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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR March 18, 2008 (Vol. XXXV, No. 39)

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 2:00 p.m. (Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440)

Present: A. Brownson, J. Coit, L. Curry, M. Dao, R. Fischer, A. Haile Mariam, A. Kostelich, R. Marshall, R. Murray, J. Pommier, T. Sinclair, J. Snyder, J. Stimac, D. VanGunten, and E. Volk.
Excused: B. Joyce and J. Russell. Guests: B. Garcia (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), B. Peake (Photographer, *Daily Eastern News*), D. Hoadley (LCBAS), C. Rogers (Student Body President), D. Reid (CAA), K. Armour (FCS), C. Roszkowski (CAA), and B. Lord (Provost/VPAA).

II. Approval of Minutes of 4 March.

Approval of the Minutes of 4 March from Faculty Forum – Not yet available.

III. Announcements

- A. Science Fest is March 28th from 1-4 p.m. in the University Ballroom.
- B. The Eastern Regional History Fair is Saturday April 12th from 9-11 p.m.
- C. The first annual Central Illinois Feminist Film Festival is March 27-30.
- D. There is a need for facilitators for Eastern Reads, the freshmen book program, for the discussion during fall semester orientation week. Those interested should contact Dean Bonnie Irwin.

IV. Communications

- A. None.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Dr. Jill Nilsen, Vice President for External Relations, has asked the Senators provide her with topics they'd like her to address when she visits the Senate on 01 April. Senator Curry asked the Senators to forward their suggestions to her.
2. Nominations Committee: Rebecca Merton from the Nursing Program has volunteered to serve on the Apportionment Board.
3. Elections Committee: Senator Brownson said that progress is being made with the electronic balloting. Together Senators Brownson and Curry reviewed a prototype of the electronic ballot for elections. It still needs to be tested to make sure it works. Brownson has also been in contact with Testing Services to develop a paper ballot. If the electronic system is not ready in time, paper ballots will be used for elections. Curry then commented that there is only one week left to complete the electronic ballot and that she commends Senator Brownson on all her hard work in regard to elections. It was also said that there are currently eight positions on the ballot without candidates.
4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: Senator Fischer commented that it was good to see students at Faculty Forum.
5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: No report.

6. Budget Transparency Committee: No report.
7. Faculty Forum Committee: Faculty Senate will be receiving a follow-up report.
8. Awards Committee: The Committee will meet March 25th to discuss the Distinguished Faculty Award.
9. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord said that the IBHE meeting is on April 1st and that IBHE is looking at data to compare how Illinois is doing against peer states. Provost Lord commented that it was a legislative initiative and that he thinks it is a good idea. There is a BOT meeting on April 21st to take tenure recommendations. The Provost went on to say that he and President Perry met with the House Appropriations Committee and that actions to be taken as a result of the meeting are unknown. Senator Brownson then commented on the 2009-2010 academic calendar. She asked if there has been any discussion on the eight week summer session. Provost responded that there are some cohort programs that need to fit the schedule, which is why we have the **Flex 8**. Brownson then asked why we would be getting out so early this spring. Provost Lord said that he is unsure of how the calendar was initially set, but that it is put out by the registrar's office with the help of a faculty committee. The calendar is based on a set of rules and practices.

V. New Business

- A. Christie Roszkowski, Chair of Council on Academic Affairs, providing an update on CAA; Cole Rogers, Study Body President, on the proposed cultural diversity requirement; and Deb Reid serving as a representative from Writing Across the Curriculum. Christie Roszkowski began by identifying curriculum issues affecting colleges and universities nation wide. They are as follows: curriculum integration, assessment and accountability, core competencies, preparing students to become responsible global citizens, accessibility and retention and the ability to serve the needs of the changing student body. CAA is seeing curriculum integration through interdisciplinary minors and assessment and accountability via using assessment to see where the university is and where it ought to be. Revisions of programs based on assessment have occurred. As for the area of core competencies, especially oral and written communication and math, it is quite time consuming. Currently, the writing portfolio is an end, not a means. Regarding preparing students to be responsible global citizens, Eastern has a strong mission statement which highlights this point. CAA has approved Study Abroad course grades to be part of a student's GPA. CAA has also encountered accessibility and retention issues. CAA has co-sponsored the Retention Forum and the Gateway program has formalized a plan to assist with retention. Additionally, in regard to serving the needs of students, Eastern is beginning to see a more diverse student body. The new nursing program has helped Eastern to serve a student body that it had not previously. There have been some revisions to the BGS. CAA is exploring the idea of having the academic advisor, who now sits on CAA, to be a voting member. Jeff Stohl, a member of CAA, uses Turning

Point in his classrooms and he has proposed that CAA use Turning Point in their voting. Roszkowski commented that if CAA chooses to use this then they will have to make some changes in their by-laws. Senator Brownson then said that another core competency is how students access and use information and that it would be nice if there was a library representative on CAA. Senator Stimac then followed by asking if votes would be recorded with Turning Point. Roszkowski replied that Turning Point would total the votes and that they would not be anonymous. She went on to say that CAA has been trying not to let Banner drive the curriculum decisions in CAA. Senator Fischer said curriculum integration appears to be the most important factor and that what we are really trying to do is bring together courses and instructors to facilitate that integration; the general education courses have to be related to the various disciplines. Roszkowski said that, in the creation of some of the interdisciplinary minors, people are talking to each other. Fischer added that it is also about bringing together instructors in one classroom. Senator Coit commented that the interdisciplinary nature needs to be part of the general education courses. Senator Pommier then said that many universities are starting university leadership curricula. Coit added that there are some concerns that have come up with getting courses cross-listed and going through the participating curriculum committees. Senator Curry said that the History Department has a required graduate course that is team taught. She continued by saying that she does not support having the academic advisor be a voting member of CAA. Curry said that she appreciates that Roszkowski has looked at larger curriculum issues. She then asked Roszkowski what the biggest issues are facing Eastern. Roszkowski commented that Eastern must become more innovative in its approach to curriculum because the student body is changing. It is important to develop an approach that helps their learning and still maintains rigor that meets the needs of Eastern students. She said that Eastern needs to think about what on-line courses will be in a bricks and mortar University. She added that Eastern needs to take a step back and look at the general education curriculum. Senator Fischer went on to say that there needs to be a way of selling general education that is part of a student's major. Roszkowski said that Eastern also needs to demonstrate the importance of courses in a student's major. Curry asked what the reasoning was for not doing a good job of selling general education courses. Fischer responded that it is not easy to find them on our website and that Eastern needs to demonstrate and sell the importance of such classes to the student body. Curry said the concept of having to sell the value of a college education is new to her and that she thought that people who came here were already aware of their reasons for doing so. Senator Dao commented that students are expected to take core classes without knowing why. Senator Brownson then stated that not everyone came from schools with a required general education curriculum. Senator Curry then said that the discussion has been fruitful and that one of the issues the Senate has discussed is if there are ways to further our communications between CAA and Faculty Senate. She went on to say that the Senate has visited the idea about representatives from CAA and Senate sitting in on meetings. Roszkowski stressed the importance of CAA and Senate attending each others' meetings. Cole Rogers, Student Body President

then discussed the cultural diversity requirement. It was said that there are 54 classes offered and that it is required that students take three credit hours' worth. There is a proposed change that students should be required to take six credit hours' worth. This would enable Eastern to take a leadership role, fulfill the University mission and fit the need of a changing society. Affiliations such as the Black Student Union, the Asian American Association, the Latin American Student Organization and the National Pan-Hellenic Council all support the proposed change. There is also faculty support from: Dr. Michael Loudon, Dr. Jose Deustua, Dr. Gary Foster, Dr. Craig Eckert, Dr. Godson Obia and Dr. Suzanne Enck-Wanzer. Those in opposition to the proposal include the Student Government and Residence Hall Association. Reasons for opposition include the desire not to force people to be diverse, not wanting to have to take another class and a strain on class scheduling. Suggested solutions to these reasons include looking at logistics, adding additional classes and making it part of senior seminar. Senator Coit commented that there are many courses that explore cultural diversity. Student Senator Kostelich said that there are also opportunities outside of the classroom to be more diverse. Student Senator Volk commented that students can not be forced to embrace diversity. Senator Sinclair then inquired if the Student Government has voted on the issue. Rogers replied that the Student Government voted against it and that he was not acting on their behalf. Student Senator Kostelich said that senior seminar offers diversity in courses. Senator VanGunten went on to ask what the requirement will be for students in terms of general education and courses addressing diversity. Dean Hoadley said that it is a point of disagreement regarding the issue of dual credit. Senator Curry said that she appreciated Rogers visiting the Senate and clarifying the proposal. Deb Reid then discussed Writing Across the Curriculum. She began by defining WAC as Writing Across the Curriculum and not as Writing Assessment and the Curriculum. Thanks to the EWP changes, WAC plans to return to its academic focus and leave assessment to those really responsible, mainly CASL. Reid said that the role of departmental assessments in CASL's analysis of university-wide writing can be further explored. WAC supports the idea of more effective writing assessment and remains concerned about the effectiveness of the EWP in this regard. WAC also remains concerned about how CASL will service those students who cannot write effectively and the remediation and revisions required. Reid commented that enhancing writing is a university-wide goal. There is a three-year plan, developed by Daiva Markelis and Tim Taylor which includes initiatives to benefit faculty and students such as workshops and retreats, partnering with Faculty Development and developing cross-college and cross-department venues. Reid also discussed being more proactive in providing resources to students. She suggested continuing Eastern Reads, creating a centralized list of writing awards for student work and developing a University Writing Award. Reid then moved on to speaking about making writing more visible in institutional academic goals. Incorporating goals at the institutional level can convey ways that students can approach writing to improve their communication skills. Along with this concept is the notion of making awards for effective writing more visible. Eastern could create a faculty

book corner in the Eastern bookstore and compile a centralized listing of university writing awards for student work. Senator Coit then went on to ask how WAC defines effective writing assessment. Reid replied that there are a number of options, but that WAC members support things such as writing intensive courses. Senator Snyder then confronted Reid because, although Reid said that WAC is not about assessment, no longer reports to CASL, and is leaving EWP responsibilities to CASL, she had nevertheless gone on to say that the role of departmental assessment in CASL's overall analysis of university-wide writing can be explored more, that WAC supports the idea of more effective writing assessment at Eastern, and that WAC remains concerned about how CASL will serve students who cannot write effectively. There appears to be a contradiction. Reid responded that WAC's concern is with the assessment tools used to evaluate writing. Senator Murray then said that the way in which we evaluate writing is different across departments and that therefore assessment tools may also have to differ. Senator Curry said that we are dealing with several different things at one time and that what was brought to the Senate last fall were procedural changes to the EWP rather than ways to address these larger issues of student writing. She said that she appreciates what WAC is doing. Senator Curry went on to say that there has to be a momentum for leading and continuing these discussions.

VII. Adjournment at 4:00 p.m.

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

Thank you to Christie Roszkowski: Chair of Council on Academic Affairs, Cole Rogers: Study Body President and Deb Reid: representative from Writing Across the Curriculum.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Snyder, Recorder