

Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 11/1/23)

Session 4

3:15-5:15 pm Wed October 18, 2023 (ZOOM)

Attending: Carpenter, Curran, Corsianos, Calin, Spragg, Fields (guest), Neufeld, Elton, Banerji, Flowers, Calin, McIntyre, Pressley-Sanon, Marino, Becker, McCleary, Proulx (guest), Judd, Nelson, Narayanan, Millan, Gray, Barton, Bushinski, Welsh, Brock, Longworth (guest), Soltani, Brewer, Barragan, Pawloski, Beilfuss, Lee, Putzu, Kirkpatrick (guest), Ferdousi, Walsh, Mehuron, Ramsey, Valdes (guest), Nelson, Foster

- I. Call to Order 3:18 pm
- II. Approval of the Agenda for 10/18/2023. Motion made by Barton, seconded by Banerji. Passed - 22 yes, 0 no, 1 abstaining.

Approval of the Minutes from [10/04/2023](#). Motion made by Barton, seconded by Flowers. Passed – 22 yes, 0 no, 1 abstaining.

- III. Open Forum – Neufeld Discussion of Artificial Intelligence
 1. English Department faculty inquired about whether there is a university policy on generative AI, and if not, whether Faculty Senate will create syllabus language or a policy on this. Seeking general guidance and steps that university would take.
 2. Provost’s comments: There is a university policy on academic dishonesty, and academic consequences are dictated by the faculty’s syllabus. There is currently no university policy regarding whether generative AI is allowed in a particular class. Course-specific penalties or policies regarding the use of generative AI is up to the instructor’s discretion. Shared other information about options for instructors in the event they think the violation is especially egregious. Also noted the need for the university to have a larger dialogue about what to do about generative AI.
 3. FDC is working on language options for a syllabus, but faculty have control over their course-specific policies. Also working on creating information to help instructors design assignments so that the use of generative AI is discouraged.
 4. FSEB asked Academic Issues Committee to partner with the Technology Standing Committee to address this and identify policies or syllabus language.

- IV. Appointments and Elections (Elton)

A. University Budget Committee (UBC) - COB member

Megan Endres, Management

B. Faculty Senate Budget and Resource Committee (FSBRC) - COB member

Megan Endres, Management

Motion to appoint Endres to both positions by Carpetner, seconded by Barton. Passed 27 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining.

C. Vacancies:

1. Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee - [Nomination Form](#)

CET – 1 Faculty Member

2. University Budget Committee (UBC) - [Nomination Form](#)

CAS (Sciences) – 1 Faculty Member

3. Faculty Senate Budget and Resource Committee (FSBRC) - [Nomination Form](#)

CAS (Sciences) – 1 Faculty Member

4. Educational Environment and Facilities Planning Committee - [Nomination Form](#)

COE rep - 1 Faculty member

5. DPS committee - Monthly integrity testing of gun detection technology - [Nomination](#)

[Form](#)

V. Discussion

A. Provost's Update

1. Restarting the shared governance conversation. Have contacted AGB consultant Dr. Steven Bahls, have not heard back yet.

2. Introducing 3-year plan on Gen Ed update. General education should be a defining experience at Eastern. Not setting up an input committee yet, would like to complete the strategic plan first. Would like to start a dialog via the FDC nonetheless. E.g. highlighting the value of a 4-year degree. This is distinct from the Gen Ed Committee's revisions to LBC, which is shorter-term work.

Comment: Can we encourage interdisciplinary courses? You might need to bring in the union.

A: It is a goal and agreed, the union should be involved.

Question: How do you get students' perspective on the value of general education and a 4-year degree?

A: Student and alumni input would be in the second year of the process. We would also need to work on implementation at that point, when the strategic plan will be available. Our strengths include the applied side of our programs, and our impact on the community.

B. New gun detection technology provided by Zeroeyes Inc. update (Corsianos)

See [news release](#) and [zeroeyes FAQs](#)

1. Corsianos spoke with Chief Lige.
2. The MSU shooting motivated the search, since responders were sent in different directions during that incident.
3. Lige considered three companies, including Zeroeyes and Omni Alert.
4. Lige says our cameras are compatible with this software, unlike at MSU, and that we should not worry about false-positive identification.
5. This is a 3-year contract for \$300,000. There will be monthly integrity tests.

Comment: MSU claims there was no delay in identifying the where the shooter was, so the technology may not have helped in their case.

VII. Guest:

A. Chief Financial Officer Michael Valdes

[Questions for CFO Valdes](#)

Valdes attempted to follow the 11-question list in order. The subdivisions below reflect the structure of his comments, since which answers were addressed to which question was not always clear

1. In FY '22, UBC subcommittee was looking at selling power back to DTE. The analysis showed there would be no power for resale under normal circumstances, although during the pandemic we did have an opportunity to re-sell natural gas. EMU'S plant covers 90% of electric and heat demand on campus.

2. A second co-generation plant was ver really on the table.

3. The president introduced the idea of private partner at UBC in September 2022. (This was disputed, see below.) Shared governance is based on the collective bargaining agreement, e.g. EEFC is a relevant input body.

4. Negotiation parties included Valdes, General counsel London, Dickison Wright (legal counsel), RJA as an advisor; and Gilbaine as the development advisor, who helped leverage our relationships.

5. Principal oversight of the Centrio contract is by Valdes' office, for metrics and financials. Student affairs and residence life are involved in the case of housing. They also coordinate with provost and president.

6. Parking litigation: closure is based on safety and we have notified LAZ of their default. We knew of the structural deficiencies when negotiating the contract, which is why we aren't on the hook for that. Centrio cannot deny us power, we can always switch to DTE (which we do during maintenance now). The partner is required to do maintenance.

7. We have received the \$90 million upfront and the \$25 million for defeasance and \$25 million for infrastructure improvements. Centrio has incentives: fixed fee \$5.3 million, operating costs (these are capped based on O&M history), EMU has authority over capital project. Centrio is supposed to

reduce our energy intensity by 17%; they can garner incentives or penalties if they reach or fail this. Introducing smart meters for this purpose.

8. Centrio is investigating wheeling of power. EMU would get 60% from sales of power sold to others. Must be done in association with the university. We could not do this ourselves, due to reliability and a below-market resale rate. EMU would need to become an alternative energy provider, and there is a waitlist for this with the regulatory board. Not a high priority right now: a phase two concern.

9. The conflict-of-interest policy applies to all employees.

10. Chartwell's health-department violations have all been addressed. We receive an audit about their contract in fall and winter, re food mix and safety measures. There would be a significant cost to EMU if breaking this contract.

11. EMU acquired the Lowell street property behind Alexander since it is rare for property adjacent to campus to become available. We have no plans for it as yet.

12. EMU is not planning on ending use of fossil fuels in the near future.

Open questions:

Q: There are penalties to breaking Chartwell's contract even if it is not doing what it should?

A: It depends. IF they default, that is one thing. But if we just want to change direction, we have to refund a pro-rated amount of their capital investments.

Q: Concerning shared governance, we heard about Centrio via UBC in March of 2023 when it was already a done deal, but EMU received proposals in June 2022. Why were the faculty an afterthought?

A: There was some engagement in September 2022 at UBC. I rely on people close to the contract for the day-to-day solutions.

Comment: (Carpenter) My recollection of the discussion in September is quite different. The president set up committees looking into how we could sell energy, but the RFP was already out, apparently. The Centrio contract was brought to UBC late February or beginning of March. This is why we are resisting doing more committee work in UBC at the moment. We did not feel this was good shared governance.

Response: (Valdes) The minutes mention innovative partnerships, and how to share revenue. Also how to use the innovative investment fund. I don't recall the details of the president's charge to the subcommittee.

Q: Can we go through the numbers in the contract a little bit? I'm having trouble reconciling the numbers you mentioned versus the numbers in the contract. Where did the \$114 million go?

A: We can do this. Everything (the \$90 million) went to the strategic enrollment fund, which shows up as unrestricted liquidity in the financials. Parking-contract dollars went into Sill and Rec IM renovations. The additional \$25 million for infrastructure is will be spend on enhancements to energy use in housing,

burying power cables for reliability, and the demolition of Jones-Goddard. \$25 million for debt defeasance is related to the borrowing 2017-2017 for the cogen facility and enhancements to loop 1.

Q: Carroll mentioned investment income of \$6.5 million?

A: That is partly from the Centrio funds, also interest on tuition received in Sept and January; also the interest rates on our money fund has gone up, which is why the number is higher than in the past.

Comment: (Putzu) The “innovative partnership” we discussed at UBC in September was based on the WMU model, selling energy to hospital.

Q: Concerning the conflict of interest policy, how does this apply to the other entities involved in the Centrio negotiation?

A: Dickinson Wright did not sign a conflict of interest statement, but lawyers have to analyze internally if they have a conflict of interest and disclose it. Valdes would have to look at Gilbaine’s agreement to see what it says. RJA is our exclusive advisor; we did not ask for an explicit conflict of interest statement. Commonwealth has “no-conflict-of-interest” built into the contract. Valdes does not agree that Gilbaine chose Centrio.

Q: Is Centrio likely to recover \$25 million via incentives?

A: They need to invest to help reduce energy intensity to reach baseline savings; they are incentivized beyond that.

Q: Are there any discussions to redo the Chartwells contract, or opening other locations on campus?

A: Not at the moment. There are staffing shortages so we cannot reopen other locations.

Q: Deferred maintenance ... how much of Centrio’s payment went towards that?

A: None from Centrio yet. We need a firm plan for demolition of Jones Goddard before we spend. But there is \$50 million earmarked for these purposes.

Q: Are there other partnerships agreements on the horizon we should know about?

A: There are none currently.

Q: What is better way of engaging between faculty and administration going forward?

A: I can give that some thought. The admin is nervous about the university’s future as well. We have lacked resources to make changes. Flagship institutions have an advantage in that regard.

Comment: Would like to invite you to the shared governance with Stephen Bauls.

A: Great. Let me know.

VIII. Old Business

-Assoc Provost Carroll’s [slides](#) from FS budget presentation (Oct 18, 2023)

IX. New Business

A. An email went out today about IT being outsourced. We will follow up with provost on this.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee (Spragg), responding to questions from previous meeting

- a. Athletes are enrolled in 79 different majors. The highest enrollment is in exercise science, then communication, sports management, biology. Athletes average GPA was 3.82 last semester.
- b. Travel conflicts – students feel they are being penalized for attendance and via quiz policies. The committee and the athletic department are putting together a list of things faculty can do to facilitate travel issues.
- c. The committee is working on a faculty award to be chosen by student athletes.
- d. This is the last year of title IX decree. EMU will probably not hit the target of 59% female athlete participation. In addition, the fraction of our student body that is female has increased since the target was set. Whether we meet the 59% goal depends on winter sport participation.
- e. We don't know the consequence of missing the participation target, whether we will get an extension, or if there are other consequences.
- f. We should have a more detailed budget from the Athletic department soon.

2. Budget and Resources (Carpenter)

- a. Note UBC is waiting on its work until we talk to President Smith.
- b. FS-BRC is completing last year's report. We are reviewing our last ten years' of recommendations: 3 of 61 have been implemented.

3. Will return to ZeroEyes discussion later. Put your name forward for the DPS testing committee.

4. Photographer will be taking pictures of the FS to update FS web photos (will be rescheduled to next in-person meeting)

IX. Announcements:

A. Next Faculty Senate is scheduled for Wed. November 1 (3:15 to 5:15pm), probably in person

X. Adjourned 5:20 pm