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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 5 April 2011 (Vol. XXXIV, No. 14)

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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, M. Mulvaney, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, J. Stowell, L. Taylor, D. Viertel, A. White, M. Worthington, J. Prillaman, R. Larimore.

Guests: Charles Delman (Mathematics), Barbara Lawrence (Chemistry), Jon Blitz (Chemistry), Will Hine (School of Continuing Education), Grant Sterling (Philosophy/CAA), Karen Drage (School of Technology), Peter Liu (School of Technology), Bob Chesnut (Director, Research and Sponsored Programs), Gary Reed (Director, Facilities Planning and Management)

II. Approval of the Minutes of 22 March

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

III. Announcements

IV. Communications

- a. Telephone of 23 March, from Jon Blitz, re: School of Adult & Continuing Education
- b. Email of 28 March, from Peter Ping Liu, re: Clean Energy Research & Education (CENCERE)
- c. Email of 2 April, from Jon Blitz, re: School of Adult & Continuing Education

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: no report
2. Nominations Committee: no report
3. Elections Committee: Vice-Chair Mulvaney distributed election information. Mulvaney stated that although spring elections had 35% voter turnout, compared to last year's 29%, there were more eligible voters last year and there were fewer voters in 2011 compared to 2010. Mulvaney thanked Information Technology Services, and singled out Frank Kingery and David Miller for their work in sorting out the few glitches in the process. ITS has said they will update their election software to make it more user-friendly for the voters. The four positions for which no candidates filed petitions did not have write-in candidates that met the requirements for election. Mulvaney (Worthington) moved to accept the election results. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Faculty—Student Relations Committee: no report

5. Faculty—Staff Relations Committee: no report

6. Awards Committee: Senator Stowell (Viertel) moved to name David Raybin (English) the 2011 Distinguished Faculty Award recipient. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Faculty Forum Committee: no report

8. Other Reports

a. Provost's Report: no report

b. Budget Transparency Committee: no report

c. Other

B. Other Old Business

1. School of Adult & Continuing Education: Jonathan Blitz, Chemistry
Blitz stated that while serving on the most recent UPI negotiating team, issues with the School of Continuing Education rose to the top of the list of their concerns. Blitz stated that there is a perception that that SCE is taking on a larger role at EIU, and competing for resources with academic programs and colleges. Blitz's presentation was organized around four questions about SCE: does SCE compete with traditional academic programs for resources; if so, why; is SCE remaining within the stated goals for the unit; and if not, does it matter. Blitz stated that since 2005 the office budget for SCE has increased 2.5-3.5 times that of the total Academic Affairs budget, and 1.5-2 times that of the CAH and COS offices. Blitz stated that this shows there is some merit to the view that SCE is successfully competing for resources.

Blitz stated that he believes this is because SCE is a tremendous money maker. Based on tuition costs averaging roughly \$230 per credit unit in 2005, and around \$250 per unit now, SCE generated \$6.93 million in revenue in 2010. During 2010 SCE paid faculty \$960,000 (almost all at the overload rate of \$1000 per cu), and Academic Affairs paid SCE \$2.34 million. Blitz stated that the total cost to run the unit was \$3.3 million, making the profit to the University about \$3.63 million, or over 100% return on investment. Blitz stated this would not be an issue as long as SCE does not distort the University, but if you can make such a profit, the desire is to put more and more money in to generate more and more profit.

Blitz quoted from SCE's mission statement which states that the goals of the unit are outreach, continuing education beyond the BA, extending the University beyond campus boundaries, and meeting the needs of adult and non-traditional students. Blitz stated that some SCE courses are taught on campus, not online, and that's a red flag showing that SCE is competing, on campus, with courses offered through department. Blitz stated that he did not list on campus courses offered only through Continuing Education, but noted that all these courses could be transferred into degree programs other than the Bachelor's in General Studies, and that's where this model can take us. Blitz stated that during spring, summer, and fall of 2011 online course offerings totaled about 220 c.u.'s each semester, and there are about 10 full-time faculty teaching online courses. Students on campus are not prohibited from enrolling from these courses, and an on-line course de facto competes with a course offered on campus. Since SCE can pay at the overload rate, academic programs could start to wither. Best stated this hasn't happened yet but could. Blitz stated that people off-campus are taking online courses, but the list of courses SCE teaches don't fit its mission statement.

Blitz stated that he thinks this shift matters. He stated that there is no faculty input or control over what courses are offered through SCE, that chairs have control, but faculty do not. He stated that the profit motive is strong, and with no countervailing force, academic departments will be eroded. Blitz stated that we don't want to erode academic quality in the process of pursuing online education.

Prillaman asked, if online sections come up for student registration on PAWS? Blitz stated you could tell by the extension. Senator Worthington stated that she was under the impression that students that are currently enrolled are not allowed in online courses. Blitz stated that they are.

Senator Stowell stated that he appreciated Blitz bringing the concerns, and that agrees with many of them. I am teaching online courses, the first time it was delivered through the department, and not through SCE. Now they are through SCE and I have seen a shift from primarily off campus adult learners, to students on campus. What I am seeing is now, is maybe 40% of students in some online courses are on-campus students. Stowell noted that there is some faculty input on courses offered through SCE, because when an instructor desires to teach online, a course revision must go through CAA. Senator Padmaraju asked if Blitz had any data, on the number of courses cancelled through departments because of online enrollment. Blitz stated that maybe there's a way to get this data, but he does not know how. Viertel asked if there is any indication of what percentage of student credit hours come from SCE? Blitz stated he estimates 10%. Stowell stated that a couple of summers ago he and Senator Best were teaching the same course, his online and Best's in a classroom. Stowell stated that there is currently competition between SCE courses and academic programs. It is not something we're blind to, Senate has had some discussions and this information should be incorporated to that. We need to ask what is the role of SCE in delivery, and decide whether it is good or bad, but instead ask if we're going to do this what's the best way to do so. Blitz stated that we need to think about this issue now so that 20 years from now Eastern is not in a bad place. Prillaman asked why Blitz was concerned. Blitz stated that all compensation for instructors in SCE is at the overload rate of \$1000 per c.u., but in departments similar offerings are paid at pro rata salary, which is a lot more than \$1000. Stowell stated that in the last two years, there has been a progression on CAA, from allowing anyone who wants to teach online, to asking full course revision, and stated that CAA has progressively moved to enforcing a standard for online learning. Blitz stated the issue is beyond the course content and that is who is teaching the course, if a course is taught through Continuing Education, the Chair and faculty members are cut out. Recorder Coit stated that while CAA reviews individual courses, there hasn't been a similar investigation of the big picture of online education, how it affects the University overall.

Drage stated that if students want to take an online course, they will take it online, and they are going to go somewhere else if Eastern doesn't offer it. We are actually losing money if we don't offer online, students take the minimum load of offline courses, and go online, and transfer those courses in. That's the way they want to learn. Blitz stated that EIU must maintain the academic quality of its programs. Senator Best stated that the way online education is going, someone else will offer what students want. He stated that this is really a discussion about online education, not Continuing Education. The broader perspective is we are going to learn as a professoriate what can we do online, and what do we want to do, over the next 10 years or so, as we figure that out some of these questions. Blitz stated that at this point, my position is that these courses should be given through departments and not SCE. Chair Pommier stated that Blitz raised issues similar to what we discussed last fall as a Senate and the Provost has agreed that a committee should be formed to study these issues. Lord stated that he would not offer an extensive response now. Lord stated that he disagreed rather vehemently with the inferences Blitz made. Lord stated that there has been growth in Continuing Education because the growth prospects for EIU are in non-traditional students. Campus enrollments have been pretty static, the growth in CUs has been off campus, and without reaching out through SCE EIU would not have been able to take advantage of this. Padmaraju asked if cus have been in effect taken out of the department and transferred to SCE. Lord stated that all cus are in the department. Blitz stated that this does not mean that the overall cus in departments are decreased. Blitz stated that the number of bargaining unit members is decreasing. Lord reiterated that all SCE teaching is done through the departments. Pommier stated that this is a topic of broad interest, and Provost has supported looking at this. Online education seems to be the real issue rather than Continuing Education per se.

VI. New Business

A. Clean Energy Research & Education (CENCERE): Peter Ping Liu, Technology; Bob Chestnut, Director of Research and Sponsored Programs

Liu referenced slides showing increases of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere along with rising oil prices. He stated the question for us is how do we proceed, and begin to solve these problems on a global scale. China is the next consumer for oil, the low prices will never come back. The challenge is to think global, and act local. The Renewable Energy Center will be the site for CENCERE, which will find answers to how do we bring energy alternatives to the students, and how do we integrate the issues with the REC into the curriculum. Liu stated that as President Perry routinely states, EIU will be the first university with both a research and commercial gasifier. In order to have this happen systematically, we have to establish a center, to create and provide opportunities for faculty, students and staff engaged in alternative energy projects. Liu stated that alternative energy involves research problems in all disciplines and colleges, and that CENCERE's mission statement recognizes that we've got to tear down all those walls between disciplines, between on and off-campus, to make the center viable for us (disciplinary walls). One potential project would be to hold renewable energy competition for Charleston High School students. Best stated that most people underestimate the effect of things like CENCERE in paving the way for alternative energy. Liu stated that as an engineer you sit in your cubbyhole and it doesn't make an impact, but if you are involved in shaping the system it makes a big impact. Liu stated that right now faculty in Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Biological Sciences, and Geology/Geography are involved in the center. CENCERE will have a joint lab at the REC, and then another lab north of REC in a detached building, transforming the site into a kind of energy park.

Pommier stated that he is impressed with how CENCERE has answered Senate's call to tie the REC to academics. Lord stated that CENCERE is on the agenda for Illinois Board of Higher Education consideration and approval next Tuesday. Hine stated that a seminar will be offered through Continuing Education, and that he hoped to locate a Continuing Ed. program at CENCERE in the future. White asked if we are advertising for tenants for this energy park, for example private companies, or will this be in-house. Liu stated we are open for any ideas or any contributions, and stated that Dean Augustine asked for a presentation for the Graduate alumni, to help with fundraising. Liu stated that for the lab building the hope is that some foundation, or collaboration of private industries will help construct the lab, and will become a bridge that connects EIU with the world. Lord stated the reality is that Peter and the collaborators have worked out a shell concept for the center, and now are moving on to consider what should go into the center. Chesnut stated that if IBHE approves this request CENCERE will be a new academic unit, not under any of the existing colleges. Larimore asked how long will it take for the

academic unit to be in full motion? Liu stated that he proposed the concept July 1, and began meeting with different departments. We are open for more participation. Chesnut stated that the new unit has no money, there is no budget. It's an administrative structure to help people that are interested collaborate. Viertel asked about LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the Renewable Energy Center? Reed stated the REC is still in the "Gold" category

VII. Adjournment at 3:20

Future Agenda items:

Retiring faculty/ASP reception, Tarble Arts Center

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coit
April 17, 2011