University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Members Present: Howard Brody, Mei-Wei Chang, William Davidson, John Dirkx, Ross Emmett, Catherine Ernst, Michael Harrison, Thomas Mullaney, John W. Powell, Hayder Radha, and John Sherry.

Ex Officio: Robert Banks, David Byelich.

Others: John Revitte, Donna Zischke.

Call to Order: Chairperson Ross Emmett called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The boilerplate agenda used for the 2005-06 meetings was approved at the August 30, 2005 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Powell made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 22, 2005 supported by Dr. Davidson.

There were two corrections to be made. The first correction is on the first page, the final point under Announcements (corrections will be highlighted and in italics):

- Dr. Harrison gave his comments on the dividing up and awarding of the Quality Fund. He feels strongly that funding “adequately” for the awards from the Quality Fund must be fully considered and money awarded to complete the project, not just get it started. **To awardees should be based on very specific criteria that ought to be sharply focused, and that the size of Quality Fund awards should be sufficient to complete proposed projects, not just to begin them.**

The second correction is on the second page under Old Business:

Dr. Ross Emmett suggested that it would be good to have another copy of the draft memo with the suggested amendments incorporated.

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Announcements:

- Dr. Emmett noted that next week, December 6, will be the final fall semester meeting of UCFA. January 10, 2006 will be the first meeting of UCFA for the spring semester.
- Dr. Emmett stated that he would be submitting a report to the Executive Committee of Academic Council (ECAC) listing things that UCFA has done this semester.
- Dr. Emmett also announced that Professor Nicholas Revelos would be having a medical procedure and recuperation period that will preclude him from attending UCFA the remainder of this year. Another representative from the MSU College of Law will need to be appointed.
Announcements, continued

Dr. Emmett addressed the expectations of ECAC when they forwarded a copy of the Working Group for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education Final Report The MSU Educational Goals for Liberal Learning. That report will be discussed later in the meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget: John Powell, Chair. Dr. Powell reported that the subcommittee began to review three documents that David Byelich distributed and discussed two in particular: one was the Overview Michigan’s Structural Budget Deficits prepared by the Michigan Citizens Research Council which looks at Michigan’s economy, prospectus, where the money is being spent, Medicaid, prisons, and basically seeing how Michigan’s economic picture looks. The second document was material from the November 17 and 18 Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE) -- The U.S. Economic Outlook for 2006-07 and The Michigan Economic Outlook for 2006-07, both lengthy documents.

Personnel Policy: Sheila Teahan, Chair. Dr. Teahan was not feeling well and did not attend UCFA. In her absence, Dr. Brody reported that the subcommittee met with Vice President Gray, as well as General Counsel Robert Noto, and Vice President Gray made a number of modification recommendation to the Faculty Conflicts of Interest policy. The subcommittee will try to address those recommendations during today’s meeting.

Old Business: No old business was noted.

New Business: Dr. Emmett addressed the document of the Working Group for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education Final Report The MSU Educational Goals for Liberal Learning. After some discussion, Dr. Powell made a motion to forward the document to the Budget Subcommittee for their review and Dr. Brody supported the motion. The motion carried. Dr. Harrison made a friendly amendment to the motion saying that the document would be reviewed by UCFA and they would have their response back to ECAC by the beginning of February; Dr. Brody supported the motion. The amended motion carried.

Adjournment: Dr. Mullaney made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was supported by Dr. Radha. UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary