EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 6, 2007


Absent: Lappan, Wilcox

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

The Agenda was approved as amended moving item #12 (Deferred Grade Policy) to item #5 and item #8 (Role of Emeriti Faculty) to item #6. The amended agenda was approved.

The minutes for January 9, 2007 were approved as distributed.

Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Potchen announced that the report from the Gender Identity II Ad Hoc Committee will be on the next agenda due to the length of the agenda today. There are a number of issues from VIC that will be going to Faculty Council and Academic Council.

DF- Deferred Grade Policy, Request for Change:
The UGC Chairperson was not able to attend the meeting so Professor Klomparens reported on the Deferred Grade Policy. Professor Klomparens explained the Deferred Grade Policy is a one calendar year time limit for a deferred grade. Professor Potchen reported that the graduate students had communicated that they were requesting the deferred grade be extended. Professor Klomparens noted that there is always an opportunity for a waiver. It is possible to go back to Graduate Council with a request to consider adding a sentence that a waiver of a one year limit could be approved but this can already happen. Professor Putnam felt that at the last meeting there was confusion on the wording as some interpreted as one year with an extension and then a 6 month extension. Professor Klomparens clarified that the time period is one six month extension with the opportunity for a second six month extension. Following some discussion a motion was passed to return the policy to UGC to clarify the ambiguity in the language.

Role of Emeriti Faculty:
Professor DeJong, Chairperson of UCAG, reported on the committee’s discussion regarding the request by the Emeriti Faculty to have one seat on Faculty Council with voice only. The UCAG was hesitant to alter the Bylaws noting that Faculty Council meetings are open and that it was unlikely Emeriti Faculty would be denied voice. UCAG decision was not to change the Bylaws and to include the Emeriti Faculty on Council agendas. Gary Stone, Chairperson of the Emeriti Faculty Group, was given permission to speak. Professor Stone responded that it was important to have the Emeriti Faculty feel like part of the University and going to an open meeting is no different than it is now. Professors Abeles and Potchen spoke in favor of recognizing Emeriti Faculty in Faculty Council with a representative who has voice. The request of Emeriti Faculty
was referred back to UCAG for reconsideration. A motion was passed to take the following proposed special rule to Faculty Council:

The ECAC proposes to add one (1) ex officio member from the Emeriti Faculty to the Faculty Council effective immediately through the end of the 2006-07 academic year. The ex officio member will have voice without vote.

Senior Associate Provost’s Remarks:
Provost Wilcox was not able to attend the meeting. Professor Youatt reported the decision in the Court of Appeals indicated that MSU, U of M and other Michigan Universities are not in compliance with the law in providing health care benefits to domestic partners. The President assured the faculty that there will be coverage until the end of the insurance contract year. In the meantime the University will be exploring alternative ways and other legal options. There will be communication with those families directly affected by this decision.

Professor Youatt reported that a meeting was held with the Provost, Professor Potchen and herself regarding the clarification of the questions raised by the President over Task Force 2 and Task Force 3. The results of their discussion will be shared with the President and then President Simon will report back to Faculty Council.

Faculty Voice Task Force 4 (Communication and Transparency):
Professor Potchen noted that Task Force 4 recommendations involved the need to learn what the faculty wanted in terms of communication and transparency. It was decided that some consultation was needed and Larry Hembroff from the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) was invited to discuss ideas and approaches with ECAC. Mr. Hembroff reviewed the Task Force 4 recommendations prior to the meeting. He spoke of past studies and ways of gathering information. Finding out what the faculty are interested in getting in terms of information is amenable through a survey of the faculty. The idea of polling faculty on specific issues concerning the web page is also doable as is on-line voting according to Mr. Hembroff. The key point in most of these has to do with asking good questions and making sure it represents exactly what the issues are and what people will understand so the answers mean something. There is widely available web survey software available, however, there is much being done that is not well done. Mr. Hembroff indicated IPPSR could work with us in developing the survey. It was decided VIC will work with Mr. Hembroff and will identify several people to work with him. The costs are reasonable for web surveys. Professor Youatt indicated the Provost’s office would cover a reasonable cost.

A motion was passed to prepare a survey on Task Force 4 recommendations. VIC will identify representatives to work with IPPSR in developing the survey. The draft survey will go to Faculty Council for approval before sending to faculty.
Faculty Voice Task Force 5 (Fixed Term Faculty) Bylaw Recommendations:
Professor Wright reported on proposed amendments regarding Fixed-Term Faculty based on Task Force 5 recommendations. The proposed amendments were passed by UCAG at the last meeting. The specific amendments were distributed prior to the ECAC meeting and reviewed by Professor Wright. A motion was passed to take the proposed amendments to the Bylaws to Faculty Council and Academic Council.

Faculty Voice Task Force 1 Analysis – VIC Update:
Professor Campbell, member of VIC, presented a proposed plan for the sequence for the Faculty Council review and possible action for Task Force 1 recommendations. The recommendations were organized into three sections: the Central Bodies, the Standing Committees and the Steering Committee and Professor Campbell described the sequence. A proposed analysis of Task Force 1 recommendations and the current governance system with a series of discussion questions were presented to ECAC. The expectation would be to discuss in Faculty Council and urge members to take the information to their respective Colleges to engage in dialogue with their colleagues. Following discussion, a motion was passed to take the proposed schedule and the analysis regarding the Central Bodies to Faculty Council for discussion.

Report on CIC Faculty Leadership Conference:
Professor Powell and Professor Hughes reported on the CIC Faculty Leadership Conference at Pennsylvania State University in November, 2006. A summary report was distributed to all members prior to the meeting. Some of the highlights included the challenges facing faculty and the increasing controversy surrounding the authors rights regarding original materials. There was also discussion on the mechanisms of governance based on the survey of the CIC universities. Other topics included grievance policies, procedures and guidelines, flexible tenure policies, fixed-term faculty and faculty participation in governance.

Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Recognition Program:
Professor Youatt reported on the selection of the candidate to forward for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Recognition Program by the ad hoc committee. The committee was charged by ECAC to review the possible candidates thoroughly and select one. Members of the ad hoc committee included Eric Hinojosa, Matt Caramagno, Professors’ Putnam, DeJong and Youatt. The faculty member selected was Professor Linda Racioppi from James Madison.

Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA):
Professor Putnam, Chairperson of UCAP, reported taking the request received for MSU to become a member of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics to UCAP after ECAC asked for advice. UCAP has a faculty representative on Athletic Council. The question was discussed in UCAP and Athletic Council. MSU is doing well in terms of academic policies and in compliance with what is recommended by this group. Those in Athletic Council did not feel we needed the COIA. Professor Putnam explained the organization is like a public advocacy group
for more broadly the issues of athletics and academics. UCAP recommended that MSU consider joining the COIA. If MSU becomes a member, there is no cost or obligations. A motion was passed to take the recommendation to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics to Faculty Council. It was suggested to invite Mike Kasavana to the Faculty Council meeting.

**Setting of Faculty Council Agenda for February 13, 2007:**
The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting scheduled for February 13, 2007 is as follows:
- Proposed Special Rule to Allow Emeriti Faculty Voice in Faculty Council – Action Item
- Faculty Voice Task Force 5 (Fixed-Term Faculty) – Action Item
- Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) – Action Item
- Recommendation for Academic Scholars Program to be made Permanent – Action Item
- College of Engineering “Admit When Ready” Practice – Action Item
- Faculty Voice Task Force 1 Recommendations from VIC – Discussion Item
- Update from VIC on Task Four 4 (Communication and Transparency) – Information Item
- Representation of Non-Minority Women, Minorities and Faculty with Disabilities on University-level Governance Groups – Information Item
- Other Business

**Setting of Academic Council Agenda for February 20, 2007:**
The agenda for the Academic Council meeting scheduled for February 20, 2007 is as follows:
- University Committee on Curriculum Report – Action Item
- Faculty Voice Task Force 5 (Fixed-Term Faculty) – Proposed Bylaw Amendments – Action Item
- College of Engineering “Admit When Ready” Practice – Action Item
- Recommendation for Academic Scholars Program to be made Permanent – Action Item
- Slate of Nominees for Election of At-Large Faculty to ECAC – Information Item
- Voice Implementation Committee (VIC) Status Report – Information Item
- Other Business

A motion was passed to approve the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance