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Faculty Senate

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## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 10 March 2009 (Vol. XXXVII, No. 15)

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

Guests: B. Perry (President of EIU), B. Lord (Provost and VPAA), J. Johnson (Dean, CAH), J. Inyart (Charleston Mayor), S. Smith (Charleston City Manager), J. Snyder (Associate Dean, LCBAS), S. Shrake (Facilities Planning and Management), M. Pearson (Faculty Development), G. Sterling (CAA).

### **II. Approval of Minutes of 24 February.**

Approval of the Minutes of 24 February as corrected (Hoberman / White) – Yes: Best, Brownson, Coit, Fero, Hoberman, Pommier, Van Gunten, and White. Abstain: Li, Mullins, Padmaraju, and Russell.

### **III. Announcements**

### **IV. Communications**

- A. Email of 3 March from Marie Fero, re: Faculty Senate nominations.
- B. Email of 6 March from Teshome Abebe, re: cell phone policy.

### **V. Old Business**

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

1. Executive Committee: Chair Pommier stated that the Athletic Department needs faculty representation for a NCAA self-study, and that he had been asked to represent the faculty. The Senate agreed by acclamation to appoint Pommier to that committee.
2. Nominations Committee: no report.
3. Elections Committee: Senator Brownson informed the Senate that the deadline to declare candidacy for elections was extended to encourage nominations for several positions still lacking candidates. She reminded Senators that, due to changes in bylaws, write-in candidates must garner at least 10 votes in the election.
4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: no report.
5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: no report.
6. Faculty Forum Committee: Senator Padmaraju noted that between thirty and forty faculty, staff, and students attended the March 9 faculty forum on Academic Freedom co-sponsored with EIU-UPI. She thanked EIU-UPI Chapter President Charles Delman and Senator Coit for their efforts in planning the event.
7. Other Reports
  - a. Provost's Report: President Perry stated he hoped more information on the 2009-2010 state budget would be revealed in the Governor's budget address March 18. He noted that the University was attempting to move forward with the Renewable Energy Center by looking for sources of funding outside the normal budgeting process, including funding from the recently passed federal stimulus bill. The University is currently waiting for the Legislature and Governor to declare the rules for applying for federal stimulus funds, and suggested the state Department of Agriculture might support an application for the Center. President Perry was asked about the progress of the VPBA search. He said the search committee had recommended two candidates, and he hoped to be negotiating with the finalist during spring break. Perry informed the Senate about the student who had recently been removed from campus due to apparent threats made against EIU. Perry said individuals at another university brought to EIU's attention the threats, made on the student's Facebook page, and that the student was located and removed from campus. The student has been at home since the incident. Perry noted that, in contrast to other cases where students were granted Student Standards hearings prior to removal from the campus, this case appeared to constitute a clear and present danger to the campus and merited an immediate response. Perry stated that two emails were sent because the first

was not specific enough. He noted that the student in question had a Student Standards hearing March 6, but was still at home.

- b. Budget Transparency Committee: no report.
- c. Bylaws Committee: no report.
- d. Awards Committee: Senator White noted that six faculty members had been nominated for the award, and that the committee would meet during the week to select a name to forward to Senate. It was agreed that the committee should proceed with the award process following the selection of the name, and prior to approval by the Senate, to ensure the proper preparations for the award could be made.

## V. New Business

- A. John Inyart, Mayor of Charleston, Scott Smith, Charleston City Manager, Steve Shrake, FPM, Discussing the EIU and Charleston Master Plans. Shrake noted the current EIU Master Plan is ten years old. Master Plans operate on five-year cycles. Although Master Plans cover 15-year periods, the Plan needs to be re-examined every five years. Elements of the current plan were delayed due to budget difficulties in the state. Shrake stated that after a selection process, the University is negotiating with a firm to produce a new Master Plan. Chair Pommier asked how the planning process works. Shrake said the consultant chosen would work with a University steering committee and take input from focus groups composed of many different constituencies on campus. The steering committee is appointed by the President, with representatives from Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Senate, the Board of Trustees, EIU Vice-Presidents, CUPB and the Athletic Department. The firm and the steering committee will establish the goals and mission of the new plan. Senator Brownson asked when the process would begin. Shrake said data gathering would begin in summer 09, and the entire process would take 9-10 months. Chair Pommier asked where the city and their master plan fit into the process. Shrake noted that although conversations were frequent between the city and the University, the city has never had representatives directly involved in EIU's planning. Inyart added that there is a great deal of communication between the city and the University, often on a daily basis. Mayor Inyart stated that the city's new zoning map has been under discussion for 20 months, and that a final draft of the map has been prepared. The map will be the first new zoning map in 40 years, and that the goal of the new map is to encourage development the city needs near campus. The map will be voted on in the Spring. Mayor Inyart said the map will allow for more high-density zoning near campus tracts that already are high-density. The city, he noted, hears far fewer complaints from the big apartment buildings as the single-family homes converted to student housing. EIU has participated in planning the new zoning map. Senator Brownson asked if EIU had the right of first refusal to purchase properties near campus that are offered for sale. Mayor Inyart said that EIU cannot pay more than a parcel's appraised value, and that often developers will. He noted the city would prefer the campus grows away from Lincoln Avenue, the main commercial corridor in the city, and that the city loses tax revenue when EIU acquires property. EIU can use eminent domain to acquire property if it can demonstrate a definite need and show it is ready to develop the parcel. Chair Pommier asked about the effects of the economic crisis on the city. Smith said the city would be facing some budget challenge. While the city expects income, especially sales taxes, to decrease, the city has cut waste in their budget and is in better shape than other area communities. While the University adds stability to the community's economy, it has lost some industry. Some new commercial/retail development is expected in 6-9 months, but no new building permits are on file now. The city has laid off part-time workers to cut costs, and hopes to retain its full-time employees through the crisis. Next year is expected to be worse, but the city has made difficult choices to prepare for it. Mayor Inyart noted that since the city lost its large manufacturing establishments long before the current crisis, this crisis may not have as dramatic an effect as elsewhere. He noted the city, by offering ambulance service to the county, has reduced the cost of this service to city residents. The increase in gas tax proposed by Governor Quinn would not be shared with cities. Smith stated that one of the worst reactions cities can have to a recession is to stop investing in infrastructure. He noted that Charleston would be able to maintain infrastructure investment because the vast majority of projects are not contracted but done in-house, cutting costs to the city. While larger projects may have to be deferred, basic maintenance would allow the city to retain its internal maintenance workforce. Mayor Inyart discussed making Charleston a home-rule community. A committee convened to consider the measure agreed that the city council should discuss it, but did not make a recommendation either way. Inyart noted home-rule would allow the city a much more robust capability to inspect properties to ensure they are up to code. Opponents of home rule claim that it would generate tax increases. Non-home rule communities are prohibited from doing anything not specifically permitted by the state, while home-rule communities are

allowed to do anything not specifically prohibited. Any city with more than 25,000 residents can become a home-rule community with a city council resolution. Smaller cities (like Charleston) must pass a referendum. Charleston is the only college community in the state that is not a home-rule community. Senator Pommier asked what steps the city might take to improve its amenities to encourage EIU faculty to live in Charleston. Mayor Inyart noted that the city's work with Buxton Co. (a retail site selection and customer analysis firm) included a community survey on local buying habits, which is instrumental in convincing large national chains to locate in town. Mayor Inyart also mentioned the recently completed public library renovations and a possible new community center. President Perry stated it was a priority for campus and community to work together on the EIU Master Plan, and that priorities included sustainability, solid waste management, and energy efficiency; making campus pedestrian and bike-friendly; and academic priorities. President Perry added that approaches which helped Charleston's development are also important. Chair Pommier thanked those who were able to attend the meeting.

**VI. Adjournment at 3:20 p.m.**

**Future Agenda Items:** Integrated Academics, and Capital Campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coit