

BOARD OF REGENTS

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 10
DATE:
September 21, 2007

RECOMMENDATION

MONTHLY REPORT & MINUTES **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for September 21, 2007 and the Minutes of June 19, 2007 be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

At the June 19, 2007 meeting the Student Affairs Committee received the Alcohol & Other Drug (AOD) Policy Biennial Review report as well as Student Leader Group statements addressing tuition & budget disclosure, preliminary SLG priorities for the year and initial reactions to the Butzel Long Report. Additionally, the Committee passed a motion supporting the 2007-08 Housing and Dining Rates Proposal. The committee also welcomed several new members. A number of new members were unable to attend the meeting due to internships, summer jobs and travel commitments.

The September 21, 2007 agenda includes introduction of new members, the annual Fall Start-Up Report, and the 2007-08 Student Leader Group priorities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer

Date

/.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Student Affairs Committee

Friday, September 21, 2007
1:45 p.m.

Agenda

Room 201
Welch Hall

1. Approval of June 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes
2. Introduction of New Members
3. Annual Fall Start-Up Report
4. 2007-08 Student Leader Group (SLG) Priorities
5. Announcements
6. Other

Regent Hawks
Karen Simpkins
Glenna Frank Miller
SLG Members

2.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 19, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Regents: Gary Hawks, Floyd Clack

Administration: Karen Simpkins, Mike Erwin, Glenna Frank Miller, Gregory Peoples

Students: Christopher Bylone, Greg Jones, Derek Martin, Roberto Melendez, Allison Sheppard, Kristen Virgin

GUESTS

Regents:

Administration: Carin Barber, Doug Bunce, David Carroll, Peg Carter, Shalonda Harris Cassanova, George Cole, MaryJo Desprez, Brian Fitzgerald, Larry Gates, Ellen Gold, Cindy Hall, Peggy Harless, Steve Holda, Ann Klaes, Cathie McClure, Bruce Moses, Jeff Nesmith, Diane Parfitt, Fred Roberts, Ken Ruppel, Gretchen Sanchez, Lewis Savage, Connie Schaffer, Darryl Szczepanski, Janice Stroh, Kathy Walz, Gretchen Ward, Paul Dean Webb, Melody Reifel Werner, Kay Woodiel

Students: Angela Baugher, Donna Bobcean, HA-Zel Davis, Allison Friendly, Matthew Gundick, Erin Hanson, Jessica Richardson, John Lanpher, Tracy Lee, Jeremiah Richardson, Amanda Shrom, Suzy Sweeney

Press: Dan Duchene (Echo)

Regent Hawks convened the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Minutes of the March 20, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.

Introduction of New Members

The Student Affairs Committee welcomed new members: Greg Jones, Student Body President; Roberto Melendez, Students of Color Representative; Chris Bylone, Graduate Student Organization representative; Derek Martin, Inter-Fraternity Council president and Kristen Virgin, Campus Life Council representative. A number of new members were unable to attend the meeting due to internships, summer jobs and travel commitments; we look forward to their participation in the fall.

AOD Policy Biennial Review

Kathy Walz (Health Education), Doug Bunce (Human Resources) and Diane Parfitt (Faculty, Leadership & Counseling), members of the 2006 Biennial Review Committee, presented the 2006 EMU Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Biennial Review, which found the University in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act. The review committee recommended minor wording changes in the Board of Regents Policy to modify position titles and recommended enhancements to the distribution strategy. Greg Jones moved that the report be received and placed on file. The motion was seconded by Allison Sheppard and passed unanimously.

2007-08 Housing & Dining Rates Proposal

Mike Erwin, Acting Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, presented the 2007-08 Housing & Dining Rates Proposal. The recommendation is to 1) maintain the apartment rates at the 2006-07 rates; 2) increase the residence hall room and board rates by 5 percent, with the exception of Wise Hall; and

3) decrease the rate for Wise Hall by 2.6 percent. With a 5% increase, EMU remains below the State average. Allison Sheppard presented a statement on behalf of the Residence Hall Association endorsing the increase. Greg Jones moved and Chris Bylone seconded that the Student Affairs Committee endorse the rates proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Tuition and Budget Disclosure Statement

Student Body President Greg Jones presented a statement on behalf of the Student Leader Group expressing concern with the lack of student involvement in the budget development process and calling for the creation of a communication plan to fully explain the budget and tuition increase decisions to students. Greg Jones moved and Chris Bylone seconded that the Tuition and Budget Disclosure statement be received and passed to the President and the full Board. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the statement is appended to these minutes.

Student Leader Group Priority Statement

Greg Jones reported that the Student Leader Group is continuing to develop its agenda and priorities for the next year and will provide a full report at the September 21 Student Affairs Committee meeting. Alli Sheppard moved, seconded by Greg Jones, that the Student Leader Group's preliminary statement of priorities be received and passed to the President and the full Board. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the statement is appended to these minutes.

Other

Greg Jones presented a statement on behalf of the Student Leader Group expressing their initial reactions to the Butzel Long Report. Greg Jones moved and Alli Sheppard seconded that the statement be received and passed to the President and the full Board. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Teri L. Papp
Student Affairs Committee Recording Secretary

Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents
June 19, 2007

Position Paper: Tuition and Budget Disclosure
Presented by Gregory Jones, Student Body President

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, the University turns its attention toward drafting a new University Budget. An important part of the development of a new budget includes the discussion of the cost of tuition for the 2008 University Fiscal Year. Unfortunately, in recent history, communication regarding the development of the University budget has been lacking at best. In recent memory, there has been no student involvement in the discussions surrounding budget development despite the attempts of student leaders. Furthermore, after the development of the budget and its approval by the Board of Regents, the University has failed to discuss the changes with the Student Body or explain the reasons why those changes have taken place. We hope that this precedent is changed this year.

We recognize some of the efforts made by the University to be more open with students and to discuss the University Budget. We applaud the "Finance 101" seminars that were open to students at various times last year. These seminars explained to students the process by which the University Budget is developed and their existence marks a step in the right direction. We are also optimistic about the Administration's willingness to meet with the Student Leader Group to explain the intricacies of budget development. This meeting, scheduled for the afternoon of June 20, 2007, will surely provide some answers to the many questions held by students regarding the way in which our tuition money is spent. These actions indicate an attempt by the EMU Administration to communicate with students regarding the budget, and we look for the continuation of these actions in the future. However, more needs to be done to truly involve students in the budgetary operations of the University.

We are disappointed that a student was not asked to be involved in the budget creation process for the fiscal year 08 and we look for the opportunity for student input in the future. Student involvement in the budget creation process is long overdue. Student Leaders have been promised that they would be included in this process year after year, and to date little progress has been made. The University must now make it an institutional goal to actively pursue student input on the expenditure of tuition money. In that light, we support the plan to create a Budget Commission that includes members of the Student Body and examines University finances year-round. We also look for the University to examine other methods that allow students to participate in the budget process. It is essential that the University strives to incorporate student input when developing the financial plan for EMU.

In addition to resolving the lack of student contribution in financial decision making, the University must also look toward improving the communications process with students. In the past, tuition increases were implemented with no explanation given to students. This lack of communication creates an atmosphere of frustration amongst the

Student Body. It is a problem that must be resolved. We are optimistic that upon the approval of the University Budget during the July 16, 2007 Board of Regents Meeting the EMU administration will begin a process of open discourse with the Student Body. Such a process is essential to keeping the Student Body informed on the expenditure of our tuition dollars. The Administration should immediately begin developing this communications plan. It needs to be comprehensive and expansive, fully explaining the decisions made regarding the budget and actively reaching out to all students. Honest discussions with the student body regarding tuition will help alleviate many of the concerns held by our students, and will create a more unified campus community. We look forward to the improvement of the tuition communication process and the full, detailed explanations of all tuition adjustments.

Finally, we recognize the economic difficulties experienced by the University at this time. However, Eastern Michigan University does not face these hardships in a vacuum. The students of EMU are also affected by Michigan's troubling economy. Each year it becomes more and more difficult for students to pay for the quality education that EMU offers. While we understand that all universities are facing allocation cutbacks and are therefore turning toward higher tuition to supplement the cost of operations, we hope that Eastern Michigan University will make its best effort to cut costs before increasing tuition. EMU provides an excellent education at an affordable rate, and we hope that the University will continue to strive toward that goal. Working toward student input regarding the budget, advancing the communication of budget decisions, and striving to continue to provide an affordable education to the Student Body of Eastern Michigan University will benefit the University community as a whole. We, the Student Leaders of EMU, anxiously anticipate the implementation of these recommendations with immense hope for the future of our institution.

6.

Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents
June 19, 2007

2007-2008 Student Leader Group Preview
Presented by Gregory Jones, Student Body President

Members of the Board of Regents and other respected members of the EMU Community,

Good afternoon. It is my pleasure to speak with you today about this year's Student Leader Group. As you know, the Student Leader Group is comprised of the students on the student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents. Currently, the Student Leader Group has 13 members including the Student Body President and Vice President, the presidents of the Residence Hall Association, the Inter-Fraternity Council, the Pan-Hellenic Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the International Student Association, a Students of Color representative, a LGBT representative, a Campus Life Council representative, a representative from Access Services, a Graduate Student Senate representative, and a representative of the Commuter Student Association. These dedicated students work every year to develop a common student agenda with the purpose of advancing the interests of the Student Body of EMU. This year, we look forward to working with each other and the Board of Regents for the benefit of Eastern Michigan University.

We have already had preliminary discussions about the direction that we would like to see the Student Leader Group head this year. Several ideas for the priorities our group have been offered, ranging from tuition advocacy, to safety and security on campus, to the improvement of communication within the University, to updating signage and improving technology. The list goes on. We will continue to develop our priorities and determine what issues are important to us as student leaders. We will have a concrete list ready for presentation by the September 18 Board meeting.

In the past, the Student Leader Group has been very successful in advocating for the betterment of EMU. This year, we hope to be just as successful and look forward to working with the Board on behalf of the Student Body of Eastern Michigan University.

Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents
June 19, 2007

Position Paper: Initial Butzel Long Report Reactions
Presented by Gregory Jones, Student Body President

On Friday, June 08, 2007, the Butzel Long law firm released a report on their investigation of the manner in which the University handled the Laura Dickenson murder investigation. Unfortunately, through evidence supplied by the report, it appears as though the University did not act responsibly and failed to adhere to the Clery Act and provide adequate warning regarding a homicide investigation on campus. This inaction on behalf of the EMU Administration is unacceptable. We, the representative voice for the Student Body, are appalled at the inefficiencies exhibited in the communication process amongst University Administrators. This is especially inexcusable in that the communication, or lack thereof, revolved around the death of an EMU student.

We are not currently prepared to address the specific action that we want to take place. We support the Board of Regents' decision to delay administrative decisions until the release of the Department of Education's report. There is much contention revolving around the discussion of what changes should occur within the Administration. However, overwhelmingly there is one resounding unified voice demanding a more effective communications process. Many of the shortcomings that allowed for the University to violate the Clery Act are institutional. That is, the organization of the communication with Student Body and amongst the Administration is ineffective and must be examined and re-organized. Institutional communication strategies must be put in place so as to avoid such a debacle from ever again occurring here at EMU.

Once again, the University is facing criticism and negative press. This situation must be resolved. Those who failed in their capacity to serve the Student Body and Eastern Michigan University must be held accountable. The processes that allowed for the institutional failure exhibited in the aftermath of the death of Laura Dickenson must be reorganized and improved. The University must take responsibility for its shortcomings, apologize for its indiscretion, and take swift action to demonstrate its dedication to the safety and wellbeing of the students of EMU. These actions must be taken immediately in order to restore the University's reputation and bring closure to this horrible tragedy.