EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 7, 2006
Board Room, Administration Building

Present: Abeles, Campbell, Caramagno, DeJong, Hettinger, Hinojosa, Lappan, Potchen, Putnam, Ernst (for Powell), Ravani, Stommel, Weber; Others: Harrison, Wilcox, Wright, Youatt, Anderson (News Bulletin), Paul (State News)

Absent: Hughes, Lloyd, Love

Professor Potchen called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. with a quorum being present.

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

The minutes for October 10, 2006 were approved as distributed.

Provost’s Remarks:
Provost Wilcox noted the semester is fast coming to a close and thanked faculty for being present at such a busy time. The Provost reported that the President was not able to attend today but asked that ECAC consider a request. The President has been working on formulating a complete response for feedback on Task Force 2 and Task Force 3. The President has a response draft but decided she would prefer a conversation with faculty as this could be fruitful. President Simon would like to place an agenda item on Faculty Council for a discussion on the recommendations for Task Force 2 and Task Force 3. It was suggested that perhaps the areas of topics should be distributed and members of the two Task Force groups be present. A motion was passed for a discussion of Task Force 2 and Task Force 3 recommendations by the President and faculty at the next Faculty Council meeting. Members of the two Task Force groups will be invited to attend.

Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Potchen noted the spirit of the academic community is good. The VIC group has been working diligently and progress is occurring on the tasks. We have to expect that with change there will be lack of unanimity. Professor Potchen would like an open discussion in Faculty Council and from debate we will come forward with the best approach we can in the long term interest.

Search Committee for Dean of Honors College:
Professor Potchen indicated that four nominees are to be selected from the pool and sent to the Provost. There was some discussion as to whether the Provost should leave the room during the discussion and selection. The Provost did elect to leave the meeting for the selection. Each nominee was reviewed and the four faculty selected included: Constance Hunt, James Madison College; Thomas Pence, College of Engineering; Lynmarie Posey, College of Natural Science and Harold Sollenberger, Eli Broad College of Business. A motion was passed to send the four faculty selected to the Provost for a selection of two faculty.

Faculty Voice Task Force Group 5 Report:
Professor Hughes was not present so Professor Campbell reported on the discussion regarding Task Force 5. A number of issues, implications and consequences had been identified during the
VIC meetings related to definition of fixed term faculty, fixed term faculty inclusion and limitation to University level governance. The main proposal was summarized and reviewed identifying eight specific recommendations on pages 1 and 2 on the distributed materials. UCFT reviewed the Task Force 5 report and endorsed the recommendations. A motion was passed to take the recommendations of Task Force 5 to Faculty Council. Eric Hinojosa, AA Chairperson, presented a proposed motion to keep the student voice and keep the same ratio of student representatives to faculty representatives in Academic Council. The motion was passed.

**Voice Implementation Committee Report:**
In the absence of Professor Hughes, Chairperson of VIC, members of the committee reported on the status regarding work on Task Force 1. The members identified the proposed recommendation calling for a “Steering Committee” as one that had the most impact and began discussion with this recommendation. It was noted that the original Faculty Voice report called for increased faculty participation and that this recommendation appears to restrict faculty participation to eight. The members discussed the idea of considering increasing the at-large members from 5 to 8 members and this group would have an increased role of meeting with the President dealing with issues that could affect the University in addition to ECAC. This idea would mean governance would be taking a proscriptive stance as opposed to a reactive stance. The Standing Committee chairs and student representatives would continue to have an active role. The current structure that provides participation by many would continue. The ECAC would be enlarged by three members. Professor Potchen indicated the desire to put this option forward along with Task Force 1 proposal on the Steering Committee component to Faculty Council for an open discussion before going further. A motion was passed to have VIC frame questions for the discussion at Faculty Council subject to electronic approval by ECAC.

**University Committee on Academic Governance Recommendation:**
Professor DeJong, Chairperson of UCAG, reported that the College of Law has not submitted any Bylaws since becoming a College at MSU. Professor Wright noted there appears to have been a draft of Bylaws done in 2005 and a preliminary review by Ms. Zayko (General Counsel Office) identifying many issues. There was no second draft submitted as far as can be determined. The committee is concerned and asks that ECAC address the issue. There must be approved Bylaws in the College for faculty to continue to serve on Governance Committees. Following discussion, a motion was passed to request the College of Law to have a draft of College Bylaws in place by January 15, 2007. These Bylaws should be in accordance with the University Bylaws for Academic Governance. Copies need to be sent to UCAG, Robert Banks (Provost’s Office) and Robert Noto (General Counsel Office) for review.

**Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary for Academic Governance and ASMSU Academic Assembly:**
Professor Youatt presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Secretary for Academic Governance and ASMSU Academic Assembly. There was one change in the copy distributed. The section entitled “Election Web System” needs to be corrected removing the sentence “CNs and AIS are designing a prototype to be piloted fall 2006.” Professor Youatt reported that it was not possible to do the pilot this year. The MOU is the product of a discussion and joint agreement between ASMSU Academic Assembly and the Secretary for Academic Governance. The participants included Professors Banks, June, Maybanks, Wright and Mr. Hinojosa, Chairperson of ASMSU Academic Assembly. The MOU is a response to University Bylaws for Academic Governance, section 3.4.2., which requires the Secretary for Academic Governance to provide support for all of governance, including student governance.
The MOU was developed as an update to the relationship between the Secretary for Academic Governance office and ASMSU and is intended to reflect accurately the current relationship between the Governance Office and student governance. Members of ECAC are asked to endorse the MOU which formalizes the relationship. A motion was passed to endorse the MOU presented.

Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics:
Professor Potchen shared the letter received from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) which is an alliance of faculty senates at schools that belong to the NCAA’s Division 1A. The COIA was formed in 2002 to link representative faculty governance on many campuses and articulate a faculty voice on athletics reform on the national level. The letter extends the invitation to MSU to consider joining the COIA. Following discussion a motion was passed to refer to UCAP for advice and response for the ECAC meeting January 9, 2007.

Presidents Council – Michigan Distinguished Professor of the year – Recognition Program:
Professor Potchen presented the information on the President’s Council, Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Recognition Program. This new award recognizes the outstanding contributions made by faculty from Michigan’s public universities to the education of undergraduate students. Members discussed and passed a motion to refer to Dr. Banks for action and implementation.

Dean’s List Policy:
Professor Putnam, Chairperson of UCAP, presented as an information item, a recommended revision to the Dean’s List Policy which clarified whether students dually enrolled in bachelors and master’s degree programs should be eligible for the Dean’s list. The UCAP agreed the policy should remain unchanged, but that the wording be changed to clarify that only coursework in a student’s undergraduate program counts toward the 12 credits required to qualify for the Dean’s List. Professor Stanford asked ECAC for a determination of whether further consultation from governance was needed. Following some brief discussion, a motion passed that no further consultation was needed. It was also agreed that this information should be reported at Academic Council as an information item.

Role of Emeriti Faculty in Academic Governance:
Professor Potchen noted representatives of the Emeriti Faculty met with him seeking the opportunity to have two representatives representing their interest to hear what transpires in Faculty Council, having a voice but no vote. Professor Potchen commented the Emeriti Faculty could provide some wise counsel. A motion was passed to refer to UCAG.

Participation in Academic Governance:
Professor Potchen commented on the difficulty in getting faculty to put their names forward for election to governance committees. He expressed interest in finding ways to encourage Faculty Council members to serve on additional committees. A motion was passed to refer to UCAG to consider ideas to call on other faculty.

Discussion of Standing Committee Reports at Faculty Council and Academic Council:
Professor Potchen requested that Standing Committees should be reporting to the Councils to increase and facilitate communication. There was some discussion regarding the length of
reports and how this might be done. A motion was passed that a schedule be developed for timely reports which would be written with a short verbal report to be presented at Council meetings.

**Setting of Faculty Council Agenda for November 14, 2006:**
The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting scheduled for November 14, 2006 is as follows:
- Discussion Period with the President re: Task Force 2 Report and Task Force 3 Report
- Voice Implementation Committee Report – Action Item
- Discussion of Task Force 1 Report
- Other Business

A motion was passed to approve the agenda.

**Setting of Academic Council Agenda for November 21, 2006:**
The agenda for the Academic Council meeting scheduled for November 21, 2006 is as follows:
- University Committee on Curriculum Report – Action Item
- Faculty Voice Task Force 5 Report – Action Item
- Dean’s List Policy – Information Item
- Other Business

A motion was passed to approve the agenda.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance