

Eastern Michigan University
Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Spring Business Meeting
Friday, May 13, 2022
Student Center Ballroom

- I. Refreshment and Social Hour from noon to 1 pm. Due to the pandemic, lunches were served in boxes, masks were recommended, and the meeting was held in a large space to permit social distancing.

- II. Sally McCracken, President of the Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association, called the meeting to order at 1 pm.
 - A. She introduced herself and the members of the Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board.
 - B. She explained that the Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association has a Spring and a Fall Business meeting sponsored by the Provost's Office and a Spring and a Fall Social gathering sponsored by the Foundation. The association combines people who served EMU as faculty, staff, and fulltime lecturers. All bargaining units are now in one association. Currently there are 477 faculty, 9 fulltime lecturers, 216 staff, 7 honorary members, and 34 associate members. Honorary members were awarded emeritus status even though they served slightly less than 15 years but made outstanding contributions to their department or college. Associate members are spouses of fulltime members who are deceased have chosen to stay active in the association. During the pandemic and , as a result of a buyout, 125 people became emeriti, including 90 faculty.

- III. EMU President Jim Smith welcomed the emeriti and provided an update on EMU through the pandemic and going forward.
 - A. This Spring's graduation was the first one in person in two years. Dr. Don Lopnow was awarded an honorary degree in acknowledgement of his decades of service to EMU, including serving three times as interim president.
 - B. New housing is being built near the lake house and older housing will be renovated by 2025.
 - C. International relationships are continuing. EMU has a joint College of Engineering agreement with China and a center in Amman, Jordan, which recruits from the Middle East and Africa.
 - D. The Foundation fundraising is running ahead of schedule and bringing in more than originally planned. Emeriti as a group donate the most.
 - E. EMU needs a diversity officer, and a listening tour is taking place.

- IV. Rhonda Longworth, EMU Provost and Executive VP, welcomed people and indicated that people had worked together during the pandemic to be as safe as possible.

- A. More effort has been going into supporting students with success coaches, tutors, etc. Students in their first two years of college have not had a typical college experience, and for incoming students the last two years also were atypical. As a result faculty are called upon to engage in positive problem solving.
 - B. Soon EMU will celebrate its 175th anniversary. Roosevelt Hall will be honored. It was a public high school in which student teachers learned their craft.
 - C. Engineering technology, quantitative epidemiology, and education are growing in student numbers. Esports is more popular than all sports combined, and a program is being launched in the Fall which permits competition with other teams in the Midwest.
 - D. The federal intervention during the pandemic to support higher education has been very helpful. The entering class will be slightly larger again, just as last year, but the overall enrollment still is lower; however this was planned for in the proposed budget.
 - E. To honor the many new emeriti, at the end of the Summer, the Provost's Office and the Foundation together will sponsor an event to honor them.
- V. Sally McCracken pointed people to a listing on each table of all who became emeriti during the pandemic and buyout, and all new emeriti present were asked to stand and be recognized.
- VI. Old Business
- A. Oral History Opportunity. Sally McCracken indicated that EMU archives is interviewing people and urged participation.
 - B. Sally McCracken also indicated that the Emeritus Website has much useful information; it's www.emich.edu/emeritus.
- VII. New Business
- A. Recognition of Exemplary Service. David Geherin has served on the Executive Board and contributed to the association for many years. He is stepping down, and his contributions are gratefully acknowledged. He was presented with a plaque.
 - B. Election for membership on the Emeritus Faculty and Staff Executive Board led to the unanimous election for another three years of Greg Peoples and Barbara Scheffer, and Glenna Frank-Miller as the new person on the board.
 - C. Sally McCracken asked whether people prefer a boxed lunch or a buffet at the Spring Social. Going through the buffet line, people would be required to be masked. People voted for the buffet.
- VIII. Remembrances. Sally McCracken called attention to the list on each table of people who have died during the pandemic.
- IX. Program: "Know Your emeritus Benefits"
- A. David Davis, Administrative Office Manager LAZ ParkEMU, indicated that the card for gates stays active, but cars need to be registered every year during the latter half of the summer for registration valid from September to September. Sally McCracken

indicated that if he sends her the instruction for registration, she would send it out to the emeriti.

- B. Jeff Angeliu, HR Director, indicated that his office currently is understaffed. Sending an email to HR_benefits@emich.edu is the best way to reach someone in the office. The email stays active until answered. The phone number is 734-487-3195.

For the death benefit, the beneficiary should contact the office with a death certificate. People are urged to make sure that their beneficiary listing is as intended.

Medigap reimbursement information is provided both on the website of HR and on the emeritus website (www.emich.edu/emeritus) under Frequent Q&A.

- X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.