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Faculty Senate

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## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 25 January 2011 (Vol. XXXIV, No. 11)

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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. Best, J. Coit, T. Leonce, A. Methven, F. Mullins, M. Mulvaney, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, J. Stowell, L. Taylor, D. Viertel, A. White, M. Worthington, R. Larimore, J. Prillaman.  
Excused: M. Fero. Absent: F. Mullins  
Guests: Blair Lord (Provost/VPAA), Mary Anne Hanner (Dean of COS), Jeanne Snyder (Associate Dean of LCBAS)

### **II. Approval of the Minutes of 11 January**

Senator Viertel (Worthington) moved to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Abstain: Best, Methven, Stowell, Taylor.

### **III. Announcements**

#### **IV. Communications**

- a. Memo of 12 January, from William Perry, re: Douglas Hall
- b. Memo of 14 January, from Karla Sanders, re: Spring 2011 Retention Forum, March 8, 2-3:30pm, Arcola-Tuscola room 2-3:30

Senator () moved to make the Forum the “new business” section of Senate’s 3/8 agenda, and to hold Senate’s normal business meeting after Senators had attended the forum. Senator White suggested the Senate could just have a member attend and report. Provost Lord stated that the University is turning its attention to retention, and asked Senate to find a way to be part of that discussion. Lord stated that with enrollments decreasing, the administration has an objective to improve retention. Senator Best stated it would benefit EIU to increase our retention rate for the second year to closer to 85%. Best suggested the entire Senate should attend the forum to serve as the voice of the faculty, and that when Senate did some initial work in retention about 10 years ago we found it’s very hard to get a coherent picture about the reasons why people are not retained. Since it’s hard to make a diagnosis, it will be a challenge to get to 85%. Motion passes unanimously. Chair Pommier received unanimous consent from the Senate to ask Sanders to have Faculty Senate co-sponsor the forum.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **A. Committee Reports**

1. Executive Committee: no report
2. Nominations Committee: Senator Methven stated that the committee met last week, and that Senator Best is working with the Institutional Review Board, and Gail Richard is working with Intercollegiate Athletic Board, to draft new language for procedures for Senate nominations to those committees. Methven stated the proposed language, as well as general information on spring nominations, would be available soon.
3. Elections Committee: Vice Chair Mulvaney noted that Senate had voted at its previous meeting to appoint Chris Kahler to fulfill the remainder of Chris Hanlon’s term on CGS. Mulvaney stated that there was a misunderstanding between he and Dean Augustine, and that Chris Kahler teaches during CGS’s meeting time. Mulvaney stated that Senate could hold a special election for Spring 2011, or we could consider the Dean’s recommendation for a replacement. It would be the end of February before a special election winner would be chosen, but if Senate appointed the Dean’s recommendation, the person would immediately serve. Mulvaney noted that a similar situation occurred last January and the Senate appointed the faculty member recommended by the Dean. Dean Augustine recommends Senate appoint Paul Johnson (Music) to CGS for Spring 2011. Johnson is a former graduate coordinator, and is grad faculty. Mulvaney (Methven) moved to appoint Johnston. Motion passes unanimously.

Mulvaney stated he would announce dates for spring election at the next meeting.

4. Faculty—Student Relations Committee: no report
5. Faculty—Staff Relations Committee: no report

6. Awards Committee: Recorder Coit stated that he has requested last year's unsuccessful nominee folders for the Distinguished Faculty Award. Senator White stated that in 2010 he had notified last year's nominees that they could update file and resubmit it for this year's award. Senator Worthington asked if nominees from the 2009 Award process could do the same. Pommier stated it was Senate procedure to afford the courtesy to the previous year's nominees only.

7. Faculty Forum Committee: no report

8. Other Reports

a. Provost's Report:

Provost Lord thanked Senate for being willing to support the retention forum and serve as cosponsor. He stated that two candidates for the LCBAS Dean search have visited campus, and the second one was here yesterday and today. He stated three more candidates are lined up, and encouraged faculty to participate in the process. The ITS search is progressing, the candidates will be about the time that Lumpkin candidates stop coming.

Lord stated that he wants to investigate the direction of distance education, because it has grown over the last decade, and has been based on leveraging what we have already been doing. Lord stated that if I put together a committee to look at distance education, it would be easy to find a committee of 8 faculty that would either enthusiastically support or kill everything we are doing because opinions on distance education are very divided. He stated he has asked the Deans to talk about a study committee at administrative council and to talk with their faculty. Lord stated that he such a committee should have both enthusiastic supporters and enthusiastic critics of distance learning. He stated that an outline of this committee Coit had provided could be used if we move to the next step. Lord stated that the study will lead to a lively discussion, and that he would not be casting out an edict about where we are going next.

Pommier asked if Lord was looking for a new position, a Director of Distance Education. Lord asked if Pommier was referring to the position currently occupied by Kay Woodward? Lord stated that she is the Bachelor of General Studies Coordinator, and as she is retiring a search is being conducted for her replacement. The BGS is an external degree program, and the position is a replacement for work we are already doing.

Senator Adom stated that he saw on the Faculty Development website a notice about \$2 billion federal grant for encourage online learning, and asked if Eastern had a committee to take advantage of the grant? Lord stated he was not aware of that item up there, and suggested Adom ask Dagni Bredesen about that.

b. Budget Transparency Committee: Senator Methven stated that the committee met last fall, and have reviewed the budget, and came up with a list of questions. Methven stated that he met with Bill Weber and Mike Maurer this morning, and discussed responses to the questions and were very forthcoming in their answers. He stated he would prepare a draft of responses and bring it to the Senate.

c. Other: Senator Best noted that at the October 26, 2010 meeting he made comments about the master plan, and specifically about the migration of department. He stated he has completed a draft timeline for the planning process. A couple of people, Provost Lord and Dean Hanner, will see that report, and Best said he would harvest any comments they made. He stated he tried to establish some facts about times when decisions were made, and in doing so to close the loop with some constituencies. Best said he would send this report to Senate for your consideration. Dean Hanner stated that an advisory committee will formed representing the departments that will eventually occupy the physical sciences building to make recommendations, and to hear plans for renovation. She stated the committee has not yet met, because we have no current renovation plans. Best stated he would present the report at the next meeting and ask Senate to receive the report without endorsement.

## **B. Other Old Business**

## **VI. New Business**

a. Faculty Development Grant: Dagni Bredesen, Director of Faculty Development

Bredesen stated that she learned a lot the last time she was at Senate, and is hoping that through the semester and time as interim that I can continue meeting with you and getting feedback, and keep you abreast of what we are doing.

Bredesen stated that the office has reinstated the Faculty Development Individual Support grants, and applications are due Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. She is working on the wording and criteria for somewhat larger grants, not just to individuals, but also to support an event or project, especially as it fits into goals for integrative learning. She stated that the office has made changes to the website, to make it more user-friendly, and to highlight EIU faculty. Every 3-4 weeks the site will rotate 5-6 new photos of faculty doing their work with

description of what they are doing. The site will feature people from different levels of their career, and discuss their research and their teaching, for example Janice Collins in Journalism, works in the department's newsroom and also produces documentary programs. One of the best parts about this job is meeting the faculty and seeing what people are doing, and getting the word out about the fine work people are doing. Faculty can find more information on the grant at the website, <http://www.eiu.edu/~facdev/>, on the left navigation area. She stated that the office has changed the reporting requirement for grant recipients from a pledge to have a brownbag. Recipients of the grants will now just have reports filed on webpage to see what kind of grants they received and how they are going to be used.

Bredesen stated she has asked CATS to come on the Faculty Development Advisory Board. She stated that in many schools the technology team is intimately connected with development, and that a lot of ways we need to support each other.

Bredesen stated that two things I hope will typify her time as director is listening and partnering. She stated that the office will partner with the Humanities Center to host a Faculty Interdisciplinary lunch. on the last Friday of every month, in Booth Library's Edgar room. The first topic is what is interdisciplinarity, how can we have conversations across disciplines, and help students make connections between what they are learning.

Bredesen stated that a Fulbright ambassador will be coming to campus, providing faculty an opportunity to learn about Fulbright teaching and research grants.

Bredesen stated that another initiative she has begun is Write on Site, and that one of her goals is to have the Faculty Development Office more used. This grew out of Jean Deerman's initiative in Women's Studies to start writing partnerships, and that she heard of a program at the University of Chicago in which faculty would meet in coffeeshops to write. The EIU is Wednesdays 9-11am, and Fridays 1-3pm. Faculty can come to the office to work on whatever project they've got going. The office provides a quiet space, coffee, tea, and sometimes cookies. If numbers increase, there would be additional space available in the Library's wonderful faculty reading room.

Bredesen noted at her last visit to Senate he found out about Senator Stowell's amazing project for viewing teachers, and Stowell has agreed to train Krishna Thomas to use his system of coding, which will allow Faculty Development to use his system to help faculty film themselves teaching. This is all part of our tapping in to each other's gifts.

Bredesen stated that she is doing follow up on Dee Fink's talk on significant learning. She stated she is hoping, with the help of Dean Augustine and James Ochwa-Echel, to reach out more to international faculty. She stated that the Provost and I will be meeting with each college and doing focus groups, in addition to my meetings with Deans of each college and discussions with Faculty Development Advisory Committee members from each college. We want to talk to everybody, that's our goal.

Mulvaney asked if Bredesen might expand Write on Site to other days. Bredesen stated she could set up additional days if there's a strong enough interest.

Pommier asked what kind of support the grant would offer faculty, since travel funding is so tight. Bredesen stated that she hopes to offer more individual grants that were offered in the past, probably around \$500 per grant. I have stripped the budget as much as possible so as much money as possible can go into these grants. There is a question, should we have more grants at \$500 or fewer at \$700. The project grants might be varied from \$500-\$1000, but would go to things like holding a conference on campus. The previous model has been to bring in speakers, I still think that's a good idea, however, there aren't that many people that can make a lot of these events, and I think it's great if we can support individual faculty. Senator Padmaraju stated that for this semester we're going to use the same criteria as earlier, but committee is considering different criteria for future grant cycles, and is interested feedback on this issue. Coit stated that the CAH travel grants typically decide to fund all the qualifying proposals even though it means smaller grants, and was unsure if other colleges followed a similar model, but that it might make sense for Faculty Development to coordinate their approach with the existing travel grants. Pommier asked if Senators felt like their colleagues are comfortable with the amount of travel money available. Padmaraju stated that everybody wants more money for travel. Stowell stated that he has been less likely to be interested in conferences knowing there's less money, and suspects this might be campus wide. Some of these things might provide opportunities to recover. Mulvaney suggested that the office might maintain the old criteria for a few semesters to generate baseline data to compare to previous semesters. I'd be concerned if there's a large number of applicants, more people applying if we're seeing a larger number of applicants, and then it might make sense to support more grants rather than larger grants.

Leonce stated that in the past grants have been geared towards teaching, and asked if this would continue. Bredezen stated that much of the grant money has gone towards conference presentations, perhaps because conference presenters know how to write proposals better, and there was a tendency not to support workshop or skills-building. She stated that she has also changed the language on the front of website and went back to the initial mission statement. I love that mission. I don't think we should be changing just to be a teaching and learning center, what I'm hearing is the office should facilitate the conditions that help faculty flourish, and this is not meant to be just research or teaching, but all dimensions of faculty life within the legitimate scope of what we can do. Dean Hanner stated that what Dagni is doing right now is getting a better and clear profile from the faculty about how the Faculty Development office can serve the faculty. There will always be that tension because there's always going to be limited resources, and that's not likely to change over time. I've found her to be a great listener and passionate to make sure she's representing faculty.

Worthington asked if there is any way to coordinate with committees from different colleges, because you've got this ever-dwindling pool of funds. Hanner stated that the CATS grants were ones that required a department to have a partner to receive a grant, either the college or another department. There's potential for identifying priority for grants with matching partners. Bredezen stated that as we talk to the Deans, get the word out about these focus groups, some thoughts about how to deal with these issues may develop.

b. Cost Containment: Derek Markley, Special Assistant to President

Pommier stated that Markley came to Senate to discuss the CUPB website which can take comments regarding ways for the University to contain costs. You would see your exact language communicated, Derek would submit it to the appropriate Vice President, and you could see it resolved.

Markley suggested faculty go to the CUPB site to look at the process. To submit a comment you have to log in.

Markley stated that he is coming up with a comprehensive and standard response to electricity questions. The comments are listed by category. As soon as we get answers back from VP's we enter responses. This is what we hope to do with all of them. Pommier stated that these are not just dismissive responses.

Adom asked, what does resolved mean? Markely stated it can mean different things. A response may show how what we are doing now works best, Some responses might show how the suggestion isn't feasible, some will show that we are already doing that, some response will move forward to be implemented. Pommier stated that the President looks at this, and uses this information to substantiate that we are using every penny wisely. The Council of Illinois University Senates was very impressed by this, and believed may save them dollars at their institutions, which would allow to do a lot of things.

Markely noted that a comment about computer sleep mode, resulted in learning that some employees can't turn off their PC. There may be things like this where we can't make it a University policy, but in response to the comment ITS created a worksheet which, for 5500 monitors and 5500 towers, broke down the power savings for fractions of the total number of computers on campus, which can show departments that you can show power savings if automatic sleep modes are possible. Another angle of the site is educating people, showing that a comment may propose something that is a fairly simple action to take in your department.

Worthington asked if any of the suggestions turned out to be helpful to the administration, or if it is just generating more work for people that are trying to look at these issues already. Markely stated that given the number of suggestions we've received its stimulated thought about what we do. I think it helps communicate to people across campus what's going on, it will generate ideas, and it helps maintain momentum. It's worth the time and effort we've put into it.

## **VII. Adjournment at 3:45pm**

### **Future Agenda items:**

2/8 VPUA Bob Martin

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coit

February 4, 2011