

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING SIX  
September 5, 2007, 3 – 5 p.m.  
300 Student Activities Building  
www.emich.edu/facultycouncil 487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:10. New President Russ Larson welcomed everyone to the new academic year. Secretary Alida Westman having called to say she would be absent, Lisa Klopfer agreed to record the proceedings.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by a voice vote

III. Approval of the Minutes of May 16, 2007

The minutes were approved by a voice vote, with 3 abstentions.

IV. Call for nominations for UFC Executive Board positions

Nominations for UFC Executive Board positions may be made today or at the next meeting.

Vice President: Matt Evett was nominated from the floor.

Secretary: Alida Westman was nominated from the floor. Nominations were unanimously accepted by a voice vote.

The President has also asked the following UFC members to serve on the Executive Board: Academic Issues: Lidia Lee; Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee: Shel Levine; Honorary Degree and Distinguished Faculty Awards: Margrit Zinggeler; Institutional Issues: Margaret Crouch; Procedures and Elections: Lisa Klopfer; Student Issues: Bob Winning; Budget and Resources: David Clifford; Technological Issues: Pam Becker.

V. Welcome and update from Don Loppnow

Don Loppnow spoke on current leadership configuration at EMU and in Academic Affairs; enrollment and budget; and concerns about transparency and rumors.

His remarks included the following:

After the dramatic leadership change some two months ago, The Board of Regents (BOR) initially informed Don Loppnow that the Provost position would become "Provost and Executive Vice President," to make it

clear that he was still the Provost but should function as the primary of all the Vice Presidents.

The Executive Vice President fulfills the President's duties in case of the absence of the President. Since this absence was expected to be extended, the BOR named an executive committee. This was supposed to be an advisory committee to the Executive Vice President. The news media were wrong to report that this committee was responsible for executive functions. It is solely an advisory committee. The BOR will clarify this at their September meeting.

As the Executive Vice President, Don Loppnow will move into the President's office and fulfill his duties. As a result, he needs assistance fulfilling the duties of the Provost. Bob Neely, Associate Provost, will take over most of those duties for the Academic Affairs division and will work from the Provost's office. He is not the acting Provost, because Don Loppnow still holds the Provost position. Bob Neely, in turn, will need assistance in working both as Associate Provost and fulfilling the Provost's duties, so he has been provided the assistance of Wade Tornquist, Associate Dean in CAS, who will move to Welch Hall.

Don Loppnow reported that he has been traveling extensively as he fulfills the duties of the President. Recently he met with key leaders in Lansing to assure them that EMU is not rudderless. They gave him a good reception and seemed reassured. The BOR has empowered Don to do whatever needs to be done to prepare the way for a new President. As his schedule permits, he would like to continue to attend UFC meetings in order to enhance communication and to refine and advance shared governance. He remarked that this model could be followed by a future President as well.

Concerning enrollment, Don Loppnow reported that our results are mixed. Thanks to deans and faculty as well as Tom Green of the Enrollment Management office, new first-year and new graduate students

increased. Unfortunately, both re-enrollment and the number of credit hours for which students enrolled were reduced, so that we face an overall loss of students and a little over 2% reduction in credit hours compared to last year. This may still change in the next week, but the university budget was built on an assumption of 1% reduction. We currently have approximately 22,000 students and ought to go back to 24,000.

By September 30 we'll know what sort of state funding we will receive. The BOR has committed to placing the primary amount of any state funds in Academic Affairs. Academic Affairs was disproportionately cut last time. The effect on "controllable" budgets was devastating.

Our goals in addition to working on enrollment, are to create a security plan with training for staff and faculty, so that we will be recognized as an exemplary institution in managing security crises, whether criminal or environmental.

The Comprehensive Campaign has extended its quiet period. Our primary donors are still supporting us. We will get a new President and then open up the campaign.

Responding to questions, Don Loppnow made the following comments:

Tuition increase: we raised tuition 9.5% across the board, but since we did not raise fees, this increase placed us in the lower ¼ of public institutions of higher education, because many of them hiked fees and other charges. We also increased financial aid. Regarding the dysfunctional practice of waiting until July to announce deep cuts, Don Loppnow and Wade Tornquist agreed that some adjustments will have to be made (one department that was forced to cut G.A.s they'd just hired had part of their cut forgiven). To avert similar problems next year, a University Budget Committee will be created to plan for contingencies. Some other re-allocations within the

colleges may also occur.

Regarding drills for security, faculty expressed concern that classes not be disrupted. Don Lopnow agreed to consider the request but urged faculty always to respond to all alarms.

This year we have 27 new faculty hires. There will be 12 new searches released based on strategic needs of particular departments or programs. After September 30, once we know the budget situation, a second wave will be released.

Faculty expressed concern over a variety of problems in Academic HR, including delays and errors. They urged Don Lopnow to allow positions to be posted "contingent on funding" and more generally, to create more accountability in all the administrative units on campus by requiring academic impact statements that address how the quality of their work affects the core value of the university, i.e., academics.

Discussion ensued concerning rumors about the process for the Presidential search. Don Lopnow stated that he did not yet know what the BOR will decide.

Regarding donations for buildings, faculty urged Don Lopnow to consider academic priorities and the cost of maintaining a building even if it is fully funded. At the very least, the University should take a leading role in building LEED-certified buildings.

#### VI. Bob Neely

Bob Neely introduced himself to the UFC and pledged his willingness to seek our advice and discuss priorities.

A) In appointing Wade Tornquist to assist him, Bob Neely emphasized that this was not how he normally operated, that he recognized that in a more normal situation he would have conferred widely and sought broader representation of the academic units among

leaders in his office. Because there was only a week before classes began, however, and a lot of domino-effect to consider, he moved quickly to identify someone with whom he has worked for many years. Wade Tornquist is already proficient in all the necessary financial matters, and has the right experience. Wade will be responsible for budget planning, facilities (including the new Facilities and Environment Committee) and internal research awards. He does not yet have a title.

B) Budget: In the near future, Bob Neely would like to go over the Academic Affairs budget in closer detail, in order to bring in a new transparency.

C) Internal awards: The FRF process will need to be reworked, as it is not feasible. Deadlines will need to be changed. The guidelines require clarification, and better rubrics will be developed.

We may adjust the rules so that full-year sabbaticals require only Departmental and Dean-level approval, not approval from the URSLC. Generally, the URSLC needs more transparency and explicit guidelines. We will be coming to the UFC for help with this.

Other topics that Bob Neely would like to discuss with the UFC include research priorities, the budget, a new distinguished faculty award for creative work, program review, new facilities committee, and goals for the year.

#### IX. Future Meetings and Locations.

A. The next time we will hear more from Bob Neely, and we will vote on positions for Secretary and Vice President. Please let Russ know of your interest to serve on a new by-laws committee, as well as your feedback on anything else.

B. The Second UFC meeting for the 2007-2008 academic year will be held on September 19, 2007, 3 to 5 p.m. on the third floor of the Student Center.

C. The UFC Executive Board meeting will be held on September 12, 2007, in room 301 in the Student Center.

#### X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Klopfer

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); B. Winning (BIOL); L..

Kolopajlo (CHEM); S. McCracken (CTA); M. Evett (COSC); J. Rice (ECON); R. Larson (ENG); M. Zinggeler (FLABS); S. Levine (HPHP); D. Clifford (HEALTH SCI); M. Crouch (HIS/PHIL); E. Broughton (L & C); L. Klopfer (Library); D. Barton (MKT); J. C. Jones (MATH); J. R. Smith (MUS/DANCE); G. Rubenfeld (NURS); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); Karen Saules (PSY); L. Lee (SPED); P. Becker (TECH STUDIES); E. Lowenstein (TED) Miller (DIRECTOR, COURSE AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT); Laura George (DH, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE).  
Ex-Officio: D. Loppnow (PROVOST & EXECUTIVE V.P.), B. Neely and W. Tornquist  
Absent: AFS; ART; CIS; ENGIN TECH; GEO/GEOL; MGMT; SWK; SAC; WGST