

SECTION:
DATE: September 16, 2008

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

MONTHLY REPORT
FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Faculty Affairs Committee Agenda for September 16, 2008 be received and placed on file and the Minutes of the April 1, 2008 meeting be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

The topic for the September 16, 2008 Faculty Affairs Committee meeting will be determined in consultation with faculty leaders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

University Executive Officer
Provost and Executive Vice President

9-8-08

Date

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Faculty Affairs Committee

September 16, 2008
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.
205 Welch Hall

AGENDA

Regular Agenda

Section 14 Monthly Report and Minutes (*Regent Okdie, Chair*)

Status Report

REPORT: “To be determined”

Introduction (5 minutes)
Art Department (10 minutes)
School of Nursing (10 minutes)
English Department (10 minutes)
Open discussion (10 minutes)

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 1, 2008
12:45 – 1:30 pm
205 Welch Hall

Attendees: (seated at tables) Regent Parker, Regent Okdie, Provost and Executive Vice President Loppnow, Associate Provost Neely, Russ Larson, Susan Moeller, Mahmud Rahman, Pam Becker, Susan Becker, Howard Bunsis

Guests: (as signed in) Dave Mielke, Pam Young, Deb deLaski-Smith, Ron Woody, Byron Bond, Rhonda Longworth

Regent Okdie welcomed everyone and introduced his agenda topic for the meeting. Today's discussion will revolve around the committee's goals and objectives in an effort to produce something substantive.

Provost Loppnow posed three questions:

- 1) How do we move Faculty Affairs forward with clearly defined goals and objectives?
- 2) What are the necessary action steps to accomplish this?
- 3) What are the main issues and concerns?

Howard Bunsis commented that a true Faculty Affairs Committee would have only faculty on it. This would enable a free flowing of ideas and not inhibit discussion. Currently most faculty has no contact with Regents, and current membership restricts attendance. Russ Larson agreed that some faculty are intimidated, and it makes it hard for people to be honest.

Regent Okdie inquired what makes things intimidating. One of the responses was the surroundings, the room, the building. A suggestion would be to hold the meetings somewhere else on campus that was more accessible to faculty and had a more "friendly" feel to it.

Regent Parker brought up the point that while that would be a good consideration, there is often not time to go between buildings for meetings.

However, if the nature of these meetings is to hear complaints or suggestions then no one should feel intimidated to attend and voice their opinion. If having these meetings in other building will net a greater attendance then it merits serious consideration. But, it has to be done with the intent on resolving issues and moving forward.

Dave Mielke suggested that the faculty have input into the agenda with the issues that most concern them. Would there be anyway that Regent Okdie could formalize a plan that he is willing to work with the faculty?

Regent Okdie stated that he would consider anything, but not to the point of turning over the meetings to just anyone. As the chair of the committee, he would set the boundaries.

But beyond that, what do we want to accomplish?

Howard Bunsis said that topics could cover admission standards, retention, size of faculty, and class size.

Provost Loppnow stated that there has always been an ebb and flow with this communication. The Board of Regents bylaws indicated they speak with faculty about the issues that the faculty face. The location and set up could be seen as intimidating. The meeting should be more open and faculty could have more input on the agenda, but there should be administrators present.

The rest of the discussion focused on when and where meetings could be held. Do they need to be on the same day as regular Board meetings? Could these meetings be held somewhere other than Welch Hall? What ideas are there for promoting this and boosting faculty attendance? Since this committee will not meet again until September, the summer would be a great time to figure out these details.

Regent Okdie ended with stating he will be in touch with Howard Bunsis to discuss the best way to go about making this happen.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Woody
Administrative Secretary
Academic Affairs