

MSU FACULTY EMERITI ASSOCIATION
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013
ROOM 302 INTERNATIONAL CENTER 1:00 PM

I. Chairperson Rainey welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Members in attendance: Pauline Adams, Jenny Bond, William Cambray, Joseph Chartkoff, Charles Gliozzo, Mary Kennedy, Bruce Miller, James Rainey, Albert Sparrow, and Gary Stone, plus guest speaker Charles Blackman.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting on May 22, 2013, were not approved at the meeting on August 21, 2013, in order to allow for editing and corrections on the May 22 minutes. The corrected minutes were presented at the present meeting. Pauline Adams moved to approve them, and her proposal was seconded by Jenny Bond. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Steering Committee, with no further changes.

The minutes of the August 21, 2013, meeting were also presented at today's meeting. Gary Stone moved to approve them with no further changes. His proposal was seconded by Charles Gliozzo. The proposal was unanimously approved by the Steering Committee, with no further changes.

III. SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON -- JENNY BOND:

It was announced that James Rainey had accepted the position of chairperson of the Steering Committee. At the August meeting the chair position had been accepted by Bruce Miller, but he later had found it necessary to decline the position. The Vice-Chairperson, James Rainey, then accepted the position of chairperson. Bruce Miller then accepted the position of vice-chairperson. This change was announced at the current meeting.

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES -- PAULINE ADAMS:

The Board of Trustees met last Friday, on September 13, 2013. Nine new faculty appointments were announced – none in the College of Arts and Letters, however. Five new appointments were announced for University investment management. It was announced that a contract had been awarded for the renovation of the second floor of the Hannah Administration Building. A proposal was announced to create a plaza where the former Morrill Hall had stood. The Provost reported that there were 7890 students entering MSU this semester, and 74% of them were Michigan residents. Of the total MSU undergraduate population, 79% are Michigan residents. Among the Big Ten universities, the average is 65% in-state students. Of the 21% of current MSU students who are not Michigan residents, 9% are from other U.S. states, and 12% are from other countries. The faculty speaker at the meeting was Prof. Kenneth Mertz, from Computer Science and Engineering. In the public participation section, there were three speakers, two of whom discussed the William Penn affair, in very negative fashions. The Board of Trustees did not respond to those comments.

V. UNIVERSITY COUNCIL -- BRUCE MILLER:

The University Council had not met yet, so there was nothing to report.

VI. FACULTY SENATE AND HEALTH CARE – GARY STONE: The Faculty Senate met on Tuesday, September 17, 2013, for a short meeting. One topic discussed concerned what the Senate was looking for in the next Provost. Also presented was a discussion by MSU police captain Penny Fischer concerning safety in classrooms, following the recent shootings in the Navy Yard.

VII. MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION -- GARY STONE:

Gary Stone commented that he attended a meeting with the MSU Retirees' Association. Information from the meeting included the point that the University fee is still zero. It was announced that Medicare is still moving to a calendar year, prodded by the Affordable Health Care Act ("Obamacare"). Forms for retirees to return will be sent out in October. Voluntary vision insurance will be offered, but must be paid for by individuals, including retirees. Autism coverage also will be offered. Health Advocate Service is open to all, such as when an individual is seeking help with problems concerning a claim. The place of adjunct faculty in coverage is not yet made clear, however.

VIII. LECTURE SERIES: --BRUCE MILLER:

The list of scheduled speakers for the FEA lecture series was updated by Bruce Miller. Susan Bandes, Professor of Art, Art History and Design, will be speaking on September 23, 2013, on East Lansing Modern Architecture of the 1940-1970 period ("mid-century modern"). James Lucas, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, will speak on October 23, 2013, on international students. Alan Schmid, University Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics, will speak on November 19, 2013. Paul Abramson, Professor of Political Science, is to speak on Change and Continuity in the 2012 elections, and Richard Lenski, Hannah Distinguished Professor of Crop and Soil Science, is to speak on Experimental Evolution: interest in broad issues regarding evolution, but their presentations have not yet been scheduled.

IX. ORAL HISTORY PROJECT -- PAULINE ADAMS:

In July, Prof. Adams interviewed Richard Lenski (see above), the Hannah Distinguished Professor of Crop and Soil Science, and the taped interview has been put on file in the university library, tape archives. The next interview has not yet been scheduled.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Prof. Adams requested that the monthly Steering Committee meetings be returned to meeting on the second Wednesday of the month rather than on the third Wednesday. The Committee supported this request unanimously.
2. Professor Rainey introduced the meeting's guest, retired Professor Charles Blackman, who discussed his experiences with cross-disciplinary activities and education in the university. Professor Blackman had written an article in 1992 about possible roles for retirees. More recently he has been emphasizing the examination of cross-disciplinary activities that can lead to creative university explorations of ways to productively address problems across the university and society as a whole.

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The meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 9, 2013, at 1-3 PM (room to be announced)

--Submitted by Joe Chartkoff