EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 8, 2005

Present: Abeles, Allen, Andre, Catrine, Emmett, Hernandez, Murphy, Olson, Potchen, Putnam, Rubin, Schechter, Sticklen, Weber, Wurst; Others: Banks, Harrison, Wilcox, Wright, Anderson

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 October 11, 2005 were amended under UCFT Proposal inserting “UCFT’s” in line one to read “Professor Rubin, member of UCFT, expressed UCFT’s concern that the number and percentage overall of tenure system faculty have decreased.” The minutes were approved as amended.

Provost’s Remarks:
Provost Wilcox reported on the review of proposals for the Enhancement of Academic Quality. There were one-hundred eighteen proposals received which totaled a requested $70 million dollars against the $9.7 million dollars designated by the Board of Trustees. The initial round of decisions have been made on dollars and all of the money has been committed plus some additional money to help cover some of the fringe benefits. The Provost indicated he was having conversations with all of the Deans on campus about the specifics. The Provost summarized the Quality Funds Allocations (material distributed) reviewing the recurring allocations by Unit Category and by Strategic Imperatives; the nonrecurring allocations by Unit Category and the nonrecurring funding by Strategic Imperatives and finally the FTE requirements by Unit Category.

Provost Wilcox spoke on the institutional re-accreditation of MSU by the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Association (HLC/NCA). An external team of reviewers/consultants of the HLC/NCA will visit MSU on February 27 and 28, 2006. Institutional accreditation is completed every ten years. The Provost noted that the primary incentive for HLC/NCA re-accreditation is the connection to MSU’s ability to provide federal assistance, which is nearly $300 million dollars. The process relies heavily on community, assessing how much MSU is a community in terms of aspirations, traditions and direction. Provost Wilcox noted that this campus is rich in those traditions and aspirations. It is important that all faculty are familiar with the accreditation materials in preparation for the visit. The Provost requested feedback on the draft of the accreditation document. The final recommendations will be completed following responses from the faculty. The Provost would like no more than 3 to 5 recommendations per chapter and that no structural changes or reorganizations are included. The recommendations should focus on broad, 10 year goals that can be evaluated during the next HLC/NCA
ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Sticklen reported an MSU delegation participated in the Chicago Federation Meeting, entitled “Higher Education at the Crossroads” on November 2, 2005 and noted that the governance representatives from MSU were the only governance representatives in attendance. A complete report is on the Governance website. Professor Sticklen also reported that the meeting of the CIC Leaders for Academic Governance was held on the MSU campus November 4 and 5 and was well attended and a successful meeting. Working notes will be circulated and published on the CIC website. Professor Sticklen thanked the Provost’s office for the support for hosting the meeting.

Faculty Voice – Review of Nominations Received for Task Force Groups I and V:
Professor Sticklen requested that the representatives of the Press leave the meeting for the discussion regarding the nominations. Professor Sticklen noted there were 23 nominees identified for Task Force I and 21 regular faculty are needed. Task Force V will need 8 regular faculty nominees out of 12 nominees identified and 4 fixed term faculty to be selected from 18 nominees. The members then worked on developing the slate of nominees for the ballot to go to Faculty Council for a vote.

Gender Identity II Committee- Selection of one faculty member from ECAC:
Professor Sticklen explained that the Gender Identity II Ad Hoc Committee would begin where the Gender Identity I Ad Hoc Committee ended with an amendment being adopted adding “gender identity” to the list of protected categories related to the anti-harassment clause in the University’s ADP. The Gender Identity II Ad Hoc Committee will focus on the anti-discrimination clause and gender identity. The new committee will need an ECAC faculty member to serve, George Allen was selected. The first meeting will be convened by the Secretary of Academic Governance by the end of the semester.

UCFT Proposal to Increase Tenure Stream Faculty – Responses from UCFA, UCSA and the Council of Deans:
UCFT developed a proposal to increase tenure stream faculty and ECAC referred the proposal to UCFA, UCSA and the Council of Deans for a response. Professor Emmett, Chairperson of UCFA, reported that UCFA would like to see a proposal that urges unit heads and deans to increase the number and proportion of tenure system faculty without placing undue restriction on the necessity of meeting programmatic needs with units. Two concerns emerged during the UCFA discussion. A claim that an 8% reduction in tenure system faculty has significantly reduced our research capacity was not substantiated with any supporting documentation. The second concern focused on the fact that the proposal did not take account of the 2005-06 tuition increase and its resulting change in the balance of tuition and fees in the University revenues. It was UCFA’s view that the proposal needs to provide accurate information regarding the University’s current revenue and expenditure situation.

Jeremy Hernandez, UCSA Chairperson, reported that the committee generally supports the notion of increasing the number of tenure system faculty. UCSA expressed that increasing tuition should not be a first option to accomplish the increase. The UCSA urged the Board of
Trustees to join the Administration in crafting strategies and releasing funds to accomplish increases in the number of tenure system faculty. A concern was expressed regarding a perceived change in the practice of hiring tenure system faculty where faculty were being hired in the tenure stream with no intention of granting tenure. Another point by UCSA was that a key justification for the proposal is an increase in the quality of teaching and thus to make sure teaching is not disregarded in the tenure system reward system given the pressures to do research, publish and obtain grants.

Provost Wilcox reported that the discussion in the Council of Deans focused on the differences in roles of faculty in various units. There was some concern about budget in that to increase one area causes a decrease in another area. A key point left out of the proposal was discussion of what would be omitted. The Council of Deans would be willing to discuss further with more information.

Professor Rubin, UCFT member, moved to refer the proposal back to the committee with the feedback from the other committees and will bring back to ECAC when ready. The motion passed.

Preparing for meeting to discuss Athletics and Athletic Council Procedures:
Professor Wright reminded the members that the Athletic Director, the Chairperson of Athletic Council and the President were invited to come to ECAC last spring to discuss issues expressed by faculty regarding the Athletics and Athletic Council. Unfortunately this agenda item was postponed due to the Spring basketball finals. Since the members have changed on ECAC, the question was posed if this area was of continuing interest. The committee requested having the item placed on ECAC agenda for February. Members were asked to give some thought and email relevant issues for discussion.

The committee passed a motion to have Academic Council and Faculty Council meet on November 15, 2005.

Setting of Academic Council Agenda for November 15, 2005:
The agenda for Academic Council meeting on November 15, 2005 is as follows:
- University Committee on Curriculum Report
- Other Business

Setting of Faculty Council agenda for November 15, 2005:
The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting on November 15, 2005 is as follows:
- Status on Faculty Voice Task Force Groups
- Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Jacqueline Wright
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Secretary for Academic Governance