MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006
3:15 p.m., 115 International Center


Absent: Ballard, Crawford, Giesy, Harris, Lindemann, Lloyd, Munn, Newhouse, St. Arnault, Selanders, Solomon, Thornburg, Vargas, Wildman, Wilson, Wiseman, Wolfson

The meeting began at 3:20 p.m. without a full quorum present. A full quorum was reached at 3:25 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of April 18, 2006 were amended. Professor Barnhizer is not a member of Council, will remove from the absent list. The minutes were approved as amended.

President’s Remarks:
President Simon officially welcomed members to the start of another academic year. The President announced a Board of Trustee’s meeting would take place this week where Provost Wilcox will comment on enrollment and the opening of the academic year. The President noted that Dr. June, in his role as Associate Provost for Academic Student Services and Multicultural Issues, deserves enormous credit for the One Book, Once Community event and the University Convocation, which is a formal induction of the freshman class into the University.

The legislature is in session and at this time there does not appear to be any legislation being proposed that would directly impact the University. There is interest by the 21st Century Jobs Fund of trying to have the legislature and the Michigan Strategic Fund appropriate more money toward the proposals that were highly recommended by AAAS in their review. The Jobs Commission Board is encouraging to move aggressively on the identification of additional money for the projects not funded and preserving money for a second round of proposals for an October/November cycle.
The President noted that there is a Federal obligation for the University to recognize Constitution Day on September 14, 2006. The President’s comments at this meeting provide an official record that the faculty know there is an obligation to celebrate this day on September 14, 2006. The President has encouraged students to register to vote and to use their constitutional rights to vote in each of the groups she has attended the past weeks. It is important that the students, as a next generation of educated citizens, exercise their right to vote. The President indicated she did try to reinforce the desire for MSU to be the model for the 21st century world grant institution and underline the values of the University as we move toward being among the best.

**Senior Associate Provost’s Remarks:**
Senior Associate Provost Youatt commented on the Boldness by Design initiatives and the recommendations. Last Spring the Task Force Groups made a series of recommendations which numbered several hundred. The Provost and staff will be working with ECAC to identify the initial twenty-five recommendations that will be targeted for the first one to three years. These will be the first tasks that will need to be accomplished toward the Boldness by Design goals.

Professor Youatt reported that a number of new tenure stream faculty, between 55 to 70, have been hired this Fall as a consequence of the Quality Funds from last Fall. A more precise number will be available later in the semester.

Professor Youatt noted that one of the major recommendations of the Working Group to Improve Undergraduate Education was a concentration on the first year and the first year experience. In this spirit there will be a half day meeting in the Union on October 27, 2006 featuring a distinguished Professor of Education from Harvard, Richard Light. The focus of the event will be “Enhancing the Student Experience: The First Year”. All faculty are invited and strongly encouraged to attend this event.

**Executive Committee Chairperson’s Remarks:**
Professor Potchen welcomed members to the new meeting place for Faculty Council this year. Professor Potchen noted that the agenda this year is to move policies forward and have successful measures of the behavior of our system. There is need for a shared understanding of what constitutes success and recognition of the roles we have in building quality throughout the institution. Professor Potchen indicated the ECAC is trying to enhance faculty voice and to keep faculty fully informed. Members were urged to report to their respective units and colleagues, keeping them informed and receiving feedback on the activities in Council.

Professor Potchen reported the Faculty Liaison group now meets the Tuesday prior to the Board of Trustees meeting. This group identifies the agenda for the faculty to bring to their joint meeting. Faculty were encouraged to communicate with the liaison group. Professor Yansa, a faculty liaison representative, underscored the goal of having increased communication between the faculty and Board of Trustee members. One of the discussion points is to look at how the faculty can work better with the Board to enhance
the destiny of the entire institution. This year the faculty liaison members include: James Potchen (ECAC, Chr.), Linda Lou Smith (Faculty Council Rep.), Catherine Yansa (Faculty Council Rep.), Cathy Ernst (UCFA Rep.), and Kathleen Payne (UCFT Rep.).

**Proposed Revisions to the Rules and Procedures of the Faculty Council:**
Professor Wright reviewed the Rules and Procedures of the Faculty Council noting the original approval by Council was in 1976 with the last amendment in 1992. A proposed revision updating items #3 and #5 were distributed to members. A motion to approve the revisions was passed.

**Faculty Voice Task Force Group 2 – Administrator Review:**
Professor Hughes, Chairperson of the Voice Implementation Committee (VIC), reported on the discussions of the Task Force 2 Report. The issues raised included the cost of the review program, the question as to the need for a new standing committee and the schedule for reviews. There were some suggestions that the reviews might be mid term or on a three year cycle rather than annually. There is need for further specification on the issue of the timing of the review. There was a question as to why the Vice Provost was not included on the list to be reviewed. Professor Banks explained that the people on the list have line administrative responsibility. A motion was passed to accept the Task Force 2 Report and refer the Report to the President and administration for consideration and implementation suggestions. The President indicated that her intent was to bring some commentary back to an upcoming Faculty Council meeting.

**Faculty Voice Task Force Group 3 – Program Review:**
Professor Hughes, Chairperson of VIC, reported on the discussions regarding the Task Force 3 Report. There was general support for the concept of regular program reviews but discussions focused on how often the reviews occurred and the mechanism for selecting the programs for review. The issues raised were the administrative burden and the time and cost to run a program of reviews. There was commentary about the work load this process would entail to review 22 programs as recommended in the report. The VIC did not identify the need for a bylaw change for a standing committee. Professor Moch noted the reiteration of the Task Force 3 Report received in the packet of materials was not the last version. There were some minor changes made such as the omission of the Law School. A motion to amend the Report distributed passed, adding the Law School on page 6, line 5. A motion was passed to accept the Task Force 3 Report and refer it to the President and administration for comment and advice.

**Proposal to Establish a University Council for Liberal Learning:**
Professor Putnam, Chairperson of UCAP, presented a proposal to establish a University Council for Liberal Learning. The proposal is a follow up to the action in Academic Council last Spring when the Report of the Working Group for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education was accepted. ECAC was charged to determine the appropriate next steps for implementing the Report’s recommendations. A key recommendation in the Report was to establish a University-wide Council on Liberal Learning. The following motion was presented:
Faculty Council recommends that the Board of Trustees establish a **Council for Liberal Learning** to promote and advance the Goals of Liberal Learning at MSU\(^1\). This Council, composed of faculty, academic specialists, and students, will provide an organizational structure for University-wide oversight and assessment of liberal undergraduate education and will establish and maintain campus-wide dialog focused on advancing liberal learning among University, College, and Disciplinary academic programs. Membership of the Council will be determined by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, in consultation with the University Committee on Academic Policy. The Council, working with the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, should have the authority to bring together faculty, staff, and students as necessary to accomplish the goals of liberal learning. Budget and clerical support should be provided to support this work.

Further, Faculty Council refers this issue to Academic Council for possible endorsement by that body.

\(^1\) The Goals for Liberal Learning at MSU were developed by the Working Group on Improving Undergraduate Education and endorsed by Academic Council on April 25, 2006.

Professor Putnam explained that the Council would be a University-wide group that would work to facilitate and improve liberal learning at the undergraduate level. According to the proposal the Council would be established by the BOT so it would have University standing but not be directly a part of Academic Governance per se but would make recommendations to UCC and UCAP. A motion passed to add a representative from the University Library in the core group.

Much of the discussion focused on the relationship with governance structure and if this group should be one that was Board of Trustees established. A substitute motion to approve the Council for Liberal Learning in principle, with the relationship with governance to be further clarified and how the council should be created was passed.

**Other Business:**
No items.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\[Signature\]

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.