

Eastern Michigan University
Emeritus Fall Meeting
Friday, October 28, 2022
Student Center Ballroom

- I. The Social Hour took place from noon to 1 p.m. Food and drink were provided.
- II. Sally McCracken, President of the Emeritus Association, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. She introduced the Executive Board members, EMU President Smith who will provide an update on the state of the university and Sarah Pressprich Gryniewicz who will provide an update on the status of autonomous vehicles.
- III. EMU President Jim Smith greeted people and reported on the state of the university.
 - A. The state contribution to the EMU budget is the inverse of what it was in the 1970s. The state of Michigan now contributes about 20% of the budget and it used to be about 80%. There has been an increase in federal and state funding as part of pandemic relief programs.
 - B. There are fewer youths 18-23 years old, and fewer high school graduates are planning to go to college, because it is expensive, and there are many jobs available without a college education.
 - C. EMU is trying to attract from SE Michigan adults who have taken some college classes but did not get a degree.
 - D. Programs will be evaluated and some eliminated or integrated with other programs. Popular programs and courses in areas of interest to students are being added.
 - E. There are fewer than 500 tenured or tenure-track faculty. Part-time instructors will be hired, as well as people who have occupations elsewhere but are willing to teach a course for which they have the expertise.
 - F. New dormitory buildings are planned for campus through a contractual arrangement with a private company. Other new facilities, such as the 3-D arts center, are being planned with the help of large donations. Sill and Strong were updated with the help of state money.
 - G. Emeriti and faculty are among the largest contributors financially to EMU, including through wills.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Parking benefit. Emeriti have parking privileges. The card system at the Student Center has problems, and Sally McCracken made sure that people who needed them received tickets in order to be able to leave the parking lot. An assistant from parking was available to provide help from 11:30 to noon and from 2:30 to 3 pm.
 - B. Updating addresses. In order to be able to keep people informed, it is critical that people provide one reliable address, phone, and e-mail address. Changes in these should be sent to Sally McCracken.
 - C. Sally McCracken made available a handout which repeated the "Process for Obtaining Complimentary Theatre Tickets and Other On Campus Events."
- V. New Business

Howard Booth, the Emeritus Faculty Representative to the Foundation, reported that the fundraising has been very successful. The goal for money to be raised was exceeded by far. He expressed hope that people would give on Giving True Day.

VI. Remembrances

Geraldine (Gerry) Kruse, Alan Ehrlich, Naj Ghosheh, Robert Holkeboer, Julie Myers, John G. Pappas.

VII. The program “Autonomous Vehicles” was presented by Sarah Pressprich Gryniewicz, Strategist Analyst at May Mobility. She described the different levels of autonomy. Levels 1 and 2 assist the driver; level 3 cars can handle some scenarios but need a driver in control at unexpected times; levels 4 and 5 have cars that are completely autonomous. Level 4 now exists using well researched maps and strictly standardized routes. Complete autonomy in different, novel settings with unexpected events is not going to be available for quite a while. Level 3 is the most problematic right now, because it is not clear when the car cannot handle what is happening and how to notify the driver. Autonomous cars require a large number of devices and this means that maintenance is time intensive and expensive; as a result, these cars are more likely in fleets rather than private ownership. Autonomous cars require considerable energy and therefore are not yet compatible with electric cars, albeit that hybrid cars are now being explored as autonomous cars.

VIII. Adjournment was at 2:35 p.m.