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Faculty Senate

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## Meeting Notes for 2/9/2010.

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

Present: A. Brownson, J. Coit, M. Mulvaney, R. Murray, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, J. Russell, D. Viertel, A. White, S. Lambert. Excused: M. Fero, M. Worthington. Absent: J. Best, A. Methven, F. Mullins, D. Van Gunten. Student members: A. Boyd  
Guests: Grant Sterling (CAA), Blair Lord (VPAA), William Weber (VPBA), Erica Whelan (DEN), Gary Reed (FPM); Dave Evers (Honeywell), Tim Taylor (WAC)

Call to order failed, quorum not reached. Chair Pommier suggested the scheduled presentations should continue.

Tim Taylor stated that Writing Across the Curriculum was created in 1990 as part of a revision of the core curriculum. In 1998 formal definitions were approved for Writing Centered, Writing Intensive, and Writing Active courses. When the Electronic Writing Portfolio was instituted in 2000, the EWP required all submissions to come from WI or WC courses. This created a de facto requirement for Writing Intensive courses, it was created by the assessment measure. 2 years ago, the Center for the Assessment of Student Learning proposed revisions to the EWP, since passed, that allow submissions for the EWP to come from any course. The current proposal provides a curriculum, a program from WAC that native students would take WI/WC courses beyond fresh comp. This in effect reinstates a writing requirement, and strengthens the requirement. This is before CAA, and will be voted upon before March 18. WAC was asked by CAA to go to Faculty Senate, Student Senate, and all the college curriculum committees. Roughly 95% of students are already meeting the requirement; it's a matter of creating writing intensive courses at junior and senior level.

Senator Viertel asked if the data submitted as exhibits include first two years? Taylor stated that the data covers all courses taken after the first year courses, ENG 1001/1002.

Senator White asked how this proposal would affect students already in the program, and would this affect hours students need to take for graduation? Taylor stated that it could possibly, but there are probably a number of courses out there in a number of majors that can be turned into writing intensive courses. For some instructors this would involve just codifying what they already do. White asked how this could be done in the math department. Taylor stated that writing can be incorporated in writing to learn activities, and noted that a colleague he knew at a previous position was a math professor who would use journals and other short writing activities, to really have students think about their thinking. He stated that the use of metacognition and writing is a powerful means of retention. Taylor noted that James Pennebaker, a psychologist, has found that if students write 5-10 minutes at the start of class, the exercise shows good results in retention of material. He stated that through writing students learn more effectively and connect it to the discipline as a whole. Taylor discussed rhetorical numeracy as a teaching strategy, which emphasized how one frame numbers and present them to the public. White stated that professors' syllabi are crammed full of things we have to cover, and asked what do we throw out. Taylor stated it is a both/and proposition, we tend to think at the university that writing and content are separate but there's anecdotal evidence and non-anecdotal evidence that writing to learn works.

Senator Rosenstein asked if, under the proposed changes, graduating students would have 6 WI courses? Taylor stated that three WI courses would be required in addition to first year courses and senior seminar. Rosenstein asked if, for the writing intensive courses, would the assignment have to be exclusively narrative writing. Taylor stated that for WI courses professors use writing that's emblematic of their discipline. Rosenstein asked if math students were given a word problem, that they have to solve over three pages they manage to solve, would that count as writing. Taylor stated that it would, and that one barrier to broadening writing in the curriculum is that people have an idealized vision of what writing we do in college.

Senator Murray stated that the report that you provided was good news, because it showed most people are meeting this requirement. I don't think this would be a huge step to have all these disciplines meet this requirement. Taylor stated I think this is an opportunity to provide leadership, we say we want students to write and write effectively, and how do we show that? Taylor stated that as director of WAC he is more interested in the diversity of writing out there, how mathematicians use writing, how does the College of Education cope with No Child Left Behind.

Senator Russell stated that the proposal might require students to take additional coursework to meet this requirement, and that this has to be looked at very carefully. Russell asked if the proposal would impact transfer students more, and stated that if so, it could be detrimental to the university. Russell stated that if departments are going to have to go back and make adjustments and go to CAA we wouldn't want a group of students to be caught in a negative way, or caught in a crossfire. Senator Coit noted that for the 2008 graduating class listed in data submitted by WAC, only 7.7% (under 100 out of over 1200 graduating seniors) did not meet this requirement.

Rosenstein asked if support is available for students who have difficulty writing. Taylor stated that EIU already has the Writing Center, which organizes workshops and other kinds of outreach, including writing groups, and is always trying to increase the number of students who come in.

Chair Pommier asked what changes the proposal makes. Taylor stated that under the previous EWP, there was a de facto requirement and we are trying to reinstate that and strengthen it.

The Renewable Energy Center and Academics: Reed noted, in reference to the WAC proposal, that he completed a stimulus related grant proposal for this REC of 160 pages, which shows that writing follows you everywhere. Reed stated that along with the REC, Facilities Planning and Management has 22 other projects planned that will help support the payback for the REC. Reed introduced Dave Evers, an energy executive that has driven this plan for Honeywell. Reed stated that, of the four Energy Services Contracts (ESCo) done at EIU, Honeywell has been involved with three projects on campus, including the REC, and historically these things have been very successful.

Dave Evers stated that the Energy Services Contracts are a solution which is not only viable but has tremendous environmental benefits. Recent revisions in the law allow a 20 year payback, and have made a number of other measures viable. Evers stated that the 22 other conservation measures planned in addition to the REC will cost \$80 million, and generate \$144 million in savings to the university. The REC will be the first LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, from the U.S. Green Building Council) power plant, there no other power plants certified by the Green Building Council yet. The new plant will be online for next spring, and next summer it will undergo a lengthy commissioning process making sure it performs like we want it to before we make the switchover in 2012. Evers stated that there will be a brief outage as we make the cutover, but its impact should be very minimal.

Evers highlighted a series of energy-saving improvements being installed during construction of the plant, including:

- a 69 kV switchyard which will allow EIU to take power at a higher voltage, and thus purchase power at a lower rate
- replacement of a handful of older transformers in the interest of energy conservation
- installation of motion sensors on campus lighting fixtures. 20-40% of campus energy usage is in lighting buildings
- new urinals with new flush mechanisms
- window replacements in 5 residence halls to control drafts; 3 during summer 2010, 2 during summer 2011
- modifying the chilled water loop to create greater efficiency and temperature control, including new control valves
- a new airhandling system for the natatorium which will conserve energy and allow for better humidity control
- a retro-commissioning process to test the completed ESCo projects and ensure they are generating the forecasted energy savings
- connecting Lumpkin Hall's heat pump system to the campus water chiller system
- converting the shop areas in Facilities Planning and Management from electric heat to natural gas heat
- Doudna Fine Arts Center retrofits; the design is now 10 years old and energy efficiency technology has advanced considerably in that time. The retrofits will include new light fixtures, chilled water piping, and control changes for airhandling
- replacing cooling towers on the refrigeration systems in food service areas, connecting these to the chilled water loop will result in energy savings

Reed urged any faculty concerned about work in their buildings or potential outages to call FPM.

Senator Brownson asked if FPM had plans to replace the windows on the north end of Booth Library? Reed stated the windows would not be replaced on this project.

Brownson asked for a definition of daylight harvesting. Evers stated that Eastern has lots of opportunities to control light sensors, by allowing sensors to dim electric lights in atriums and places where there is lots of natural light.

Senator Murray asked if dealing with water leakage in Coleman Hall was in the plan. Reed said FPM believes the leakage is caused by masonry issues in the façade, and will make repairs as part of regular maintenance. He stated that the leakages on the north end of Booth Library are caused by the same problem, and FPM has finally traced the source. He stated repairs will be done this summer.

Senator Rosenstein asked if EIU will we be sending power back into the electrical grid, where will the energy savings from these projects come from. Evers stated that the new switchyard will allow energy purchase at a higher voltage, which is cheaper. Reed stated that the REC's solar panels will generate energy for the REC. He explained that the panels are most economically used to reduce demand for coal-generated external power (which at \$.02 a kW is much less than the cost of the solar array's power) rather than to sell power back to the grid. Rosenstein asked if the wind power had been considered. Reed stated that including 3 1.5 mW windmills had been part of the plan, but would have required an 8-mile long power line costing approximately \$300,000 per mile, but the windmills were removed to lower the plan's overall price for borrowing. Reed stated that if FPM's next federal grant proposal was successful, the windmills would be in that project.

Senator Russell asked if faculty should turn off lights in rooms with motion sensors. Reed said faculty should turn lights off every chance they get. Evers stated that the sensors can be adjusted, if you find it's not quite right let us know.

Senator Viertel stated that only the bottom windows of Geology/Geography offices were caulked, and asked if FPM should have caulked both windows. Evers stated he would review the work.

Provost's report, Blair Lord noted the 10:30am press conference held on behalf of all Presidents of universities in Illinois. The conference was to discuss the letter the group sent to Governor Quinn and Comptroller Hynes, stating that the slow rate of receipt of state funds is putting universities in a cash squeeze, and placing real challenges to continued operation. The letter highlights the impact on colleges as well as the state as a whole, and will be posted on EIU website.

Lord stated that he named Bonnie Irwin as the new Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. Lord stated he was glad and relieved at the result of the search, and thanked the committee who did the search. Lord stated that the committee evaluated a very strong pool of candidates. Lord said he received feedback from the search committee the day before commencement, and started making calls. Lord stated that many campuses close during intersession period. He said he did reach several candidates, one informed me after having missed earlier messages due to travel. Elizabeth Dunn withdrew from the search. Lord stated he did some additional verifications from the candidates' reference lists, and after gathering all the information he made the decision that Dean Irwin was the best fit for the position. Lord thanked the search committee.

Lord stated that the revised emeriti wall has yet to be installed. The list of emeriti had to be redone based on revisions by Senate, and hopefully the list will finally be mounted this spring. The listed will be mounted on foamboard behind glass, if errors are discovered they can be fixed.

Russell asked Lord if any decisions had been made about the upcoming vacancy of the Dean of the Honors College. Lord stated he has not decided how to proceed, and is currently considering whether to appoint an interim Dean or run a search this year. He said if a search were a campus only search it might be possible. Lord stated that if people are interested in the position they should contact him.

Lord stated that he sent a letter to Chair Pommier regarding the reassigning of Chat Chatterjee and vacancy at the position of Associate Vice President for Information Technology.

Bill Weber stated he has reassigned Chat Chatterjee to off-campus duties for the year. He said the change in the leadership of ITS was a mutual decision, and that Chatterjee wanted to move on to other interests. It will be fall 2010 before Weber can initiate a full search, and anyone who is interested in serving as the interim AVP should send him a letter of interest and a resume. Weber stated he has collected 6 resumes, and if anyone wishes to review the resumes, they are on file at the Booth Library Reference Desk and at the VPBA office. Any input should be communicated by Tuesday of next week. This week I'm interviewing all six applicants. I've invited the Civil Service Council, Staff Senate, and CUPB to send me any feedback, as wells Michael Hoadley from CATS. Weber stated he sent a memo about the change to the entire ITS staff, and it took effect January 1. The search for the interim position would be wrapped up at the end of the month.

Russell asked why an interim appointment was necessary. Weber stated it was the result of various rules we have for dismissing employees. He stated that Chat is still under contract, and is going to be teaching for Continuing Education for this year as well as some other duties; also as a cost matter, I need to free up a salary line before hiring a replacement. Weber stated it is also a matter of timing to do a full-fledged search. Weber said his office is in the middle of one major search right now, for a Director of Planning and Budget, and he didn't want to be doing two searches at one time. Weber stated he is informing all applicants to expect a 16 month term lasting through June 2011, with the permanent replacement beginning July 1, 2011. Weber stated that he is informing all six applicants to the interim position that being selected or not selected has no real bearing on whether or not you might be selected for the permanent position. He noted that he was not selected as interim VPBA, Paul McCann was, but that he was selected for the permanent position.

Pommier noted that of the 6 candidates, 3 are from ITS, and asked if the other applicants, who are from CATS, would have a disadvantage because they are in a different budget. Weber stated that the budget is not the primary thinking, and said that if he picked someone outside ITS, we could work out budget. Weber said he is not looking for a caretaker, and has some specific goals for the interim position: specifically, enhancing customer service, improving communications and cooperation across campus, especially with CATS. Weber stated he would also like to begin planning efforts. He noted that one of the weaknesses of ITS, an assessment supported by consultant's report, is that planning at ITS has not been sufficiently strong.

Weber said that with VP of External Relations Dr. Jill Neilson's retirement, President Perry did some restructuring to create the new VP of University Advancement office, including moving EIU's TV and radio stations to the VPAA, and the VPBA inheriting Planning and Institutional Studies. Weber said that as he looked back over the years he does not see planning as one of our strengths. Weber stated that EIU hasn't done a full-fledged planning since the Jorns administration and noted that one wasn't particularly popular. Weber stated he is trying to accomplish the foundational work for a future strategic plan. Weber noted that Perry has a vision for EIU and recently decided to move up strategic planning to fall 2010. The strategic planning process will take 8-12 months. Weber stated that for a successful strategic plan he thinks it is important that the vision, the focus needs to be articulated from the top down, but it also has to be informed from the bottom up, from the entire campus community. Weber stated that he has created a team including Amy Reynolds, Julie Bendict, Patti Hood to do facilitated planning sessions. The team has learned different techniques, including composing a future timeline, which they tried one week ago, at joint meeting of the Business Affairs Council and Dean's Council. The results of these varying planning exercises will be available on the planning website. Weber said Chair Pommier was game for trying it at Faculty Senate, and suggested visitors should participate. Weber stated that we get so caught up in a crisis mentality we don't have the time for these conversations, and to think far into the future.

Brownson asked if any sessions are planned with student groups? Weber stated he hope to schedule some sessions with students.

Weber stated that at Faculty Senate's meeting four weeks away, there are two nice things to roll out, one is related to Master Planning Process and the Capital Campaign. EIU has employed an architectural firm called RATIO to develop a campus landscape master plan. The RATIO plan includes a price tag for every project, which makes every one a terrific donor naming opportunity. Weber stated that he will also demonstrate the budget dashboard, which will allow detailed investigation of EIU's budget. Weber noted that the dashboard will display funds based on user-selected fiscal years, types of money, and will show differences between personnel and operations, as well as different funding sources, all the way down to the department level. Weber stated the dashboard will do a lot to address budget transparency issues.

Weber stated that EIU is seeking out academic opportunities to leverage the REC in research on renewable energy sources, alternative energy sources, and also sees this facility as an economic engine. Weber stated that President Perry is gathering faculty and local agricultural leaders to develop a regional biomass market. Weber noted that under Reed's leadership EIU was interested in greening the campus back before the term became important. Weber noted that EIU's utility usage in every area but one has declined between 2002-2009, and the level of decreases is really quite impressive. Weber also noted the many "green" features of the new TRS building including geothermal heat, daylight harvesting, and walls covered with a fiberboard made from byproduct from processing sunflower hulls.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Coit  
February 22, 2009