MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006
3:15 p.m., 115 International Center

Present: President Simon, Provost Wilcox, Abeles, Andre, Obst (for Ballard), Barnhizer, Bauer, Borcilia, Brown, Butler, Corby, DeJong, Emmett, Fay, Ferris, Fortus, Harris, Hughes, Lacy, Leahy, Link, McCormick, Melakeberhan, Moch, Munn, Olson, Potchen, Putnam, Rautman, Rodriguez, Rohs, Rosser, Schechter, Sticklen, Stockman, Weber, Wright


The meeting began at 3:15 p.m. with a full quorum present.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was approved as distributed. A motion was passed to give voice to Faculty Voice Task Force members and Professor Brody from UCFA.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of November 15, 2005 were approved as distributed.

President’s Remarks:
President Simon reported the Governor made an initial recommendation of a 2% operational increase for the three Universities with medical schools and for the other twelve institutions a 1% across the board increase and a 1% increase to be allocated by formula. Last year the House had a formula that was put in place the fourth quarter of this fiscal year. The Governor has recommended that a formula be applied to the other twelve institutions for 2006-07 budget year. A 2% increase across the board was recommended for the three Universities with medical schools. At this time the recommendation for the Experiment Station and Extension, which has impact on academic units budgets, is at zero. There are three issues with respect to the State Appropriations process. One issue is the question of the splitting of the three Universities with medicine from the other twelve institutions with respect to the budget process. The three Universities with medicine account for 95% of the research dollars. The budgets for the three research Universities with medicine and the Experiment Station and Extension total 10% of the total State general fund/general purpose budget. These Universities are also very high in the Carnegie classification of research.

The second issue at hand is what if any formula is applied. Last year the House had a formula heavily weighted towards a per-student model and also categories of priorities for the State. The third issue is the annual issue regarding the appropriation for Experiment Station and Extension.

We have been as much as a minus of fifty percent to a minus of ten percent, so zero percent is an improvement of the beginning base. The President noted the University will argue for more than
2% on the University side and get the Experiment Station and Extension up to the level of the University’s operating budget.

President Simon asked for support of ASMSU’s work, which will go to the Capitol next week, to argue for public support for higher education for their generation.

The President noted the State’s economy evidences both glimmers of hope as well as areas of concern. The University is working hard in a variety of ways to spur economic development and competitiveness. President Simon’s testimony before the Senate Higher Education Committee has been focused on the role MSU plays in helping the economy.

**Provost’s Remarks:**
Provost Wilcox thanked the faculty for their work in preparing for the North Central Accreditation process. The accreditation team met with the President and the Provost for an exit interview. The team identified a few items to look at but most of the message was one of support and admiration for what the University has accomplished. They were impressed with the institutional direction and movement on campus with a sense of optimism. The report is being finalized and will be sent in a couple of months.

Provost Wilcox reported on the progress for the four Deans’ searches. The College of Nursing Dean candidates have been on campus and the search committee is scheduled to meet today to present their recommendations. The Dean searches in the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Engineering are in the process and it is anticipated the searches will be complete by the end of spring semester. The College of Veterinary Medicine search may not be done by the end of the semester but their faculty and students are on campus year around. A Dean should be in place for fall semester. The Provost also noted there would be three Dean’s searches next year.

Provost Wilcox reported that budget requests for next year are being assembled in the Provost’s office now. The request process will look a little different in that the Quality Fund will be folded into the regular request.

**Executive Committee Chairperson’s Remarks:**
Professor Sticklen announced that the next Faculty Council meeting will have final reports of the Faculty Voice Task Forces and the report from the Working Group on Improvement of Undergraduate Education. Members were urged to attend.

**Conflict of Interest Policy:**
Professor Emmett, Chairperson of UCFA, presented the Conflict of Interest Policy from UCFA and requested permission for Professors Brody, Hunt and Banks and Mr. Noto to speak during the discussion of the policy. Permission was granted. Professor Emmett noted the Conflict of Interest Policy has been before UCFA and Faculty Council for the past four years and is pleased to bring it to Faculty Council for approval. Professor Brody, Chairperson of the Personnel Subcommittee, reviewed the past attempts to develop a policy that was acceptable. The proposed policy was distributed to all faculty requesting feedback and the UCFA incorporated comments where appropriate. Professor Brody summarized the proposed policy and a paragraph by paragraph analysis of the policy.
A motion was passed to amend 2. A. in the Appendix, striking “and shall serve at the pleasure of the President” and 4. A. to be modified to read “The appointment of the FCOIIO shall serve at the pleasure of the President on a half-time basis for renewable terms of 5 years.”

A motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy as amended passed.

**Status Reports from Faculty Voice:**
Professor Sticklen introduced the Faculty Voice Task Force Groups reports noting they were interim and informational in character. The main purpose of these reports is to inform members on the status of the task force groups and provide opportunity to ask questions. Members are urged to take this information back to their respective Colleges and bring information and readiness to engage in discussion at the next Faculty Council meeting.

Professor Abeles presented a brief overview of Task Force 1 which will continue work and give a final report in the fall. At this point Task Force 1 is looking at streamlining committees and they agree there should be a separate committee on Budget. There is also discussion on having a committee on Faculty Policy and Tenure and eliminating the UCAG, absorbing into the new Executive committee. There were also brief reports given on Task Force groups 2, 3, 4, and 5. (Materials were distributed to all members prior to the meeting and each Task Force has their deliberations on Angel sites).

**Other Business:**
It was announced that Professor Brody would be leaving MSU at the end of the year and his work in governance was acknowledged by Faculty Council. Professor Brody commended the Task Force groups for their work and the spirit in which the groups have moved forward.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance

Tapes of complete meetings of the Faculty Council are available for review in the office of the Secretary for Academic Governance, 308 Olds Hall, 355-2337.