

Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes
(approved 9/20/23)

Session 1

3:15-5:15 pm Wed September 6, 2023 (zoom)

Attending: Corsianos, Curran, Pressley-Sanon, Banerji, Welsh, Neufeld, Elton, Simones, Putzu, Barton, Lee, Judd, Dieterle, Kirkpatrick (guest), Brewer, Foster, McCleary, Spragg, Marino, Flowers (guest), Longworth (guest), Bushinski, Marino, Fields (guest), Pawlowski, Barragan, Logwood, Narayanan, El-Jarrah, Schroeder (guest), Brock, Millán Serna, McInty , Tomas, Beilfuss, Wasiuddin, Ramsey, El-Sayed, Carpenter, Rodriguez (guest), Walsh.

- I. Call to Order 3:17pm
- II. Approval of the Agenda 09/06/2023 Moved by Pressley-Sanon, seconded by Welsh. Passed 23 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from 5/17/2023 Moved by Putzu, seconded by Elton. Passed 14 for, 0 against, 11 abstaining.
- IV. Appointments and Elections

Faculty Senate Executive Board (FSEB):

Elected members:

Vice President - Jessica Elton (Communication, Media & Theatre Arts)
Membership Coordinator - Monica Millan-Serna (World Languages)
Secretary - John Curran (Mathematics & Statistics)

Appointed members:

Academic Issues Chair - Suzanne Gray (Library and WGST)
Student Issues Chair - Tim Brewer (Chemistry)
Budget and Resources Chair - Rob Carpenter (Teacher Education)
Faculty Issues Chair - Bill Welsh (Geography & Geology)
Institutional Issues - Daryl Barton (Law & Marketing)
Chair of the Committee for Action on Intersectionality, AntiRacism, and Equity -
Christine Neufeld (English)
Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee Chair - Becca Spragg (Health Promotion &
Human Performance)
Technology Issues Chair, Matt Evett (Computer Science)
Graduate Council - Tierney McCleary

Approval of appointed members Passed 26 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining. Note we still need a Graduate Council chair.

V. Discussion

A. Provost's Update

1. Enrollment report for Fall 2023.

a. Enrollment is down between 3 and 4% total, which is an improvement over the previous two years' declines. Will have final numbers by end of the week. The budget is flat overall. Housing occupancy is up. About 1850 FTIACS (goal was 2000)

b. Recommend FS invite the new VP of Enrollment Management, Katie Condon

Q: Can you address housing needs for non-traditional students?

A: We are looking to build apartment housing and increasing child care staffing at nearby facilities; also trying to be more flexible about gender of roommate assignments

2. Department roundtables with Provost will continue this year

3. New faculty hires - [Round 1 Approved faculty and AP lines.](#)

a. 20 faculty searches have been approved. Management position in COB and Library position might be added once we know final enrollment on Sept. 10.

b. Will start search for AVP of academic programming immediately, and graduate program VP later in the fall.

c. Not sure about what other searches will occur. Will continue to update the link above as more searches are approved.

4. Cluster hires

[Senate Follow-up](#)

a. Deadline extended to end of September (the 30th).

5. Provost's office is making an effort to improve internal communication (via website, social media, newsletter)

Q: Why is our website so bad? Can we hire an outside consultant? Pages are buried very deep.

A: We need to work on search optimization. A chatbot for navigation would be a good start.

6. Strategic Planning Steering committee retreat. The retreat was productive. We are going to focus on engaging additional constituencies on campus.

Comment: We need faculty reps for COB and CET for this year on this committee.

7. Course modality and course cross-listing. Some changes were rejected at the registrar's office during the summer and run up to fall. There were three cases:

a. Cross listings where only one piece went through the input system for particular modality. The provost believes all of these have been resolved.

b. Some courses did not have their modality approved via the input system. These are nearly all resolved.

c. Some courses changed modality after students registered for a different kind.

Q: Is there any chance to decentralize course inputs to the registration system?

A: Inputs for winter semester have already been decentralized (may be done at department level).

8. New COB Building

a. Once Roosevelt capital request to the state clears, we will slate COB next. Current plan is to renovate a floor in Pierce; need to discuss temporary locations (King or Boone likely.)

9. Safety provisions

a. Putting locks on the inside of classroom doors. So far P-H, Strong classrooms are complete. Sill classrooms are nearly complete; glass doors will also be replaced. Working through in high-traffic order.

b. Active shooter training will be available this fall for departments.

10. Please respond to Elton's email if you want to be paid for the May meeting.

B. Update on Utility Services Agreement (50 year contract between EMU and Centrio)

1. Review of timeline:

-CFO presented to FS on April 12, 2023 (Fac Senate presentation in shared drive)

-list of questions sent as follow up to CFO by FS (not answered by CFO)

-BOR authorized President Smith to finalize and execute utilities services agreement with CenTrio (April 20, 2023 BOR meeting)

-Strategy session hosted by FS and EMU-AAUP leadership (April 26)

-Faculty Affairs session with BOR (lunch meeting) April 27

-Townhall meeting held by FS and EMU-AAUP leadership Thursday May 18

2. Documents sent by CFO on August 31, 2023

[Excess Electric Capacity Assessment](#)

[Harbert - EMU Utility Concession](#)

[Centrio](#)

[Engie](#)

3. Please review these and share your comments with the executive board. Union has sent out FOIA requests.

4. FSEB meeting with BOR (October 19)

Plan to invite CFO Valdes after discussing these issues with the Board.

VI. Guests:

A. Ron Flowers - [Mental Health](#) “Building a Culture of Caring”

-joint task force (Faculty Senate/Provost/Office of President-joint task force)

Q: Is there a nutrition component to this work?

A: There is a component on lifestyle (sleep, food, etc.)

Q: How can departments contribute?

A: Information needs to be campus wide and extensive. Flowers gave several examples of how this could improve.

Q: What will the task force do?

A: Start with an environmental scan and campus surveys. Will make a strategic plan based on available resources and needs. The consultants can provide staff for meetings 4-5 hours per month, as well as surveys we can choose from to help with the environmental scan.

Q: How big will the task force be?

A: About 6 staff, 2 students. Would like 6-7 faculty.

VII. New Business

A. Faculty Senate Ad-hoc committee on faculty well being. Currently have 9 members. First meeting will be Friday.

B. In-person FS meetings will be held on October 18 and December 6 (in Student Center – waiting on room confirmation)

VIII. Committee Reports:

A. Committee for Action on Intersectionality, AntiRacism, and Equity - (Neufeld)

[White Paper on the Needs of Disabled Faculty](#)

1. The white paper describes concerns about treatment of disabled faculty – EMU is not following ADA process.

2. Would like for EMU to be a model of excellence. The white paper lays out several suggestions, including hiring a disability navigator for the accommodations process. We would like an endorsement from FS before we present this to the CDO.

Plan: FSEB will draft a resolution

Q: Are there any grievances via the union?

A: There were several addressed in the last year, and currently an active grievance (El-Sayed)

Comment: Not all of these issues are covered by the contract, which limits the union's scope of action

Q: What do other schools do?

A: We provide some benchmarks in the white paper, but we have not done systematic survey of institutions. There are citations to the literature.

IX. Announcements:

A. Next Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for Wed. September 20 (3:15 to 5:15pm zoom)

X. Adjourn (5:21 pm)