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Faculty Senate Minutes

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Faculty Senate Minutes, December 06, 2017

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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Agenda

FINAL MINUTES

Session-6

3.00—5.00 pm December 6th, 2017 310A Student Center

Present: Rahman, Quiel, Kashlev, Spolans, Trewn, McTague, Spragg, Hayworth, Elton, Leon, Chou, Skuza, Saules, Willis, Saldana, Kustron, Brodsky, Patrick, Francis, Barton, Millan, McVey, Cardon, Eisenbach, Carpenter, Foster, Lee, Bari, Tout, Pressley-Sanon, Bluhm, Moore, McMahon

Guests: Hensley, Longworth, Tew, Kullberg, Payne

Call to order: Commendation to all by Quiel on work on draft policies to date

I. **Approval of the Agenda – approved**

II. **Approval of the Minutes 11-15-17 – approved with one abstention**

III. **Committee Appointments:**

Gen Ed Vetting seeks volunteers (CHHS and Arts)with expertise in global awareness, humanities and arts

IV. **Discussions:**

A. Community Standards and Wellness: Chiara Hensley, AVP Student Affairs (See handouts.)

Academic Administrator Guide to Classroom Management (no changes). Will send electronic copies today. Please distribute widely. Q: Use of the term “faculty” – how is that understood on this campus? CH will review this. **Grade Grievance:** Forms for each stage of grievance completed by student. Includes time lines. Clarifies roles and allows for resolution before it goes to an official grievance. College level grievances only; no more department grievance. Departmental grade grievance committees can be disbanded. Faculty do not have to attend once they submit requested documentation.

Link available for faculty to use for syllabi: Included relevant policies – one paragraph with one link. Provost’s Office sends this out in an email to all teaching faculty and instructors prior to each semester. Provost will also send to Quiel. Link has all updated documents. Hensley’s office updates all the forms/policies so faculty don’t have to. Cannot bypass Step I, although students may go directly to department head/director to file Step I. Will go into effect Winter 2018. Grade grievance policy is for final course grade only, not for individual exams or assignments. Grading is at discretion of instructor.

B. Bachelor in General Studies: Deborah Willis, FSEB

- a. This discussion is about a BGS that has been posted on EMU site listed as a fully online program and has had no faculty input. What faculty were asked to support is different than this program. Handouts distributed include information faculty were provided by

Provost in 2015. Supporting documents (e.g., emails) show this degree was set up as part of a push for AP. The “only online courses” in this program were never vetted to be adequate for earning a degree. Not thoughtful or organized. It just slapped together the existing 5 online courses in a program rather than deciding which classes would be the best collection of courses to be included in the degree program.

Longworth: does not agree with this characterization of the BGS degree.

Q: Will online degree use coaches? A(RL): No. Q: Who are the advisors? A(RL): Same as always from ISP. Q: Will new sections be added? A(RL): New sections will not be added.

Longworth: We have a difference in understanding concerning whether this is a new program. Provost asked for input on new BGS in 2015. This changed the degree award, but was not a new program. To make clear, it’s not a traditional degree, but the ISP has been here since 1970’s or 1990’s.

Kullberg: Context -How BGS was created – It was put together by private corporation (AP) and Kevin Kucera. This is in complete contrast to what faculty were told. Faculty were told this unique credential will allow for discussions to build programs, but those discussions haven’t occurred.

Longworth: AP is recruiting students already. This has been going on for some time.

Quiel encouraged full discussion be reserved for January Senate meeting. FSEB agreed this topic would not be discussed today but the senate members were interested in discussing it. **Motion to not discuss BGS this till Jan. 10 meeting was made and seconded- Motion failed. Discussion continued.**

Senator: We should consider stopping this BGS degree.

Tew: There is no fully online degree. A student could not complete it online. Can’t get ISP till they have 60 credits. Characterizing it as an online degree is incorrect.

CTAC 124 and Writing 121 – those are the two courses not online. There have been sections of 124 taught online a while back but little or no interest in teaching them online since that time.

Longworth will send administration supporting documents electronically.

Q: Will all aspects of AP contract apply to the BGS? Longworth: Don’t know, but shouldn’t affect other programs we want to develop in terms of competition with BGS.

Senator: We were approving a degree to help our students complete a degree they’re having trouble finishing. But now it’s part of an AP contract.

Senator: How is the general studies requirement of 60 reduced to 42 with a waiver? RL: That's a waiver that is reviewed and is usually due to community college credits.

Senator: Series of emails that indicate how AP and BGS became interconnected. Let's take what classes exist, pull them together, and give people a BGS. There is a disconnect between this and what faculty were told in 2015.

Tew: Content in emails may not be true now but was speculation at the time.

Kullberg: As late as October this year AP was marketing 9 academic concentrations. They recruit through call centers. Jake (AAUP) posed as person with HS degree who wanted an online degree. AP had no trouble admitting him with no credits. When indicating he was interested in criminology they asked, "What about our program in political science?"

RL: Administration made secret shopper calls, too, but did not get the same responses. These are courses, not concentrations.

Senator: We should have opportunity to sort out facts/feelings about this.

Faculty Q: Do you believe degrees/programs pursued through AP are as rigorous as our faculty provide? Tew: There are no programs and no AP coaches. There are only EMU programs and teachers. Yes, to the extent faculty are teaching solid quality online courses.

RL does not see how with our current labor agreement, anyone besides EMU employees could teach online courses.

Senator: The word "online" does not appear anywhere in the request for input in 2015.

RL: It was not a request to take this degree online. It was what would the degree be, coming out of the ISP.

Senator: What is the academic supervision/input/oversight for these online degrees?

They need an academic home. RL: That is a fair criticism. She would be very amenable to what that would look like. Which faculty body would be available for overseeing quality, etc.

Senator: Online is a delivery method. Does it meet criteria of department?

RL: There should be faculty oversight of all academic programs but that doesn't exist right now.

Senator: Second person to observe that there is no academic home for BGS. Needs curricular oversight. Day to day monitoring.

Kullberg: Happy to hear that administration has rejected the concept of coaches, as it appears in all of AP marketing materials. Administration has refused to state in writing that they reject it. RL: Current labor agreements cover that so it's not necessary. Tew: A

program can request coaches, but admins would say no because of our current labor agreement.

Kullberg: Given that AP model is contingent on coaches, won't you need to use them? RL:

No. Kullberg: How do you scale up programs without them as more and more sections are added? RL: Same way you do with other programs – part time lectures.

It is not possible to hire coaches.

Senator Trewn from Nursing – We are hiring coaches but have been told they are not teaching. RL said she had no knowledge of this and she did not believe it was possible to

do. Coaches will not be hired. Senator: Q to Trewn: Is this different than your understanding of what is happening in Nursing? A (Senator Trewn): Yes.

During course of discussion one senator found a EMU BGS website that stated the BGS is

a fully online program taught by tenure track faculty. Tew: These are important errors

that need to be corrected not unlike faculty errors in syllabi. Kullberg: Faculty are not privately paid corporations. RL and Tew will investigate and correct as necessary.

Motion (4:40pm): Suspend discussion to vote on drone policy. Passed (28 ayes) with 2 abstentions

C. Budget: Update & BoR Presentation: Rob Carpenter & Mahmud Rahman

V. **Vote:** Drone policy: Passed

VI. **Continued Input Sought** (Please forward your comments to Ray or Mahmud)

- Video Surveillance: Summarize Input and FSEB feedback.
 - RL is withdrawing request for input and withdrawing policy draft – not moving forward with policy at this time.
- Data Retention Policy: Continued input requested

VII. **Provost Minutes**

A. Strategic Initiatives – will wait till January

B. HLC Update – Almost uniformly positive. Not ready to be shared. Will be distributed as soon as that's possible. Constructive feedback as expected: budget and strategic planning. Thanks to all who participated. Wishes for happy close to the semester and good luck to all with semester wrap up!

VIII. **Announcements:**

A. New Faculty Hires committee charge – Provost shared the charges and committee will be populated

1. Budgetary process and crisis we are in the midst of

- B. Parking – becoming privatized? RL: Will not enter into it unless it's substantially for EMU benefit
- C. No FAC presentation scheduled at the upcoming BoR meeting.
- D. University Committees: Updating in process. JD is working with the Provost's internal communications group. He is constructing a survey; watch for it.
- E. Agendas, topics and guests for the future sessions:
 - January 10th: AD Scott Wetherbee & Ed Sidlow; Individualized study program: (ISP, BGS)
 - If you have questions, send them to Ray Quiel in advance
 - January 24th: Presidential Commission on Diversity and Inclusion – strongly encourage that we review this preliminary report
 - February 14th: Title IX Survey/Women's Commission – Culture of safety.

IX. Motion to Adjourn – motion passed