

Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (Approved 11/18/20)

Session 5

3.00—5.15 pm November 11, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Banerji, Barton, Bavery, Brewer, Brock, Carpenter, Chou, Corsianos, Curran, Elton, El-Sayed, Ferdousi, Flowers, Foster, Goodman, Hayworth, Judd, Lee, Mason, McCleary, McVey, Millan, Neufeld, Nims, Patrick, Pressley-Sanon, Reedy, Saldanha, Sheerin, Speelman, Spragg, Trewn, Waltz, Welsh, Zakrajsek.

Non-Voting Present: Carroll, Gray, Gellasch, Kullberg, Kustron, Romero, J. Smith, Tew, Longworth.

- I. **Call to Order** 3:00 pm
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** 3:01 pm
 - A. Motion to approve agenda: Daryl Barton. Second: Monica Millan. Passed: 23-0-1.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes: [10/28/20*](#)** 3:03 pm
 - A. Motion to approve minutes: Toni Pressley-Sanon. Second: Daryl Barton. Passed 23-0-1.
- IV. **Appointments and Elections** 3:05pm
 - A. Election
 - i. IRB Representative College of Education - Devika Dibya Choudhuri
 - 1. Request for researcher with expertise in racial issues.
 - 2. Motion to approve by acclimation: Daryl Barton. Second: Ron Flowers. Passed.
 - B. Calls for service opportunities
 - i. [HLC Workgroups](#) – need one faculty member for each of the 5 committees; call for senate volunteers.
 - 1. Mohammed El-Sayed - #3, Michael McVey and Andrea Zakrajsek #4, Rob Carpenter #5
 - 2. Barring any further volunteers, a call to the Senate representative and alternates will go out tomorrow
 - ii. EEFC - deadline Friday for COE candidates. Will vote at next meeting.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. [Proposed Academic Calendar Adjustments](#) (Kustron) 3:10 pm
 - i. Query: Should Wednesday before Thanksgiving be off for students? Should the Monday before Election Day be off for students (Election Day is already)? Or some combination?
Daryl Barton: Taking the Monday might give students a better break, mentally
Noel Brock: why have Election Day off if we can mail in? Can Thanksgiving week be off altogether?
Michael Tew: The Thanksgiving week counts as a week for us to get to 14. Election Day was chosen for a day off because there was an extra day available to take off for the next two years' calendars.
- VI. **Discussions**
 - A. President Smith Questions and Answers 3:17pm
 - i. COVID update: monitoring is happening hourly. Campus professionals are working with county professionals. There have been zero cases of transmission in the classroom. Recommending gaiter style masks not be allowed as they increase touching of the face to put on and remove.

- ii. Facilities changes: single dorm rooms, increased cleaning, microbial sprays, wastewater testing, check in desks staffed with student workers, improved air filtration systems.
- iii. Winter calendar changes: 1 week delay, online only start. Plan to make final decisions on length of online start after Thanksgiving.
- iv. Budget: declining revenue (decreased credit hours - 26% decrease since 2014), decreased housing occupancy, CARES act money has helped but doesn't cover all deficits.
- v. Housing: RFQ was sent, but not an RFP. Reiterated that the RFP does not require the university to enter into any agreements. President Smith met with student government leadership and shared their perspective that housing needs to be improved, with a focus on student costs. President Smith plans to move forward with a decision on how to address housing and not wait 2 more years to plan.
- vi. Strategic Plan: moving slowly, continuing to work on these areas.
- vii. Enrollment: increase outreach by discipline. Request for Senate to help design a plan to increase campus visits and connections between departments and prospective students. \$450 per credit hour, if 100 students enroll, increased revenue of \$1 million.
- viii. Police oversight: Saw Senate resolution, looks forward to a Senate Task Force report in December
- ix. Floor open for further questions:
 1. Question (Neufeld): What initiatives are being undertaken by the administration in relation to diversity and inclusion? Focused on diversity in hiring for faculty. Commended work done by the Senate Task Force on Campus Climate, Race & Diversity Issues. Climate study on racial issues will be presented to Senate next month. Implicit bias training is part of the faculty hiring process.
 2. Question (Patrick): Request for clarity on what the President's Committee and Race and Diversity has done already and what will happen going forward as well as plan for a Chief Diversity Officer? Response was that the goal is not to set up a CDO for failure and they want that position to have good support before moving forward with the posting. President Smith supported the commission meeting with the Senate task force to coordinate efforts.
 3. Question (Corsianos) Why was Public Safety Oversight committee so slow to be addressed? President Smith stated that many things have taken longer than he would like over the last year.
 4. Question (Corsianos): Will an announcement be released if an RFP is sent? What work was requested in the RFQ? What is dorm occupancy going forward? Yes, an announcement will be sent. President Smith could not provide the cost of the work in the RFQ from memory. Dorm occupancy is unknown for the future.
 5. Question (Brock): Has the administration considered putting forward a capital campaign to raise funds for housing? Yes, but brick and mortar funding support is not a desirable funding opportunity for donors.

B. [Academic and Student Affairs Budget Update](#) (Carroll, Longworth)

4:21pm

- i. Carroll reviewed powerpoint presentation overview of budget status
- ii. Revenue on budget for state appropriations and tuition. Revenue down for other activities (activities that require people to come to campus, such as testing center).

- iii. Student Credit Hours are worse in the last 3 years than the projections made based on the previous 5 years' amounts.
- iv. University is contracting – credit hours are decreasing across all colleges.
- v. Trend indicates a loss of about 35000 SCH in FY22 – will be budgeting for 300,000 SCH. This is approximately \$14 million decrease in tuition gross revenue.
- vi. Waiving the online/hybrid fee creates a \$3.5 million revenue deficit for Winter 2021/Summer A.
- vii. Challenges for FY22: based on projections it is anticipated that a cut of \$21 million will be needed, assuming we defer housing capital updates.
- viii. Will be drawing about \$20 million from reserves this year. Currently, reserves are about \$100 million. If we used reserves to cover FY22, then we will likely be on the HLC watchlist again for financial solvency.
- ix. Question (Brock): Is there data on donation amounts? Yes, donations are part of the EMU Foundation budget, which is not the same as the University budget.

VII. Committee Chair Reports Tabled

VIII. Provost's Update 4:50 pm

- A. Adobe Presenter is being end-dated by Adobe and will not be supported anymore. Browsers are updating and will not be able to access the Presenter files. IT is working with individual users to transfer content from Presenter to another platform. Content needs to be transferred as soon as possible, especially if you have Winter 2021 content.
- B. December commencement will be online. All departmental ceremonies will also need to be virtual due to gathering size limitations.
- C. Request from Tew: Pass/Fail option, proposal to continue the process from Winter 2020 during the Fall 2020 semester.
- D. Question (Carpenter): Will Fall 2020 be tagged as "Covid impacted" on transcripts, as Winter 2020 was? Currently, no, but this could happen if it is desired. Other institutions are mixed, some are marking transcripts (ex. Michigan), some are not (ex. Mich State)
- E. Zoom Recording: Language is being created for discussion that covers faculty options for recording policies as well as specific restrictions. There will be both recommendations and policies. Technology Issues committee is reviewing the recommendations and policy language.

IX. Announcements

- A. Next Senate meeting: 11/18/20

X. Adjourn 5:06 pm

Topic: Faculty Senate Session 5

Time: Nov 11, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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