Forum: A Faculty Senate For EMU?

By Sarah Dick

"As I stand here tonight, I look out upon the EMU community as it should be. Students, faculty, staff, and administration gathered together to discuss and discern the past, present, and future of EMU," said sophomore Michael Kniss, who co-leads the Student Advocates for Communication and Change (SACC) with senior Roxanne Allen, who was opening a SACC-sponsored forum on the topic of faculty empowerment.

Allen moderated the event, held last Thursday in Science Center room 106, which touched on themes of fear, faith questioning, apathy, empowerment and the need for communication. A particular focus of the forum was whether or not EMU needs a faculty senate or a tenure system to improve professors' sense of job security.

Dr. Marie Morris, an EMU alumnus, explained the process of tenure as he has experienced it. Although tenure offers job security for faculty, "It favors sprinters over marathon runners," Rosenberger said. With its demand of high performance and heavy time commitment, he explained, the tenure system favors men over women and tenured faculty over non-tenured faculty.

"I strongly believe that more important than tenure to preserve both academic freedom and job security is a healthy institution, an institution where administration and faculty share a common mission and a common set of principles," said Rosenberger.

Dr. Róman Miller, the Daniel B. Suter professor of Biology and chair of the Biology department, presented an illustration of a "benevolent emperor" who co-leads the Biology department at Penn State University and an EMU alumnus, explained the process of tenure as he has experienced it.

No, it's not a prank: the ghostly shapes of sheet-wrapped cars which appeared in parking spaces across campus early this week are a project by this semester's 3-D Design class, not remnants of Halloween festivities gone overboard.