

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 5, 2006

Present: Abeles, Campbell, DeJong, Hinojosa, Hughes, Lloyd, Potchen, Putnam, Powell, Ravani, Stommel, Weber; Others: Banks, Harrison, Simon, Wilcox, Wright, Youatt, Anderson (News Bulletin), Paul (State News)

Absent: Lappan, Love

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

The **Agenda** was approved as distributed.

The **minutes** for May 2, 2006 were approved as distributed.

President's Remarks:

President Simon thanked members for participating in all of the work to be done this year and stressed participation in governance was very important.

The President commented on the economy in Michigan indicating it remains problematic. The President attended a presentation in Detroit where the head of the Federal Reserve Bank, who took a long term perspective, noting trends of weakening happening ten to twelve years ago. He compared Michigan to the national economy and how we have been in sync with some parallels and historically how we have been out of sync. The President was pleased to say that three years ago a group of economists from MSU, Wayne State and U of M wrote a volume called "Michigan at the Millennium" where the best thinking was put together regarding the structural issues that were part of the public policy of Michigan and the economic issues that would affect the State. The publication has proved to be a better door stop. Professor Ballard has worked with colleagues to edit a short version of this book and addresses ideas about Michigan's future.

President Simon reminded members that the last budget cycle was the first time the three Universities with medicine testified as a unified body. This spirit has continued through a set of activities to be launched this Fall around joint marketing of the three research universities with medicine.

The President noted that Secretary Spellings empanelled a committee chaired by Charles Miller, who was the head of the Board of the University of Texas system and was the architect of the "accountability model" that is applied to universities in Texas. The group has been working for a year and issued the first report which has caused some controversy. The report, in general, recognizes the critical role of higher education and universities like MSU are envied by others around the world. There are a series of recommendations of how universities could become

better. Following the report, Secretary Spellings announced there would be four implementation committees to begin making recommendations on how to move the report forward. The President indicated that it was not clear what the report will mean to MSU but it was not a crisis. It is important to see the report in a broad context.

The President reported the inflation for higher education was judged to be between 4 to 5 %. The budget process is expected to be the same as used this past year. The House did use a performance based formula for allocations which had bi-partisan support. The President asked what were some of the metrics MSU would like to see and that it was imperative to sort among the measures to identify outcomes. There will not be one set of metrics but the University needs to take an active role in determining the MSU metrics.

Provost's Remarks:

Provost Wilcox reflected on the completion of his first year at MSU. We now have Faculty Voice recommendations, a number of significant policies have been passed and the year ended with the closing of the College of Human Ecology and the creation of the new Residential College. In addition with the President's leadership and the support of the Board of Trustees the University will have the same number of students as last year but there are more tenure stream faculty. There have been seventy plus tenure stream faculty added to the faculty pool this year. The Provost acknowledged the work of UCFA through the past year.

The Provost identified some of the issues for this year which included:

- UCFA will be looking at long term issues of Health Benefits
- Working Group on Undergraduate Education and also the undergraduate student experience in the broader context
- Continuing Faculty Voice discussions
- Key searches on campus: Provost Wilcox also acknowledged the participation of faculty on the searches this past year.
- NRC, National Research Council, will be doing a review of MSU this year and Dean Klomparens will be coordinating the activity. The key challenge is organizing ourselves in a way that makes sense to outsiders.

Chairperson's Remarks:

Professor Potchen, Chairperson of ECAC, expressed appreciation to Provost Wilcox and President Simon for their participation in academic governance. Professor Potchen noted the value we have at MSU that faculty and administration are working together as partners in making improvements. This year is an opportunity that we have rarely had in the past. The Faculty Voice work is coming to many areas of closure. Hopefully, we will emphasize more on performance and product rather than process. Professor Potchen stressed the need to maintain academic governance in a business like format where you are partly rewarded for what is produced.

Professor Potchen indicated interest in members reviewing the Miller Report and how MSU fits. This is important to address now rather than later. He also expressed the need for renewed interest and enthusiasm in undergraduate education. How can we best meet the agenda at MSU to be a premier institution for undergraduate education in a large university? These were just two agenda items identified for this year. The President commented that her comments on the Miller Report were offered in the spirit of keeping informed and having a sense of what is happening around us. The Provost indicated that Professor Hudzik has been spear heading the discussion of metrics on campus.

Athletic Council Annual Report for 2005-06:

Professor Kasavana, Chairperson of Athletic Council, presented the Annual Report for 2005-06. The Report was distributed to members prior to the meeting. Professor Kasavana explained the format of the report and proceeded to highlight the report. He noted that the metric of the student graduation rate was a compromise between the NCAA and the Secretary of Education and that is why it is a six year horizon. MSU has urged that all student athletes should be in the population but this has not been accepted by the Secretary of Education. Professor Kasavana highlighted several significant items that the Council worked on last year and include the following:

- Student Athlete Survey
- NCAA Academic Reform
- MSU Student Spirit Group Organization
- Athlete Council Subcommittee Activities- which included Academic and Compliance Services, Planning and Equity, Communications and Operations and Drug Education and Testing Policies.

The Annual Report comes to Academic Council as an information item. It was also noted that a UCAP representative sits on Athletic Council.

Working Group for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education, Next Steps:

Professor Putnam, Chairperson of UCAP, reported that Academic Council endorsed the report from the Working Group for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education and charged ECAC to identify the next steps. At the meeting in May, ECAC requested UCAP, UCC and UCSA to work on identifying the next steps. Professor Putnam reported that establishing a University-wide Council for Liberal Learning is a key recommendation in the Report. The two issues identified needing further discussions are the council structure and its relationship to academic governance. Following was some discussion related to the timeline for the establishment of the Council for Liberal Learning. A motion was made to place this item on the agenda for Faculty Council and Academic Council to establish a Council for Liberal Learning as recommended in the Report from the Working Group for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education, for approval by the Board of Trustees. The motion was passed.

Report from Voice Implementation Committee (VIC):

Professor Hughes, Chairperson of VIC, reported that Task Force 2 and Task Force 3 can be moved on with ECAC's recommendation. Task Force 1 just completed their final report and it is going to VIC and then on to ECAC. The VIC is working further on the Task Force 4 recommendations and will be reporting to ECAC. There are several issues in the Task Force 5 report that need further discussion including the definition of eligibility. The committee will be moving as swiftly as possible to get these back to ECAC.

There was some discussion and clarification on what administrators are included. A motion was passed to submit Task Force 2 report to Faculty Council for consideration. Task Force 3 appears to be straight forward. A second motion was passed to submit Task Force 3 to Faculty Council for consideration.

A question was raised as to how faculty in Academic Senate, where Faculty Voice issues arose, become informed on the progress being made? A suggestion was made to have faculty in Faculty Council take the information back to their respective Colleges and communicate through College Advisory Committees, email, etc., so faculty know their concerns have been heard. Another suggestion made was to send an email from the ECAC chairperson to all members of Academic Senate informing them of the progress. The members agreed.

Setting Special Rules and Procedures for Executive Committee and Standing Committees:

Professor Wright explained that each year the ECAC has adopted special rules and procedures for the ECAC. Two proposed special rules for 2006-07 were distributed for discussion, one dealing with electronic voting and the second addressing special meetings. A motion was passed to adopt the special rules and procedures as permanent and to stand unless amended. It was also noted that all standing committees need to establish any special rules and procedures for their respective committees.

Proposed Revisions of Rules and Procedures for the Faculty Council:

Professor Wright presented the current Rules and Procedures for Faculty Council and identified a number of proposed revisions to bring the document up to date. A motion was passed to adopt the proposed revisions of the Rules and Procedures for Faculty Council and send to Faculty Council for vote.

Setting of Faculty Council Agenda for September 12, 2006:

The agenda for the Faculty Council meeting scheduled for September 12, 2006 is as follows:

- Proposed Revisions to the Rules and Procedures of the Faculty Council (Action Item)
- Faculty Voice Task Force Group 2- Administrative Review (Action Item)
- Faculty Voice Task Force Group 3 – Program Review (Action Item)
- Proposal to Establish a University Council for Liberal Learning (Action Item)

A motion passed to approve the agenda.

Executive Committee Minutes
September 5, 2005
Page 5

Setting of Academic Council Agenda for September 26, 2006:

The agenda for the Academic Council meeting scheduled for September 26, 2006 is as follows:

- Athletic Council Annual Report for 2005-06 (Information Item)
- University Committee on Curriculum Report (Action Item)
- Proposal to Establish a Council for Liberal Learning (Action Item)

A motion was passed to approve the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance