EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 10, 2006
3:15 p.m., Board Room, Administration Building


Absent: Lappan, Love, Potchen, Provost Wilcox

Vice Chairperson Dick Weber called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. with a quorum being present.

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

The minutes for September 5, 2006 were approved as distributed.

Senior Vice Provost’s Remarks:
Senior Vice Provost Youatt had no remarks at this time due to the length of the agenda.

Vice Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Weber had no remarks at this time.

MSU Practice for Booking Events and Renting Facilities to External Organizations:
Professor Weber requested permission from members for Professor McConeghy to speak on the issue and was granted. Professor Weber reported that the at large members had discussed the issue and that it was not clear where this should go. There are several issues, one is that generally faculty are not involved in the booking of events and there is no faculty committee that deals with booking of events. The faculty is clearly entitled to render an opinion but it is questionable where this goes. The second issue is, it is not possible to select one organization out. The University has been more or less an open forum; there are people that come to MSU that some may disapprove of. Professor Youatt noted that we need to distinguish what is “University endorsed” as part of University programming and what is “use of facilities” which have been built by State appropriated funds.

Professor McConeghy agreed with the comments and indicated it was not an easy issue and one that he was unsure of where the issue should be directed. The Boy Scouts of America is what generated the question and there was never question that the conference would be held. This issue did raise the question of how the use of facilities and the antidiscrimination policy fit with the MSU IDEA goals and inclusion objectives at the University. Professor McConeghy was prompted to take some kind of formal action by taking it to ECAC after the response received from faculty in the College of Arts and Letters who were aghast that MSU was doing the event. Professor McConeghy acknowledged that there are obviously legal issues and policy issues involved and maybe distinctions between program and facilities, etc. In addition Professor McConeghy noted there are overriding issues about the climate at MSU and that one of his responsibilities as Dean is to promote inclusion and bring faculty of color and diversity to the University.
The commitment of the University to those values has made this possible over the last years. Renting out facilities to groups that consciously discriminate makes it more difficult to do the job of Dean. It is within this context that the issue is raised for clarification and the University policy.

Professor Weber asked members if the discussion on the issue was now sufficient and if there would be another group that the issue should be referred to for advice. Following some discussion a motion was passed to refer this issue to the Legal office for advice.

**Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws for Academic Governance- Section 3.2.1.1.5.:**

Professor DeJong, UCAG Chairperson, presented a proposed amendment to the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, section 3.2.1.1.5., which revises titles of positions which have been changed. A motion passed to approve the proposed amendment and send to Academic Council.

**Search for Honors College Dean:**

Professor Banks presented a draft of the proposed Search and Rating Procedures for the position of the Dean of the Honors College. Professor Fisher, current Dean of the Honors College, will be stepping down at the end of the academic year. It is desirable to get the search up and running to have someone identified for the position by March. The principles set forth in the policy called “Procedures for Faculty and Student Participation in the Selection of Specified University level Administrators” also known as “Taylor 2”, lays out a set of principles and questions that need to be addressed. Professor Banks noted the question for the committee was whether this proposed procedure is a reasonable document to be forwarded to Faculty Council to endorse.

After the procedure is endorsed there is an implementation of the committee process which includes ECAC identifying twice the number of people in each category to be selected by the Provost to serve as a member of the committee. This will be an internal search as traditionally the Dean of the Honors College is a short term assignment. A motion was passed to approve the search and rating procedures as distributed. ECAC will review the names of faculty interested in serving at the November 7 meeting and send four to the Provost for selection of two faculty. It is anticipated that the committee will be in place by December.

**Report from Voice Implementation Committee (VIC):**

Professor Hughes, Chairperson of VIC, reported on the VIC discussions for Task Force 5 on Fixed Term Faculty. Professor Hughes proposed the following motion: It is moved that ECAC accept the recommendations of TF 5 on Fixed Term faculty for discussion and inclusion on the agenda for the October 17 meeting of Faculty Council and the October 24 meeting of Academic Council. The motion was seconded. One of the issues raised focused on the addition of the fixed term faculty and the resulting change in Faculty/Academic Council total numbers. Professor Wright distributed materials on the current faculty representatives per College and what the proposed numbers would be with the addition of fixed term faculty. The potential addition of faculty using the current numbers would be about four. Eric Hinojosa, Academic Assembly Chairperson, noted there may be a need to add students to keep the current student/faculty ratio. Academic Assembly will draft a motion and bring to the next ECAC meeting. Professor Stommel,
representative from UCFT, indicated the committee had not completed their discussion on concerns regarding Task Force 5. Professor Stommel will report at the next ECAC meeting. The motion was amended to bring Task Force 5 for discussion at Faculty Council and Academic Council in November. The motion to amend was passed. The amended motion was passed.

Professor Hughes reported on Task Force 4 and proposed the following motion: It is moved that ECAC accept the recommendations expressed in Resolution #1 from Task Force 4, which seeks agreement on broad goals, for discussion and inclusion on the agenda for October 17 meeting of Faculty Council and the October 24 meeting of Academic Council. Following a brief discussion the motion was passed. Professor Hughes moved the following motion: It is moved that ECAC recommend to Faculty Council at the October 17 meeting to direct the Secretary for Academic Governance to conduct a survey of members of the Faculty Senate to identify recommendations for processes to implement the goals previously, for consideration by Faculty Council. Following considerable discussion on the cost of such a survey, the potential poor response rate and ideas on alternate approaches, the motion was withdrawn. VIC will continue to discuss and seek advice on alternative approaches to gather the information. The following motion was proposed: The Faculty Council gives authority to the Voice Implementation Committee (VIC) to develop and integrate coherent recommendations from Faculty Voice Task Force Groups 1-5 by any necessary means. The motion passed.

**Faculty Recognition:**
Professor Weber presented a request from Professor Bauer, Chairperson of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, asking ECAC to discuss the issue of faculty length-of-service recognition. Professor Bauer suggested an annual luncheon be held inviting faculty with round number of service years (20, 25, 30…) to be invited. Their names should be read out by their deans and perhaps they could receive a small memento to celebrate their accomplishment. A motion was passed referring the issue to UCFA.

**Follow up Regarding Formation of University Committee for Liberal Learning:**
Professor Putnam, Chairperson of UCAP, reported as a follow up to the formation of the Committee for Liberal Learning, that Professors Estry, Youatt and Putnam proposed that the new University Committee for Liberal Learning be considered an Advisory-Consultative Committee and that there should be representation from the Libraries and the Honors College.

**CIC Faculty Leadership Conference:**
Professor Wright reported that the CIC Faculty Leadership Conference will be held at Penn State this year, November 3 and 4. Professors Powell and Hughes will attend the conference representing MSU.

**Setting of Faculty Council Agenda for October 17, 2006:**
The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting scheduled for October 17, 2006 is as follows:
- Search and Rating Procedures for the Position of Dean of the Honors College – Action Item
- Voice Implementation Committee – Action Item
Other Business

A motion was passed to approve the agenda.

Setting of Academic Council Agenda for October 24, 2006:
The agenda for the Academic Council meeting scheduled for October 24, 2006 is as follows:

- University Committee on Curriculum Report – Action Item
- Proposed Amendments to the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, Section 3.2.1.1.5. – Action Item
- Other Business

A motion was passed to approve the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance