MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY COUNCIL

ORIENTATION NOTES

Tuesday, August 29, 2006
3:15 p.m., Radiology Auditorium


Absent: Floyd, Fraker, Giesy, Grummon, Harris, Lynch, Newhouse, Patino, Rodriguez, St. Arnault, Selanders, Smith, Solomon, Vargas, Wilson, Wolfson, Yansa

Prior to the commencing of the orientation session, members had a photo taken in the gardens.

President's Remarks:
President Simon began by thanking Professor Potchen for hosting the Faculty Council Orientation session and reception. President Simon commented on her perspective of the governance process. She recalled when she became a faculty member at MSU there was a similar orientation on academic governance. The individuals who had been responsible for the growth of the University spoke of the importance of Faculty/Academic Council as a place where faculty came together, representing various colleges, to think about and worry about the future of the University and the special responsibility of how to move the university forward. At times taking actions caused discomfort due to being connected to the here and now and the issues of concern at the time. The President noted for academic governance to work effectively there had to be a place for faculty to move beyond to the issues of the day. It took courage to create some discomfort in the here and now in order for MSU to be better. The lesson of years ago is the lesson of today as well. The pressure on accountability was not a part of the culture long ago. Today we are in an era where the State of Michigan and many States in the country have disinvested in public higher education. We are now at a time, if you look at the Spellings Commission Report, the commentary of the candidates for Governor and the statements by the head of the Detroit office of the Federal Reserve Bank, where higher education is now the solution. This does not necessarily mean there will be more money for higher education and the accountability piece will grow. It will not be as easy to recapture the trust in higher education that existed some years ago. Today the Boldness by Design and Land Grant to World Grant are ways to engage the public trust. Twenty-five years from now the intent is people will look back and see the spirit of the faculty and the governance system to strengthen MSU.
Senior Associate Provost’s Remarks:
Senior Associate Provost Youatt reported the Provost was out of town and could not attend. The conversations of what we are going to do this year will wait until the first Faculty/Academic Council meetings in September. Associate Provost Youatt did comment that the conversations in the Provost’s office the last few weeks has centered on the recommendations of the reform of governance and Boldness by Design. The Boldness by Design Task Force groups last spring produced a wealth of recommendations and work has begun for implementation of some of the recommendations. The collective deliberations and conversations about what governance will look like should be exciting. It is important to take the time to engage in these conversations to arrive with a governance that is agile and functional.

Executive Committee Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Potchen, Chairperson of ECAC, noted that we have a great opportunity to move policies forward this year and that we must be able to measure the successful behavior of our governance. It is important to have a shared understanding of what constitutes success and realize the many roles that must be maintained to build quality. Professor Potchen reviewed some of the issues that will be addressed. The governance system must be meaningful, focused, time-sensitive and connect the College and University levels of governance. We need to continue to identify what governance does to help build quality in the institution and what the role of the faculty is in building quality. Professor Potchen stressed the need to achieve the balance between process and outcomes. In addition to the Voice Implementation, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed this year. One of the issues identified was the need to address the undergraduate curriculum to reinvigorate the undergraduate experience.

Current Academic Governance Structure:
Professor Wright briefly reviewed the governance structure emphasizing the importance of a communication network with College representatives serving on University Committees to facilitate dialog with their constituents. It was also noted that one of the faculty representatives on Faculty Council should serve as an ex officio member on the College Advisory Committee. Members were encouraged to facilitate colleagues to know their College representatives to all of the Standing Committees, the At Large Faculty Representatives to ECAC and Department representatives to the College Advisory Councils.

Bass Quorum Rule:
Professor Wright informed members of the Bass Quorum Rule which had been distributed. The Bass Quorum was one of the Rules and Procedures for Faculty Council adopted in May 3, 1977. Professor Wright noted that the current Rules would be brought to Faculty Council to be updated at the first meeting.

Voice Implementation Committee (VIC):
Professor Hughes, Chairperson of VIC, reported on the work of the committee over the summer. The ECAC was charged by Faculty Council at the April, 2006 meeting to form a group to
integrate and cost out the recommendations of the Faculty Voice Task Force Groups. ECAC formed the Voice Implementation Committee (VIC) at a meeting on May 2, 2006.

Professor Hughes reported that Task Force Group 2 (Faculty Review of Administrators and Task Force Group 3 (Program Review) were ready to come to Faculty Council. Task Force Group 1 (Structure of Academic Governance), Task Force Group 4 (Communication and Transparency of Governance) and Task Force Group 5 (Fixed Term Faculty) need to go to VIC for further discussion and deliberation.

**Accomplishments in Governance During 2005-06:**
Professor Potchen reviewed the accomplishments in governance for the past year, which included the following:

**Policies approved:**
- Outside Work for Pay and Overload Pay Policies
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Proposed Changes to Final Exam Policy
- Level 3 Appointment Policy for RA and TE Graduate Assistants
- Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause Policy
- Additional Major – Proposed Policy Change
- Undergraduate Minors – Proposed Policy Change
- Final Examination Policy – Proposed Change

**Future Agenda Items for 2006-07:**
Professor Potchen noted some of the items that will be on future agendas. The issues identified included the following:

- Faculty Voice – Voice Implementation Committee (VIC) and Task Force Groups Reports 2, 3, 4, & 5
- Task Force Group 1 Report
- Gender Identity 2 Ad Hoc Committee Report
- Working Group to Improve Undergraduate Education Report – Next Steps
- UCFT Proposal to Increase Tenure System Faculty
- Athletics and Athletic Council Procedures
- Implementation of a New Graduate Certification Student Level in Student Information System (SIS)
- Creation of Independent College of Music
- Academic Assembly Bill # 14-24 Recommend UCAP re-examine the Creation of a University wide Academic Integrity Policy Statement
• Academic Assembly Bill # 14-25 Support Inclusion of Multiple Majors on Students Diplomas
• Academic Assembly Bill # 14-41 Change the Religious Observance Policy to Accommodate Individual Religious Practices

Workshop on “How to Conduct Effective Meetings”:
Professor Wright announced that a workshop on “How to Conduct Effective Meetings” is scheduled for the chairpersons of all College Advisory Councils and University Standing Committees on October 3, 2006, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Radiology Auditorium. The presenter of the workshop will be Professor John Tropman from the University of Michigan.

The session concluded with an informal gathering and refreshments.

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.