

2-19-2008

February 19, 2008

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "February 19, 2008" (2008). *Minutes*. 63.
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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR February 19, 2008 (Vol. XXXV, No. 36)

The 2007-2008 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 2:30 p.m. (Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440)

Present: A. Brownson, J. Coit, L. Curry, M. Dao, R. Fischer, A. Haile Mariam, B. Joyce, A. Kostelich, R. Marshall, J. Pommier, J. Russell, J. Snyder, J. Stimac, D. VanGunten and E. Volk.
Excused: T. Sinclair. Guests: B. Garcia (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), D. Jackman (Dean, CEPS) and B. Lord (Provost/VPAA).

II. Approval of Minutes of 5 February.

Approval of the Minutes of 5 February with no corrections – Yes: Brownson, Coit, Curry, Dao, Fischer, Haile Mariam, Joyce, Marshall, Pommier, Russell, Snyder, Stimac and VanGunten.
Excused: Sinclair.

III. Announcements

A. None.

IV. Communications

A. None.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Curry introduced a draft condolence letter to NIU from the Senate. The Senators approved sending the letter.
2. Nominations Committee: Senator Pommier said a position is still available for Apportionment Board.
3. Elections Committee: Senator Brownson announced that attached to the minutes from Feb. 5th were call for elections. After some discussion it was determined that, according to Article I of the Senate's Constitution, only Unit A faculty are able to run for elections. Senator Haile Mariam noted that this is because Unit A faculty are evaluated on service and Unit B faculty are not. Brownson said Banner does not have the capability to conduct elections at this point, and EIU no longer has the licensed software used in previous elections. Therefore possibility of outsourcing the election, paid for by ITS, is being explored. Elections will be the 26th and 27th of March. Haile Mariam asked if security is an issue when outsourcing. Brownson indicated that it would be password protected. Senator Fischer noted that the election issue is a critical issue and it would be unfortunate if we had to go back to paper/pencil ballot. Curry charged the election committee to pursue this issue further and asked if another senator could temporarily lend his or her technical expertise to the elections committee as they work on this. Senator Pommier then asked if we could examine the cost of outsourcing. Brownson indicated that it was around \$500. Haile Mariam commented that the committee should prepare the voting lists so that they are ready whether the election is conducted electronically or not. Curry called for

the Senate to meet again on 26 February to work on the elections and thanked Ann Brownson for her work on this project. Curry then noted that she had asked VP Cooley for an update regarding VPAA bringing in outside consultants to evaluate ITS. VP Cooley said that his office is still looking for possible consultants.

4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: Senator Fischer reported that the Cultural Diversity Requirement proposal had been discussed and voted down by both RHA and Student Senate. He also announced that more students are using the shuttle service due to increased awareness of the service.

5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: No report.

6. Budget Transparency Committee: No report.

7. Faculty Forum Committee: The forum will be held 2 p.m. Tuesday March 4th in the University Union’s Grand Ballroom. Senator Stimac provided the senators with a draft announcement of the forum and the senators offered their feedback. Stimac also announced that Judicial Affairs, the Counseling Center, Student Government, James Tidwell, and Rob Miller have been or will be approached about participating. Senator Coit then asked if there was someone in Communications Studies who might be invited to attend. Curry then thanked Senator Stimac for his work on Faculty Forum and requested an update at next week’s meeting.

8. Awards Committee: No report.

9. Other Reports

a) Provost’s Report: Provost Lord commented that he looks forward to the Forum in March. The BOT meeting will be held on March 7th.

b) Other: Senator Fischer said five people have been invited to campus for interviews for the Athletic Director Search. Interview schedules are listed on the Athletic Department’s website. He encouraged people to attend the open sessions and provide input. It was also said that the External Relations Committee had met and discussed the ongoing issue of student drinking as well as the new Illinois law that requires police to report all violations. City zoning and historic districts were also discussed, as was the issue of students and community service.

V. New Business

A. No New Business.

VII. Adjournment at 3:35 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: campus climate survey; construction updates; long-range planning; faculty handbook

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Snyder, Recorder

NIU Condolence Letter

February 21, 2008

Dr. John G. Peters, President
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear President Peters,

On behalf of our constituents, the Faculty Senate of Eastern Illinois University extends our support and solidarity to the entire community at Northern Illinois University at this tragic time. We wish to convey our condolences to the friends and families of those who lost their lives, as well as to those who are now recovering from their physical and emotional injuries. We share the shock and sorrow caused by this event, and we condemn the violence. Regretfully, we understand that a deplorable event such as this can happen anywhere, at any time.

We also wish to express our support for the Northern Illinois University community as you begin to return to your role as a vibrant institution of higher learning. Do not be deterred by this tragedy. We stand behind you, and you will prevail.

With goodwill,

The Eastern Illinois University Faculty Senate

Lynne Curry, Chair	Jonathan Coit	Minh Dao
Ann Brownson, Vice Chair	Robert Fischer	Assege HaileMariam
Jeanne Snyder, Recorder	Bill Joyce	Rodney Marshall
Robyn Murray	John Henry Pommier	Joy Russell
Thomas Sinclair	John Stimac	Dawn Van Gunten

Student Senators: Alison Kostelich, Erin Volk, Angelina Montleon

cc: Dr. Paul Stoddard, President, NIU Faculty Senate