MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007
3:15 p.m., Radiology Building Auditorium

Present: President Simon, Provost Wilcox, Aviyente, Barnhizer, Bauer, Bice, Bolin, Putnam (for Chivukula), Cognato, Crawford, Dawson, Dobson, Domer, Dougherty, Fay, Floyd, Francesics, Fu, Griffore, Hughes, Jacobs, Kaguni, Keller, Kendall, Kosciulek, Lacy, Moch, Morash, Noel, Owen, Potchen, Powell, Propst, Rodriguez, Rosser, Sleeper-Smith, Sticklen, Tims, Wright, Youngs 40


The meeting began at 3:20 p.m. with a Bass quorum. A quorum was reached at 3:25.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of April 24, 2007 were approved as distributed.

Faculty Council Orientation Notes:
The orientation for Faculty Council was held on August 28, 2007. Notes of the meeting were distributed to all members.

President’s Remarks:
The President commended the Provost and his office and the University Governance system for the idea to host the event to recognize faculty for their service of 25 years or more at the University. President Simon reported on the status of the State government in terms of the budget process. Currently the Senate is in session but will not be voting today and the House is to go into session at 4:00 p.m. today. The lobbyists suggest they may be getting closer to an agreement.

There has been no comment at this time to broaden the base of the sales tax which is in the legislatures’ power. There is agreement that there will be reductions in exchange for any revenue increases and the list is constantly changing. The list does indicate there will be no return of the payment owed to the University from the last fiscal year which is approximately $30 million dollars. The University budget approved by the Board of Trustees (BOT) does permit the use of a line of credit to cover the non repayment of one time money with the related tuition increase for spring semester. The budget is based on minus 1.8 from the appropriation so if there is a continuation budget the University will be unaffected by those numbers. If the cuts are deeper
then the language in the BOT budget this authorizes the President to consider tuition increases. The more difficult issue to sort out is that in the event of a State shutdown all of the contracts and grants related to the University are also affected. The basic function of the University is covered and will proceed. If a unit or individual has a contract from the State, then the status of those contracts will need to be reviewed carefully. Hopefully the State will not shutdown.

**Provost’s Remarks:**
Provost Wilcox reported that the University was recognized at the BOT meeting last week by the Truman Scholar Foundation for our success in awarding Truman Scholars. Generally the Truman Scholars are awarded one per state per year. Michigan State has had fifteen Truman Scholars in thirty years. The Provost noted that this is a tribute to many things not the least of which the work of many faculty and others. There will be a reception to welcome the new Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute, Ruben Martinez, following this meeting today. The Provost announced the University has approval and is finalizing a commitment to have MSU programs in Dubai International Academic City beginning next year. The Provost commented on the Faculty Service Recognition event held on September 17 and congratulated faculty at the University for 2 years and more. He also reminded the faculty of the Third Thursday scheduled for September 20, 2007.

**Executive Committee Chairperson’s Remarks:**
Professor Potchen noted that the progress being made on the Faculty Voice Task Force recommendations will be reported on. There are recommendations from three remaining Task Force groups to be resolved, namely 1, 3 and 4. A proposal will be presented today regarding the Task Force 1 recommendations.

Professor Potchen reported on an initiative that derived from the Faculty Liaison members to the BOT. Members have spent time with the BOT over the past six months discussing the role of the faculty in enhancing the capacity of a university to thrive in an adverse political and economic climate. What can be done with the human capital of the University to be proper stewards of a public resource and how can the faculty be organized to have greater impact on the destiny of the institution? A small committee has been formed to get together with the President and Provost to find ways for the faculty to engage and have an impact on what happens long term to the University.

**Proposed Special Rule for Emeriti Faculty Representation on Faculty Council and Academic Council:**
Professor Potchen proposed, as done last year, a motion for a special rule to add an emeriti faculty representative to Faculty Council and Academic Council as ex officio member with voice and no vote through 8-15-08. The motion was passed.

**Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Authors’ Rights Statement and Addendum:**
Professor Potchen read a statement from the CIC on authors’ rights. Provost Wilcox indicated that this document had been reviewed by faculty governance systems on many campuses and has been discussed and endorsed by the CIC Provost group. The Provost noted that this proposal simply suggests that we as a faculty move toward a model where individual authors would work
to assure the maintenance of their own copyrights. This is not a requirement but rather a model and recommendation the Provost would like to encourage and asked the body to endorse. A motion passed to endorse the policy and template.

**Faculty Voice Task Force 1 Recommendations - Update and Proposed Motions from ECAC:**
Professor Potchen introduced a procedural approach for the discussion and consideration of the recommendations of Faculty Voice Task Force 1. Professor Morash presented the following motion approved by ECAC: Faculty Council adopt special rules for consideration of the recommendations of Faculty Voice Task Force 1:

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. Professor Potchen noted a resolution received from the College of Communication, Arts and Sciences Advisory Council providing commentary on recommendations proposed by Task Force 1 which was distributed to members.

**Report from Ad Hoc Faculty Committee to Study Rules for Discussion in Faculty Council and Proposed Motion:**
Professor Hughes, Chairperson of the ad hoc committee, reported that the ad hoc committee was formed at the end of last year due to some of the unorganized discussion in Council. The committee met over the summer reviewing some of the issues that interfered with orderly discussion as identified in the report distributed. One of the outcomes was to propose the following motion to Faculty Council:
To establish a Rules Committee of three faculty, with the Secretary for Academic Governance as an ex officio member, each year to review and recommend changes when necessary or as directed by the Chairperson or body.

Professor Hughes noted the committee’s 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. There was some discussion related to Roberts Rules of Order and there was clarification that the University Bylaws direct the use of Roberts Rules for all governance meetings. The motion to establish a Rules Committee was passed.

Report from Faculty Council Civility Task Force Committee:
Professor Potchen reported the committee was derived from tension last year and some disgruntled individuals and organizations that caused some adverse effects. Professor Potchen asked for permission to give Professor Dick Weber voice as chairperson of the Task Force to report on the findings of the group. Voice was granted. Professor Weber reported meeting with Provost Wilcox and Associate Provost Youatt to discuss the original charge. There appeared to be some civility issues in the classroom based on reports from Professor Soffin, Ombudsman. Following discussions with Professor Soffin, the committee made several recommendations as identified in the report distributed to Council members. There appears to be mechanisms in place to respond to disruptive situations and it was the sense of the committee there was no need for urgent action. The report was an information item so no specific action was taken.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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, Professor Jacqueline Wright, W32 Owen Graduate Hall.