

Eastern Michigan University
Emeritus Fall Business Meeting
Friday, October 13, 2023
Student Center Room 310 A and B

- I. The Social Time took place from 11:30 to 12:20 p.m. Food and drink were provided.
- II. Sally McCracken, President of the Emeritus Association, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. She introduced EMU President Jim Smith.
- III. EMU President Jim Smith mentioned new administrative hires: Dwight Hamilton, Chief Diversity Officer, Kevin Williams, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programming, Maher Salah, VP for Advancement and Executive Director of the EMU Foundation, and Katie Condon, VP for Enrollment Management. He indicated that Katie Condon would address the emeriti after he provided an update on the state of the university.
 - A. EMU has worked to increase diversity and proportionately now is the most diverse public university in Michigan.
 - B. All of the residence halls will be updated by 2025 with the infrastructure and amenities which students indicate they need. Air conditioning and more bathrooms are added and more WiFi capacity and electric plugs provided. Two new apartment-style buildings are being built.
 - C. The College of Engineering and Technology has the highest rating of a university which is not a research university.
 - D. A digital camera system has been added across campus; it does not permit facial recognition. Today's students are not as concerned about privacy as safety. EMU also uses ZeroEyes which detects handguns and long guns and reports where they are.
 - E. The COB was brought back to campus, because the downtown building had \$13 million of deferred maintenance, and this was not manageable.
 - F. Homecoming 2023 was a big success. The alumni had a tent. People engaged in tailgating, and the game was won.
 - G. The fundraising campaign was very successful, raising \$120 million. President Smith thanked the emeriti, because they are a major donor group.
 - H. In November 2025, EMU will celebrate its 175 anniversary. A year of celebrations is planned.
- IV. Old Business

At the Emeritus Social, Maher Salah, VP for Advancement and Executive Director of the EMU Foundation, will speak. At the 2024 Spring Business meeting, Chao Sun, from Game Above, will speak. Game Above supports many activities in athletics, academics, and the community.
- V. New Business

Katie Condon, VP for Enrollment Management, presented the current status of enrollment and concerns about future enrollment.

 - A. The current goal is to stabilize Freshperson enrollment at 2100. Right now it is 1850. Most EMU students applied to more than 10 schools before coming to EMU, and most live within 60 miles of EMU.

- B. The most popular majors in order are nursing, psychology, not sure and exploring, business, criminology, computer science, engineering.
 - C. Education First Scholarships are providing full cost to those who need support most, with a family income of \$60,000 or less. Through this program 350 students received support. The program has been expanded by using adjusted gross income, and this permitted the addition of another 100 students.
 - D. International connections with China now enroll 600 Chinese students and some of these students will come to finish their degrees at EMU.
 - E. Enrollment decline is influenced by demographic declines, especially in the larger Ann Arbor and Lansing areas, fewer transfer students, and the pandemic. Further, MSU now accepts far more students from Michigan than they used to.
 - F. The challenge is to make students feel secure given their lifetime experience with violence in schools, and their willingness to look at alternative paths, such as certificates, to further their goals. They tend to focus on their first job rather than on a lifetime strategy and what jobs would give their lives meaning. They spend about 9 hours each day on their phones and a great deal of time on social media, so finding them to provide messages about enrolling at EMU is a challenge. EMU connects with high school counselors and provides visiting tours to EMU, as well as virtual tours.
- VI. Remembrances
Fred Blum, Library (06/25/2023), Marjorie (Marge) Eide, Library (07/19/2023), Ruby L. Meis, CHHS/HECR (06/28/2023, and Thomas Murray, CMTA (09/03/2023).
- VII. Program: *The Civil Rights and Social Justice Center at EMU* by Dr. Barbara Patrick, the Center's founder and director.
- A. Infrastructure presents equity challenges, because older and more dilapidated infrastructure is in areas where more vulnerable people live.
 - B. Prominent speakers are being invited, such as Leroy Clemons, Civil Rights Activist and President of the Philadelphia Coalition.
 - C. EMU students are taking trips lasting 7 to 10 days to places important to the past and current civil rights movements. The students come back changed.
 - D. EMU students are working with students from Rust College, the oldest HBCU in Mississippi. Together they will present at the Undergraduate Symposium. It is hoped that the network can be expanded.
 - E. Highland Park is a city within Detroit and the source of its water was changed to the Detroit system. This led to unreasonably large water bills to the city and to individual residents. The city was impoverished when Chrysler moved to Auburn Hills. EMU will hold a competition for the best solution for Highland Park.
 - F. The Policing and Social Justice Roundtable is engaging in outreach to police to explore outreach, service, collaboration, and research opportunities.
- VIII. Adjournment was at 1:45 p.m.