

Faculty Senate Minutes
Session 8
(approved 2/7/24)
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 (zoom)
3:15-5:15 pm

Attendance: Corsianos, Elton, Fields (guest), Barton, Pressley-Sanon, Ferdousi, Marino, Welsh, Barragan, Putzu, Neufeld, Ashur, Foster, Pawlowski, Narayanan, Carroll (guest), Lee, Ramsey, Millan-Serna, El-Sayed, Walsh, Winning, Simoes, Carpenter, Gray, Jefferson, Bushinski, Brewer, McCleary, Bruya, Curran, Spragg, Storrar (guest), Rodriguez (guest)

- I. Call to order 3:15pm
- II. Approval of the Agenda. Moved by Pressley-Sanon, seconded by Barton. Passed 18 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining
- III. Approval of the minutes from [11/15/2023](#). Moved by Barton, seconded Pressley-Sanon. Passed 17 for, 0 against, 3 abstaining. Approval of minutes from [12/06/2023](#). Moved by Pressley-Sanon, seconded by Barton. Passed 15 for, 0 against, 5 abstaining.
- IV. Appointments and Elections
 - A. Vacancies
 - i. I.T.'s Business Operations Committee (B.O.C.) - one faculty member - [Nomination Form](#)

The BOC's primary responsibility is to ensure that I.T. scheduled work (typically Friday downtime) does not conflict with other major institutional events. This group is also responsible for coordinating the testing of proposed new products or releases prior to their being moved to production status in order to minimize any negative impact on the university community or systems. BOC meets (via Zoom) on a bi-weekly schedule, Mondays at 10:30am. More information about this advisory group is available at: <https://www.emich.edu/it/about-it/advisory-committees/index.php>.
 - ii. Grade Grievance Committee - one faculty member from any college - [Nomination Form](#)
 - iii. Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee - one faculty member from CET - [Nomination Form](#)
 - iv. Educational Environment and Facilities Committee - one faculty member from COE - [Nomination Form](#)

v. Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee - one faculty member from CAS-Sciences - [Nomination Form](#)

vi. University Budget Committee - one faculty member from CAS-Sciences - [Nomination Form](#)

V. Discussion

A. Provost's Update

i. New faculty line requests

Deans have received formal request and will receive links and instructions to share with departments this week. The process is similar to last year. The number of potential hires is still TBD. Recommendations from the Deans will be due to the Provost at the end of March.

ii. Update on cluster hires

Provost has reviewed all of the submissions and has forwarded these to FSEB for feedback/review by January 31.

iii. Tutoring services (Knack contract)

EMU has given our notice, and Knack offered a no-cost extension for Fall and Winter. McFarland is looking at other options. AI Committee Chair (Gray) said that any decisions regarding a software system should be done with faculty consultation.

iv. [Please note that some discussion of the 2023 planning document occurred here, while Carroll was present, but has been grouped with the remainder of the discussion below in the Guest section.]

v. Retention and Graduation committee (new)

a. Needs a faculty member assigned by March; meetings will be in June. Need to work out summer compensation.

Q: How does this new committee relate to the Strategic Enrollment Advisory Committee? The latter is charged to address retention, and is supposed to coordinate recruitment and retention efforts. Also, why is there only one faculty member?

A: This will be a different group, looking at the retention report from 2004. How many faculty are on the other committee? (A list of faculty was provided in chat for Fields)

Comment: (Ashur) We have a report from before 2019 with recommendations about retention and recruitment. Will forward to you (Fields).

B. Diploma Equity Project (Doris Fields, Interim Assoc. Provost)

- [EMU DEP presentation](#)

i. EMU is working with the consulting firms Degree Forward and Civilla. The focus is on retention and graduation, pursuing those who have not completed their degrees, especially among first-generation college students. The firms have interviewed some former EMU students, and will be engaged in fundraising.

ii. Admin would like a first-generation-focused faculty group at the FDC in the fall; the idea being to train advisors. There will need to be funding for this.

Q: What are we doing to support students who are homeless?

A: There may be some grant money available for temporary housing. Will follow up about this. But students do not always share that they are homeless.

Q: Why are there no faculty on the advisory committee? The Academic Issues committee was never consulted.

Comment: Is unclear how the non-profit consultants' experience bears on this project.

iii. FSEB will follow up with Fields, who was disconnected before she could respond fully.

VII. Guest: (4:10-4:40 pm)

Scott J. Storrar

Executive Director, Facilities Planning, Maintenance & Construction

-[2023 Campus Planning](#)

A. Initial comments by Carroll.

i. This document is meant to start the process for considering which facilities need work in the future. This will help the university identify things such as which capital projects we might submit to the state and which spaces/facilities need attention, refreshing, etc.

ii. There will be a great deal of follow-up after, and the EEFC will be involved.

Q: There were questions related to the metrics used to evaluate projects, updating the locks in campus buildings, and the need to include special populations on campus (such as people with disabilities) in the process.

Comment: Recommend including someone from public safety on the EEFC to ensure that everyone is communicating (regarding things such as updating locks).

B. Comments by Storrar.

i. We have learned lessons from phase 1 of dorm renovations:

a. We need sanitary systems fully flushed before students move in.

b. We need better communication between construction and Gilbaine's operations.

c. We should have a formal 100-day lookout (checklist) prior to moving in.

ii. Most dorms will be ready to open for fall 2024.

Q: What is the status of the joint committee between Gilbaine, faculty, and admin for the status of housing?

A: I don't know but will check.

Q: Please comment on the Gilbaine communication issue you mentioned.

A: We form a punch-list based on walk-through at the time of substantial completion, which spells out things the contractor is responsible for finishing. There is then a handoff to the operations group. It can be unclear who is responsible as a first-responder in some instances when students have issues. The operations people would contact construction if they need to be involved in the fix.

iii. After hours protocol: there is 24-hour emergency response for operations. A student contacts the housing emergency line, which then contacts Gilbaine, who determine if there is an emergency. If it is EMU's responsibility, they contact DPS. E.g., EMU controls some electrical switching, and elevators.

Q: So there are four calls before someone does anything? This does not sound streamlined.

A: It is about the same as before. We have to determine the need before we bring in overtime workers.

Q: Do we pay Gilbaine if the dorms are not full?

A: You would have to ask HRL.

Q: What about non-emergency maintenance (e.g. shower not working, sink leaking?) How are students given status updates?

A: Concerns would be addressed during regular business hours. Not sure how Gilbaine talks to students.

Q: Who is in charge of Gilbaine fulfilling its role for students?

A: There is an annual audit of work-order responses; will be switching to a quarterly audit. After the first year, the contract requires an APPA assessment (industry standard) and a student survey. CFO is in charge of overseeing this; RJA does the assessment.

Q: Could we see the first audit?

A: I will ask for it.

iv. Master planning process.

a. This is a framework for a master plan, not the actual master plan.

b. The campus survey is to give us a better feel for what needs to be done.

c. The plans we have had for decades want there to be a clear entrance to the university.

d. Stantec is the lead consultant for this and for flood mitigation; a long-standing partner.

e. We wanted to finish this document last summer, and are aiming for this summer.

Q: With respect to your survey, who will actually be asked to fill it out? How do we guarantee disabled faculty, staff, and students will be surveyed?

A: Do not know if we have meet with individuals in those groups, but agree that this is important. Will ask about when is the most effective time to obtain that feedback.

Comment: What about coordinating EEFC with DPS re locks, glass walls for security? DPS projects do not always communicate with EEFC

Q: Who is responsible for [snow-] plowing lots? Also, disabled users are having difficulty getting over snow near their vehicles.

A: LAZ is responsible after 3 inches. Will pass on the word about awkwardness in the plowing.

Q: What other consultants are involved or will be, e.g. Gilbaine?

A: We need Centrio involved. Gilbaine should only be involved with respect to housing; they do have overall development rights.

Q: What is the scope of Gilbaine's development rights?

A: I can find out the details.

VIII. Old Business

A. Zeroeyes (AI gun detection) and classroom locks. DPS is finalizing installation of cameras in Pray-Harrod. Once all cameras are installed and tested, faculty will be invited to monthly testing (on Fridays). 18 buildings are getting new locks. DPS is looking at costs for bullet-resistant film on glass walls.

B. AGB consultant on shared governance Dr. Steven Bahls

-update from December 13 meeting

-[Bahls' biography](#)

-recent article by Bahls - [Trusteeship shared governance Both admin and union will pay his fee.](#)

C. [Title IX questions re: settlement](#)

[Responses](#) by administration Please read these and ask FSEB if you have more questions

D. 12/10/2023 letter to faculty - [letter from FS president](#)

X. New Business

A. [Online Ethical and Responsible Conduct of Research](#)- training modules (Sonia Chawla, Research Compliance)

B. February 8, 2024 - BOR meeting Faculty Affairs session - C.A.I.A.R.E. will present report on environmental scan of DEI work on campus - [CAIARE presentation](#)

C. Committee Reports:

i. Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee (Spragg)

a. The MAC is discussing the impact of sports wagering.

- b. EMU is replacing the track around football field with a track elsewhere so that they can host larger meets.
- c. The baseball stadium is being renovated in conjunction with a minor-league partner.
- d. The new golf practice facility opens this month
- e. The athletic department favors an expanded set of admissions tests for English-language proficiency to help with recruiting.

X. Announcements:

- A. Next Faculty Senate is scheduled for Wed. February 7 (zoom)

XI. Adjourned 5:20 pm