EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 11, 2007

Present:  Bice, Caramagno, Chivukula, Hinojosa, Hughes, Morash, Noel, Potchen, Powell, Selke, Sticklen, Tims, Zheng; Others: Curry, Harrison, Rosser, Wright, Youatt, Anderson (News Bulletin), Thoel (State News)

Absent: Morrice

Professor Potchen called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. with a quorum being present. Members were asked to introduce themselves.

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

The minutes for May 1, 2007 were approved as distributed.

Senior Associate Provost’s Remarks:
Professor Youatt reported that Provost Wilcox was returning from a meeting in California. The Provost is looking forward to the first Faculty Service Recognition event on September 17 at the Wharton Center. Professor Potchen noted the idea for this recognition came out of governance last year.

ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Potchen noted there was much to be done this year in governance. The at-large members have met and are trying to be more organized to facilitate actions when this group meets. The Faculty Liaison Committee has been meeting with the Board of Trustees (BOT) over the past year and last spring, faculty pointed out that they would like to assume greater responsibility for the destiny of the University. The faculty had the opportunity to discuss a series of issues with the BOT regarding the State level of government and what faculty could do to make the University more secure for the next thirty years. There is a small group working on what could be done with other university faculties such as Wayne, Michigan, etc. Professor Potchen asked members if they had any agenda items that they would like to see addressed this year. No one had comments at this time.

Proposal to Split the Marketing and Supply Chain Management Department:
Professor Youatt reported the proposal to split the Marketing and Supply Chain Management department came as a proposal from the College of Business near the end of spring semester, 2007. The Provost is requesting advice on this proposal from ECAC and relevant standing committees. A motion was passed to refer the proposal to UGC and UCAP.

Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Report:
Professor Potchen introduced Professor Kasavana, Chairperson of the Athletic Council. Professor Kasavana was asked by President Simon to review the COIA White Paper and report
to ECAC. COIA was formed in 2002 with the goal to ensure that college sports be fully integrated within the academic goals, values and missions of our universities and colleges.

The following goals of the White Paper were identified:

- Intercollegiate athletics must be in alignment with the educational mission of the institution – “College athletics must adhere to and support the institution’s academic mission in all its activities, including providing students with opportunities to succeed academically.”

- College sports must adhere to the collegiate athletics model – “When consistent with educational goals, the benefits of intercollegiate athletics are tangible; they develop life skills and character in student-athletes, create a focus for the campus community and maintain relationships between universities and its alumni and public.”

Professor Kasavana briefly reviewed the 28 Proposals discussed in the White Paper and described what Michigan State has already instituted. Professor Kasavana supports joining COIA in principle but not in policy since MSU already exceeds the policies of the group. Professor Bill Anderson will report on the meeting attended in May, 2007 at the next ECAC meeting.

**Athletic Council Annual Report for 2006-07:**

Professor Kasavana spoke to the Athletic Council Report for 2006-07 which was distributed to members. He summarized the academic performance statistics noting the 1999-2000 MSU student-athletes who exhaust their eligibility, graduate at a rate of 89%. The Athletic Council deliberations for 2006-07 were highlighted.

**Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics:**

The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics is holding a faculty summit on intercollegiate athletics in Washington, D.C. October 15, 2007. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of sending a representative and the financial cost. A motion passed to send the UCAP faculty liaison representative Dennis Banks to the Athletic Council.

**Follow Up and Next Steps on Faculty Voice Task Force Groups 1, 2, and 4:**

Professor Potchen noted that Faculty Voice Task Force Reports 3 and 5 have been acted on. The Task Force 4 (Communications) recommendations are being addressed. Professor Hembroff and people from the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) are working on the Faculty Survey. All of the Standing Committee Chairpersons have been asked to submit a brief description of their respective committees for use in the survey. The Task Force 2 (Administrative Review) materials are currently in UCFA for a response. Task Force 1 (Governance Structure) recommendations will continue to be discussed in Faculty Council this semester. The following motion was proposed:

ECAC will place on the agenda of the Faculty Council meeting on September 18, 2007 the following item.
Motion: That Faculty Council adopt Special Rules for Consideration of Recommendations of Faculty Voice Task Force 1. Following is one motion to be voted on by Faculty Council.

1. These rules will operate when Faculty Council is considering the recommendations of Faculty Voice Task Force 1.

2. Faculty Council will consider the recommendations of Voice Task Force 1 by considering three motions: (a) motion to adopt recommendations on the academic governance executive body at the university level, (b) motion to adopt recommendations on the structure of the large scale forums in academic governance at the university level and (c) motion to adopt recommendations on the structure of the standing committees of academic governance at the university level. These motions will be described, deliberated, possibly amended, and finally voted upon by the members of Faculty Council.

3. After disposing of all three motions encompassing the entirety of recommendations from Faculty Voice Task Force 1, the Faculty Council will then go on to consider the entire package consisting of the sum of the three motions noted above.

4. At this point, any of the completed motions may be amended in those cases where inconsistency between the three passed motions is pointed out.

5. Once Faculty Council has disposed of all proposed amendments to the three motions, the Council will then proceed to vote for passage of a motion endorsing the entire package from Task Force 1, and referring the package to UCAG for development of appropriate bylaws.

The motion was passed by members.

Professor Potchen presented the following resolution regarding Task Force 1 recommendations from the College of Communication Arts and Sciences Advisory Council:

The College Advisory Council (CAC) of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS) endorses efforts by the Faculty Voice Task Force 1 (TF1) to design a more efficient and inclusive governance structure. Our endorsement of the specifics of the proposal is not, however, unqualified. Our most pressing concern is with the composition of The Steering Committee (TSC) given the power that is vested in it. The general concern regarding composition is that TSC will not provide a balanced representation of the interests of all colleges at MSU. The specific concern regarding composition is that small colleges will be disadvantaged relative to large colleges. Given the important role of TSC in setting the agenda of other governance bodies and in orchestrating faculty representation to the Board of Trustees, the CAC suggests that in the implementation of TF1 recommendations, innovative solutions to this potential problem are devised to insure that all colleges will be heard in an equitable way.

A motion was passed to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution by ECAC and inform the College the resolution will be shared in Faculty Council.
Special Rules and Procedures for ECAC and Standing Committees:
Professor Wright reviewed two special rules and procedures for ECAC which were permanently approved by ECAC 9/5/06. A motion was passed to amend Rule #1 to read: “Such” approval may be granted electronically. A motion passed to approve Rule #2: Special meetings for ECAC may be called by the Chairperson, with electronic approval by a majority of the ECAC members. The notification of the special meeting will include the agenda and any materials at least three business days prior to the meeting.

The following proposed motion was made to add a special rule:
Standing Committees can provide an alternate representative to ECAC in the absence of the Standing Committee Chairperson with voice and vote. Following discussion the vote was taken and the motion failed.

Affirming Professors’ Role or Denigrating It?:
Professor Youatt circulated an article from Inside Higher Education as information to the members.

Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Authors’ Rights Statement and Addendum:
Professor Youatt shared the materials from the CIC Provosts group endorsing the Authors’ Rights Statement and Addendum to be distributed to faculty. A motion was passed to place on the Faculty Council and Academic Council agendas.

CIC Faculty Leadership Conference – November 2 & 3, 2007:
Professor Wright announced the CIC Faculty Leadership Conference will be held on the campus of the University of Iowa in Iowa City November 2 & 3. Professors Hughes and Powell attended the conference last year and will attend again this year.

Report from the Faculty Council Civility Task Force Committee:
Professor Potchen introduced Professor Weber as the chairperson of the Civility Task Force Committee and asked for a report. The Faculty Council asked that the Task Force be formed at the Council meeting in April 2007. The charge to the group was to investigate how to create and maintain an inclusive environment of civility on campus. Professor Weber reported, following discussion with the Ombudsman, two basic issues causing problems were identified - disruptive students and free speech issues. To the extent that students are disruptive, the University has mechanisms for dealing with the issue. Professor Weber suggested the Faculty Council may wish to consider ways to publicize and encourage appropriate use of those mechanisms. Most of the free speech issues arise in the classrooms. It was suggested that Council may wish to consider whether to institute required training on the subject of free speech in and out of the classroom. The Task Force concluded that there were no other issues other than the two identified and suggested several recommendations.

Report from Faculty Ad Hoc Committee to Study Rules for Discussion in Faculty Council:
A motion was passed at the April Faculty Council meeting to appoint an ad hoc committee of three or more members to study and evaluate the existing rules which regulate discussion and other matters in Faculty Council. Professor Potchen identified the following members at the
May ECAC meeting: Professors Hughes, Chairperson, Powell, Corby and Wright, ex officio. The committee met over the summer and members acknowledged the fact that Council had been trying to get as much input as possible during the past year, which led to the granting of voice to many non-members, not identifying the time period for speakers or the number of times or topics one could speak to after being granted voice. Often non-members entered into the debate with Council members and debates occurred between individuals rather than commentary being directed to the Chairperson. Many of the issues identified seem to highlight the lack of faculty members understanding of Robert’s Rules of Order which have been adopted for all meetings in Academic Governance as stated in the University Bylaws for Academic Governance. The need to clarify basic Robert’s Rules for Council members seemed to be in order. Information entitled Resource Information on Parliamentary Procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order was distributed at the Faculty Council Orientation in August.

The time period for members to speak on an item is clearly stated in Robert’s as ten minutes, unless the assembly wishes to modify as a special rule. The issue of granting voice is less clear and may be an area to be clarified by Council members such as, under what conditions is voice granted to non-members. Some consideration may be in order for the Council to consider establishing an open forum for a designated time period, i.e. 15 minutes, in Faculty Council meetings once a semester for non-member faculty, following the Board of Trustees format.

The ad hoc committee proposes the following motion:

**To establish a Rules Committee that consists of three faculty council members to be appointed by the chair with the Secretary for Academic Governance as an ex officio member. The committees charge focuses on the rules of procedure for Faculty Council meetings and deliberations. The committee will evaluate procedural rules and/or make recommendations regarding procedural rules as may be required by actions of the Council.**

A motion passed to place the motion on the Faculty Council agenda.

**Emeriti Faculty Representation on Faculty Council and Academic Council:**
Professor Potchen noted that a special rule to add an Emeriti Faculty representative to Faculty Council and Academic Council was passed for 2006-07 and proposes this be repeated for 2007-08. The special rule would be: Add one ex officio member from the Emeriti Faculty to the Faculty Council and Academic Council effectively immediately. This representative will have voice but no vote on the Councils and will represent the Emeriti Faculty for the 2007-08 academic year. ECAC passed the motion and placed on both Council agendas.

**Setting of Faculty Council Agenda for September 18, 2007:**
The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting scheduled for September 18, 2007 is as follows:

- Proposed Special Rule for Emeriti Faculty Representation on Faculty Council and Academic Council (Action Item)
- Committee on Institutional Cooperation Authors’ Rights Statement and Addendum – (Action Item)
Faculty Voice Task Force 1 Update and Proposed Motions from ECAC – (Action Item)
• Report from Ad Hoc Committee to Study Rules for Discussion in Faculty Council and Proposed Motion – (Action Item)
• Report from Faculty Council Civility Task Force Committee – (Info. Item)
• Other Business

A motion passed to approve the agenda.

**Setting of Academic Council Agenda for September 25, 2007:**
The agenda for the Academic Council meeting scheduled for September 25, 2007 is as follows:

• University Committee on Curriculum Report – (Action Item)
• Athletic Council Annual Report – (Info. Item)
• Proposed Special Rule for Emeriti Faculty Representation on Academic Council and Faculty Council
• Committee on Institutional Cooperation Authors’ Rights Statement and Addendum – (Action Item)
• Other Business

A motion was passed to approve the agenda.

**Other Business:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jacqueline A. Wright*

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance