

Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 9/21/22)

Session 16

3.00—5.00 pm May 18, 2022 via Zoom

Attending: Gray, Curran, Spragg, Barton, Brewer, Bernstein (guest), Flowers, Logwood, Corsianos, Gellasch (alternate), Panja (COSC substitute), Ashur, McCleary, Elton, Waltz, Reedy, Judd, Pawlowski, El-Sayed, Welsh, Carpenter, Tew (guest), Pressley-Sanon, Brock, Zakrajsek, Lovence, Saldanha, Longworth (guest), Foster, Neufeld, Carroll (guest), Braun Marks, Millán, Lee.

I. **Call to Order 3:03 pm**

II. **Approval of the Agenda** Moved by Barton, seconded by Carpenter. Passed 22 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.

III. **Approval of the Minutes: [4/20/22](#), with changes** Moved by Barton, seconded by Pressley-Sanon Passed 20 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining. Required changes: respell Pressley-Sanon's name, add Zakrajsek and McCleary to attendees.

IV. **Appointments and Elections**

A. Senate Officer Elections - Descriptions of roles in [Senate Bylaws](#)

B. Motion to proceed with elections by Waltz, seconded by Flowers.

1. Vice President – Candidates Daryl Barton, Jessica Elton. Elton wins 11 to 10 with one abstention.

2. Secretary - John Curran elected 22 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

3. Membership Coordinator - Monica Millan-Serna elected 21 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining

C. Seeking nominations for:

1. Senate Standing Committee Chairs ([Committee Descriptions](#))

a) Nominations accepted via this [form](#)

b) Must be a senator or alternate to serve

c) All positions open, currently no candidates for student issues, technology issues, budget and resources, and based on the election, academic issues

2. Faculty Development Center Advisory Committee

- a) CAS-Sciences and CAS-Humanities (three year term)
- b) Member at large (one single year term, one three year term)

V. **Discussions**

A. **Provost's Update**

1. Thank you for Suzanne Gray's hard work and leadership during her term.
2. Planning for Fall
 - a) Conditions continue to change with respect to the pandemic.
 - b) Have already provided survey to FS; around July 20 will survey all divisions
 - c) Will have a follow up meeting with FS in August to review previous input and solidify policies
 - d) The provost's strategic planning committees have completed their work. We will touch on the results in August.
3. Faculty Development Center. (Bernstein)
 - a) New faculty orientation is on Aug 24th. Optional meetings prior, e.g. training in Canvas. We will open to all faculty.
 - b) Save the date. August 25 New beginnings teaching conference. In-person morning sessions, and afternoon virtual sessions.
 - c) Will rebuild FDC website resources for online teaching.
 - d) There will be some programming in late July or August; please share your ideas and your expertise for programming.

Comment: We have shared our ideas from the previous senate meeting with the FDC; Bernstein is aware of these, and is welcome to suggestions for facilitators for discussions.

B. **Budget Update (Carroll & Longworth)**

1. Enrollment is stable to mixed; it has slowed recently. We should know where we stand by Memorial Day. Down between 2% and 8% total.
2. Our colleges have been affected unequally. Engineering and education are increasing, CHHS no longer so.

3. State budget picture is brighter than usual. We anticipate a capital outlay for Roosevelt Hall. We can then turn our focus to the business college. An increase in the state's allocation to the general fund seems possible. Also there may be some relief from the state towards pension obligations.
4. Credit hours came in higher than projected last year due to additional first-year students (FTIAC). Going forward, retention rates are lower; so projecting a 5% loss in credit hours for the next academic year versus the current one. An increase in tuition should be able to cover the revenue loss. Recall EMU's budget is 75% dependent on tuition revenue.
5. The budget projections presented are the same as shown recently to the FS budget committee.
6. EMU's retention rate seems to be declining; we are working on improving this.
7. Faculty hiring: Failed searches (5) will automatically continue. We will authorize 20 new searches, though we will ask FSEB to rank 30 requests for new faculty.

C. [Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee Report](#) (Carpenter)

Recommendations:

1. Aligning budget with strategic plan (thinking about how cuts affect plan goals)
2. Including revenue in the budget, which affects upper level and lower level classes differently
3. Examining impact of class cancellations
4. Reinstigate summer task force recommendations. These were implemented in 2019, but we have drifted away from them. Should help with retention and graduation.
5. Reengaging with students who have not completed their degrees. Articulation agreements, deadlines, etc.
6. Improving budget transparency. EMU is unique in obscuring the difference between payments to employees vs. consultants.
7. Analyze the budget impact of the Academic Partners contract. They receive half the tuition for students they recruit.

8. Discouraging financial “games”, e.g. interest rate swaps. Borrowing that is described as “off the books,” such as for the parking revenues, is still taken into account by the rating agencies.

9. There was a brief introduction to the data tables in the report.

Q: Athletics costs EMU about \$20 million a year?

A: This is based on NCAA data. We do not have data on tuition brought in by students on partial scholarship.

Motion to affirm the report by El-Sayed; seconded by Ashur. Passed 22 for, 1 against, 0 abstaining.

D. [Hanover Online Learning Survey Highlights \(Tew\)](#)

1. Main recommendations
 - a) Students want a substantial portion of online course offerings: 30-40%.
 - b) General education is preferred to be online.
 - c) More consultative training for faculty.
2. Hybrid courses do not seem to be preferred relative to other categories
3. Will meet with Hanover next week to go over this: We want more detail on preferences for 1st and 2nd year students vs. 3rd or 4th year students. Some indication the latter prefer asynchronous more. We also want information about preferences by college.

Q: What do we know about the demographics here?

A: We may not have enough data in the sample for some subpopulations, but some comparisons are possible.

Comment (Longworth): student learning and likes are two distinct criteria, and the former is more important. If you have ideas for the follow-up study please share.

Comment: Preparation overhead for online courses may influence why faculty dislike asynchronous online courses, which seems to be the most popular option for students.

Q: What does “preference” mean here? Convenience and quality of learning are confounded.

A: That is true. The survey was based on what students would choose.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Academic Issues (Elton) Please read the end-of year report.

Key themes:

1. Extension of test-optional admissions;
 2. Working with provost's office on defining course modalities; discussion is ongoing.
 3. Administrative drop policy was not implemented based on discussion with the financial aid office.
 4. Review of course fees.
- B. Budget and Resources (Carpenter) (see above)
- C. Committee for Action on Intersectionality, AntiRacism, and Equity (Neufeld)
1. [21-22 Report](#)
 2. Disseminated the video series.
 3. Conducting a self-study of experience of faculty in historically marginalized groups.
 4. Faculty development seminar went well. Intend to repeat it in the fall.
 5. Developing modules for department self-study
- D. Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee (Spragg)
1. Concerning conflicts between course schedules and athletic practices. We do not have as much data as we would like.
There is clustering by major in certain sports, but the reasons need to be analyzed; we want to make sure there is flexibility for student athletes.
There are exit studies we can look at.
 2. Want to improve the relationship between academics and athletics.
 3. NCAA is passing responsibility to the conference level. Policy decisions will be important next year.

VII. **Announcements**

- A. [AAUP on program reorganization](#)

Q: When does something become a FS issue? Arguably reorganization of CAS impacts general education, which affects all parts of the university.

A: We do not have any information yet about the impact.

VIII. **Adjourn**

5:05 pm

Next full Senate Meeting: **8/10/22**