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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR January 8, 2007 (Vol. XXXV, No. 33)

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: Apportionment Board Committee is in need of a faculty representative. The Board meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. Interested faculty should contact John Pommier (jhpommier@eiu.edu or 581-6597) as soon as possible. Please use Apportionment Board Committee in the subject line.

I. Call to order by Lynne Curry at 2:00 p.m. (Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440)

Present: A. Brownson, L. Curry, A. Haile Mariam, B. Joyce, A. Kostelich, R. Marshall, R. Murray, J. Pommier, J. Russell, J. Snyder, J. Stimac and D. VanGunten. Excused: J. Coit. Guests: K. Born (Gerontology GA), M. Daniels (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), N. Maberry (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*) C. Kromphardt (Honors College), Bre Stillwell (Honors College), Bradley Hill (NSE), M. Messer (Honors College/NSE), B. Augustine (Graduate School), D. and J. Johnson (Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities). B. Lord (Provost/VPAA),

II. Approval of Minutes of 4 December.

Approval of the Minutes of 4 December with no corrections – Yes: Brownson, Curry, Joyce, Marshall, Murray, Pommier, Russell, Snyder, Stimac and VanGunten. Abstain: Haile Mariam.

III. Announcements

- A. There is an EIU policy on inclement weather and an announcement of the new Illinois smoke-free law in the University newsletter.
- B. W2 forms can be collected electronically under self-serve banner beginning 16 January

IV. Communications

- A. Memo from Jeff Cooley, 11 December, re: Budget Director Screening Committee.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Executive Committee: Senator Curry stated that BOT will meet January 18th and that Faculty Senate will be represented. She also stated that the Faculty Forum will be held on March 4th. She then distributed a tentative spring schedule for Faculty Senate and pointed out that Senate will not meet on May 6th because the semester will have already come to a close. Senator Curry went on to state that Vice President Cooley has asked the Senate to nominate three Faculty Senate members to serve on the Budget Director Screening Committee. The three recommendations were Senators Joyce, Murray, Dao. Then Curry announced that Senator Brownson will be chairing an ad-hoc committee to work with Faculty Development and CATS on an event on the topic of academic integrity online. Senators Russell, Haile Mariam and Fischer will also be serving on the committee. Curry concluded by distributing a draft report of Faculty Senate activities for Fall 2007 semester and asked that the Senate provide feedback.

2. Nominations Committee: Apportionment Board Committee needs a faculty representative. Meetings are held on Thursdays at 7 p.m.
3. Elections Committee: No report.
4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: There will be two new individuals serving as student representatives for Faculty Senate.
5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: No report.
6. Budget Transparency Committee: No report.
7. Faculty Forum Committee: the committee will have its first meeting in January.
8. Awards Committee: Senator Robin Murray will be chairing the Distinguished Faculty Award Committee. People looking for additional information on the award can find it on the Faculty Senate website.
9. Other Reports
 - a) Provost’s Report: Provost Lord began by welcoming the Senate back from break as well as Senator Haile Mariam back from sabbatical. He then thanked Senator Curry for the presenters that were invited to speak to the Senate and expressed his pleasure regarding the success of the Honors and Study Abroad Programs. He then discussed the issue of final grade and GPA calculations on Banner for fall semester, explaining that the Registrar’s Office had to hand compute student’s GPA’s in order to be Banner compliant. A minimal number of students were affected. Provost Lord distributed handouts regarding an editorial from the *DEN* titled “Make the First Day of Classes Worth Our While, Professors.” Senator Brownson then said that librarians are happy to attend first-day classes to talk about the resources Booth Library offers. She then inquired as to why the spring semester ends in April this year. Provost Lord explained that the calendar “migrates” earlier each year but then leaps forward again. The original rules and guidelines were put together by a group of faculty and Senate representatives.

V. New Business

- A. Dean Bonnie Irwin, Honors College and Wendy Williamson, Director, Study Abroad, Updates on Study Abroad and the National Student Exchange. Wendy Williamson began by presenting information about Study Abroad programs at EIU. She said that students who graduate with international experience receive more job offers and higher starting salaries than their counterparts. There are currently 223,000 U. S. students studying abroad, about one-to-three percent of all college students. Currently, EIU is twelfth in the number of students from Illinois universities studying abroad. In 2007, over 300 Eastern students participated in a Study Abroad program. Williamson also commented that minority student participation in such programs is on the rise. As for the most popular countries visited, the top three are the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the Bahamas. Accounting, Art, and Biological Sciences have the most students studying abroad. Williamson then moved on to discuss the Study Abroad Office’s plans for the future. They include: developing new programs, searching for Study Abroad specific scholarships, and focusing on curricular issues as well as cultural change

on campus to make Study Abroad more popular. There are course articulations for all existing programs. The course finder on the Study Abroad website shows these as well as advising sheets that are customized for each department. Both marketing and advising are integral parts of the process of heightening students' interests in Study Abroad programs. In response to a question from guest Dagne Bredesen Williamson said her PowerPoint presentation, as well as others, are available on the Study Abroad website. Senator Murray then asked if student teaching abroad was advised through the Study Abroad Office as well as through Student Teaching. Williamson said that students with questions should be sent to both offices. Senator Curry then asked if there was evidence available as to whether or not Study Abroad increases one's chances of getting accepted to graduate school. Williamson said that she does not have any hard data, but that she would imagine that to be true. Curry followed up by asked what the most important factor was that accounts for the growing popularity of Study Abroad. Williamson replied that lower costs and professors help to generate interest. Senator Pommier then asked what the cost difference is in regard to attending EIU and studying abroad. Williamson said it depends on the program, but in some circumstances Study Abroad costs are similar to those at EIU. Curry then commented that the higher costs of living in countries such as Scandinavia probably affect students' lower interest in attending such places. Williamson agreed that Scandinavian programs are not as popular and added that her office is exploring programs in Prague which are less expensive. Curry then thanked Williamson for raising awareness of Study Abroad on campus. Bonnie Irwin, the Dean of Honors College then spoke about the Honors College and the National Student Exchange Program. She explained that last year, 12 EIU students went to the NSE conference to be placed at other U. S. universities. Bradley Dill, an exchange student from Texas, spoke about his experience on Eastern's campus. Chris Kromphardt, who had just returned from Massachusetts, then shared some of his experiences. Dean Irwin went on to say that some of Eastern's Honors students want to engage in both Study Abroad as well as NSE. NSE will be working more closely with the Study Abroad Office to accomplish this. Senator Pommier then asked Dill if he felt as though he were receiving special treatment because he is an exchange student. Dill happily replied that he was. Guest Margaret Messer indicated that Study Abroad is sometimes prohibitive for students because of cost, but that NSE is a great alternative. Dean Irwin then went on to provide the Senate with an Honors Program update. She said that the Honors College recruits academically talented students and then provides them with stimulating opportunities. Applications are up 20 percent from last year and last year's yield rate was 74 percent. The average ACT score in the Honors College's current freshman class is 27.6, which is five points above the university average. Every spring freshmen are admitted based upon their fall grades. This year, 28 students have been admitted to the Honors College. The total enrollment is 650 for both Departmental and University Honors. There are currently 79 Presidential Scholars. Dean Irwin explained that the Honors College is currently working with departments in the College of Education to develop Departmental Honors Programs. Bre Stillwell, the webmaster for the Honors College, then

shared her experiences in Honors courses with the Senate. Dean Irwin commented that students in honors classes take their work more seriously. Senator Curry added that honors students' drive to learn is a pleasure to encounter for a professor. Dean Irwin concluded by stating that the Honors College takes many of its students to the National Honors Conference each year. Curry then thanked Dean Irwin for speaking with the Senate.

VII. Adjournment at 3:30 p.m.

Thank you to Dean Bonnie Irwin: Honors College and Wendy Williamson: Study Abroad.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Snyder, Recorder