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Minutes

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9-18-2007

September 18, 2007

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "September 18, 2007" (2007). *Minutes*. 54.
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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR September 18, 2007 (Vol. XXXV, No. 26)

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.

Call to Faculty: Student Government's External Relations Committee is in need of a faculty representative. Interested faculty should contact Lynne Curry (lecurry@eiu.edu or 581-7988) as soon as possible.

Campus Events Calendar URL

<http://www.eiu.edu/%7Eeiuevent/main.php?view=subscribe>

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, A. Kostelich, R. Marshall, J. Melanson, R. Murray, J. Pence, J. Pommier, J. Russell, J. Snyder, and D. VanGunten. Excused: T. Sinclair and J. Stimac. Guests: K. Born (Gerontology GA), R. Kambic (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), J. Johnson (CAH), D. Nadler (Student Affairs), J. Cooley (Business Affairs), J. Gorrell (President's Office), B. Perry (President), A. Abell (Planning and Institutional Studies), J. Nilsen (External Relations), and B. Lord (Provost/VPAA).

II. Approval of Minutes of 4 September.

Approval of the Minutes of 4 September with two corrections – Yes: Brownson, Coit, Curry, Dao, Fischer, Joyce, Khan, Marshall, Murray, Pommier, Russell, and Snyder. Excused: Sinclair and Stimac. Abstain: VanGunten.

III. Announcements

- A. New Faculty Reception today, 3:30-5 p.m. at Tarble Arts Center
- B. Latino Heritage Banquet, 5 p.m. social hour 6 p.m. dinner, Sunday Sept. 23 in the Grand Ballroom
- C. Cedric Jennings (from *A Hope in the Unseen*) 7 p.m. Monday Sept. 24 in McAfee Gym.
- D. Senator Curry welcomed Jeff Melanson, the third student representative, to Faculty Senate
- E. Senator Curry handed out copies of the new fall schedule and stated that the changes will be posted on the Faculty Senate website (<http://www.eiu.edu/~FacSen>). She explained that Faculty Senate needs to have at least two meetings a month when in session and that it should be noted that there will now be two meetings in Nov. and two in Oct. Senator Curry also said that there was a change in the scheduling of guests to accommodate Sue Harvey so that she can attend the next meeting and speak about new policy changes in regards to how faculty submit grades. She added that the policy changes have gone through CAA and CGS, but that she wanted Faculty Senate to have the opportunity to get caught up and seek any needed clarification. Any questions in regards to the policy change should be submitted in advance so that Harvey is allotted time to collect any necessary information. Senator Curry said that questions should be e-mailed to her and that she would then pass the questions on to Harvey.
- F. Heather Webb and Rachel Fischer will be guests at the Nov. 27 meeting.
- G. Senator Curry stated that she is implementing a policy for the submission of items for the agenda. A deadline for submission was put in place for noon on the Tuesday one week from the scheduled meeting. Senator Curry explained that the reasoning for this new policy was to ensure that there is adequate time for the agenda to be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

She ensured the Senate that individuals can still submit events for the agenda after the deadline, but that they would not appear on the agenda posted on the website.

IV. Communications

- A. E-mail from Kent Ohms, 9 September, re: faculty representative for Student Government's External Relations Committee
- B. Minutes of the Intercollegiate Athletic Board Meeting, 6 September
- C. E-mail from Charles Delman, 11 September, : UPI co-sponsorship, with Faculty Senate, of a speaker on academic freedom (inauguration week event)
- D. Memorandum from Dr. Perry, 11 September, re: receipt of documents from Dr. Fritz

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Executive Committee: Senator Snyder said that Senate Elected and Appointed Committees are now published on the Senate website. Senator Curry gave a committee update on the inauguration stating that the student portion of the week will consist of a pizza party. The price of admission for the party will be one canned good; and will help students interested in volunteering in the community to meet with community agencies/organizations looking for volunteers. As for the staff and faculty portions of the week, speakers will be heard. It was then added that UPI and Senate are co-sponsoring an event on the topic of Academic Freedom.
- 2. Nominations Committee: Two more faculty members are needed for the Apportionment Board.
- 3. Awards Committee: no report
- 4. Elections Committee: Andrew White agreed to serve a replacement position for UPC.
- 5. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: Senator Fischer stated that he had met with the students and asked them to e-mail their schedules so that a meeting time could be set up.
- 6. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: no report
- 7. Budget Transparency Committee: no report
- 8. Faculty Forum Committee: no report
- 9. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord said that authorization was given for 26 tenure track faculty searches. He then made an announcement that this week is Technology Week and that the Technology Faculty luncheon will be held Thursday Sept. 20. He also stated that there are several faculty development functions coming up and that Faculty Appreciation Day is Friday Sept. 21.

VI. New Business

- A. President's Council-President Perry, Blair Lord, Dan Nadler, Jill Nilsen and Jeff Cooley President Perry began by thanking the Senate for the opportunity to speak. He said that he has been gathering a substantial amount of information as to how best to enhance the university from 450 different individuals. He will discuss his vision of First Choice and Best in Class at 40 scheduled meetings. He will meet with the BOT

in November and report to them his impressions and what he has learned. He will also meet with external constituencies, and has scheduled forums in order to meet with faculty and staff. Perry provided handouts with several questions:

- What are your aspirations?
- What is needed to move to Best of Class and/or First Choice?
- What programs already are, or are close to, Best of Class and/or First Choice?
- What are your distinguishing signatures?
- What is your assessment of our capacity for progress?
- What is your assessment of the campus, regional, state, and national environments as they affect us?
- Other

Faculty's thoughts and concerns regarding these questions can be registered on a website (<http://www.eiu.edu/~presiden/initiative.php>). Senator Curry asked if there was a plan to put together a search for a director of athletics. Perry stated that 6 constituencies are being asked to provide nominations of up to three individuals. The nominations are due Friday Sept. 28. Perry explained that Eastern wants an individual who is experienced, is of high integrity and has the welfare of student athletes as his or her highest priority. On-campus interviews will take place in Feb. and March and Perry hopes to have someone in place by July. Senator Russell then asked Perry to expand on his thoughts about Best of Class and First Choice. He replied by stating that First Choice refers to students' ranking of Eastern among other institutions. Best of Class can mean a number of things in various dimensions of the university, including student, faculty and staff life. He wants to be able to use the overall concept as a recruitment tool because people inevitably compare institutions. Senator Fischer then commented that one of his aspirations is to see at least 50 percent of Eastern's students engaged in research or creative activities because such activities are important for students' future plans. Perry noted that students have indicated that they come here because of helpful faculty. Senator Pommier then asked Perry what he would like to be known for and what will be important to him in the future. Perry responded that Eastern has become a place where students are first-rate, which has much to do with the advisement and mentoring of students, but that we need to seek ways to advance the university further. Senator Murray stated that there are good connections among public schools, the university and the community at large but that she would like to see Eastern enhance them. Perry replied that such relationships are important and Eastern is seeking opportunities to form additional ones. The Field Station being pursued by Biological Sciences is an example of a good opportunity to build more relationships. The Good Neighbor program, started by Dan Nadler, is another good example of constructing better community relations. Senator Fischer commented that the more faculty live close to the community, the better they are at being involved on campus at all hours of the day. Senator Coit then commented that the question of engagement is one of culture and that students and faculty do not feel as though there is enough to do in the community. He added that students could benefit from less expensive events. President Perry said that the opening of Dounda Fine Arts will help to bring about such opportunities. He added that he has talked to people at FutureGen and they are searching for more connections to the community that could lead to research projects and internships. Senator Brownson said that faculty need one place where they can find out

about all the events on campus. Senator Fischer noted that students receive an in-depth e-mail calendar and that if faculty wish to receive it they can subscribe at <http://www.eiu.edu/%7Eeiuevent/main.php?view=subscribe>. Student Senator Pence added that people who want to add events need to contact Student Affairs. Senator Fischer said he wants to see the graduate programs continue to grow. Senator Russell added that we need to take a good look at the programs we provide and see how we can attract various constituents. President Perry then concluded by saying that if there was any other advice to be offered it should be conveyed to him. Vice President for Student Affairs Dan Nadler then provided updates. Over 400 student volunteers and a good number of faculty welcomed students and helped move them into residence halls. Nadler stated that Eastern is proud to bring EIU Reads, the common freshmen reading experience, on board because it sends a strong statement about academics. It also gives students the opportunity to have contact with faculty before class begins. Nadler noted that this is the second year the university has used Alcohol EDU, an online course containing a module students must complete before coming to campus; they are expected to pass it before class begins. He believes the program has proven successful because there has been a 40 percent reduction in disciplinary cases related to alcohol on campus. Nadler also spoke about the PROWL program, which engages and involves students during the first six weeks of the semester, the most critical time in which students decide whether or not they are going to stay enrolled. Nadler said that President Perry is passionate about community service and a survey is currently being conducted so that existing programs can be enhanced and new initiatives started. Senator Brownson asked whether contacts were being made with local bar owners in regard to underage drinking. Nadler responded that Eastern is working closely with the city, mayor and police to send a message that people need to behave responsibly. An anti-alcohol coalition is in place. Senator Curry noted that this topic is on the agenda item for the Nov. 27 Faculty Senate meeting. Nadler said that the community appreciates Eastern being proactive and creating a partnership with them. Senator Fischer then commented that the city needs to take responsibility and change some of its current zoning. Senator Curry stated that all of these issues need to be considered in discussing how to make Eastern First Choice and Best of Class because potential students and faculty consider the community environment when choosing among various universities. Vice President for Business Affairs Jeff Cooley then spoke about Eastern's budget, saying that it received a 1.9 percent increase this year. The university has received 6 million dollars to fully equip Dounda, but the university is hoping for another 1.5 million. The completion date for Dounda is tentatively set for Dec. 2007, but there is still a three month move-in period after completion. Cooley stated that much construction took place on campus over the summer. Sprinklers were installed in Andrews Hall and he hopes they will be installed in Lawson Hall next year. Eastern will begin a 4.2 million dollar electrical system upgrade next summer, which may result in outages. Signage will be installed on campus prior to the Fall 2008 and the water tower is to be painted and receive a logo in the spring. The Academic Success Center received a Title III Grant to expand its facility. EIU received the last settlement check for Blair Hall; the restoration cost a total of 9.2 million dollars. Cooley then said that the university is in the process of replacing all the phones on campus and that we have more than doubled our bandwidth because of a new contract with Consolidated. He added that the Senate needs to be aware of the potential impact

that the Illinois constitutional convention may have on the university. Senator Pommier then asked Cooley about the power plant. Cooley said that Eastern needs 25 million dollars to upgrade our steam plant, but plans are underway so the university can eventually generate its own power. Senator Brownson then asked if Eastern has thought about using green energy. Cooley answered that Blair Hall has recycled car bumpers on its roof and that the university is looking at wind generation and the use of bio fuels. There is interest in a wetlands area project and a garden botanical site. Student Senator Melanson asked Cooley if Eastern will still have to pay Ameren if we get a power plant. Cooley responded no, in fact it may be possible for EIU to sell excess energy to Ameren. He is going to Vermont to look at a plant that uses wood chips. Senator Curry noted that green projects further the university's First Choice and Best of Class initiative. She then concluded the meeting by thanking all of the speakers.

VII. Adjournment at 3:40 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Snyder, Recorder