

2009-2010 Annual Report of Educational Policies Committee

Submitted by Michael J. Broadway, EPC Chair 2009-2010 July 26, 2010

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EPC Members 2009-2010 Dr. Susan Koch (ex officio), Dr. Dwight Brady, Dr. Dave Carlson, Dr. Tawni Ferrarini, Dr. Alec Lindsay, Dr. Steve Oates, Dr. Lesley Putman, Mr. Marcus Robyns, Dr. Michael Broadway (Chair), Dr. Paul Duby, Dr. Sam Graci, Dr. Paul Lang, Dr. Cynthia Prosen, Dr. Terrance Seethof, Prof. Darlene Walch.

EPC Responsibilities are defined in section 3.3.2.2. of the AAUP Master Agreement. "The responsibilities of the EPC shall include advising the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and keeping the Association informed on mission statements, on short- and long-term academic program planning for the University, and on financial considerations attendant to implementation of new programs such as majors and minors. In particular, the above describe responsibilities of the EPC shall include concern with and making recommendations on such matters as: enrollment patterns and projections, the allocation of budget for the support of academic programs, the generation of credit hours within colleges and academic departments, and staffing requirements within colleges and academic departments. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will provide written feedback on the implementation or non implementation of all EPC recommendations. The rationale for recommendations regarding the curriculum shall be reported to the academic senate."

Meeting Frequency: EPC met a total of 16 times during the academic year including four times during the summer.

EPC Business: EPC's workload can be divided into two distinct functions. The first deals with advising the Provost concerning new programs that have been approved by the Faculty Senate so called routine business; the second function is related to charges emanating from the Provost and President that deal with long term academic planning.

Routine Business: EPC recommended the Provost approve the College of Business's MBA program with the requirement that College of Business submit an annual report to EPC describing MBA outcomes beginning in April 2011 and that they move the first cohort through the program (November 16, 2009 meeting). Paul Duby provided a presentation on graduate and undergraduate enrollment counts by major (February 1, 2010 meeting). The rationale for suspending the LPN program was provided to EPC (March 8, 2010 meeting). EPC recommended the Provost approve an Associates' Degree in CNC Technology for fall 2010; a German Studies major with the requirement that it meet class minimums and a major count of 30 within 5 years or it would be eliminated. It deferred discussion of creating a new course EN109 Intensive College Composition to the fall (April 19, 2010 meeting).

New Business: During the fall semester the majority of EPC's time was devoted to a consideration of "where NMU has been and where do we want to go?" This involved a lengthy review of enrollment data, major counts, faculty mix and Michigan's financial picture. At the end of the process a lengthy list of items dealing with NMU's future was developed. President Wong addressed the group in January and asked EPC to consider NMU's "distinctiveness." At the same meeting the Provost asked EPC to consider the role of Graduate Programs in increasing NMU's revenue stream. A draft academic plan was submitted for consideration by the faculty as part of the President's charge to consider NMU's distinctiveness and "where we wish to go as an institution" (March 22, 2010). This draft provided the basis, along with the President's April 7, 2010 charge to EPC to develop a set of criteria for the reallocation of resources to high need areas, for an academic planning document. The plan consists of an Academic Affairs vision statement and a set of criteria derived from Robert Dickeson's *Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocating Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance*. The document was approved unanimously by EPC and formally conveyed to the Provost on July 19, 2010 (see Appendix).