

SECTION:	13
DATE:	February 15, 2011

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

MONTHLY REPORT
FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Faculty Affairs Committee Agenda for February 15, 2011 be received and placed on file and the Minutes of the December 16, 2010 meeting be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

The topic for the February 15, 2011 Faculty Affairs Committee meeting is an Accreditation Update.

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

2-1-2011

Date

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Faculty Affairs Committee

February 15, 2011
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.
205 Welch Hall

AGENDA

Regular Agenda

Section 13 Monthly Report and Minutes (*Regent Parker, Chair*)

Status Report

Discussion: “Accreditation Update”

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 16, 2010

1:00-1:45 p.m.

205 Welch Hall

Attendees (seated at tables): H. Bunsis, M. Evett, Provost and Executive Vice President Kay, S. Moeller, Regent Parker (Chair), M. Rahman, K. Rusiniak, D. Selman, Regent Sidlik.

Guests (as signed in): N. Banush, D. Barton, D. Beagen, D. Bennion, C. Blakely, M. Bombyk, J. Boyless, T. Brewer, E. Buggs, J. Carroll, D. Crary, D. deLaski-Smith, A. Dow, M. Evett, L. Findley, R. Hanna, M. Jackson, S. Kersey-Otto, J. Margerum-Leys, A. Meyer, A. Monea, R. Nord, L. Pritchard, D. Ritzenheim, K. Rusiniak, C. Shell, W. Shell, W. Tornquist, B. Warren, D. Winder, R. Woody

Discussion: "Impact of Government Changes on Academic Programs"

Leigh Greden, Executive Director, Government and Community Relations, led the discussion with the assistance of Chad Wing, Director, State and Federal Relations, and Dominick Pallone, Government Consultant, Midwest Strategy Group. Mr. Greden began his presentation by distributing "Proposal to Allow Community Colleges to Offer Four-Year Degrees", which is outlined below.

Background

- In October 2009, two bills (HB4837/5533) to allow Michigan community colleges to grant B.A. degrees were introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives. The bills were introduced by former Schoolcraft Community College administrator Rep. John Walsh (R – Livonia) and Rep. Joel Sheltrown (D – West Branch).
- The bills would allow community colleges to offer B.A. degrees in nursing, culinary arts, cement technology, maritime technology, and nuclear technology.
- The Presidents Council, Public Universities of Michigan opposed and lobbied against the proposed legislation.
- On November 5, 2009, the bills were taken up by a House committee and approved by a 16-5 vote. Seven Democrats supported the bills, the five "no" votes were all Democrats.
- In March 2010, a similar bill was introduced in the Michigan Senate (SB1221), sponsored by Sens. Michael Switalski (D – Roseville) and Jud Gilbert (R – Algonac). This bill died in committee.
- In September 2010, the House of Representatives approved the House legislation by a narrow margin of 55-49.
- The legislation approved by the House of Representatives was sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate Education Committee, where it died.
- We expect this legislation to be re-introduced when the new legislature convenes in January 2011.

Talking Points

- Public universities and community colleges have distinct missions and revenue streams. For example, community colleges are permitted to levy property tax millages. This legislation would blur those missions.
- Michigan's 15 public universities already have four-year partnerships and articulation agreements with community colleges across the state. For example, EMU has over 100 articulation agreements with community colleges throughout Michigan (and in northern Ohio).
- Unlike at the university level, community college nursing programs are not nationally accredited. It will cost time and money for community colleges to seek and achieve accreditation. (NOTE: Around

the same time these bills were taken up, a group of nursing students at Owens Community College in Ohio sued because the program lost its national accreditation).

- Allowing community colleges to grant a B.A. degree in nursing will not address the shortage of clinical assignments and faculty that are crucial to a top-notch nursing program at the B.S. level; instead, it will spread the challenges and concerns to more institutions.
- Allowing community colleges to grant B.A. degrees will eventually result in higher operating costs and could ultimately create a need for more state funding at a time when Michigan struggles to support the universities that we already have. According to a House Fiscal Agency analysis, the bills would serve to *"increase operating costs of state community colleges that elect to offer the select baccalaureate programs. A community college could incur costs for the salary and benefits of additional faculty (full and part time) and support staff, as well as operating costs for administration, materials and supplies, travel, information technology, accreditation, and other support services. A college could also incur costs for capital expenses related to equipment and facilities. (increased capacity)."*
- In 2009 Florida halted allowing community colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees because of the rising cost of doing so at a time when the state, like most, was strapped for cash.
- Many of Michigan's community colleges do not support the legislation.

Mr. Greden added that his group encourages EMU faculty, staff and students (the experts in the field) to come to Lansing with them and visit the legislators. Each spring a large coordinated effort is held in Lansing, it's called EMU Day in Lansing. Over 50 members of the EMU Community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and executive leadership will go to Lansing to promote EMU. Government and Community Relations also arranges smaller groups to meet with individual legislators throughout the year.

Another important way in which the EMU community can assist with the legislators is to correspond with their individual state representatives and senators. Mr. Greden asked for input in preparing the talking points to present in Lansing, since the faculty, staff and students are the experts in the field.

Regent Parker asked what is being done to educate the newly elected legislators on the community college issue. Mr. Greden responded with several approaches, such as; will work with the Public University Council on a coordinated effort, meet with incoming legislators, and meet with legislators assigned to key leadership positions.

Daryl Barton suggested that the EMU Day in Lansing be moved to March to allow for more participation by faculty and students, and that attendance count as Learning Beyond the Classroom credit.

Matthew Evett inquired as to how much geography plays a roll in the community college legislation. Chad Wing explained that geography factors greatly in the legislation. The community colleges argue that the universities aren't willing to establish satellite sites in the states where they're needed.

Mr. Greden added that this legislation isn't a hot issue for most legislators, they are persuadable. There are only a few members in the legislature with a personal or geographical interest.

Regent Sidlik inquired about the recent appropriations bill and who voted against EMU in that vote, and Mr. Greden informed the group that all of the representatives who have EMU in their districts voted for the bill, which excluded EMU from any capital outlay funding.

Regent Parker asked for the future legislative items which may affect EMU. Mr. Greden replied that the appropriations process is one to watch. Mr. Greden's group is working on strategy on value based budgeting and highlighting EMU as the institution that serves a board, diverse group of people.

Regent Sidlik asked about the possibility of cuts this year. Mr. Greden said that there isn't any word on cuts yet, but that Michigan is facing a large deficit. One issue which may affect cuts in Higher Education is the expiration of the stimulus funds. A condition of receiving stimulus funds was to limit the cuts higher education, and now those rules expire. Dominick Pallone added that when the budget deficit is reported in January, that will establish the budget tables for the next fiscal year. Also, Governor Snyder is talking about establishing a two-year budget cycle.

Provost Kay asked about Federal Earmarks. Mr. Greden explained the Democrats are trying to pass an Omnibus Bill for FY2011 which contains two earmarks for EMU and competitive grant money before the end of year legislative break.

Dr. Evett inquired about Governor-Elect Snyder's views on education. Mr. Greden shared that Governor-Elect Snyder states he values education, but hasn't revealed any specifics on the subject.

Regent Parker thanked the contributors and those in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robertta Goffency, Administrative Secretary
Academic Affairs