EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 4, 2006

Present: Allen, Andre, Catrine, Emmett, Hernandez, Murphy, O’Connor, Potchen, Putnam, Schechter, Sticklen, Stommel, Weber, Wurst; Others: Banks, Harrison, Simon, Wilcox, Wright, Youatt, Daum (State News)

Absent: Abeles

Chairperson Sticklen called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. with a quorum being present.

The Agenda was amended moving items #18 to 5.5 and 13, 14 and 16 to follow 5.5. The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes for February 28, 2006 were amended on page 2 last sentence to read: A motion was passed approving UCAP’s decision not to approve the proposed AA Bill # 14-25.

President’s Remarks:
President Simon thanked the members for their work in governance this year. The President commented that as we begin to think about the work for next year and the role of Faculty Council there has never historically been a dialogue between ECAC and the President on any matters. The President encouraged members to think about what would be useful on matters that are not typically things that are in governance.

MSU Practice for Booking Events and Renting Facilities to External Organizations:
President Simon responded to the letter received on this matter. The President noted concurrence with the response of Paulette Granberry Russell in her letter responding to similar questions raised by GLFSA President, Val Meyers. “Generally the units in charge of the facilities control access to them. The unit administrators have no obligation to consult any advisory groups regarding the decision to make space available to a particular outside group, nor is there any University policy on this subject. The Anti-Discrimination Policy applies to the University’s contractors in their performance of services for the University, but explicitly does not apply ‘to the conduct of a contractor’s internal affairs’. The University has been quite open in permitting outside organizations to use facilities like the Kellogg Conference Center and the residence halls during the summer.” President Simon does not believe much could be done for this summer as the agreement was made in 2004. The President did indicate if this was an issue members wished to be discussed on a broader basis she would be willing to do so in the future. Professor Sticklen expressed this should be a topic to discuss next year and place on the agenda.

Provost’s Remarks:
Provost Wilcox responded to the question raised about the College of Human Ecology. The last Department in Human Ecology was Apparel and Textile Design and the rest of the College has been reset within the University. The process of moving the Department of Apparel and Textile Design to the College of Arts and Letters is well under way and near completion. The faculty in the program have endorsed a move to Arts and Letters, the Chairs and Directors in Arts and Letters have endorsed the move and the FAC in Arts and Letters have endorsed the move. UCAP is discussing and will send their response to ECAC for direction. If endorsed by UCAP, it comes to ECAC to direct to Academic Council and the Provost would recommend dissolution to the Board of Trustees.
Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Sticklen thanked the Governance Office for the refreshments.

Status of Faculty Voice Task Force Groups:
Professor Sticklen announced that task force groups 2, 3, 4, and 5 have completed their reports. The reports will go out with the Faculty Council agenda. Professor Andre reported on the faculty liaison and at-large faculty members meeting with the President. There was discussion related to the task force reports and the concern that there was need for additional thought on how the recommendations of the five task force groups fit together. It was suggested that possibly a working group could work over the summer to integrate the recommendations. Professor Potchen also supported the suggestion as well as looking at the cost of the various recommendations put forth. Professor Emmett voiced concern that if recommendations are action items and the Faculty Council votes no, depending on the nature of the motion, whether the direction can be preserved. For example in Task force 5 on Fixed Term Faculty, if Faculty Council votes it down then the issue of how fixed term faculty integrate with academic governance disappears so the concern is the nature of the motions. ECAC could have a role in making sure the motions will preserve the direction set by Faculty Council in the first place. Bob Murphy, who serves on Task Force 1, expressed concern of the task force recommendations not meshing together.

Provost Wilcox expressed concern about the integration of the task force groups’ recommendations, and it appears that there is overlap. This could run the risk of having recommendations not being in with one another or address the same topic in different directions. We are talking about the entire governance of the University and we need time for integration. Cost is certainly a question. The Provost indicated he was cautious about separating some of the task force recommendations and dealing with one or two as opposed to the rest. The risk of not integrating are large and the Provost does not see them separable at all. The Provost noted one of the first discussions with faculty governance when he arrived at MSU was Faculty Voice and reorganization. The goals at this time were several including greater transparency, greater efficiency, and greater inclusion and participation. Some of the goals have been achieved in the last three months of faculty voice discussions but not all of them. The Provost’s concern was, by trying to move too fast in the next few weeks, it would appear that we did not have the time for the inclusion, the process and/or transparency about one of the bigger changes in governance for a long period of time. The Provost stressed he wanted a governance system that everyone feels better about in the end.

The Chair commented that the discussion was good but the process set by Faculty Council was for the task force groups to report to Faculty Council and that he saw no role for ECAC and as Chair he was ruling against action. Members voiced the need to look at the task force recommendations for integration. The task force groups are giving their reports to Faculty Council as status reports. The members over ruled the Chair on taking action. A motion was passed to take the reports from Task Force Groups 2, 3, 4, and 5 to Faculty Council as information items. The following motion was passed: “ECAC requests that they be charged by the Faculty Council to form a group to integrate and cost out the recommendations of the Faculty Voice Task Force Groups.”

External Letters of Reference:
Professor Emmett, Chairperson of UCFA, presented the document on External Letters of Reference. Both UCFA and UCFT have reviewed the administration policy. The purpose of the
revision is to regularize the activity across units. A motion was passed to send to Faculty Council as an information item.

**UCFA Faculty Salary Recommendations**

Professor Emmett, Chairperson of UCFA, presented the Committee’s recommendation for the 2006-07 Faculty Salary Increase. Professor Emmett reviewed the salient points and discussed a number of the health care issues. Materials were distributed to members. A motion was passed to send to Faculty Council for an information item.

**Outside Work for Pay and Overload Pay Policies:**

Professor Emmett, Chairperson of UCFA, presented the Outside Work for Pay and Overload Pay Policies from the Committee. A motion was passed to send the revised policies to Faculty Council as an action item.

**Athletics and Athletic Council Procedures:**

Professor Andre and Professor Putnam reviewed the ideas related to the issue of athletics and Athletic Council procedures and suggested that there could be reports by the Athletic Council representative at the UCAP meetings. Members discussed the fact that the Faculty Voice Task Force 1 charge was to look at the governance structure and this should be considered in their deliberations. A motion passed for the ECAC Chairperson to send a letter to Task Force 1 requesting them to consider the relationship of the Athletic Council to governance.

**AA Bill #14-32: Possible Support for the Creation of a Fall Break:**

Professor Wurst, Chairperson of UGC, reported on the committee’s discussion of AA Bill #14-32 on the creation of a Fall break. There were a number of reservations identified such as, the timing in the semester needs to be clarified, how the break could affect the end date of the semester, and the idea of Monday and Friday would impact classes due to days already lost to Labor Day and Thanksgiving. The Committee saw a one day break as less disruptive. The UGC was not necessarily opposed but suggested further clarification before the proposal goes further. Bob Murphy, Chairperson of AA, spoke on behalf of the Academic Assembly’s support of the Bill. Professor Putnam, UCAP Chairperson, reported the biggest issue identified was how to do a break without disrupting the calendar, which is planned in advance. UCAP intends to continue the discussion. Jeremy Hernandez, Chairperson of UCSA, reported the UCSA endorses the proposal for a Fall break. A motion was passed to send the proposed Bill to UCAP and Academic Assembly will send additional information to UCAP.

**Additional Major – Proposed Policy Change:**

Professor Schechter, Chairperson of UCC, reported that the Committee wholeheartedly and unanimously endorsed UCAP’s recommendation for a policy change related to students already holding a bachelor’s degree to obtain an additional major from MSU. A motion was passed to send the proposed policy to Academic Council.

**Establishment of an Undergraduate Minor:**

Professor Putnam, Chairperson of UCAP, reported the Committee considered the feedback on the proposal to establish undergraduate academic minors from UCC and UCSA and proposed the following motion to be considered by Academic Council:
Departments, schools and colleges with administrative responsibility for offering academic programs may decide to offer a minor in a particular field. The academic unit may specify admission requirements for the minor. Minors require no less than one third and no more than two-third the number of credits required for a major.

A motion passed to send the proposal to Academic Council.

Search for Dean of International Studies and Programs:
Professors Schechter and Sticklen presented a draft of the Search Procedures for review. The only change to the proposed procedures was the inclusion of Attachment A, the Search Plan. A motion was passed to send to Faculty Council.

Academic Orientation Program Suggestion:
Jeremy Hernandez, UCSA Chairperson, reported the committee met with the Black Students Association and a number of suggestions were presented and aimed at improving the overall racial climate on campus. The UCSA is forwarding the following suggestion to ECAC: to consider the creation of a mandatory diversity session during the summer Academic Orientation Program (AOP). Provost Wilcox indicated he was not opposed but was cautious because many things are going on during orientation and it may not be the best time. It was suggested that we should have a broader set of discussions. Professor Youatt noted we need to look a set of experiences in a more holistic manner. There have been various discussions going on. UCSA is an appropriate committee for discussions. ASMSU has also been discussing the Academic Orientation Program. ECAC recommended that UCSA continue discussions on improving the overall racial climate.

Election Practices and Possible Reform:
Jeremy Hernandez, UCSA Chairperson, reported back on the possibility of changing the time of the election of the UCSA Chairperson from Fall to Spring. The committee was not in favor of this change because the student makeup of the UCSA is not always known before the end of Spring semester. The UCSA gave Mr. Hernandez their approval to represent UCSA on ECAC for the purpose of election of the Chairperson.

AA Bill #14-41: Change the Religious Observance Policy to Accommodate Individual Religious Practices:
Bob Murphy, AA Chairperson, presented a proposed bill to change the religious observance policy to accommodate individual religious practices. The purpose of the proposed change is to strengthen the current policy and specifically spell out the exceptions for the religious holidays. A motion was passed to refer to UCAP.

Disposition of Secretary for Academic Governance Review Procedure:
Professor Sticklen noted that during the review of the Secretary for Academic Governance a number of issues related to the review process itself should be identified, such as who does the review, etc. It was suggested that the generic issues of a review should be recorded and not lost.

The Michigan Center for Innovation and Economic Prosperity:
The document on the Michigan Center for Innovation and Economic Prosperity was distributed and Provost Wilcox presented an overview. The proposed Center is an attempt to blend instructional seminar with a public policy service arm. The Provost asked ECAC if any further consultation was needed. A motion was passed indicating no further advice was needed.
Setting of Faculty Council Agenda for April 11, 2006:
The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting scheduled for April 11, 2006 is as follows:

- Search Procedures for Dean of International Studies and Programs – Action Item
- Outside Work for Pay and Overload Pay Policies – Action Item
- Revision of Procedures for Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause Policy – Action Item
- External Letters of Reference – Information Item
- Status Reports from Faculty Voice Task Force Groups – Information Item
- UCFA Faculty Salary Recommendations – Information Item
- Other Business

There was discussion regarding the length of the Faculty Council meeting and a motion was passed to move Academic Council to April 25, 2006 and schedule a second Faculty Council meeting for April 18, 2006 to complete items on the April 11, 2006 agenda.

A motion passed to approve the agenda.

Setting of Academic Council Agenda for April 25, 2006:
The agenda for the Academic Council meeting for April 25, 2006 is as follows:

- Working Group for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education- Final Report – Action Item
- University Committee on Curriculum Report – Action Item
- Proposed Policy Change- Additional Major – Action Item
- Proposal to Establish Undergraduate Academic Minors – Action Item
- Outside Work for Pay and Overload Pay Policies – Action Item
- Revision of Procedures for Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause Policy – Action Item
- Disbandment of College of Human Ecology – Action Item
- Executive Committee of Academic Council At-Large Election Results – Information Item
- Other Business

A motion passed to approve the agenda.

Setting of Academic Senate Agenda for April 26, 2006:
A motion was passed not to hold a meeting on April 26, 2006.

Other Business:

Implementation of a New Graduate Certification Student Level in the Student Information System (SIS):
Provost Wilcox presented information on the new student information system. ECAC passed a motion to refer to UCC and UGC for consultation.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance