

SECTION:
DATE: February 21, 2012

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

MONTHLY REPORT
FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Faculty Affairs Committee Agenda for February 21, 2012 be received and placed on file and the Minutes of the December 15, 2011 meeting be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

The topic for the February 21, 2012 Faculty Affairs Committee meeting is Shared Governance

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

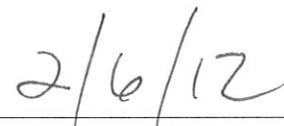
There is no fiscal impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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


University Executive Officer




Date

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Faculty Affairs Committee

February 21, 2012
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.
205 Welch Hall

AGENDA

Regular Agenda

Monthly Report and Minutes (*Regent Parker, Chair*)

Status Report

Discussion: Shared Governance
Payroll Update (*Provost Schatzel*)

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 15, 2011
1:00-1:45 p.m.
205 Welch Hall

Attendees (seated at tables): M. Bretting, R. Bullard, J. Carbone, J. Carroll, M. Evett, Regent Fitzsimmons, Suzanne Gray, M. Higbee, P. Koehn, H. Lindsay, S. Moeller, Regent Parker (Chair), M. Rahman, B. Regent Sidlik (Vice Chair), K. Saules, T. Stokes-Jones

Guests (as signed in):, D. deLaski-Smith, A. Dow, L. Findley, C. Foreman, K. Freedman-Doan, R. Goffeney, R. Hanna, K. Holdgreve-Resendez, S. Kersey Otto, R. Longworth, C. McFarland, A. Meyer, R. Nord, C. Powell, R. Sipe, W. Tornquist, T. Venner, G. Ward, D. Winder, R. Woody

Regent Parker opened the meeting at 1:00 pm. Interim Associate Provost James Carroll welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the discussion topic – Dissemination of Scholarship.

Discussion: “Dissemination of Scholarship”

Dr. Carroll thanked Susan Moeller, Donna Selman, Matt Evett and Mahmud Rahman for working with him to plan the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting topics this semester.

Matthew Evett, Faculty Senate President, explained the purpose of this discussion is to educate people on why faculty travel and its value.

Mahmud Rahman stated that universities have two major missions: learning and scholarship. Travel is important in these missions because it facilitates peer-reviewed research at discipline specific academic conferences. Travel to these conferences also provides opportunities for faculty recruitment, networking and collaborative research with fellow researchers from other universities.

Mark Higbee spoke about the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, which is how people learn, and the teaching method “Reacting to the Past”. He attended a Reacting to the Past conference at Michigan State University, and since then every national conference since. Dr. Higbee stated that these conferences are so valuable that he personally pays for a portion of the travel costs. Because of his involvement, approximately 100 EMU instructors have the basic Reacting to the Past training. Dr. Higbee believes that this teaching method has the ability to transform the university in a very positive way, and all for \$800 per year in one faculty member’s travel funds.

Harriet Lindsay shared her experience at a national American Chemical Society meeting where she met a faculty member from a university similar to EMU. During that meeting, he shared a rare, but lucrative, funding opportunity. Dr. Lindsay applied for that grant and was awarded a \$250,000, 5-year research grant. With this grant Dr. Lindsay supports 20 undergraduate and four graduate students. Included in that grant are travel funds, which allow Dr. Lindsay’s students to attend American Chemical Society meetings. The importance of student attendance at these national meetings is not only the research experience but to model how to network with other professionals.

John Carbone explained that as a new faculty member in Dietetics he attended the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology conference. This is a large, multi-society meeting of 14,000 attendees from a vast variety of disciplines. In addition to presenting his research, Dr. Carbone was able to network with other attendees. That networking produced a collaborative project between EMU, the U.S. Army Military Nutrition division and the USDA’s Human Research facility worth \$1.4M. Dr. Carbone said that all this was possible because the university invested \$1,400 in travel funds for the conference.

Karen Saules spoke about the importance of student research and travel in the Psychology Department. Dr. Saules explained that students attend conferences to present their research but also how to network. One of her students attended a conference alone and was able to not only present her research but network effectively enough to be invited by a Harvard professor to submit a grant proposal. Another student used her experience at these conferences to successfully complete a post-doctoral internship interview at Yale.

Toni Stokes-Jones told of how her experiences at research conferences have benefited her students. At a conference, Dr. Jones spoke of her research with pre-service teachers and classroom technology. During the conference she learned of the ePals tele-collaborative, monitored email programs used by schools. Dr. Jones developed a second-grade collaborative project between her undergraduate students and an actual second grade classroom. Dr. Jones also developed projects using Twitter for her students to follow experts in their respective fields, and share items they learned. Dr. Jones presented her Twitter project at a MSU conference and attendees who heard her speak are now using Twitter in their classrooms.

Regent Fitzsimmons asked if the professional organizations plan and publicize their conferences well in advance. Dr. Jones replied that most organizations do. Regent Fitzsimmons followed up by asking if students who don't present research go to the conferences. Dr. Saules said that students who attend without presenting their travel wouldn't get funding. Dr. Evett explained the different types of presentations/participation at the conferences. There are the formal research presentations that last 30 minutes; the poster presentations, in which most students participate; and pre-conference workshops.

Regent Fitzsimmons asked about alternatives to conference attendance. The faculty present acknowledged that there are alternatives, but that face-to-face interaction is different from virtual. Dr. Higbee explained that outcomes at conferences are often unpredictable, but can be very productive and beneficial to EMU. Dr. Jones added that there are organizations that allow virtual presentations, but the faculty member will still incur the conference registration fees.

Regent Parker asked if shared learning is a part of conference participation, and if others are made award of the subsequent awards. She suggested the Provost's Office discuss publicizing these awards and also making faculty travel more equitable.

Suzanne Gray shared how the Library, via its Finance Committee, distributes the annual travel funds by prioritizing the travel requests submitted by faculty members. Because of the need for scholarship in the tenure process, the Library Finance Committee is more sensitive to the needs of non-tenured faculty and awards the travel funds accordingly.

Susan Moeller shared her concern that the Academic Affairs travel budget was combined and that there was no way of determining what funds were available for faculty, administrators and staff. Regent Parker informed Dr. Moeller that she has asked that the budget be separated.

Regent Parker thanked the contributors and those in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robertta Goffeney, Administrative Secretary
Academic Affairs