

Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 2/8/23)

Session 8

3:15—5:15 pm January 11, 2023 via Zoom

Attendance: Corsianos, Gray, McVey, Barton, Baker (guest), Braun Marks, Bavery, Lovence, Putzu, Brewer, Soltani, Carpenter, Ramsey (guest), Judd, Walsh, Reedy, Wesh, Lee, Elton, Beilfiss, Ferdousi, Waltz, Foster, Ashur, Lisenhou, Longworth (guest), McCleary, Proulx (guest), Curran, Neufeld, El-Sayed (guest), Pawlowski, Spragg, Banerji, Millán Serna, Barragan.

- I. Call to Order 3:17pm
- II. Approval of the Agenda. Moved by Carpenter, seconded by Waltz. Passed 19 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from 12/07/2022. Moved by Barton, seconded by Welsh. Passed 10 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining.
- IV. Appointments and Elections
 - A. Election:
Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Council - At-Large
One Nominee Steve Ramold, H&P (CAS)
Motion to elect by Barton, seconded by Welsh. Passed (elected) 21 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.
 - B. Committee Openings:
 - i. Gen Ed Subcommittee on Assessment (GESA) – GESA needs a faculty member with Gen Ed Knowledge of Discipline in **Natural Sciences** ([Nomination Form](#))
 - ii. Strategic Enrollment Advisory Committee – This committee still needs one faculty member from **CET** ([Nomination Form](#))
 - iii. Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee - one faculty from **COB** ([Nomination Form](#))
- V. Discussion
 - A. Provost's Update
 - i. Strategic Planning workgroups –
Final reports will be shared with the FS. Still waiting on reports from some work groups; two have reported in. Hoping to have reports over the next few weeks.
 - ii. Update on scooters/where to report abuses and obstructions

- a. Sending a message to students tomorrow to emphasize usage guidelines clearly (there was already a message last month). May also add signage at places scooters collect.
- b. Website has also been updated – you can find who to contact there. Working on a map of availability also.
- c. As long as the batteries work (not too cold), some scooters will be available this term though fewer are available during winter.

Comment: Why not put information on how to remove scooters on the scooters? Not everyone will have access to the website while crossing campus.

Response: A good idea.

iii. Parking garage update. EMU is in mediation with LAZ about the need for the garage to be closed fully for repairs.

Q: What was the timing of inspections-- when were problems identified?
Could this be linked to the September letter from LAZ asking for financial concessions? Could EMU be party to a class action suit against the bondholders if other universities have problems with the same group?

A: Can look into the timing, but can only speculate about the financial concessions. There might be different groups of bondholders at different universities. Will look for someone more directly involved to meet with FS.

Q: Couldn't this happen with the dorms?

A: There is more specificity and better contingencies written into the dorm contracts.

Q: Why not cancel the contract?

A: We are looking at legal options.

iv. Update on searches

a. Associate Provost - Academic Programs search

b. VP - Graduate Studies and Research search

Will move forward on a, b after resolve interim Dean of CHHS, see below.

c. Title IX Coordinator -- Will probably announce the hire this week.

d. LGBT Resource Coordinator –on campus interviews begin soon.

e. Dean of CHHS-- Should have interim appointment soon, and are moving forward with the search for a permanent dean.

v. Next steps in Responsible Research Conduct Training modules (faculty participation and timeline)

vi. Provost response to FS's [Course Program Modality Definitions](#)

Remark: The Provost is working on responses for items v. and vi., probably by next FS meeting

B. Nominations for Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Awards due by Monday January 16 at 11:59pm

A faculty member may be nominated in the following ways:

- 1) Self-Nomination
- 2) Nominated by another faculty member
- 3) Nominated by three (3) or more students
- 4) Nominated by a department/college

Nomination Materials uploaded here: <https://emich.infoready4.com/>

Comment: The deadline is fairly unforgiving (second week of term); we should review a way of making this more flexible. There has been a notable decline of applicants in some categories.

Q: Can't we make this process less work for the nominees, and distribute the work more fairly? Or, make the reward better?

C. Potential cuts to Graduate Assistantships (McVey)

i. [Open letter](#) Eric Acton sent this to GC. It discusses the many benefits provided by our GAs. The number of GAs is tied to enrollment, although their contributions are more varied than solely instruction.

ii. GC will discuss the GA allocation formula with Steve Pernecky, and how we can conserve GA positions. Please share your comments with McVey, now or later.

iii. Graduate enrollment has dropped from 3700 to 2500 in the last nine years. McVey believes the portion of graduate students who have Gaships has been about the same in this time period.

Comment: The president and provost need to see this letter.

A: GC will write a response and copy the president and provost.

Q: How many GAs are there now, exactly? IS the total being cut back?

A: (McVey) We will look into it.

Q: Can outside agencies supporting GAs? This seems to have gone away, though I remember this being the case in the past. Do we know why this changed?

A: (McVey) Will ask Delaski-Smith about this.

Comment: At UBC, Jim Carroll noted FS voted on the GA formula, which is tied to student credit hours. He argued the FS is responsible for adjusting it.

A: McVey will talk to Carroll.

Comment: The FS GA formula was a response to an admin proposal that would have given more severe cuts. It tried to limit capricious changes in allocations

Comment: Sharing GA voices to admin might help emphasize the importance of the positions.

Comment: Cuts could hurt diversity via impact on small programs.

Comment: We cannot get GAs assigned to online courses.

D. Faculty Senate goals and main concerns for 2023

i. So far this academic year we have been seeking information about and providing input on budget issues, Title IX, banning the box, and student mental health. What other issues should we work on? Please break into discussion rooms and discuss.

ii. Summary of discussion groups

a. Group 1 discussion

1. The Women's Commission report talked about the pandemic's impact on caregivers. Faculty, students, and staff continue to cope with balancing caregiving responsibilities with work and school. We need more information about what support exists (or doesn't exist) at EMU.

2. We discussed how student experience has changed. There is a need for common spaces on campus.

3. GAs – GA stipends help departments recruit and support graduate students. We need to review the allocation process and provide better support for our students.

4. Faculty could use a common space for sharing their research efforts.

b. Group 2 discussion

1. How can we get the board of regents to respect shared governance?

2. Perhaps we need an onboarding process for BOR members to clarify how the university works. Note there is language about faculty participation and the Board's right to manage in the faculty contract.

c. Group 3 discussion

1. The BOR never responded to our votes of no confidence in the president and others. Should we consider a vote of no confidence in the board?

2. FS is supposed to evaluate the provost's performance. How shall we go about this?

3. What can we do to improve athletics relationship with the rest of the university? E.g., can we use athletics to promote our programs? Can we prevent practices conflicting with student courses? Perhaps there could be an award granted to faculty who have been helpful to student athletes.

4. Could we introduce a mid-semester break (before Thanksgiving) in the fall schedule? We noted that there is one, for the first time, in fall 2023.

5. How can engage with student government leadership? They have not participated in FS meetings in recent years. We may want to look at other models for advising student government – right now they are heavily influenced by a single administrative advisor.

d. Group 4 discussion

1. Shared governance –we should put forward faculty expertise the BOR can draw on; perhaps generating ideas in advance instead of being reactive.

2. Faculty culture-- We are not always good to each other (bullying). How do we provide conflict resolution? Perhaps via the ombuds, or some sort of mediation.

3. We could use a committee to rebuild faculty camaraderie; we need some parties and other ways of being together.

e. Group 5 discussion

1. GAships – Hope FS will continue to explore this issue. GAships impact enrollment, and programs need more opportunities to discuss with administration strategies for boosting grad program enrollment and other issues the university is facing

iii. Follow up discussion

a. (Corsianos) How do we distinguish ourselves from other institutions? What makes us a unique and desirable university? EMU needs to consider these questions.

b. (Proulx): Lecturers are often left out of decision making, even ones that affect them directly. Faculty need to include them in these processes and decisions.

iv. Next steps

FSEB will review all of these points to determine how we can prioritize the issues brought forth by the breakout groups. Thank you everyone for your thoughtful engagement.

VI. Adjourned 5:22pm