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Minutes

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### September 4, 2007

Faculty Senate

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## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR September 4, 2007 (Vol. XXXV, No. 25)

The 2006-2007 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 Coleman Hall 2532, 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 Lynne Curry at 2:00 p.m.** (Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440)

Present: A. Brownson, J. Coit, L. Curry, M. Dao, R. Fischer, B. Joyce, B. Khan, R. Marshall, R. Murray, J. Pommier, J. Russell, T. Sinclair, J. Snyder, J. Stimac, and D. VanGunten  
Guests: K. Born (Gerontology GA), B. Augustine (Dean of Graduate School), S. Di Benedetto (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), J. Coons (Biological Sciences), B. Miller (Biological Sciences), B. Nathan (Biological Sciences), C. Hanlon (English Grad. Program), A. Poffinbarger (Biological Sciences), B. Todd (Biological Sciences), N. Coutant (Biological Sciences), K. Gaines (Biological Sciences), J. Novak (Biological Sciences), G. Fritz (Biological Sciences), J. Allison (English), E. Bollinger (Biological Sciences), E. Ramos (Biological Sciences), A. Fritz (Biological Sciences), B. Lawrence (Chemistry), C. Pederson (Biological Sciences), B. Craig (SCE), W. Hine (SCE), S. Bulla (SCE), B. Lord (Provost/VPAA), M. Hanner (CDS), Charles Delman, (Mathematics), Jamie Pence (Student Rep.), and Alison Kostelich (Student Rep.).

### **II. Approval of Minutes of 21 August.**

Approval of the Minutes of 21 August (Fischer/Stimac) without correction – Yes: Brownson, Coit, Curry, Dao, Fischer, Joyce, Khan, Marshall, Murray, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, and VanGunten. Abstain: Pommier and Russell.

### **III. Announcements**

- A. New Faculty Reception 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday Sept. 18 at Tarble Arts Center
- B. Mildred Pearson will be added to the fall schedule Tuesday Oct. 2.

### **IV. Communications**

- A. E-mail from Gary Fritz, 28 August, re: proposal from biological science faculty
- B. Memo from Will Hine, 29 August, re: appointment to School of Continuing Education Advisory Council
- C. E-mail from Jeff Ashley, 30 August, : needs someone to sit in on the CIS committee (will either be Senator Curry or Brownson)

### **V. Old Business**

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

1. Executive Committee: Senator Curry introduced the two new Student Representatives, Jamie Pence and Alison Kostelich and then announced that they are still looking for a third student representative. Senator Curry apologized for the bizarre technical glitches that were occurring, explaining that she gives the agenda to Senator Snyder who then gives it to CATS to post on the Faculty Senate website so a slight delay in posting is not unusual.
2. Nominations Committee: Senator Pommier requested that all four colleges be represented in the Faculty Development Advisory Committee, but followed by saying the matter would be clarified next spring when another call is put out. Teshome Abebe, from the Economics department, was nominated for the Committee.

Approval of Teshome Abebe for the Faculty Development Advisory Committee (Pommier/Coit) - Yes: Brownson, Coit, Curry, Dao, Fischer, Joyce, Khan, Marshall, Murray, Pommier, Russell, Sinclair, Snyder and Stimac. Excused: VanGunten.

3. Awards Committee: no report

4. Elections Committee: Senator Brownson said that a call to faculty went out for applicants to fill several vacant elected positions, but that the committee did not receive any applications. CAA must have an elected position so the matter has been returned to them. David Radavich, from the English Department, agreed to the position on the Council of University Planning and Budget. Approval of David Radavich's appointment to Council of University Planning and Budget (Stimac/Murray) – Yes: Brownson, Coit, Curry, Dao, Fischer, Joyce, Khan, Marshall, Murray, Pommier, Russell, Sinclair, Snyder and Stimac. Excused: VanGunten.

The College of Sciences is looking for a one year replacement for the University Personnel Committee. The Elections Committee will meet to select one of the four names submitted.

5. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: no report

6. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: no report

7. Budget Transparency Committee: no report

8. Faculty Forum Committee: Senator Stimac suggest the committee have a discussion with the senators about what topics need to be explored and about whether or not to have a Fall Forum.

9. Other Reports

a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord announced the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting on Friday September 14 at 1 p.m. and then went on to say that the higher education task force was on campus this past Friday to discuss a variety of issues. The 10<sup>th</sup> day enrollment report will be issued shortly.

## **VI. New Business**

A. Dean Hine, School of Continuing Education, distributed information folders about the Academy of Lifetime of Learning. There are currently 9,000 students enrolled in credit and non-credit classes off campus. EIU has offices in Oak Brook and Triton, an expanded center at Parkland College, the Oasis Group and an adult student lounge at EIU. The Spring Recognition Ceremony had 400 individuals in attendance, up 30 percent from last year, and 90 percent of students are satisfied with the services of SCE. Beth Craig, coordinator of program development and Susan Bulla, program coordinator, made presentations concerning the operations staff of the Academy. A list of available classes was included in the folders of information distributed by Dean Hine. Craig stated that more classes would be available in the spring. Bulla asked others to spread the word about the program to possible students for the classes and faculty willing to teach them. Faculty can either teach classes from their professional repertoire or from hobbies in which they have developed experience. Courses are short, ranging anywhere from one to five sessions, and SCE is aiming for a broad appeal including both academic and practical classes for all age ranges. Program ideas are welcome.

B. Dean Augustine, The role of graduate assistants in teaching at EIU. Dean Augustine distributed copies of his report on the current and past usage of graduate assistants in teaching at EIU and addressed three topics: quality control, engaged faculty and mission-focused experiences. Quality control mechanisms include intense mentoring and faculty guidance and assessment data to measure whether learning goals are being met in classes taught by graduate assistants. Faculty engagement with these students' development frequently results in long-term professional relationships. Augustine stated that graduate assistant teaching was consistent with the mission of the graduate school and the new First Choice program initiative. The discussion was then opened for questions. Senator Curry began by asking how to balance the undergraduates' need for access to faculty with graduate assistant teaching. Augustine replied that graduate assistants are not left to fend for themselves and that quality control mechanisms are in place for handling any issues that may arise. Revisions are made according to assessment data. Senator Murray asked if graduate assistants teaching impacts Unit B faculty. Augustine said those decisions remain within the departments. Senator Marshall stated that, at other universities, teaching assistants have the opportunity to enroll in mentoring programs to discuss teaching concerns and to learn from each other. Augustine said that faculty who mentor teaching assistants feel it is critical that they specifically oversee them. Senator Curry invited guests to pose questions. Dr. Ann Fritz began by asking what the difference was between the University of Illinois' use of teaching assistants, which is reportedly problematic, and this university's. Augustine responded that he has never been asked to investigate problems at other institutions. Undergraduate Biological Sciences major Elena Ramos asked why EIU would implement a program that limits undergraduates' relationships with faculty when that is why students choose to attend this university. Augustine responded by stating that assessment data is used to ensure that student learning outcomes are met. Dr. Charles Delman asked what evidence can be shown to prove that SLOs are being met. Augustine said that departments develop assessment plans in conjunction with Karla Sanders and that he examines the information generated by her office. Dr. Eric Bollinger asked about teaching assistants' ability to perform their duties. Dean Augustine said that he agonizes over issues of quality and that he wants undergraduates to get an incredible education, adding that he appreciated Dr. Bollinger's concern. Dr. Karen Gaines asked if the plan was to have graduate assistants brought in for supervised teaching of non-majors courses. Augustine replied that such a question is best directed to her own department because his role is to look at overall progress and assessment. Dr. Britto Nathan asked how replacing faculty to teach and modify courses could benefit undergraduate students and their education. Augustine said that programs set up specific measures to successfully implement their plan when they decide to use graduate assistants in their classrooms. Senator Brownson then inquired if there were any departments mentioned in Augustine's report that had abandoned their efforts to use teaching assistants. Augustine stated that if there were, he was not aware of them. Dr. Christopher Hanlon commented that the English Department decided that using graduate assistants to teach would attract good students to their graduate program. Graduate assistants take three courses in pedagogy and work closely with faculty mentors, and faculty decide who is ready to teach. Senator Murray commented that

no unit B faculty have lost their jobs and that in fact the English Department has hired more. Faculty in both Unit A and Unit B decided as a department to have graduate assistants teach. Dr. Janice Coons asked what happened to CUs in the department after a graduate assistant is placed in charge of a class and if we are trying to replace ACFs with graduate assistants for cheap labor. Senator Murray responded that in English CUs are assigned to the composition director and that they are equal to what they would be if a faculty member were teaching. Dr. Bryan Miller asked whether Biological Sciences was not using any CUs or if it is saving them. Senator Fischer responded that the number of graduate assistants teaching labs in Biological Sciences is four out of 41 and that they are a select group that is mentored by faculty. The CUs go to the supervising faculty member/coordinator. Senator Coit then asked how the correlation between the graduate student teaching program in English and the increased number of applicants to their graduate programs was established. C. Hanlon responded that he cannot confirm the correlation, but the chief recruiter for the program indicated that it was great tool to talk about to recruit graduate students. E. Bollinger commented that he does not think it is a debatable point, but rather that it is a matter of whether EIU sees itself moving in a direction the faculty wants it to go. He said that if Eastern continues down this same path it will diverge from the direction it should be going in order to best serve Illinois. Senator Curry responded that this may be a good issue for the Faculty Forum held every spring in which students, staff and faculty are involved. Dr. John Allison said he was happy to hear the possibility of a forum mentioned and added that if the Senate were to decide to conduct one it should be offered in fall rather than spring because a fall forum would enable the faculty to inform the Board of Trustees as to its outcomes. Senator Joyce then asked Augustine whether masters and doctoral students are differentiated when he looks at other institutions. Augustine replied that he looks at programs and universities comparable to Eastern. Senator Dao stated that in light of its successes it would be good for other departments to learn from the English Department. Augustine said that it is his job to make sure the mechanisms for quality control and the level of faculty engagement are competitive with other institutions and that this is a potential tool that can be used to attract graduate students. He added that he shares program failures as readily as success stories. Dr. Janice Coons asked how the focus on quality is ensured. Augustine said that guidance is being sought from the Council on Graduate Students and that he feels he has had graduate faculty engaged all along. Decision-making is to be made at the department level. J. Coons followed up by asking if most departments conduct a pilot study. Augustine replied that the departments determine their own structures. N. Coutant asked if any type of program has a chance of success if the faculty does not support it. Augustine said that he wants faculty to worry about issues of quality because there are still concerns on the horizon; it is important that faculty be fully engaged. Dr. Gary Fritz asked if a program can be supported or promoted if it is not supported by faculty. Augustine said that he has always felt faculty have been involved in conversations about the issue. C. Delman then clarified that if any faculty member were to lose a position due to the use of teaching assistants, UPI and labor law would handle disputes. He then went on to ask if there is a causal relationship between the ability to do supervised teaching and the ability to recruit a higher quality of graduate students and if there

was a casual relationship, would it carry over into other disciplines. Augustine said that he could not indicate a direct casual relationship, but programs have indicated that they are attracting the kind of students they would like to have; it is very program- specific. G. Fritz commented that financial issues appear to come into this formula. C. Hanlon then commented that there appears to be two issues, shared governance and the use of graduate assistants in teaching. Senator Curry responded that individuals were drawing upon their own experiences within their own departments in order to contribute to the discussion about graduate assistants teaching. J. Coons commented that the English Department is very different than Biological Sciences because graduate assistants are in a laboratory setting where safety issues are an important concern, and asked how these issues can be addressed. Dr. Barbara Lawrence stated that in Chemistry there are graduate assistants involved in teaching labs, but at the same time a faculty member is just across the hall teaching the same lab. She said that a faculty member is always in close proximity to a graduate assistant teaching a lab. C. Delman then asked what the appropriate uses of graduate assistants were. Augustine said that every year the Graduate College collects data on graduate assistants and that an annual report that provides a general overview of the use of graduate assistants is prepared. G. Fritz commented that if he were an undergraduate student he would choose a university that did not use teaching assistants over one that did. He voiced his concern that students may avoid Eastern if we use teaching assistants and said that students need to know the percentage of their classes that will be taught by them. Senator Murray said that in the English Department there are three to five teaching assistants and it is very important for them to have classroom experience. E. Ramos then brought up the question of using teaching assistants in major versus general education classes. C. Delman followed by asking how to address the issue of separating science courses into lectures and labs with different instructors. Augustine said that he did not feel qualified to answer such a question, but that such a decision is up to individual departments. Senator Curry then concluded by thanking everyone for the discussion and all the guests for attending the meeting.

**Future Agenda Items:** campus climate survey; construction updates; long-range planning; faculty handbook, First Choice/Best in Class.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Snyder, Senate Recorder