Faculty Farewell

“...in the context of the [Board’s] statement, I know what I don’t want it (publicly advocate) to mean. It’s harder to define what I want it to mean,” said Rachel Szwartzendruber.

Szwartzendruber was one of a few students and staff members to attend a Listening and Facilitation Team (LiFT)-sponsored discussion the Friday before spring break on academic freedom.

Having to split up into small groups to discuss the statement’s meaning, she said, “In my group we found it difficult to define ‘publicly advocate’."

The ongoing discussion of what ‘publicly advocate’ means should be allowed has not been a new one at this school. History professor Mark Metzler Sawin presented some of the history of the topic at the meeting.

It was during the era of Fundamentalism that Mennonites in the eastern U.S. were concerned by the “modern” nature of western Mennonite colleges such as Goshen. EMS was started in 1917 as a more conservative alternative. In 1923 Goshen was shut down, and reopened with professors and a very good basketball man, said Stauffer.

Baker had been the athletic director at EMU, and a very good basketball man, said Stauffer.

I want to thank the many people that I have had the privilege of working with during my 11 years at EMU -- assistant coaches, student athletes, colleagues and opposing coaches,” Coach Baker said in the EMU press release. “I cherish these relationships and will miss them greatly."