EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 11, 2005

Present: Abeles, Andre, Catrine, Emmett, Hernandez, Murphy, Olson, Potchen, Stirewalt (for Putnam), Rubin, Schechter, Sticklen, Weber, Wurst; Others: Banks, Harrison, Wilcox, Wright, Collins (State News)

Absent: O’Connor

Chairperson Sticklen 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 6, 2005 were approved as distributed.

Provost’s Remarks:
Provost Wilcox commented on the Boldness by Design initiative by President Simon. There are five themes in the initiative:

- Increase research opportunities
- Enhance the student experience
- Strengthen stewardship
- Expand international reach
- Enrich community, economic and family life

The President has asked the Provost to structure some campus discussions on the topic and organize some task force groups around these themes. The Provost indicated he was waiting until the Faculty Force process is under way.

The Provost announced that the Deans had submitted proposals for how to spend the $9.7 million dedicated to enhancing academic life. There were 115 proposals received which totaled $74 million in requests. The Provost felt this had stimulated much great discussion but is cautious that resources may not be available for all. The Provost noted that decisions for funding will be in early November if possible. The Provost reported he had received much advice about the Provost’s office during the interviewing process and that he will be seeking advice from ECAC.

ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Sticklen welcomed Rachel Olson, the new COGS representative, to the meeting. Professor Sticklen announced that a number of ECAC members and other faculty will be attending a meeting at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago on November 2, 2005. The meeting is for representatives from the CIC institutions to examine the economic situation and the universities.
Michigan State University will be hosting the CIC Faculty Leadership Conference on campus November 4 and 5 at The Henry Center. The agenda for the meeting was distributed and members were invited to attend sessions of interest.

**UCFT Proposal to Increase Tenure System Faculty:**
Professor Rubin, member of UCFT, expressed UCFT’s concern that the number and percentage overall of tenure system faculty have decreased. What is the point at which the tenure system is weakened? There is a sense in the committee that we need to reverse the trend in the percentage and number of fixed term faculty. A proposal was sent to ECAC at the end of the last academic year after ECAC met for the last time. Professor Rubin is now bringing this proposal to ECAC for discussion and referral to other standing committees. A motion passed to refer the proposal to UCFA and UCSA as well as a request to the Council of Deans to review. It was also requested that these bodies address where the source of funding would be derived. Responses should be sent to ECAC by November 7, 2005.

**Current Status of Human Ecology:**
Professor Youatt, Acting Dean of Human Ecology, presented an overview of the history and status of the College of Human Ecology. The College began 109 years ago (1896) as a women’s college with a focus on food, clothing, shelter and child rearing. The mission in the college changed dramatically becoming a professional college with three departments rooted in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and the Arts. In the last thirty years the pull toward specialization and disciplinary connectivity became strong. Most colleges of Human Ecology across the country have reorganized. Over the last 18 months the programs within the College have begun to look for places that were supportive of research being done and logical connections for the students. Food Science and Human Nutrition has aligned with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Family and Child Ecology aligned with Social Science. The Department of Human Environment and Design has three distinct programs. Interior Design has gone with the School of Planning, Design and Construction and Merchandising Management found a home in Advertising. A few faculty are left in the Apparel and Textile Design program and a final decision has not been made as to which college they will reside in. The Dean of Communication Arts and Sciences has invited this program into the College to look for connections. A decision is expected in a few weeks. The dissolution of the College of Human Ecology by the President will be presented in the future when all issues are resolved.

**Faculty Voice – Nominations Received for Task Force Groups:**
Professor Sticklen reported that there were enough nominations for developing the slate for Task Force Groups 2, 3, 4. The members then discussed the dilemma of insufficient nominations for Task Force 1 and the lack of balance for Task Force 5. Following discussion a motion was passed to take the issues to Faculty Council for discussion on how to proceed. The committee proceeded to develop the slates for Task Force Groups 2, 3 and 4.
The committee discussed the issues surrounding having Board of Trustee members on the Task Force Groups. Following discussion the ECAC passed a motion to send the following proposed amendments to Faculty Council for action with regard to the composition of all five Faculty Voice Task Force Groups:

- Delete the phrase “and one Board of Trustees member or designee will also be seated.”
- Add the sentence “Members of the Board of Trustees will be informed of meeting dates and topics under consideration for the Committee, with an invitation to attend any or all meeting as they can.”

Setting of Faculty Council agenda for October 18, 2005:
The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting on October 18, 2005 is as follows:
- Proposed Amendments to the Composition of the Five Faculty Voice Task Force Groups- (Action Item)
- Procedure for Selecting Task Force Groups 1 and 5 – (Action Item)
- Announcement of Slates for Faculty Voice Task Force Groups 2, 3 and 4 – (Information Item)
- Other Business

Setting of Academic Council Agenda for October 25, 2005:
The agenda for the Academic Council meeting on October 25, 2005 is as follows:
- University Committee on Curriculum Report – (Action Item)
- College of Human Ecology Current Status – (Information Item)
- Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance