

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Board of Regents Meeting December 17, 2009

The proposed minutes of the December 17, 2009 Board of Regents meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the Eastern Michigan University board of Regents was called to order by Chair Wilbanks at 3:30 p.m. in Room 201, Welch Hall, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The Board Members present were:

Regent Floyd Clack
Regent Gary Hawks
Regent Philip Incarnati
Regent Thomas Sidlik
Regent James Stapleton
Chair Roy Wilbanks

The Board Members absent were:

Regent Mohamed Okdie
Vice Chair Francine Parker

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report to the Board of Regents
Eastern Michigan University
Susan W. Martin
December 17, 2009

As we close the 2009 calendar year, it is with deep appreciation that I wish you and your families, our faculty and staff and their families, our students and their parents, our donors, supporters and friends, a joyous and peaceful holiday season. The end of the year is a good time to take stock of the many positive developments underway on the Eastern Michigan University campus.

We are actively seeking to add new faculty in several key areas. I am pleased to report we currently have 41 faculty searches open. Our emphasis on supporting our academic mission has never been stronger and reflects our ongoing commitment to faculty members and students, while also allowing us to address the surge in enrollment that began this fall. Seventy-five percent of our \$178 million, 3-year capital plan is focused on upgrades to academic areas.

Eastern has always been a college of hope and opportunity where students of every race, age, sex, color, religion, race and creed come and realize they can get that degree and be successful in Michigan earning a living to support their family. Winter enrollment so far is up more than five percent compared to the same time last year. This is due to our concerted efforts to keep tuition low – the increase of 3.8 percent in 2009-2010 was the lowest of Michigan's 15 universities – only \$10 a credit hour. It also is due to our concerted efforts to reach new first-time students, transfer students, workers in transition, and military veterans. Our new Vet Connect Award provides the opportunity of in-state tuition for every veteran in the United States. We also established a one-stop service center for veterans in McKenny Hall.

We are among Michigan's leading universities in forging strong and lasting relationships with our community colleges. We signed new articulation agreements during the past month with Oakland Community College and Lansing Community College. We now have 98 individual agreements with 16 different community colleges – 13 in Michigan, two in Ohio and one in Canada that accept 84-92 credits toward a Bachelor's degree. Community colleges don't need to offer four-year degrees in Michigan – they just need to work with public universities like Eastern and we will work out a smooth affordable path to enable students to get a bachelor's degree.

Our support of faculty also is reflected in the recent awarding of 14 faculty awards totaling more than \$68,000. The Provost's Research Award for New Faculty offers competitive awards of up to \$5,000 to faculty in their first or second year of employment for research or creative projects.

December is an important time for our students. They are wrapping up final exams this week and heading home to celebrate the holidays with families and friends. Others are hoping for a different sort of holiday present. Millions of dollars of academic scholarships are being awarded this year, most of it to students participating in our annual Presidential Scholarship Competition, which wrapped up last weekend. More than 400 students took part. Sixteen will receive our largest academic award, a four-year full-ride Presidential Scholarship valued at approximately \$64,000 over four years. Twenty-nine students will be awarded the Regents Gold Scholarship, which includes tuition and fees for 30 credits a year renewable for four years, valued at approximately \$32,000. All students who participate in the competition and meet the minimum qualifications are guaranteed a minimum \$12,000 four-year Regents Scholarship. While merit-based support is important, funding of need-based financial aid continues to be a top priority. Including next year, our financial aid commitment has increased by 42 percent since 2007-2008, from \$21.4 million to \$30.4 million.

On Sunday, we will celebrate undergraduate and graduate achievement with our winter commencement ceremony. Approximately 1,800 students are eligible to walk across the stage – approximately 1,200 will receive undergraduate degrees, 609 will receive graduate degrees, including 10 doctoral candidates. This is truly an inspiring event and we congratulate all of our graduates and their families. We are pleased that one of our new graduates will be Erin Incarnati, the daughter of Regent Philip Incarnati.

We also look forward to hearing from our honored commencement speaker, Judge Greg Mathis. He is an Eastern Michigan graduate, Bachelor of Science in 1983, as is his wife Linda, Bachelor of Science in 1985. Like many of our students, Judge Mathis followed a non-traditional education and career path to great success.

Judge Mathis isn't the only celebrity to visit our campus. Actor Danny Glover and a production crew spent several days on our campus in late October-early November filming a new movie. It is scheduled to be released next year.

Soon to be underway is the renovation of Pray-Harrold, our largest and busiest classroom building. The renovation, which will lead to extensive modernization of the facility and new, student-focused commons areas, also is behind a new term that is sweeping the campus. The term is "[Swing Space](#)." It is a simple term for a complex challenge – providing temporary areas for classrooms and offices during the renovation of the Pray-Harrold and science buildings. We continue to seek capital outlay funding from the State of Michigan for the renovation of Strong Hall.

This is one of the most dramatic and important logistical undertakings to occur on the Eastern campus. Approximately 340 faculty and staff members who work and teach in Pray-Harrold will need a temporary home after they move out when the winter term ends and construction begins.

A team of staff and faculty, along with outside experts, has worked closely together for nearly a year to assess possible space for additional offices and classrooms. This elaborate process involved the Educational Environment and Facilities Committee, which includes seven faculty members. Planning meetings are underway with departments affected. Completing the project at one time will eliminate more than a year of construction as well as phased move-outs and prolonged disruption to offices and classes.

In other developments, construction of our indoor practice facility is on schedule, with inflation of the "bubble" to take place during the first stretch of 40-degree weather in January, with completion scheduled by March.

We held numerous H1N1 vaccination clinics on campus and supported Washtenaw County with three mass vaccination clinics at the Convocation Center.

We were pleased to host Governor Jennifer Granholm for a rally in support of the Promise Grant initiative. The rally took place on November 23, drawing a standing-room-only crowd. Our student government leadership, particularly President Regina Royan, is responsible for making the event a success.

Other campus events include an open community discussion on the holocaust that was attended by 300 people, and a lecture by University of Michigan Professor Juan Cole on President Obama's Middle East policy. We thank Professor Martin Shichtman for bringing these thought-provoking events to our campus.

This past weekend featured a novel event that blended business and basketball at the Convocation Center. The “Marketing Idol” competition pitted students from the College of Business against each other in an American Idol-type format. A panel of judges and an audience of approximately 400 students rendered their verdict on the students’ marketing proposals to increase attendance for the men’s and women’s basketball teams. I would like to thank our E-Hoops group for its sponsorship and involvement.

We are pleased to announce that we will soon embark on another important mission. In April, we will formally announce our new capital campaign for Eastern Michigan University. We are firmly committed to the launch and success of this effort, and look forward to sharing details about our campaign goals and objectives next April.

Chairman Wilbanks, this concludes my report.

Thank you.

PROPOSED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2009 BOARD MEETING

Regent Hawks moved and Regent Stapleton seconded that the proposed minutes be approved as submitted.

Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Stapleton moved and Regent Sidlik seconded the Consent Agenda be approved as submitted.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Section 1

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve 11 staff appointment for the reporting period of October 1, 2009 – November 15, 2009.

STAFF SEPARATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Section 2

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve 6 separations and retirements for the reporting period October 1, 2009 – November 15, 2009.

EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS

Section 3

Recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Faculty Status to Dr. Catherine Bach, Dr. Paul D. Kuwick, Dr Margaret Moore-Hart, Dr. Walter Moss, Dr. Donald Pearson and John R. Smith.

EMERITUS STAFF STATUS

Section 4

Recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Staff status to Mary Jane Callison.

ACADEMIC RETIREMENTS/SEPARATIONS

Section 5

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve 1 retirement and 4 separations for the reporting period September 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATIVE/PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Section 6

Recommended that the Board of Regents approve one Administrative/Professional transfer.

APPOINTMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS BOARD MEMBERS

Section 7

Recommended that the Board of Regents appoint Sally Contreras to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Academy for Business and Technology; Jason Johnson to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Ann Arbor Learning community; Delores Tripp to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence; LaTanya Beanum and Christine Harris to three-year terms on the Board of Directors of Gaudior Academy; and Walter Stephens to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Hope Academy.

VISITING FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Section 8

Recommended that the board of Regents approve 2 visiting faculty appointments that had not been reported for July 2009.

Motion Carried

MONTHLY REPORT AND MINUTES – STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Section 9

Regent Hawks moved and Regent Sidlik seconded that the Student Affairs Committee Agenda for December 17, 2009 and the Minutes of October 20, 2009 be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried

MONTHLY REPORT AND MINUTES – ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Section 10

Regent Incarnati moved and Regent Clack seconded that the working Agenda for December 17, 2009 and the October 20, 2009 minutes be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried

MONTHLY REPORT AND MINUTES – FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Section 11

Regent Sidlik moved and Regent Hawks seconded that the Faculty Affairs Committee Agenda for December 17, 2009 and the Minutes of the October 20, 2009 meeting be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried

MONTHLY REPORT AND MINUTES – EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

Section 12

Regent Sidlik moved and Regent Hawks seconded that the Educational Policies Committee Agenda for December 17, 2009 and the Minutes of the October 20, 2009 meeting be received and placed on file.

Motion Carried

HONORARY EMERITUS STATUS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE (Posthumously)

Section 13

Regent Sidlik made the following statement that he requested be part of the record of the meeting:

“Today we honor Dr. Joseph F. Pollack, a true pioneer in education.

Joe’s accomplishments are many:

- Classroom Teacher.
- School Principal.
- Superintendant.
- Charter School Champion.

Joe believed that a high quality education should be available to everyone.

He served Eastern Michigan University from 1997-2009 as Director of the Charter Schools Office. In this position he oversaw the establishment of eight charter schools. Under his leadership these schools have become models of educational success.

During his time with the University, he transformed Charter Schools into an EMU Center of Excellence.

In his honor, one of the Charter Schools has changed its name to the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence. There will be a formal renaming ceremony of this school on Friday, January 29, 2010.

It is my pleasure, as an Eastern Michigan University Regent, to recommend that Dr. Joseph F. Pollack be granted Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service.”

Regent Hawks seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Section 14

Regent Stapleton moved and Regent Hawks seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the minutes from the October 20, 2009 Finance and Audit Committee meeting, the Working Agenda for the December 17, 2009 meeting and the Informational Reports and Financial Updates.

Motion Carried

2008-2009 EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Section 15

Regent Stapleton moved and Regent Sidlik seconded that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the Eastern Michigan University Foundation Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 2009.

Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary Kurtz announced that there were six requests to address the Board of Regents.

Susan Moeller – AAUP

Matthew Evett – Faculty Senate

Regina Roylan – Student Government

Richard Barnabo – Firefighter

Dr. Timothy Brewer – Graduate Council

Mark Higbee – Faculty

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline K. Kurtz
Secretary to the Board of Regents