presentation** for the emeriti with the help of the videographer of the EMU Foundation, so that images of what is mentioned can be shown.
- 2. Big spaces are being used as classrooms** to permit appropriate distancing. This means that, with the exception of the ballroom in the Student Center, they are not available for meetings. Only a restricted group of people are required to be vaccinated and the remainder can engage in weekly testing only. As a result a **Fall meeting** in person is not viable. For the moment a **Spring gathering** is planned for May as an outside tent event.
- 3. To make meetings inviting for staff members as well,** presentations on broader topics should be considered, such as the new facilities at EMU, "EMU's historical fact, fiction, and rumors," "EMU's spooks and ghosts," "The tunnels of EMU," "The rejected engagement rings in King Hall's plumbing," "medicare choices, electric cars, etc. Further activities, perhaps with the Alumni Association, might be of interest to many emeriti. The Alumni Association arranges a popular visit to the Toledo Zoo which is decked out with lights before Christmas. Other day trips might include a wine tasting

trip or a trip to Frankenmouth. Perhaps "Travel Abroad for Emeriti" could become reality.

- 4. Jill Hunsberger has developed E-discovery**, a brand product which is organized through Zoom and permits development of presentations with Q&A following. Jill will send more information to Sally McCracken for distribution.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. The Emeritus Website will be updated to include a social page.** The best way to retire is not from something but to something. Emeriti are requested to submit information about what is making their lives meaningful. Richard Douglass will send a paragraph to Sally McCracken to explain the webpage to emeriti and organize the page unless the workload becomes too large for him to do by himself.

REPORTS

- 1. Jill Hunsberger reported** that the fundraising this year is ahead of last year's. Giving TRUEDay is on November 30 this year.
- 2. Howard Booth reported** that Home Coming went very well. Perhaps emeriti could participate in homecoming in the future. Most certainly emeriti can be involved in graduation events.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be by Zoom on December 1, 2021, at 10 a.m.