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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 23 January 2009 (Vol. XXXVII, No. 11)

The 2008 – 2009 Faculty Senate minutes and other information are available on the Web at <http://www.eiu.edu/~FacSen> The Faculty Senate agenda is posted weekly on the Web, at McAfee Gymnasium 1102, and on the third-level bulletin board in Booth Library. Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

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

Present: J. Coit, M. Fero, R. Hoberman, M.-L. Li, R. Murray, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, J. Russell, D. Van Gunten, A. White, M. Worthington, J. Alexander, and M. Martin. Excused: A. Brownson, J. Best, and J. Stimac.

Guests: B. Lord (Provost and Vice President), W. Weber (Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs), D. Nadler (Vice President, Student Affairs), S. Shrake (Associate Director, Design and Construction), C. Miller (Director, Textbook Rental), K. Clore (*Daily Eastern News* reporter), and E. Matheny (*Daily Eastern News* photographer).

II. Approval of Minutes of 13 January.

Approval of the Minutes of 13 January as corrected – Yes: Coit, Fero, Hoberman, Li, Murray, Padmaraju, Pommier, Russell, Van Gunten, White, and Worthington.

III. Announcements

- A. Email from Karla Sanders announcing CORE.

IV. Communications

- A. Email of 14 January from Jeff Cross, re: UPC appointment – Jeff Cross wanted to know when was the earliest a special election could be held for this appointment.
- B. Email of 23 January from Jonathan Coit, re: Textbook Rental – Questions were addressed during the presentation made by the Dr. Dan Nadler and Carol Miller.
- C. Email of 23 January from Andrew White, re: Stoles subcommittee.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: no report.
2. Nominations Committee: Dr. Stephen Scrthroth's name was suggested (Russell / Murray) for the appointment to CAA. Yes – Coit, Fero, Hoberman, Li, Murray, Padmaraju, Pommier, Russell, White, Worthington. Abstain: Van Gunten.
3. Elections Committee: Chair Pommier announced that a Senate appointment needs to be made to fill the vacancy for Senator Wallace.
4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: no report.
5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: no report.
6. Faculty Forum Committee: Senator Padmaraju mentioned the contact made with Charles Delman to set up a meeting for planning the UPI-Faculty Senate Forum.
7. Other Reports
 - a. Provost's Report: Provost Lord indicated that the Search Committee for the Dean of Arts and Humanities had narrowed down the list to five candidates: Dana Ringuette; William Clow; Arved Larsen; John Omachonu; and Richard Sax.
 - b. Budget Transparency Committee: no report.
 - c. Bylaws Committee: no report
 - d. Awards Committee: no report.
 - e. Emeriti Committee: Chair Pommier asked the senators what they felt about the time issue (to achieve emeriti status). He asked if the senators would like to change the number of years to 15 years as opposed to 10 years for the Emeriti status. The discussion was suspended for the next meeting when Senator Best could be there to give more information.

V. New Business

- A. Dan Nadler, Vice President of Student Affairs, Carol Miller, Deputy Director of Textbook Rental, and Steve Shrake, Facilities presented the designs and plans for the new textbook rental building, which will be located on Edgar Drive. The presenters emphasized the better location of the new facility with better parking facilities and also an area for the bus drop-off which would make it much more convenient for students. It was mentioned that the new building was being built with greener technologies such as geothermal heating systems, white roofs and was also designed to complement the campus look. Futuristic needs such as changed format of books or other supplemental materials have been taken into account in the plans. Some of these include after-hours drop counter, using RFID tags for books for better management and security and to reduce the human errors, designed to be a self-service operation where students can come and pick up the books. Presenters mentioned that the textbook rental system was very popular with both students and parents and Eastern is one of the handful of institutions which has such a system in place. All this was possible because of the generous and strong support of the students as textbook rental completely operates on the student rental fee with no state appropriated funds. Senator Coit questioned if the new systems in place would cut the labor costs and if the students will not have the opportunity to work there. Carol Miller answered that students will continue to work there as the hiring of the temporary civil service employees will be reduced. Senator White questioned the safety of parking on Edgar Drive. Carol Miller stated that the new facility will have ample parking space so students do not need to park on the road as they do now. Senator Russell enquired about the timeline for the project. Steve Shrake replied that the weather had delayed the starting of the work as it had already been scheduled to erect the fences to start work but they were expecting to complete construction by October. Plans were to be able to use the facility in Spring of 2010 but delays may be possible because RFID tagging for existing inventory of about 10 million books may take longer than scheduled. Senator Coit enquired if they would consider having more than one after-hours drop available. Dan Nadler answered that usage of the drop-off would be monitored and based on need, decisions can be made. Senator Pommier had questions about the building being able to accommodate the future possibilities with textbook formats. Carol Miller answered that the technology being planned was designed to accommodate for different kinds of book formats. Senator Hoberman enquired if there would be a change in policy with regard to students being able to buy their books to which Carol Miller replied that no changes are planned with that policy. Senator Coit had questions about the budget and how the textbook rental determined the cost of the books. Carol Miller stated that the list price was based on internal governing policy that limited it to \$100. Price was determined based on current list price and after seeking and applying all possible discounts. Some of the costs were cut down by using current editions when new editions came out. The average budget per year for books was about \$2,000,000 which may go up or down depending on textbook adoption cycles. Carol Miller also stated that questions if there were additional questions, would they be forwarded to the Textbook Rental Advisory Committee on which there was representation from the Faculty Senate.
- B. William Weber, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Interim Budget Director presented a budget overview for Eastern Illinois University. The budget is available at http://www.eiu.edu/~budget/pdf/CUPB_Budget_Overview_12_Dec_08.pdf. Senator Worthington enquired why the personnel part made up such a chunk of the budget to which Bill Weber replied that most of it was faculty and some of it also was the support personnel. Bill Weber expressed concerns with regard to the increasing operating costs while the state appropriations continued to go down. Senator Coit also expressed concern that college affordability due to the hard economic times may impact the availability of funds. Student representative, Jackie Alexander expressed concerns about the out-of-state tuition rates. Bill Weber indicated that discussions were going on about that issue too.

VI. Adjournment at 4:00 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: Textbook Rental, Financial Affairs, Student Success Center, EWP/CASL, Campus-Charleston Master Plan, Integrated Academics, and Capital Campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiran Padmaraju