

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING ONE

September 16, 2009, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultycouncil

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487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. Meeting the Provost, Jack Kay

Representatives introduced themselves to the provost.

III. Provost Jack Kay

The provost expressed appreciation for the resolution by Faculty Council on behalf of the faculty which was read at the Board of Regents' meeting in June welcoming him to EMU and expressing the desire to work with him in a collaborative, cooperative, and open fashion. He is very proud to work at EMU.

Provost Kay indicated that although he did not have details on the contract negotiation between Oakland University and the AAUP, he and President Martin believe in faculty governance and will work to preserve it. He looks forward to being proactive, and he asked that faculty provide him with feedback if they have comments or questions.

Provost Kay indicated that he has a good sense of the university but not yet of the faculty; therefore, he is looking forward to meeting faculty in small groups of 10 to 15 during the Fall term, so that he will have met with 85% or so of the faculty by the end of the term. Having no vision to impose, he looks forward to listening to faculty about their dreams and aspirations. He also intends to see all of the spaces on campus which faculty use in their work.

In response to questions, Provost Kay indicated the following.

- He has recommended that faculty and staff receive flu shots on campus. He proposed having EMU pay for the flu shots, but Blue Cross/Blue Shield indicated that they now will pay for the flu shots. The provost wished that it were possible to provide shots for students also, but this would be too costly.
- Retention is a very important issue. The provost has worked on retention at other institutions. He noted that EMU's retention rate is on par with peer institutions, albeit that it is on the low end. Student-faculty ties are central to retention. The PASS program is helpful. The writing and math centers should be enhanced. Jobs on campus help students get and stay involved on campus. Faculty indicated that the cuts to the Holman Center should be replaced and that it is important to make sure that students are not taking too many courses to do well in them, especially if they also have to work.
- The way graduation rates are calculated does not lead to credit for students who successfully transfer elsewhere and graduate from another institution. There also is no credit for students who transfer to EMU and graduate here.
- Enrollment is up, perhaps in all categories.
- The provost will defend the contract. It provides a clear map to tenure. Faculty acknowledge that the failure to give tenure to two faculty members in June has made faculty nervous. The provost indicated that the frequency of such actions is low.

Faculty indicated the following concerns.

- Transportation issues need to be studied. Students have a hard time getting to classes, and so do faculty.
- Financial Aid is late, and this leads to problems registering and getting books for students. The provost indicated that he would look into this, but the report to him is that it has been less of a problem this year.
- Late fees need to be considered. Perhaps there can be an incentive to register early.

IV. Class Scheduling Guidelines – Provost Jack Kay

It is easier to clear out a building than to have the building in use while construction is taking place. Matt Evett will send out the class scheduling proposal to all faculty, and the faculty are asked to provide feedback to their Faculty Council representative as soon as possible, so that decisions can be made promptly. The beginning times of sequential classes are one such decision. Faculty Council will offer feedback on the scheduling options at the next meeting, October 7.

V. Continuous Improvement of Administrators Implementation Committee

Margrit Zinggeler is willing to chair this committee. She was appointed unanimously. Matt Evett will ask faculty who is willing to serve on the committee. People with relevant competence are preferred. Tom Schmitt is willing to continue to serve on this committee.

VI. General Education Committee.

Mark Higbee and Matt Evett were co-chairs. When Matt became Faculty Council president, Russ Larson volunteered to be a co-chair, but he now has an administrative appointment, so another person is needed on this committee. Someone who is willing to chair the committee is preferred.

VII. University Committee Appointments

1. Retention Council

Russ Larson needs to be replaced. Lidia Lee is willing to serve. Are there any other people interested in serving?

2. Academic Integrity Committee

This committee deals with faculty issues if they arise. A person is needed.

3. Education Environment and Facilities Committee.

For continuity it would help if the same persons continue to serve, because the committee has worked on the construction projects of Mark Jefferson and Pray-Harold which are now underway or imminent. These persons are Steve Camron, Matt Evett, David Crary, Eric Owen, Sandra Hines, Mary Brake, and Mary Vielhaber. It is recommended that Bob Winning, science of biology in Mark Jefferson, join the committee. David Crary will invite him.

4. University Research and Sabbatical Leave Committee (URSLC)

A person from CAS and one from COB are needed.

5. Lecturer Outstanding Teaching Awards Committee

One person is needed. Daryl Barton volunteered. Is anyone else interested?

6. Issue to be Discussed and Voted On.

Should faculty members who serve as fulltime administrators be permitted to represent faculty? Some serve as administrators year after year.

VIII. Standing Committee Chairs

The chairs are members of the Faculty Council Executive Board
Academic Issues: Lidia Lee

Budget and Resources: Mark Higbee
Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Faculty:
Intercollegiate Advisory Committee: Shel Levine will be asked to continue
Procedures and Elections:
Institutional Issues:
Student Issues:
Technological Issues Committee:

IX. Faculty Projects

1. Reacting to the Past – Mark Higbee

This involves a new teaching methodology in which people use role play and games to learn about specific topics. It has been very helpful for retention. Mark made available flyers which provide relevant information.

2. Faculty Presentations to Faculty Council

Any faculty member who wants to present a project in a short presentation of about 5 minutes to Faculty Council should e-mail Matt Evett to be put on the agenda.

X. Providing Information to New Representatives

Marti Bombyk was asked to construct a folder with information for new representatives. It will include the by-laws, what the tasks of representatives are, and the committees on which Faculty Council has representation. If people have a recommendation about what else to include, please tell Marti.

XI. Representatives Who Do Not Come

If a department/school is not represented at two successive Faculty Council meetings, the Membership Secretary, David Crary, will contact the department head of the department/school to find out what is happening and resolve the problem.

XII. Goals for the Year

1. Update the website and have a photo of each representative on the website. Matt Evett will hire a technologically competent student to help with this.
2. Up-to-date membership of all committees on the website.
3. Share with Matt Evett any matters which you believe should be taken up. Suggested topics include parking, subsidizing bus fares, finding a way to tie the community together with civic initiatives, determining whether there are state-wide meetings of Faculty Councils/Senates analogous to state-wide meetings of AAUP unions.

The Faculty Council Executive Board will provide wording for a resolution dealing with transportation. The transportation schedule needs to be integrated with the class schedule.

XIII. Schedule of Faculty Council Meetings at the Beginning of a Term

Sometimes the first meeting is scheduled for the first day of classes. Should this meeting be canceled, or should the meetings of the Executive Board and the Faculty Council be interchanged?

XIV. Date of the Next Meetings

The next Faculty Council meeting is on October 7.

The next Faculty Council Executive Board meeting is September 30.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); L. Kolopajlo (CHEM); S. McCracken (CMTA); D. Chou (CIS); M. Evett (COSC); D. Crary (ECON); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); J. Nims (Library); D. Barton (MKT); K. Banerji (MGMT); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); L. Lee (SPED); M. Bombyk (SWK); E. Lowenstein (TED); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

Ex-Officio: Jack Kay (PROVOST)

Guest: Tim Brewer (GRADUATE COUNCIL)

Absent: AFS, ART, BIO, ENGIN TECH, ENG, HEALTH SCI, HPHP, L & C, MATH, MUSIC & DANCE, NURS, PHY/AST, SAC, TECH STUDIES, WGST