

Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 5/13/20)

Special Session

3.00—5.00 pm April 15, 2020 ** Via Zoom

Present: Carter, Spragg, Curran, Lee, Waltz, Millan, Winning, Reedy, Rahman, El-Sayed, Neufeld, McVey, Staunton, Pawlowski, Welsh, Evett, Peavler, Braun Marks, Patrick, McMahan, Mistry, Banerji, Ferdousi, Chou, Trewn, Kustron,

Non-Voting Present: Gray, Carpenter, Leighton, Tew, Ilozor, Kullberg, Elizabeth

- I. **Call to Order** 3:05 pm

- II. **Discussions**
 - A. Input Issues for Executive Board to Review 3:10 pm
 - i. Review the Americans with Disabilities Act in regards to re-opening the university and how faculty input will be included in the planning process for re-opening
 - ii. Investigate possibility of financial exigency, re-structuring or right-sizing to meet budgetary concerns. Kullberg reported that faculty leadership has been involved in administrative meetings regarding the financial issues, and at this time this has not been a concern, as reduced revenue is also paired with reduced costs (athletic travel, etc).
 - iii. Creation of a faculty group to assist with plan for re-opening campus and the transition back to non-online courses.

 - B. Campus Housing Deliberation 3:20 pm
 - i. Many changes due to impact of COVID-19 which have not been fully realized. Example: campus housing is not the same as off-campus housing: the governor required students to leave campus housing, but off-campus students did not need to relocate. Plan to continue to analyze the issue over the next 1-2 years before having full recommendations, as these could be decisions for the next 50 years.
 - ii. Previous concerns from Faculty Senate from last year
 - 1. Unclear costs of housing updates being done internally vs externally.
 - 2. Discrepancies between what Student Government leadership was reporting to Faculty Senate and the data from the consultant's survey of student concerns.
 - 3. Many stakeholders that were not contacted for input regarding housing, despite their valuable knowledge and involvement with housing
 - iii. Information found during study
 - 1. Found that many students felt that renovated housing would help with student recruitment but a very low percentage of students did not want to pay more for it
 - 2. Privatization of EMU housing was going to be a wholesale privatization – not partial.
 - 3. Will continue to analyze living-learning communities
 - 4. Occupancy data sheet shows 15 year history of how many students are living in different types of housing facilities
 - 5. The state does not provide money into housing facilities for capital projects. This causes schools to either need to provide the funds themselves or use private partnerships.
 - 6. Cost of housing was the highest rated issue for students – when scaled it was 100 and the next most important issue to students was “proximity to campus” at 50.

7. Question if the committee has looked into other options besides privatization, such as cooperative housing or bonds. Committee has not reviewed this yet, as they were mainly focused on the 3 levels (private, private-public partner, public).
 8. Looking into possibility of partnering, for example with Washtenaw Community College, where there are floors/dorms reserved for their students, which fills rooms and creates a road for transfer students from WCC to EMU.
 9. Still need to account for ongoing costs (maintenance) in addition to single renovation or build costs.
 10. Importance of faculty for living-learning communities to work well.
 11. Suggestion to really figure out why students choose particular living situations (ex. Desire to cook, not wanting to clean a bathroom, etc).
- iv. Suggestions for items that Committee should include in final report
1. Cooperative housing, conference housing, and other options for how to finance housing
 2. Literature review on campus housing
 3. Conversations with internal stakeholders
 4. Information on other universities that were or are in similar situations
 5. Recommendation that a strategic building plan be created, including expected future needs for housing beds, updates, renovations, etc and timeline for addressing issues at each building.

III. Adjourn

4:57pm