

# **BOARD OF REGENTS**

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

SECTION: *12*

DATE:

January 17, 2006

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **MONTHLY REPORT** **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for January 17, 2006 and the Minutes of November 15, 2005 be received and placed on file.

#### **STAFF SUMMARY**

At its November 15, 2005 meeting the Student Affairs Committee received a University Technology Fee Task Force update, a follow-up to the Fall Start-Up Report, a statement from the LSBT Representative to the Student Leader Group regarding Gender Identity and Expression in the University's non-discrimination policy, as well as additional information related to international student tuition and the Athletics Affairs Committee of the Board. The Student Affairs Committee unanimously endorsed the Student Leader Group's position paper on the creation of a centralized book database.

The January 17, 2006 agenda includes an update on the New Student Center, student representation on the Athletic Affairs Committee, the Technology Fee, Gender Identity and Expression and a Martin Luther King Day Celebration report.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
University Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents  
Student Affairs Committee

Tuesday, January 17, 2006  
9:30 a.m.

Agenda

Room 201  
Welch Hall

- ~~1. Approval of November 15, 2005 Meeting Minutes~~
2. Athletic Affairs Committee
3. New Student Center Update
4. Technology Fee
5. Gender Identity and Expression – Policy Inclusion
6. MLK Day Celebration Report
7. Announcements
8. Other

~~Regent Brandon~~  
Robert Murkowski  
Glenna Frank Miller  
Robert Murkowski  
Gregory Varnum  
Gregory Peoples

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
Board of Regents  
**STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of November 15, 2005

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Regents: Regent Brandon

Administration: Jim Vick, Glenna Frank Miller, Gregory Peoples, Karen Simpkins

Students: Trevor Allen, Cory Anderson, Kelly Basden, Daniel Cicchini, Sharon Krick, Robert Murkowski, Catherine Perrow, Lindsey Robinson, Hiral Shah, Greg Varnum, Biniam Yohannes

**GUESTS**

Regents: Thomas Sidlik, Karen Valvo

Administration: Vickie Bagherzadeh, Carin Barber, Noah Borton, Elizabeth Broughton, John Burgett, David Carroll, Jayne Carroll, Carlos Costa, Shalonda Harris Casanova, Mary Jo Desprez, Kevin Devine, Bob England, John A. Fallon, Becky Figura, Lynette Findley, Brian Fitzgerald, Larry Gates, Justin Gerboc, Melissa Ginotti, Ellen Gold, Cindy Hall, Peggy Harless, Bob Heighes, Steve Holda, Marcus Jackson, Jeff Koras, Jim Locke, Thom Madden, Mary Sue Marz, Courtney McAnuff, Cathie McClure, Kate Mehuron, Ramona Meraz, Ward Mullens, Jeff Nesmith, Sandy Norton, Stephanie Percy, Ron Podell, Ken Ruppel, Gretchen Sanchez, Lewis Savage, Barbara Schaffer, Gretchen Schonfeld, Jennifer Schrage, Scott Schultz, John Senko, Chris Shell, William Shell, Sue Sohn, Judy Sturgis Hill, Cheryl Swanson, Cynthia Van Pelt, Paul Dean Webb, Kathryn Wilhoff, Sandra Williams, Kay Woodiel, Ron Woody, Pamela Young

Students: Christopher Beyer, Tanisha Blackmon, Jessica Burry, Lisa Carmichael, LaShaunta Hairston, Josh Lyon, Amber Mott, Jessica Robinson, Amelia Yunker

Press: Andrew Cipolla (Echo), Geoff Larcom (Ann Arbor News)

Regent Jan Brandon convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Minutes of the September 20, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

**Update: University Technology Advisory Committee**

Robert Murkowski, Student Body President, presented a Technology Fee Task Force Update in advance of their full recommendation that will go before the Board in January 2006. A number of specific initiatives to be funded will be included in the January report.

**Fall Start Up Follow-up Report**

Glenna Frank Miller, director of McKenny Union, Campus Life & Diversity Programs and Kelly Basden, Residence Hall Association President provided a comprehensive follow up report on fall start-up that included recommendations for changes based on the assessment of this year's residence hall move in and Orientation program. Feedback was gathered from first year students and their families, faculty and staff presenters, Orientation staff as well as the Residence Hall Association. Regent Sidlik thanked Ms. Miller and Ms. Basden for their report, indicating it was very responsive to his questions from the September meeting.

**Gender Identity and Expression – Policy Inclusion**

LGBT Representative Greg Varnum read a statement regarding the need for inclusion of Gender Identity and Expression in the University's non-discrimination policy. Kelly Basden, RHA President, indicated that RHA supports Mr. Varnum's comments as do Housing policies that provide for accommodations for students with special needs including persons needing special accommodations because of their gender identity. Regent Brandon thanked Mr. Varnum for his report.

**Position Paper: Centralized Book Database**

Robert Murkowski presented the Student Leader Group's position paper calling for the development of a policy by the Academic Affairs division to establish a centralized textbook database and calling for support from the Faculty Council and the creation of a memorandum of understanding with the AAUP to establish this change. Robert Murkowski moved that the Student Affairs Committee endorse the Position Paper as presented. Trevor Allen seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Position Paper No. 2005:05 is appended to these minutes.

**International Student Tuition**

Vice President Vick provided a follow up to the International Student Tuition item discussed in September. Looking at the tuition increases on a dollar basis, the increase for non resident students, including international students, is higher than for resident students but on a percentage basis the increases over the past five years have been slightly less than for resident students. Vice President McAnuff indicated that the University will be bringing a tuition discounting/leveraging proposal to the Board in January 2006 which, if approved, will provide some measure of relief to non-resident students.

**Athletics**

Robert Murkowski presented the Student Leader Group's statement renewing their request for student representation on the Athletic Affairs Committee of the Board and supporting the creation of a cross-cutting University committee to examine ways in which to improve attendance at athletic events. Regent Brandon noted that student representation on the Athletic Affairs Committee will be a discussion topic at their January meeting.

**Other**

- Steve Holda and Thom Madden clarified the current student bill payment policy and practices in response to concerns raised by the Student Leader Group that the change has not been well articulated. Student accounts can still be paid with a credit card but the payment is processed through a third party, Pay Path, which charges a fee of 2.75% of the total transaction to use the service.
- Robert Murkowski provided a legislative update.
- Kelly Basden provided a report on the progress of the Campus Creed Task Force.
- Glenna Frank Miller acknowledged the work of Catherine Perrow, Marnese Jackson and Trevor Allen in coordinating the recent Greek Convocation.
- Catherine Perrow provided a report on the October 18 Alcohol Awareness House Calls program conducted by Greek Life, RHA, Student Government and University Health Services. 500 visits were conducted.
- Vice President Vick reported on the very positive comments provided by the Ypsilanti Police Chief at last month's Students in the Community Task Force meeting relative to the lack of problems encountered at student parties this fall and the responsiveness of students when approached by police officers. In turn, our students report that the response from the YPD is different; more respectful. Both have had a positive impact on our community.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri L. Papp  
Student Affairs Committee Recording Secretary

Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**Position Paper on Centralized Text Database Policy**

Presented by  
Robert Murkowski, Student Body President

We, the Student Leader Group support the development of a policy by the Academic Affairs division to establish a centralized text database requirement for Eastern Michigan University. While this issue has been discussed for many years, action has yet to be taken for policy development. Text policies are a complicated subject, but we feel that this issue is currently must be reexamined based on the current situation at the University.

Due to the current lack of regulations, there is no standard procedure for faculty text submissions to local bookstores. While there are 4 major bookstores around the University (3 of which are owned by Nebraska), the actual submissions to certain bookstores largely vary from course to course. In fact, in FY 2004-2005, the EMU Bookstore (Barnes and Noble) received less than 40% of the booklists from faculty members.

This has hindered our most recent contract with Barnes and Noble as our contracted bookstore, when they had negotiated with EMU for a cut of nearly \$200,000 to EMU's revenue, largely due to the lack of a fair playing field for all bookstores and student consumers. This causes a disservice to students, since the remainder of lost income for EMU means a larger gap which students must bear in tuition increases. This situation is now escalated, since the University has released Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to negotiate the bookstore contract for the New Student Union. If a policy is in fact instituted soon, it serves as an opportunity for the University to gain additional revenue. In addition, most institutions around the state of Michigan require centralized text submissions.

In addition, students would gain from a centralized text database. In a recent poll conducted by EMU Student Government in which over 3051 students responded, around 70% of students are paying \$300.00 or more for one semester of text books. The current trend for students at EMU and students around the nation has been to order textbooks online for much less than the high rate of local bookstores. If a regulation is instituted, we recommend a requirement of a deadline for faculty members to release their course orders. For example, a deadline of 2 weeks before class would allow the University and students to know the text for each course far ahead of time. This data could be displayed through an open website for students, managed by the Information Communication and Technology Division (ICT). Students could then view their text for every class on an EMU website and order them online or make use of the new University Bookswap program (<http://bookswap.emich.edu>).

Previous opponents to the development of a centralized text database have argued that without faculty ability to order textbooks from one bookstore would diminish service to students through bookstores. While this is a legitimate concern, it lies within the fear that if all bookstores are given access to booklists, each would order fewer books than the amount of students in the course, causing students to have to visit each of the bookstores to find all of their books. Yet, students already are required to attend each of the major bookstores to obtain all of their textbooks due to the disparity in the current system. In addition, a stipulation could be provided in the contract with the vendor selected for the EMU bookstore to require that the store not only maintain an online text ordering website, but also fill orders as necessary for a class. Also, as previously stated, the current tendencies of EMU students have moved toward online textbook purchases through sites such as Amazon.com or Half.com. Therefore, we feel as if these concerns are underscored by the benefits of a change in policy.

We the Student Leader Group endorse the development of this policy by the Academic Affairs division and we hope for support from the Faculty Council and the creation of a memorandum of understanding with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP-EMU) in helping establish this change.