

Faculty Senate Minutes

(Approved 4/17/24)

Session 13

Wednesday, April 3, 2024
(Room 310 Student Center)

3:15-5:15 pm

Attendance: Corsianos, Fields (guest), Ramsey (guest), Pressley-Sanon, Winning, Brewer, Kindred, Neufeld, Welsh, Bruya, Curran, Pawlowski, Jefferson, Gray, Millán-Serna, Spragg, Bushinski, Putzu, Barton, Flowers, Lee, Carpenter, Ferdousi, Narayanan, McCleary, Ashur, Marino.

- I. Call to Order 3:15pm
- II. Approval of the agenda moved by Barton, seconded by Carpenter passed 21 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.
- III. Approval of the minutes from [03/20/2024](#) moved by Barton, seconded by Curran passed 20 for 0 against, 1 abstaining.
- IV. Appointments and Elections (Corsianos)
 - A. CAIARE: 5 openings (GACET, COB, CHHS, COE, LIB) for 3-year terms (starting F2024); 1 opening (CAS) for 1-year term (F2024-W2025) - [Nomination Form](#)
 - B. Academic Issues Committee: 1 faculty member each from CAS, Library, GACET for 3-year terms (starting F2024) - [Nomination Form](#)
 - C. Faculty Development Center Advisory Council: 1 faculty member each from COB, CHHS, GACET, 3-year terms (starting F2024) - [Nomination Form](#)
 - D. AVP Academic Graduate Studies Search committee - *Open to Faculty Senate Reps and Alternates Only*: 1 faculty member (any college/library), S2024 - [Nomination Form](#)
 - E. Faculty Senate Budget and Resource Committee (FSBRC) – 1 from CAS - Arts - [Nomination Form](#)
 - F. Note that Elton will send out an email ballot for these; please be on the lookout for it.
 - G. Search committee for AVP of graduate studies and research: We need two faculty senate members to participate over the summer: McCleary has volunteered, but we need one more.
- V. Provost's Update (Fields)
 - A. Answers to questions about the Centrio contract from last meeting

1. Per handout provided, EMU received \$84 million from Centro, and invested this amount. Earnings are projected to be \$2.5-\$3 million, \$500,000 of which will go to Academic Affairs.

Q: The provost wants input from senate on how to spend the \$500k. What is the timeline for that input?

A: We will let you know soon.

Comment: The University Budget Committee is working on where the other \$2.5 million of income is going.

Comment: In the past, EMU allowed for “above base budget requests”; this is how Women and Gender Studies was initially funded. Faculty senate provided input in those cases.

Q: In the CFO’s presentation last year, the expected payment from Centrio was \$115 million. What accounts for the difference?

A: We will get back to you.

B. Enrollment Update

1. FAFSA delays have led to delays in enrollment.

2. Both University of Michigan and Michigan State are increasing their entering class sizes substantially (+1000 and +2000 respectively)

Q: Do we know how many of our transfer students come from MSU?

A: Not offhand, but we have seen an uptick in transfer students overall.

Comment: Data from the 2018 survey of students who applied to EMU but did not come suggests that MSU and Oakland U are our main competitors. We need to focus on things we can control when developing enrollment policy.

C. Use of Artificial Intelligence

1. The provost will send an email to all students explaining how use of AI is related to academic dishonesty as determined by an instructor’s particular policies;

2. The provost will advise instructors every semester, via email, about the need to provide guidance about the use of AI on their syllabi.

D. Position Updates

1. Faculty line requests will be forwarded to Faculty Senate Executive Board on Friday; we request input by May 15th.

Comment: The request this year did not have college council rankings from COE. Why the change? It would be very helpful to have college council input.

2. Director of Undergraduate Studies position is being advertised internally only. Please see the recent email from the provost’s office.

3. AVP for graduate studies and research will be a national search. (See the request for search committee members above.)

4. Ombuds interviews are completed, with a decision hoped for next week.

5. Strategic planning update and final course modality language will be presented at faculty senate on April 17th.

6. IRIM Flowchart - [FY 2024-2025 Headcount & SCH production](#) (Carroll's presentation from last time)

Comment: EMU has an identity problem: we need to be clear about who we are, and how we may be distinguished from MSU and other institutions.

Comment: I have heard our acceptance responses are slow when compared to peer institutions.

Q: Is the university only accepting requests for short-term changes in course caps, and not for long-term changes?

A: Both kinds of requests are being accepted. Short-term is for one semester only.

Q: What are the parameters for faculty input on the diploma equity project, "learn to learn" focus group, Starfish, etc? E.g. what are the charges, how many faculty do you need, when will the groups meet?

A: We will provide more details soon. The groups' work starts in the fall term.

VI. Update from Shared governance task force on Student Mental Health and Wellness

Please share the link [Healthy Minds Survey](#) with your students. They can complete it through May 6.

VII. FS Ad hoc committee on Faculty well being – Progress report

[-FS task force on faculty well-being slides](#)

Q: what does faculty "bullying" mean?

A: We have to understand how faculty perceive it; we do not have a single definition yet. It typically involves uncomfortable work environments.

Q: How do we resolve faculty bullying?

A: We are working on a path to resolution. Hopefully we will have a model by next year. Using AAUP and AHR has not been adequate. For example, you could grieve your department head for not helping you, but the person you are having difficulty with can grieve as well.

Comment: Apparently EMU has hired someone to help train department heads. DH's could use training in mediation and dealing with bullying complaints.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Shared Governance in-person workshop - April 15 (9am to 1pm; Student Center Room 310)
1. It is possible to attend for part of the time, although the form suggests otherwise. We will send out another email specifying this.
 2. Encourage your departments to come.

Q: Will any board members attend?

A: We find out tomorrow. The president will attend.

- B. Campus Master Planning 5-question survey - [Campus planning survey Responses](#)
1. There are six general themes in the responses: (i) poor accessibility, (ii) lack of parking, (iii) poor signage and restroom access, (iv) temperature control, (v) need for more green spaces, inside and outside, and (vi) sustainability.
 2. You can still forward input if you have not submitted it yet.

IX. New Business

- A. Graduate Committee Report (McCleary) - [Combined Programs Policy](#)
1. Recommending a minimum of 135 hours for combined programs. This is cheaper for students than 120+30, and somewhat less than the actual shortest program extant, which has 141 hours.
 2. Recommendation on cross listing courses is that a student can only take the course once, and the pedagogy has to be distinct for undergraduate and graduate students.
 3. Recommendation that combined programs provide exit plans for students who decide to leave the combined program. It should be clear where classes count. Rationale is provided in the linked document.
- Q: If a student opts out of a combined program, should the policy allow for waiver of the minor requirement?
- A: There will always be exceptions (indeed combined programs are exceptions to BoR policy), but the committee felt these exceptions are best handled at the departmental level based on the state of the individual student's transcript.
4. Motion to approve the graduate committee's recommendations by Welsh, seconded by Barton. Approved 24 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining.

B. EEFC Report (Barton)

1. New, more equitable, furniture will begin being put in place over the summer.
2. Jones Goddard and Brown Munson will be replaced by green spaces after demolition.
3. EMU intends to upgrade signage on campus, but the funds have not been allocated yet.

Comment: Please investigate the sourcing of furniture, for example we should determine if the furniture is being produced by prison labor.

C. Academic Issues Report (Gray) - [Honors College Curriculum change](#), [Proposed Update to English Language Proficiency Standards](#)

1. For the honors program, we are reducing the required hours for transfer students. Motion to approve by Carpenter, seconded by Putzu. Passed 24 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining.

2. We recommend keeping language test-optional standards for undergraduates, based on competing with our peer institutions.

3. For graduate language requirements, we note that we have some of the lowest requirements among our peer institutions. We have not data on the impact of continuing current policy, but we consulted experts in the World Languages department, and we have adopted their language. We are forwarding these recommendations to the graduate committee. A vote not needed until they have reviewed this as well.

D. FS Discussion: (continued)

1. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing EMU currently?
2. What areas in Academic and Student Affairs would you like to see prioritized?
We hope to discuss point #2 at the April 17th meeting.

X. Announcements:

- A. Next Faculty Senate is scheduled for Wed. April 17; and then Wed. May 15
- B. Provost strategic steering committee report presentation (April 17)
- C. Presentation at the BOR meeting Faculty Affairs session: April 18 - Joint task force on Student Mental Health and Wellness (Ron Flowers and members of the committee)

XI. Adjourned 5:17 pm