

Faculty Senate Minutes

(approved 5/15/2024)

Session 14

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Attendance: Corsianos, Elton, Curran, Longworth (guest), Bruya, Pressley-Sanon, Ferdousi, Gray, Brewer, Banerji, Ramsey (guest), Putzu, Neufeld, Marino, Millán-Serna, Fields (guest), Winning, Simoes, McCleary, Gellasch (guest), Jefferson, Welsh, Lee, Narayanan, Flowers, Ashur, Spragg, El-Sayed (guest), Barton, Carpenter, Bushinski, Walsh, Schulz (guest), Foster.

- I. Call to Order 3:16pm
- II. Approval of the Agenda 04/17/2024 moved by Pressley-Sanon, seconded by Welsh. Passed 19 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from [04/03/2024](#) moved by Pressley-Sanon, seconded by Neufeld. Passed 18 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining.
- IV. Appointments and Elections (Elton)
Elections Part 1 (Uncontested) - [Nominee Information](#)
 - a. FS Budget and Resource Committee
1 faculty member from CAS - Sciences
 - John Curran, Math (CAS)
 - b. Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee
1 faculty member from GACET to serve for a 3 year term that started Fall 2023 until Winter 2026
 - Andrew Mansfield (SET, GACET)
 - c. AVP Academic Graduate Studies Search Committee - *Open to Faculty Senate Reps and Alternates Only*
1 faculty member (any college/library), S2024
 - Jessica Elton, CMTA (CAS)
 - d. Director of Undergraduate Studies Search Committee - *Open to Faculty Senate Reps and Alternates Only*
Up to 2 faculty members (any college/library), S2024
 - Tierney McCleary, Tech & Prof Services Mgmt (GACET) - FSEB Appointee
 - Tim Brewer, Chemistry (CAS)
 - e. Faculty Development Center Advisory Council
1 faculty member each from COB, CHHS, GACET, 3-year terms (starting F2024)
 - Kunal Banerji, Management (COB)

- Jillian Graves, Social Work (CHHS)
- Raed Jarrah, Engineering (GACET)

Vote to appoint all of the uncontested candidates passed 22 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.

Elections Part 2

- f. Academic Issues Committee - [Nominee Information](#)
3 openings: 1 faculty member from each: CAS, GACET, LIB (3-year terms starting F2024)

GACET - *Vote for 1 (2 nominees)*

1. Raed Jarrah, Engineering (GACET)
2. Qin Hu, Engineering (GACET)

CAS - Elect by acclamation

- John Oswald, Geography & Geology

LIB - Elect by acclamation

- Sara Memmott, Library

Election results: Jarrah wins for GACET; Oswald and Memmott appointed unanimously.

Elections Part 3

- g. CAIARE - [Nominee Information](#)
6 openings, but nominees from only 3 colleges (terms starting F2024)

CAS (1-year term) - *Vote for 1 (2 nominees)*

1. Michael Koscielniak, Geography & Geology (CAS)
2. Shanna Gilkeson, CMTA (CAS)

CHHS (3-year term) - Elect by acclamation

- Celeste Hawkins, Social Work

COE (3-year term) - Elect by acclamation

- Brenna Breshears, Counseling (COE)

Election Results: Koscielniak wins for CAS; Hawkins and Breshears appointed unanimously.

Ongoing Vacancies

- Faculty Senate Budget and Resource Committee (FSBRC) – 1 faculty member from CAS - Arts - [Nomination Form](#)
- CAIARE - 3 openings (faculty from GACET, COB, LIB) for 3-year terms (starting F2024) - [Nomination Form](#)
- Academic Issues Committee - 1 faculty member from Library for 3-year terms (starting F2024) - [Nomination Form](#)
- Educational Environment and Facilities Committee (EEFC) - 1 faculty member from COE - [Nomination Form](#)

V. Provost's Update

A. The new faculty hires process is on track. Ranked positions from the Deans have been sent to the senate. We do not know how many we will hire, but expect similar to last year, so we need 25-40 ranked. We need enrollment data to finalize the budget. FAFSA delays and errors are slowing admissions, but preliminary offers are being made to any one with preliminary evaluation from FAFSA.

Q: Why no ranking from college council for CET?

A: They did not provide it but the provost will request one.

B. Requesting input on academic calendars (next 4 years starting with Fall 2025). We are proposing a fall break analogous to spring break, but this removes the election-day break. There are no additional holiday recognitions. We start slightly earlier in August.

C. Use of withdrawal to avoid consequences of academic dishonesty. Refer to the board of regents' policy on grading. A student cannot withdraw while under investigation for misconduct, but this requires a faculty member to report to the registrar.

Q: Why was our subscription to the plagiarism detection service discontinued? Is this related to artificial intelligence concerns?

A: We have not formally evaluated the effectiveness of plagiarism detection software. The provost says traditional plagiarism tools have success of only 50-50 in detecting use of artificial intelligence, with false positives too. We need to do more faculty development and discussion around these tools.

Q: Will we have a discussion group around what current students' understanding [of what academic honesty] is?

A: Maybe we want a convocation at the start of the semester that extends our introduction to new faculty to a broader audience. We need to think about the new generation's understanding, but also the ethical implications. Would like union and FS to play a role too.

Comment: How are the high schools teaching students about these issues? Ideally there should be consistency with our policies.

D. Enrollment update. It is early days. Retention is up 2%; enrollment is down 1-1.5% year over year.

E. Monies from Centrio. The provost will discuss this in her written report, which will be sent soon.

F. ESL input comparison. Provost wants to extend graduate admissions use of DuoLingo for one more semester until we have a consensus on this issue.

G. Still reviewing combined program input (see input by Graduate Council: [Combined Programs Policy](#)).

i. Provost's current thinking: per the HLC, our target hours should be those required for the undergraduate degree plus a minimum of half the graduate degree's hours. The provost would prefer a formula along these lines, rather than the fixed minimum number provided in the input document. (One program already is already considering reducing to the 135 hours discussed in the document.)

ii. The provost would like to review policies from more universities.

iii. Two paths: (1) combining traditional bachelors and masters, and waiving overlapping credits. (2) a path used in health fields, where they do away with the bachelors because that cannot lead to licensing. The latter is where we need more policy language.

Comment: The number provided in the document was the baseline for the entire university, but there can be variance among programs.

H. The provost will adopt recommended [Honors College Curriculum change](#)

I. Response to proposed policy on [Course modalities](#) The input document allows instructors to require in person exams for fully online programs. The provost would prefer to have only online exams in those cases, especially due to the impact on international students. especially for international students. The provost is willing to discuss in May if there are objections. The policy will be published in July.

Comment: Remote exams cannot work for certification exams.

VI. Provost Strategic Steering Committee – Progress Report

Mary Ramsey, (other members present include Gellasch, Gray, Schulz, Corsianos)

[Provost Strategic Steering - DRAFT Strategy](#)

A. Basic goals include (1) increasing student retention, recruitment, and graduation; (2) supporting faculty and staff well-being; (3) working closely with SE Michigan communities; (4) defining distinctive programs.

B. There will be follow-up groups in the fall based on collecting reports and information over the summer. We will discuss what information we still need, and have listening sessions with stakeholders.

Comment: The committee should share the values in your draft with the community.

A: Agree, but we would like approval from senate and others first.

Comment: The plan would not be strategic if the goals change every year.

A: That is not the intent; we will change initiatives each year if we are not making progress on the goals.

VII. Old Business

A. Shared Governance in-person workshop (held on April 15) - [EMU Shared Governance Powerpoint](#)

i. About 2/3 of the participants were faculty and 1/3 were administrators.

ii. Looking to have a faculty debrief. Please let Corsianos if you wish to participate.

iii. The overall impression was that it was a balanced discussion, with possibility of follow up. We still are waiting on Bahls' final report.

iv. We would like the administration to encourage the Board of Regents to participate in future discussions.

VIII. New Business

A. Student Evaluation Task Force - [Final Report](#) (Neufeld)

Proposed Senate resolution re: student evaluations - [Proposed resolution](#)

We held the first reading. The vote will be in May.

B. FS president election is under way.

C. FS and FSEB meeting calendar for 2024-2025

[FS/FSEB meeting schedule 2024-2025](#)

D. Committee Reports:

i. Athletic Issues (Spragg) - [Missed Class Policy](#)

First reading discussion: The policy is meant to cover all students who miss classes for university activities. Currently there is no EMU policy addressing these issues. Planning to vote at the May meeting.

ii. Academic Issues (Gray) - [Response to request for input on test optional admissions & English language proficiency](#)

The document linked is what we recommend; the provost may have mis-read some of these points earlier. E.g. we are not recommending disallowing DuoLingo; and EMU's current test standards are lower than peer institutions on a number of tests. We do not support continuing with the current standards. We used all of the information available to us, as well as input from experts in World Languages.

iii. EEFC (Welsh) New classroom furniture (e.g. desks) is being put in place this summer. It should be more inclusive.

IX. Announcements:

A. Next Faculty Senate is scheduled for **Wednesday May 15** (3:15pm zoom)

B. Presentation at the BOR meeting Faculty Affairs session: April 18 - Joint task force on Student Mental Health and Wellness (Ron Flowers and members of the committee) - April 18

X. Adjourned 5:26 pm