

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING SIX

January 21, 2009, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultycouncil

rlarson@emich.edu

487-0196

**I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved unanimously after the addition of two items.

**III. Approval of the Minutes of December 3, 2008**

The minutes were approved with one abstention (23-0-1).

**IV. EMU President Susan Martin**

**1. Economic Stimulus Package**

This may permit an opportunity for money for EMU. Eligible projects frequently need to be shovel ready. The renovation team which is working on Mark Jefferson also can prepare plans for the renovation of Strong. It looks like more money is available these days for renovation than for new construction.

**2. Lansing Budget**

Governor Granholm will present her State of the State message on February 3. It seems likely that there will be no cuts during this fiscal year, but there will be cuts during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

**3. Football Coach's Salary**

The salary of the new coach is not higher than that of other coaches in the MAC; if anything it is lower. Efforts also were made to reduce the cost of the search by using the President's House for interviews. A search committee helped find possible candidates, and funding for the search and transition come from money for televised games.

**4. Applications for the Fall 2009 term**

Applications are up.

**5. Internal Candidates**

It was mentioned to President Martin that internal searches should not have individuals on them who will report directly to the person in the position for which the internal candidate is interviewing. Comments made usually become known to the candidate. There is no problem with external candidates.

President Martin mentioned that the opinions of the individuals who will serve under the person to be hired should become known, because they are important.

**V. Report and Response by Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs Don Loppnow to University Faculty Council Motions during the Fall 2008 term**

**1. Current Concern**

Representatives from the Higher Learning Commission will be coming to campus to assess EMU. One of the AQIP projects is a mandatory project on assessing learning outcomes.

The doctorate in Education Studies with a concentration in Urban Education or teaching Nursing will be evaluated also. The faculty have done a very good job preparing for the site visit.

**2. Student Credit Hours Challenge for Winter 2009**

The Challenge was successful, and, as a result the decrease is much smaller than anticipated before the Challenge. Compared to last year, the number of students is

down 1.24% and the number of student credit hours is down 1.59%. In answer to a question, Don Loppnow indicated that he did not know exactly why enrollment is doing relatively well, because many companies have stopped reimbursing tuition. For the Winter term of 2009, compared to last year, new admissions are up, but the number of credit hours which students are taking is down.

**3. Reaction to the Motions Passed by University Faculty Council in Fall 2008**

- A.** Proposal to move Academic Advising, Career Services, the Registrar's Office, and the Holman Learning Center to Academic Affair.

This reorganization has been discussed by the president and vice-presidents, and they will make an announcement on reorganization very soon.

- B.** Recommendation to formalize internal searches by posting each search, specifying the criteria for the position, and formally screening the candidates.

Don Loppnow asked Human Resources and the Office for Diversity for suggestions, and they also made similar suggestions.

- C.** Objection to Don Loppnow's appointment of the Interim Assistant VP for Academic Human Resources without internal search.

Don Loppnow indicated that he perhaps should have posted the position, but the time available was very limited. Further, he was staying within the guidelines of an agreement with AAUP which indicated that faculty should have input on line academic appointments for dean or higher, but this was not a line position but a staff position. In general, he agrees with the underlying principle of having formal internal searches.

- D.** Motion to fill interim positions as soon as possible, usually within a year. Don Loppnow indicated that he agrees with the intent of the motion.

- E.** Objection to dual administrative appointments which might involve conflict of interest.

Don Loppnow indicated that he has talked with deans about this, and there is agreement that as a general rule there should be no dual administrative appointments.

- F.** Minimizing the number of administrative positions in order to have more money for the core academic mission.

Don Loppnow indicated that he believes that too many administrators had been cut in some areas, and that, as a result, delivery of services to students and support for faculty has suffered.

- G.** Canceling of sections should be done reluctantly.

Don Loppnow agrees, and he has made this point to department heads. He will continue to stress this about Spring term classes also.

- H.** Computer literacy of students needs to be evaluated.

After some discussion, Don Loppnow indicated that he would establish a committee to study this and gather data. Faculty pointed out that assessments are done on a regular basis by community colleges, and we could use the same assessment.

- I.** Delaying late fees until a later date for Winter 2009.

The idea was followed, albeit that the date which Faculty Council requested was not followed. The motion by Faculty Council made a difference for having the date for late fees pushed back.

**VI. Should the Executive Boards of AAUP and University Faculty Council Meet Together? – Susan Moeller and Paul Leighton.**

The idea is to address issues together which are appropriate to both rather than the province of one. As examples, Paul indicated that feedback is needed on the renovation of Pray-Harrold and Mark Jefferson. Further, Faculty Council could forward issues to Bargaining council, such as the workload associated with Program Review. The representatives of Faculty Council are very knowledgeable about the issues faculty face, and this is not necessarily true for departmental stewards.

It is not clear what will happen at the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of the Board of Regents. Normally AAUP and Faculty Council together give presentations, but this year, even though the calendar has been public for years, the next Board of Regents' meeting will be held during the winter break. It is hoped that this is an oversight, and that the greater openness on campus will continue. For example, the budget process is much more open than it was during the past administration.

The motion for the Executive Boards to meet passed (20-6-0).

**VII. Athletic Budget – Shel Levine**

The overall budget is about 9.5 million. Of this 39% is spent on men's sports and 23% on women's sports. The remainder goes to administration, athletic trainers, marketing, equipment room, game operation, etc. The athletic administrator's budget is about 30% of this "remainder" budget. Among the men's sports, football is the most expensive, and, among the women's sports, basketball is the most expensive. Some money comes in from televised games. Over the past five years, the athletic budget initially decreased somewhat, but it changed significantly when President Fallon doubled it in 2007. Athletic scholarships are not included in the budget above.

It is recommended that representatives on Budget Council and John Lumm when he comes to Faculty Council a month from now provide more detailed information on the athletic budget.

**VIII. Resolution on the Athletic Budget as Compared to the Academic Budget**

Faculty Council recognizes the commitment of Eastern Michigan University to athletic success, but it urges the University administration to recognize that the University's first priority is to educate students. Because the University is under financial pressure at present and has only limited resources, the first priority should be to support the academic mission of the University. For example, although games have been added to the football schedule to compensate for the financial pressure caused by hiring a new football coach, that money could also have been used to lessen the huge financial demand that athletics already places on the General Fund and ultimately on the students and tax payers of Michigan (24-0-3).

**IX. President's Report – Russ Larsen**

A. Representatives for the Faculty Development Committee.

**A representative is still needed from COE-Teacher Ed and from CAS-Sciences.**

B. Representative for launch of new EMU website: Matt Evett

C. Facilities Committee

COB representative: Mary Vielhaber

COT: Mary Break

**X. Video Lab; Submitting Grades when "I"s are complete.**

A. CE has a lab for students where they can make videos with sound and e-mail these.

- B.** When an “I” is completed, a pdf file of the form to submit a grade will be accepted by registrar Chris Shell if sent to her emich.edu account from the faculty member’s emich.edu account.

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alida Westman

**Present:** M. Rahman (ACC); J. Eisenbach (BIO); S. McCracken (CMTA); D. Chou (CIS); M. Evett (COSC); D. Crary (ECON); J. Stein (ENGIN TECH); R. Larson (ENG); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); V. Howells (Health Sci); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); E. Zamani-Gallaher (L & C); J. Nims (Library); D. Barton (MKT); M. Al-Khafaji (MTH); L. Isenhour (MGMT); J. R. Smith (MUSIC & DANCE); S. Nelson (NURS); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); L. Lee (SPED); K. Welker (TECH STUDIES); E. Lowenstein (TED); S. Simoes (WGST); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

**Ex-Officio:** Don Loppnow (PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

**Quests:** Susan Martin (PRESIDENT OF EMU); Susan Moeller (PRESIDENT OF AAUP); Paul Leighton (VICE-PRESIDENT OF AAUP); Tim Brewer (CHAIR OF GRADUATE COUNCIL).

**Absent:** AFS; ART; CHEM; MATH; SWK