

FACULTY COUNCIL 2004-2005, MEETING ONE

September 1, 2004

faculty.council@emich.edu

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.
- II. The minutes of 4-07-04 were approved unanimously.
- III. Introduction of Faculty Council Representatives.
The representatives introduced themselves. Some also introduced their alternate. Others were introduced by the previous representative of the department.
- IV. Ratification of an Appointment
Building Usage Committee chaired by Robert Neely.
Stephen Sonstein was nominated and approved.
- V. Graduate School: IELTS (International English Language Testing Service)
Dr. Deb deLaski-Smith presented the background and the recommendation.
Background
 - Three countries (Australia, U.K., and Canada) have become big competitors for international students.
 - Many students coming to the U.S. take not only the IELTS but also the TOEFL. This makes the testing process more cumbersome. Further, if only the IELTS were used, then students would know before coming to campus which course(s) in ESL (English as a Second Language) they need to take.
 - IELTS is becoming the gold standard for testing. It has as components listening, reading, writing, and speaking. TOEFL's format will be changed for 2005 to resemble more closely the IELTS.
 - A great deal of information about the score required by different programs at different universities was presented.Recommendation
 - A score of 6.5 on the IELTS is sufficient for the Graduate School.
 - Specific programs may have further requirements.
 - Ask for a recommendation for the score for Undergraduates**Action Item for the September 15, 2004 meeting**
This will be voted on at the next Faculty Council meeting.
- VI. Presidents' Commission on Instructional Delivery
What it is. This is a very large commission, chaired by Interim President Willis, to explore the delivery of courses under Continuing Education. This includes on-line courses and courses taught at off-campus centers. For example, one representative spoke very highly of the support for teaching at an off-campus site, but she expressed concern that the coordinators at the

center had asked her to make her course less difficult. Both the support for teaching and control of content of courses are part of the charge of the commission. Class size and anything else which impacts delivery is part of the charge, but *remuneration for services will not be studied*.

When they will meet. The commission will meet once or twice each week, beginning October 1. The report is due by the end of the Fall semester in December.

Faculty Representatives are Needed. Faculty Council will have seven representatives, two from CAS (College of Arts and Sciences), and one from each of the other colleges and from the library. The President of Faculty Council and the Interim President of EMU together will choose two additional representatives. It would help most if these representatives have had experience with teaching on-line, at off-campus sites, alternative spring break, etc. **If you are interested, or know of someone who is interested to serve, please let Daryl Barton know the person's name.**

VII. Faculty Issues

- Lack of Faculty to Teach Courses

A number of faculty mentioned that they have more students wanting a course they are teaching than can be accommodated, and this is very typical for this course. Therefore, having the administration consider the number of faculty to teach on-campus courses is critical for on-campus productivity, as well as student and teacher satisfaction.

- General Education; Retention; FIGS and First Year Experiences; Parking.

Dr. Martha Tack reported that General Education reform is a very high priority for the administration. This includes making the experience of coming to EMU as pleasant as possible for students, especially beginning students. During the subsequent discussion, the following points were made.

- Having regular staff teach lower-level courses makes it much more likely that the staff will mentor the students, and such relationships enhance retention.
- Getting students to come to campus at times other than class times is very difficult due to the lack of parking and the need for students to have more employment to afford tuition and fees.
- The table top parking structure next to Pease Auditorium did not happen last year, but a flat surface lot was promised, and the flat lot also has not happened.
- The buildings have or have had OSHA violations. Temperature is especially problematic. It is next to impossible to get a light bulb changed.
- Transfer is still problematic. If one person gets transfer credit for a course, this does not guarantee that another

student will. Many universities on their websites list what will transfer.

- Different Pots of Money in Lansing Fund Different Types of Projects
In Lansing, there are different funding sources. However, the new building fund only funds new buildings, and the refurbishing fund does only that. Pray Harold and Mark Jefferson are the buildings to be refurbished, and no money has been made available for this. But the new student union is on track for building.
- Department Web sites
Lunar Cow contracts with individual departments. The new template made available does not match the rest of the websites.
The recommendation from Faculty Council: If you have any updating to do, do it.

VIII. Announcements

- The first Faculty Council Executive Board (FCEB) meeting:
September 8, 2004, 3 to 5 p.m., Faculty Council Office, 104 Pierce Hall.
- The Second Faculty Council Meeting:
September 15, 2004, 3 to 5 p.m., Tower Room of McKenney Union.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: V Okafor, AFS; M Ruggiero, ART; T Brewer, CHEM; S Haynes, COSC; S Erenburg, ECON; I Ahmad, CIS; M Zinggeler, FLABS; C Mayda, GEO/GEOLOG; K Chamberlain, HIS/PHIL; D Silverman, S-HS; C Haddad, S-TS; G Mitchell, S-ET; L Sharito, HALLE; D Barton, MKT/LAW; G Ahlbrandt, MATH; V Benitez, MUSC; P Alford, S-N; J Porter, PHY/AST; A Westman, PSY; M Ziefert, S-SW; R Orrange, SAC; L Lee, SPED; M McCormack, TED; **Guests:** D Delaski-Smith.
Absent: ACC, BIOL, CTA, ENG, GRAD COUNCIL, LDRSHP/COUNS, POL SCI, S-HPHP