

Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 10/6/21)

Session 1

3.00—5.15 pm September 15, 2021 via Zoom

Attending: Gray, Curran, Welsh, Brewer, Winning, Millan, Logwood, Tew (guest), Soltani, Gellash, Neufeld, Foster, Carpenter, Reedy, Lee, McCleary, Kalinowski, Braun-Marks, Jones-Obeng, Waltz, Spragg, Barton, Bavery, Bucciarelli, Brock, Flowers, Saldanha, Elton, Irwin, Lucy, Ferdousi, El-Sayed, Saunoris, Zakrajsek, Pawlowski, Lovence, Isenhour, Corsianos, Fyn, Banerji

- I. **Call to Order** 3:03 pm
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve: Barton, second Carpenter. Passed: 24 for, 0 against, 0 abstained
- III. **Approval of the Minutes from 6/12/21:** Motion to approve: Barton, second Winning. Passed: 21 for, 0 against, 3 abstained
- IV. **Provost's Report (Michael Tew)**

EMU is 5.4% down in enrollment (budget assumed 7% down), FTIAC's exceeded expectations. We seem closer to the bottom of the enrollment decline, in about 3 years. Tew presented a table of change of SCH by college.

EMU's retention rate is lowest in some years, possibly due to the pandemic, from Fall `20 to `21 to about 69.9%. Target is 75%. The situation needs further analysis, e.g. which students are leaving, is this tied to online v. face-to-face sections, and so on.

EMU is working with the Re-Up organization to encourage students who have dropped out to come back. As for declines in transfer students and graduate students, addressing these is a challenge due to decline in community college enrollment, and a good job market.
- V. **Appointments and Elections**
 - A. Motion to approve the slate for Senate Executive Board Standing Committee Chairs for 2021-2022, as linked via Google Drive. Moved: Carpenter, second Millan. Passed: 29 for, 0 against, 1 abstained.
 - B. Motion to approve of online elections for vacant committee seats due to the length of the current agenda. Moved: Barton, second Spragg. Passed: 30 for, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- VI. **Discussions**
 - A. Resolution on the 2021-22 COVID Plan (full resolution provided via Google Drive)

Discussion: Some are concerned that faculty have no flexibility to adjust delivery based on public health situation. Winter term delivery is already fixed. Academic issues committee can provide input on these.

Resolution passed: 27 for, 2 no, 0 abstain

B. Resolution on the Return of the College of Business to the Owen Building

Discussion: Business college faculty are overwhelmingly in favor. There is concern about a possible tie of Owen's sale with the privatization of campus housing. Very little information is available.

Resolution passed: 23 for, 3 against, 4 abstain

C. Planned privatization of campus housing

Discussion: Administration wants to ask Regents for an approval vote at the 10/14/21 board meeting, picking a vendor to privatize all of campus housing. Campus housing RFP written responses (each 100+ pages) arrive 9/20, followed by vendor presentations. There is an urgency to make a decision quickly (24 hours after the final presentation by vendors), not to evaluate possibilities carefully.

There also appears to be a desire to expand privatization beyond campus housing.

FSEB will contact the press, the Board of Regents, and the administration expressing these concerns.

D. The HLC Assurance Argument and Senate Response

The HLC is visiting this year to check on EMU's progress on areas of concern from the last accreditation visit.

There were working groups drafting an interim report on five criteria.

For the current visit, EMU's interim written report has been rushed, lacked much faculty involvement on certain criteria, is inaccurate in several places (concerning strategic planning, racial and equity work on campus, financial issues, shared governance, ethics, etc.), and does not directly address some of HLC's areas of concern.

Vote to affirm the draft of the interim report for Criterion #3. 27 for, 0 against, 3 abstain

Vote to affirm the draft of the interim report for Criterion #4 . 27 for, 0 against, 3 abstain

Vote asking the FSEB to draft a document expressing the faculty perspective on Criteria #1, #2 and #5. 25 for, 1 against, 4 abstain

E. Draft No-Confidence Resolutions

Gray presented drafts of no-confidence resolutions against President Smith, CFO Mike Valdes, and Chief of Staff Leigh Greden. Votes would occur at our next faculty senate meeting, on October 6th.

Discussion: Should there be a resolution against just Smith, or all three? Feedback of any kind is welcome.

Vote: Should we host a faculty forum to discuss these resolutions? 29 for, 1 against, 1 abstain

F. Proposal to add a Senate Standing Committee on Anti-Racism and Diversity Issues (provisional name)

Moved: Barton, second Carpenter

Discussion: Suggestion-- the committee should do or obtain an equity study of EMU

Proposal approved: 28 for, 0 against, 0 abstain

G. Voluntary Separation Incentive Program results: 47 total departures (31 on 8/31/21, 9 on 12/31/21, 4 on 4/30/22, 3 on 8/31/22)

Senate will send letters recognizing them after Board approval on 10/14

H. (El-Sayed) EMU does not notify faculty of COVID cases in their classrooms. Please let the administration know of your concerns about this policy. Note that language to this effect was in the resolution on the COVID plan voted on today.

I. New members introduced themselves.

VII. **Meeting adjourned** 4:59 pm