MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007
3:15 p.m., 115 International Center


The meeting began at 3:17 p.m. with a full quorum present.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was amended to add a period of silence for those affected at Virginia Tech. The amended agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of March 20, 2007 were approved as distributed.

President’s Remarks:
The President asked for a moment of silence for those affected by the tragedy at Virginia Tech. A motion passed to convey condolences to the Chairperson of the Academic Senate and student body at Virginia Tech. President Simon spoke about the tragedy at Virginia Tech and noted that all one can do as a University is to try to do as much training and practice for unfortunate events. When considering preparedness as an institution, there are a number of areas such as the capacity to identify and reach out to and effectively deal with an individual giving the signals of trouble. This relies on faculty, staff, people in the residence hall system, student colleagues, advisors and others to make someone else’s business their business and to intervene. The University regularly asks if the capacity and systems are in place to recognize potential problems and the courage to
act. This needs to be a continuing debate and discussion in this community. We do have personal responsibility to one another as a part of a community. We tend not to value mental health services as highly as we do other resources. The University has done many simulations and training around different disaster situations. If one goes to the Department of Public Safety web site and reviews the information, you will find how to handle an armed intruder. Communication is a challenge for a University as large as MSU. The information on the Department of Public Safety web site has been aggregated on the information regarding community information on armed intruders and answers to the police response protocol. The University is one of two places in Michigan with the reverse 911 system to notify people. There is new technology that MSU will continue to review and discuss. The President was asked about a lock down. She noted that locking down a 5,000 acre campus with multiple buildings and demands is not simple. We cannot lock down the University in a physical sense but we can do a virtual lock down in a human communication and taking care of one another sense. Dr. June and his team is working with the students through the residence halls and other settings to discuss the tragedy. The University will continue to study the issues.

**Provost’s Remarks:**
The Provost noted this was the last Academic Council meeting of the year. This is also the last council meeting for Dean Fisher of the Honors College and Associate Provost Dr. Banks. This Friday there is a retirement reception for Dr. Banks and a jazz concert in his honor. Provost Wilcox thanked both individuals for all of their service to the University.

**ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:**
Professor Potchen reported on the last ECAC meeting and a proposal that was passed to bring to Council. In response to Proposition 2, the students initiated the “I Stop Hate MSU United” campaign and the proposal today is to ask the Council to endorse the campaign. We also want to move beyond and try to organize a Civility initiative. This is in response to a number of events that have gone on recently. There are enough issues about campuses and how we relate to one another and what we tolerate as appropriate behavior that we want to study how best we conduct ourselves as faculty. This will be worked on this summer. We also want to work on the clarification of the Rules and Procedures for academic governance. We will need to continue the task force 1 discussion to determine how we will proceed.

**University Committee on Curriculum Report:**
Professor Campbell, Chairperson of UCC, presented the following report to members:
- There were actions on 25 programs, changes in 24 programs and 1 program deleted. Twenty of the changes are in the College of Music.
- Course actions included 26 new courses, 48 course changes plus 279 other course changes related to the new College of Music. There were two course deletions.

A motion was passed to approve the UCC report.

**Lyman Briggs School of Science – Return to College Status:**
Professor Potchen presented the proposal of the return the School of Lyman Briggs to college status. Professor Simmons, the Director of the School of Lyman Briggs was given voice. Professor Simmons gave a brief summary of the background of the School and the rationale for
moving back to a College. A motion was passed approving the return of the School to College status. This request will now go to the Board of Trustees.

**Tenure and Permanent Residency Status:**
Professor Bauer, UCFT member, presented the proposal to modify the MSU operating principle #7 of the Tenure Policy to permit tenure to be awarded to foreign nationals without permanent status. The proposal has been endorsed by the Provost. Professor Bauer reviewed the rationale and background surrounding the proposal previously distributed to members. A motion was passed approving the proposal.

**UCFA Faculty Salary Recommendations:**
Professor Powell, Chairperson of UCFA, presented the Recommendations for the 2007-08 Faculty Salary Increase. Professor Powell summarized the background materials and the rationale for the recommendations. For 2007-08, UCFA recommends a 5.5% increase, comprised of:

- 4.5% to match anticipated average Big Ten increases for 2007-08, and
- 1% to narrow the gap between existing MSU salaries and the mid-point of the Big Ten. (This represents an accumulation of the traditional 0.5% narrowing the gap factor from the previous year and provides a similar factor for the current year.) The gap between MSU’s current average salary level and the midpoint of the Big Ten median is now estimated at 5.8. In other words, to reach the middle of the Big Ten would require a 10.3% increase.

Professor Powell noted that the goal of UCFA’s recommendations was aimed at trying to maintain the quality of faculty. It is the belief of the UCFA that the strength of this University is in the quality of its faculty and to be able to recruit and retain quality faculty.

**Standing Committee Reports from UCC, UCFT, UGC and UCSA:**
Professor Campbell, Chairperson of UCC, noted that a regular report is given at each Council meeting. The members of the subcommittees and full committee do very careful work which may be the reason there are few questions raised in Council meetings. Professor Campbell highlighted an example of the work of the policy subcommittee such as looking and questioning the use of the term foreign language rather than the term world language or another less pejorative term. This idea was explored in various groups and the decision was not to change at this time. Professor Campbell reviewed how the committee functioned within the three domain subcommittee structure.

Professor Bauer, member of UCFT, explained that most of the actions of the UCFT never reach the Council due to the nature of the issues. The main task of the committee is the review of applications for extensions of the tenure clock. Many of these cases are unique and take much time and attention according to Professor Bauer. Many of the committee members were also involved in a dismissal for cause procedure. The UCFT reviewed and revised a number of operating documents this year. The UCFT reviewed the Harvard COACHE Study to determine if there were any red flags about the way MSU handles tenure issues. After review and discussion no issues were found in the MSU system. The Committee also reviewed the Faculty Voice Task Force reports on one and five and provided feedback.
Professor Noel, member of UGC, reported the Committee reviewed requests and granted the following this year:

- A continuation of a moratorium on a Master’s program
- Changes in seven courses in Graduate programs
- Establishment of a new specialization
- A change in one Graduate program name
- Establishment of two new PhD programs
- Three Graduate programs were discontinued

Matthew Caramagno, member of UCSA, reported the Committee has looked at several issues this year including the State News and the proposed changes in the Religious Observance policy. The Committee has begun and will continue to review the Academic Freedom Report (AFR). The AFR originated in the early 1960’s with the last revision of the AFR in the 1980’s.

**Executive Committee of Academic Council At-Large Election Results:**
Professor Wright, Secretary for Academic Governance, reported the following election results of the At-Large Faculty for the Executive Committee of Academic Council for two –year terms:

- Professor James Potchen, Human Medicine & Osteopathic Medicine
- Professor Merry Morash, Social Science
- Professor Jon Sticklen, Engineering

**Other Business**
No additional items were identified.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance

**Attachments:** Standing Committee Summary Reports for March and April 2007.

Tapes of complete meetings of the Academic Council are available for review in the office of the Secretary for Academic Governance, W32 Owen Graduate Hall, 355-2337.
STANDING COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS FOR
MARCH & APRIL 2007

COMMITTEE NAME: University Committee on Academic Governance
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: Christina DeJong

Summary of committee activities for March & April 2007:

- Bylaws of the College of Osteopathic Medicine reviewed
- Bylaws of the College of Human Medicine reviewed
- Unanimous support of bylaw change to allow a representative from Faculty Emeritus Group to have voice (but not vote) in Faculty Council and Academic Council. Due to impending bylaw changes related to restructuring of governance, we ask next year’s UCAG to incorporate this change into bylaws changes for next year.
- Ballot created for Faculty Liaison to Board of Trustees
- Ballot created for 2007-2008 UCAG membership
- Proposed method for selecting a representative to Council on Intercollegiate Athletics to ECAC

List of prospective agenda items for the upcoming meeting:
Meetings have concluded for 2006-2007 year. Next meeting to be scheduled in September 2007.

COMMITTEE NAME: University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP)
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: Ralph Putnam

Summary of committee activities for March & April 2007:

1. Considered and supported proposal to return Lyman Briggs School of Science to college status. (March 29)

2. After extensive discussion and subcommittee work during the year, forwarded to ECAC a proposal to establish a Fall Study Break. (March 15)

3. Considered possible changes to the policy for repeating courses. Based on input and recommendation from the Undergraduate Associate/Assistant Deans (UGAAD) committee, recommend that no change be made to the current course repeat policy. (March 29)

4. Considered and supported request to extend moratorium on admissions to the Bachelor of Science degree in Apparel and Textile Design until Spring 2008. (April 26)

5. Continued development of proposal for revision to policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades (Academic Dishonesty).
**List of prospective agenda items for the upcoming meeting:**

1. Complete proposed revisions to policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades (Academic Dishonesty).

2. Revise proposed changes to Religious Observance policy, in response to feedback received from Faculty Council.

3. Continue development of policy and practices for undergraduate teaching aides.

**COMMITTEE NAME:** University Committee on Faculty Tenure

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:** Professor Kathy Payne

**Summary of committee activities for March & April 2007:**

The UCFT revised Operating Principle #7 of the Tenure System Policy (Tenure and Permanent Residency Status). Recommendation sent to ECAC, FC and AC.

The UCFT undertook a general revision of the Operating Principles of the Tenure System.

The UCFT revised the Granting Tenure Policy to eliminate language describing instructors in the tenure system and to make the language consistent with other University policies.

The Committee reviewed one personnel request during the two-month period.

**List of prospective agenda items for the upcoming meeting:**

Review of Task Force #1 Report
Election of 2007-08 Chairperson and Associate Chairperson

**Note:** Verbal reports were given at Academic Council on April 17, 2007 by:

University Committee on Curriculum
University Graduate Council
University Committee on Student Affairs