

Faculty Senate DRAFT Minutes

Session 14

3:15-5:15 pm Wed April 12, 2023 (zoom)

Attendance: Corsianos, Curran, Waltz, Nims, Barton, Brewer, Elton, Reedy, Walsh, Judd, Gray, Spragg, Brock, Putzu, Ferdousi, McCleary, Bavary Soltani, Neufeld, Ramsey (guest), Baker (guest), Pressley-Sanon, Proulx (guest), Flowers, Lovence, Pawlowski, Longworth (guest), Millan Serna, El-Sayed (guest), Lee, Barrett, Beilfuss, Foster, Valdes (guest), Evett,

- I. Call to Order 3:15pm
- II. Approval of the Agenda 04/12/2023 Moved by Barton, seconded by Elton. Passed 19 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining
- III. Approval of the Minutes from 03/22/2023. Moved by Barton, seconded by Flowers. Passed 16 for, 0 against, 3 abstaining.
- IV. Appointments and Elections (Elton)

A. Faculty Development Center Advisory Council (FDCAC)

One faculty member from CHHS, one faculty member from Library, At-Large (faculty from any college) – 3-year terms

Library (1 seat open, 1 nominee)

- Elizabeth Bucciarelli, Library

Result: Bucciarelli elected.

CHHS (1 seat available, 2 nominees)

- Keisha Lovence, Nursing (CHHS)
- Moira Visovatti, Nursing (CHHS)

Result: Lovence elected.

At-Large Members (1 seat open, 5 nominees)

- Martha Baiyee, Teachers Ed (COE)
- Jennifer Desiderio, Special Education (COE)
- Matt Kautz, Leadership & Counseling (COE)
- Rachel Radina, Leadership & Counseling (COE)
- Zuzana Tomas, World Languages (CAS)

Result: Tomas elected.

B. Faculty Senate's Ad-Hoc Committee on Criminal/Disciplinary Disclosure

Three faculty members from any department/school and college/library

FSEB Appointee

- Marilyn Corsianos, SAC (CAS)

Other Nominees

- Deron Overpeck, CMTA (CAS)

Motion to appoint both by Putzu, seconded by Welsh. Passed 23 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining.

C. Elected members to the Faculty Senate Task Force on faculty well-being:

Leslie Blome, Special Education and Communication Sciences and Disorders (COE)

Imandeep Grewal, Teacher Education (COE)

Ratan Dheer, Management (COB)

Amy Fyn, Library

Julia M. Burkhardt, Physician Assistant (CHHS)

Celeste Hawkins, Social Work (CHHS)

Rachel Schroeder, SAC (CAS)

Jamie Lawler, Psychology (CAS)

Meriah Sage, CMTA (CAS)

Corsianos will also appoint an FSEB member to monitor.

V. Discussion

A. Provost's Update

i. New faculty hires - timeline (ranked and submitted by Deans to Provost -April 11)

a. Provost office will review the requests this week, and will forward to FS subsequently.

b. Will approve 20-25 positions (budgeted for 21). Want senate to rank top 30.

ii. Administrative searches and hires

a. New enrollment management VP is Katie Condon will start in May.

b. Will be interviewing candidates for CHHS dean, hope to announce hire in May.

c. Will start search for VP of academic programs soon.

d. VP for graduate studies search will be in fall.

iii. Strategic Planning Steering committee.

a. Hope to develop draft report over the summer with the steering committee. Discussions will continue in the fall.

iv. Course modality definitions.

a. Want a final discussion of definitions with academic issues before building winter schedule.

v. Safety updates following MSU shootings

a. Have been doing a door survey on campus. Many doors do not lock from the inside; we are looking at options for switching locks. Pray-Harrod will have new locks by end of the year; others are pending.

b. Provost encourages departments to do ALICE training. DPS is considering updating the training. There is a possibility the state will allocate funds for safety updates.

Q: What are we doing about gun control on campus?

A: Weapons are generally not allowed on campus. We lobby for more gun control when we can.

Q: Is there any discussion about privacy issues and how these relate to threats to campus members?

A: FERPA does not protect privacy in cases of threats to safety. We do rely on the CARE team to make these assessments.

vi. Cluster hires/group hires

a. A template will be coming out for the fall; the strategic plan steering committee will review it first.

b. One, perhaps two such hires will be available for next year.

c. These hires should address the strategic plan; there will be a rolling proposal process with quarterly review.

d. Clusters can be 3-5 people. These can involve joint appointments for those individuals.

VI. Guests:

A. Chief Financial Officer Mike Valdes - [EMU UBC presentation \(slides\)](#) and [Fac Senate Presentation](#)

i. Plan is for a utility services agreement, mainly involving electrical power and storm water.

ii. There are proposed debt service savings

iii. Funds will be put in a strategic fund for student recruitment/retention

iv. There is potential for academic collaboration

v. EMU's current AASHE STARS rating is bronze (top 5% among colleges). Claim we can get to gold in 8-10 years.

vi. EMU would receive an upfront payment of \$115 million. \$90 million would go to a strategic initiatives slush fund.

vii. Considering tearing down Jones Goddard, and upgrading other buildings

viii. EMU would pay the partner \$5.3 million a year, to begin with; they would be penalized if energy savings are not achieved.

Q: What are the risks to the university from this kind of partnership?

A: If we cannot achieve energy savings, the partner is penalized. Investment risk if we cannot realize 5% return, though historically we have done better than that, around 7.5%.

Q: What if there is an increase in commodity prices?

A: We locked in gas prices in 2017 for 10 years.

Q: What is the risk with this operator?

A: There is an equity stake from CenTrio (via Queensland Investment fund). This will be a bankruptcy-remote transaction.

Comment: "partnership" only holds so long as they are making money, as we can see from the parking contract; please tread carefully.

Q: What green initiatives are contemplated?

A: Still have 25 years left on the co-gen plant, which uses gas. Have discussed solar arrays but we do not want to disrupt the look of campus.

Q: How is CenTrio making their money?

A: The payment (\$5.3 million) is a fixed fee; but it will increase over time. The company will receive additional payments if they meet certain energy saving incentives. Debt funding will decrease their cost of capital.

Q: Why no RFP process?

A: We relied on Gilbaine to guide us; they looked at NG and CenTrio. The latter has more higher education experience.

Q: What if we make energy improvements to buildings that help the partner rather than us?

A: Looking into contract language, e.g. discrete metering of buildings.

Q: Once again we are selling off assets. We heard about this project very late, and it appears to be a done deal. The process makes us skeptical.

A: We discussed this three times at UBC this academic year.

Comment: Partnership came up in February at UBC; we were working from the model used at Western Michigan where the university still owned the utility.

Q: How is the partnership socially equitable (per the slides)?

A: This is based on sustainability efforts. Reducing emission of greenhouse gases benefits everyone.

Q: Shouldn't there have been a competitive process? Can we see the proposals?

A: There was a competitive process via Gilbaine. Received preliminary estimates from multiple bidders. We do not have access to the proposals.

Q: Do we or do not we have excess power to sell? Could we still get revenue by selling energy to DTE?

A: Need to go back and look at the conversion to dollars from kwh. Most of the time, we do not have much excess power to sell. But we can do some analysis about that.

Q: Why cannot we sell back power if WMU can? Did not the state legislature make this easier recently?

A: It is a significant endeavor to be able to sell back the energy but I do not recall the details. The change in legislation was before this academic year. There is longer-term potential with a partnership.

Q: Can we send you additional questions via email?

A: Would be helpful if they came in one message so I can address these at once.

Comments (after Valdes left): The investment probably will allow CenTrio to sell off excess energy. We could also look at running our own gas line rather than paying DTE \$750,000 per year to use theirs. Please send your questions to Corsianos to forward.

VII. New Business

A. Safety in the classrooms.

- i. Safety review is starting with Pray-Harrold, then will proceed to other buildings. Emu is adding about 200 locks to classroom doors over the summer.
- ii. Panic buttons in classrooms—Lige will let us know where they are.

A. Privacy Committee - [Privacy Statement of Rights](#) (Carpenter)

VIII. Committee Reports: (5:00pm)

- Academic Issues (Gray) - [2023.04.03 AI meeting draft minutes](#)
- Budget and Resources (Carpenter)
- Graduate Council (McVey)
- Committee for Action on Intersectionality, AntiRacism, and Equity - (Neufeld)
- Faculty Issues (Welsh)
- Institutional Issues (Barton)
- Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee (Spragg)
- Student Issues (Brewer)
- Technology Issues (Evelt)

IX. Announcements:

- A. FS leadership and Board of Regents lunch - April 28, 2023 (Topic: *Strategies to Promoting EMU and increasing enrollment*)
- B. BIPOC Educators Gathering on April 28th, 2023 (3-5pm), at the Ypsilanti Performance Space. If you are interested in this event/future similar events, please RSVP by Friday April 21st at the link here: <https://forms.gle/pXaPW3QeWLyx9f8T8> (for further information contact Uttara Manohar)
- C. Next Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for May 17; Additional FS meeting in August (date TBD)

X. Adjourn 5:15 pm