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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 11 January 2011 (Vol. XXXIV, No. 8)

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Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

I. Call to order by Chair John Pommier at 2:00pm. (Booth Library Conference Room)

Present: A. Adom, J. Coit, M. Fero, T. Leonce, F. Mullins, M. Mulvaney, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, J. Stowell, D. Viertel, A. White, M. Worthington, R. Larimore, J. Prillaman. Excused: J. Best, A. Methven, L. Taylor

Guests: Seth Schroeder (DEN); John Stimac (Honors College); Blair Lord (Provost/VPAA)

II. Approval of the Minutes of 30 November

Senator White (Stowell) moved to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously. Abstain: Fero, Mullins.

III. Announcements

IV. Communications

- a. Report of 9 December, from Gail Richard, re: IAB Minutes
- b. Memo of 21 December, from William Perry, re: Shared Governance Committee
- c. Email of 7 January, from Mary Anne Hanner, re: LCBAS Dean Search

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee:
2. Nominations Committee: no report
3. Elections Committee: Vice-Chair Mulvaney presented the results from the December 7-8 election for the UPC. Henry Owen 29 votes, and none of the several write-in candidates received the minimum 10 votes to qualify as an alternate. Mulvaney offered special thanks to Frank Kingery at ITS for his very efficient and timely work in putting this together. Senator Mulvaney (Viertel) moved to certify the results. Motion passed unanimously.

Mulvaney stated he had received an email from Dean Augustine regarding a similar situation on CGS. Chris Hanlon is teaching at Harlaxton in Spring 2011, and term expires at the end of Spring 2011. Mulvaney stated he reviewed election results from last 3 years, looking for potential runner-ups. The alternate from the 2008 election, Chris Kahler, is currently on the council as the Dean's appointee. Augustine recommended appointing Paul Johnston, a member of the Graduate Faculty and a Graduate Coordinator. Chair Pommier suggested that the Senate follow the election results and appoint Kahler to be the Faculty's representative, and that Dean Augustine appoint Johnston to serve as his appointee. Pommier (Worthington) moved to appoint Chris Kahler, as the designated alternate, to finish Chris Hanlon's term on CGS. Motion passed unanimously.

Mulvaney stated that information on spring Faculty Elections would be forthcoming.

4. Faculty—Student Relations Committee: no report
5. Faculty—Staff Relations Committee: no report
6. Awards Committee
7. Faculty Forum Committee: no report
8. Other Reports

a. Provost's Report

Lord encouraged faculty to participate in the LCBAS Dean. Lord stated that Bob Augustine is chairing the ITS search, and is moving towards a February time for candidate interviews. Lord stated he did not have an update on the CATS search. Dean Mary Anne Hanner announced her retirement on the 30th of December, and Lord is putting together a search process for her position. He stated he would not begin a national search for the remainder of the spring, because the best candidates would likely be deep in existing searches, but would instead appoint a interim, and ensure the search committee is appointed this spring. Lord stated that at the Board of Trustees meeting this Friday, the only academic matter is the creation of the Center for Clean Energy Research and Education (CENcere) in conjunction with the Renewable Energy

Center, and he believed the Board would support the center, because EIU has received grant money for it. The Center will leverage our new steam plant, and provide opportunities for student and faculty research.

Lord stated that between now and noon tomorrow there may be changes to the state budget situation. Lord stated that the potential tax increase wouldn't change our budget but might help our cash flow. He stated that the state has elected to reduce students' MAP awards by 5% for spring semester, which will cost the University almost \$300,000. Lord stated that he, President Perry, Dan Nadler, and Bob Augustine have investigated options for repackaging financial aid, and to provide one-time assistance to students affected by the change.

b. Budget Transparency Committee: no report

c. Other

B. Other Old Business

VI. New Business

a. Honors College: John Stimac, Dean of Honors College (see full report posted on Faculty Senate's website)

Stimac reported on the demographics of students in the Honors College. The college has 555 students, over 60% are women; the mean student age is 20, their mean high school GPA is 3.68/4; they have earned a mean of 65 hours of total University credit, and their mean EIU GPA is 3.72. Honors College students are predominantly white, non-Hispanic (90%). About 1% of Honors students are international students, and Stimac stated that he is working with Dean Augustine to recruit more international students. Just under 40% of Honors College students major in the College of Sciences, just under 30% major in the College of Arts and Humanities. There is one major in the School of Continuing Education; about 16% major in the College of Education and Professional Studies, and about 12% major in the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences.

The Honors College supervises two programs, a University Honors program beginning freshman year, consisting of a total of 25 hours of courses, and then Departmental Honors programs, primarily undertaken by juniors and seniors, who generally take 12 hours of additional courses.

Stimac stated that University Honors demographics are keeping in track with what we've had in the past. He stated that Departmental Honors students are typically students that excel once they get into Eastern, and decide they want an honors experience. 39 students are in both University and Department honors

The 2010-2011 entering class is 148 students, about 10-15 students below normal. 18 of these students are in the Presidential scholars program, which is for the top entering University Honors freshmen. The College made offers to 23, hoping for 20 enrollees, and 5 students declined the offer. We are trying to ask those students why they declined, and 3 have responded that they were offered more money elsewhere.

Stimac stated that entering freshmen were asked to complete survey about their decision to come to Eastern. Although only 20% of respondents indicated they had applied to no other institution but Eastern, 66% stated Eastern was their first choice, and only 25% stated that Eastern was their "fallback" school. Over 75% of students surveyed stated that they felt pride at being part of the Honors College.

Students were asked about the reasons they enrolled in Eastern's Honors College, and prioritize their list of choices. Small class size was the #1 choice. The other top choices were the availability of scholarships, and that the student was coming to Eastern anyway. The availability of scholarships was the reason most selected as the most important reason. Presidential scholars get an 8 semester tuition waiver.

While students come from all over the state, the most common counties of residence for this incoming class were Du Page and Will, near Chicago. The most common high schools are Casey-Westfield, Charleston, Marshall, Mattoon, and Mt. Zion.

For about 40% of this entering class, neither of their parents completed 4 year degrees, roughly what we see in the general student population.

When asked about their expectations for Honors, students selected responses indicating they believed honors can give them an experience beyond just straight academics.

Stimac stated that the list of other universities applied to by the incoming class suggests students are not necessarily great risk-takers. Very few students apply to institutions outside of the Midwest.

Senator Adom asked how many applications the Honors College received. Stimac stated 148 applicants enrolled, and 167 accepted admission, out of 312 applications. He stated some that applied later indicated they wished to have their name taken out, some applicants were not qualified, and some applications were incomplete. Stimac stated the application process has been changed, its used to be students could apply to the Honors College without applying to Eastern, now they have to be accepted first to Eastern, which requires some buy in (i.e. the application fee) before they can be consider for Honors admission. Stimac stated there is an application fee waiver for hardship, for which guidance counselors can apply.

Stimac stated that the colors on the map (p. 11) reflect the size and socio-economic status of communities in the counties. Stimac noted that the following map (p. 12) shows that most alternate institutions to which Honors students applied are in Illinois and surrounding states. He stated that some of these students are highly qualified to attend Ivy League schools but aren't applying there for some reason.

Stimac discussed the profile of student-athletes in honors. He stated that anything that's coded in Banner I can run and do queries on. 55 student-athletes are in the Honors College, about double the rate of the general student population. Their mean GPA is 3.67, and they represent a wide variety of sports and majors. Soccer programs always being awarded outstanding academic achievement. Stimac thanked Josh Norman for helping with that analysis.

Senator White asked how much coordination there was between Honors and Admissions. Stimac stated the units are in very close collaboration. They will email us about students, put students in contact with Honors that they identify as potential Honors students, talk to recruiters regarding EIU's honors program and potential students, and distribute marketing materials about EIU honors. White asked why no students from Belleville township were in Honors. Stimac stated that the program gets students in a cluster, and by word of mouth. Stimac stated that the Honors College works with ETS purchase names, addresses, and ACT scores of prospective students. The College targets recruitment in the five surrounding states, and right now there are 3218 students identifying themselves as fall 2011 entering freshmen that meet the honors criteria. We have asked ETS for names of international students, and are still working on that. If their GPA is over 3.5 they qualify for the in state tuition rate.

Leonce asked how comparable EIU Honors admissions were to those of institutions of similar size in the region. Stimac stated they are very comparable. He stated the minimum Honors requirement is an ACT score of 26, and students with slightly lower scores may receive provisional admission if the have a high GPA.

Worthington asked about if the College size of 555 is the target size, and if the College is getting larger. Stimac stated he did not envision the College getting much larger, largely because of the resources required. The College guarantees small classes and need faculty to teach those classes. Stimac stated that he relies on kindness of Chairs and Faculty, and that from an economic view it makes more sense to offer a class of 50 rather than class of 18. He stated that all the chairs have been wonderful in being willing to offer smaller Honors classes. The College can sustain these numbers, and could even go a little larger, but not much.

Viertel asked which Colleges are under-represented in the Honors College in comparison with their total enrollments. Stimac stated CEPS is under-represented. This is largely a function of resources, CEPS students just can't fit Honors coursework into schedule. In education, students are very pressed to finish in five years, and this makes it difficult to take Honors courses. Stimace stated that EDF 2595, an honors course, has been offered this semester for the first time in several years, and Dean Jackman is enthusiastic about the offering.

Pommier asked what it takes to have a course become an Honors course. Stimac stated that it requires a separate course proposal and separate approval at the department, College, and CAA level, as well as Honors College approval to make sure it is Honors caliber. Stimac stated honors courses don't just require additional work, but also more detail, and more enriching work. Stimac stated the Honors Council is starting to have discussion as to what defines Honors faculty, whether there should be hard and fast criteria, such as x number of years teaching, a certain rank, or should they be actively engaged in research, service, and teaching. At that point the definition would have to bring in almost contractual language and we don't want to do that. One model would be the requirements for Graduate Faculty, i.e. a recommendation and submission of a c.v.

Pommier asked how this years' numbers compared to previous years. Stimac stated the numbers are up over previous years, but down overall; the previous 2 years College enrollment has dropped, and the 5 years before that it had grown. Stimac stated he is keeping a monthly tally sheet of numbers of applications, and compared to last year at this time we are +13 in number of applications. Stimac stated that it may fall off after the Feb 2 deadline for Presidential Scholars applications.

Stowell asked about the attrition rate of first year Sonors students. Stimac stated that of the 18 Presidential Scholars, 2 were unable to maintain the required GPA. He stated that sometimes we have students that self-select out of Honors, and sometimes decide they want to change major. Sometimes Honors students transfer to other institutions, and 13 freshmen have so far transferred. Stimac stated that a National Student Exchange student from Southern Oregon is considering applying to EIU. Academically, we sometimes put students on probation. Stimac stated that out of all students on probation I'm aware of, 3 of the 16 on probation last semester had to be removed from the program.

Pommier asked about the lower recent numbers, and the financial aid packages offered to honors students. Stimac stated that Honors students can qualify for, at most, \$2000-3000 for one year, and these packages are offered to students with scores of 30 on the ACT, in their top 5% in HS, and a GPA 3.8, students that would be 24th on list to receive Presidential Scholar offers. Those carry an 8 semester tuition waiver, which is quite a difference. Stimac stated that the College is trying to look at other sources, that Dean Augustine has been generous to us in offering tuition waivers, and some packages had to be pulled from honors for other reasons. We try not to double dip, to receive from aid from Honors and Admissions, and students can receive state honors scholarships. Attracting Honors students is very competitive, and private schools can toss out a tuition waiver. Even though that's not real money, that's something we don't have the option to do.

Pommier asked what percentage of Honors graduates give back to University. Stimac stated Presidential Scholars is a very new program which graduated first class this year, and the Honors program is very new as well. Graduates are just now getting into the part of their life where they do have disposable income. Stimac stated a large donated scholarship in English just started. Stimac stated he has been working with the Office of University Advancement on asking Honors graduates to give back.

Stimac stated that anyone with comments, questions should send him an email.

VII. Adjournment at 3:10pm

Future Agenda items:

Faculty Development Grants/Cost Containment

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coit
January 22, 2011