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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR November 14, 2006 (Vol. XXXV, No. 9)

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The Faculty Senate agenda is posted weekly on the Web, at Physical Sciences Building 1450, 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 Chair Assege HaileMariam at 2:00 p.m. (Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440)

Present: J. Ashley, A. Brownson, L. Curry, R. Fischer, A. HaileMariam, B. Joyce, J. Kilgore, R. Marshall, R. Mazumder, J. Pommier, T. Sinclair, J. Snyder, J. Stimac, and D. Van Gunten. Excused: B. Wilson.

Guests: B. Lord (Provost/VPAA), W. Hine (Dean, SCE), D. Hoadley (Dean, LCBAS), G. Obia (Associate Dean, COS), D. Nelson (Director, Nursing Program), L. Bulgar (Student Government Representative), J. Eyer (Student Government Representative), J. Kinsella (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), and E. Hiltner (Photographer, *Daily Eastern News*).

II. Approval of Minutes of 31 October.

Approval of the Minutes of 31 November 2006 (Kilgore / Curry) with correction – Yes: Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Joyce, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Pommier, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, and Van Gunten. Abstain: Ashley.

III. Announcements

- A. Chair HaileMariam thanked all the Senators who attended the fact-finding sessions held by Elaine Hairston of Academic Search, the company designated to help the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. Chair HaileMariam said that a tentative timeline for the search would be the pre-search visit (8 - 9 November), draft a profile for comment (17 November), placement of ad (21 November), applicant pool built (until end of January), 12 – 15 applicants selected (29 January), reference calls made (until 14 February), select 6 – 8 candidates (15 February), preliminary interviews (27 or 28 February), campus visits by 3 – 5 candidates (5 – 9 March), and 3 finalists chosen (12 – 15 March). Chair HaileMariam added that if additional comments can be made to the search firm by emailing elainehairston@academic.search.org.
- B. Chair HaileMariam replied to comments she heard concerning the Faculty Senate's minutes when compared to other campus bodies such as Council of Chairs and other councils. Chair HaileMariam stated that the Faculty Senate represents the entire faculty of Eastern Illinois University and as such the minutes are to be informative and useful.
- C. Senator Joyce informed the Faculty Senate that he had talked with Bob Chesnut, Director of Research and Sponsored Programs. Dr. Chesnut is willing to meet with either the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences or the individual departments that have concerns over CFR awards.
- D. Senator Fischer announced that the Faculty Development speaker Tim Wise did an excellent job and that small group workshops are being developed to follow up on the talk.
- E. Senator Stimac announced that the Department of Geology/Geography is sponsoring two talks as part of Geography Awareness Week. The first will be by Dr. Ruediger Seesemann, professor of religion, Northwestern University in Evanston. He will talk on "Islam, Identity, and Space in Sub-Saharan Africa" on Tuesday, 14 November. On Thursday, 16 November, Dr. Ezekiel Kalipeni, professor of geography, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, will give a presentation on "Using GIS to Model and Forecast HIV/AIDS Rates in Africa, 1986-2010." Both presentations will be held at 7 p.m. in 3040 Physical Science Building.

IV. Communications

- A. Minutes of the President Council for 11, 18, and 27 October.
- B. Minutes of Curriculum Committee of the College of Education and Professional Studies, 23 October.
- C. Telephone communication of 8 November from Brian Poulter, re: proposal from Academic Technology Advisory Committee to require students to purchase laptops.
- D. E-mail from Rajit Mazumder, 11 November, re: EWP. Senator Mazumder stated that three students from a FA05 course came to him wishing to submit an assignment for their respective EWPs. Personnel in the EWP office stated that it was up to the individual instructor to allow or disallow such a submission. Senator Mazumder asked what use the EWP would serve if submitted after such a long period of time after the actual course. Senator Kilgore suggested that at that point, the course grade might be a good measure of the student's writing ability. Senator HaileMariam stated that the EWP committee is redesigning and finishing their report and should have it shortly. Senator Kilgore stated that he believed one reason that the Writing Competency Test was eliminated was

to reduce money of the paid graders. However, aren't people being paid to grade the EWP portfolios and what expenses are associated with the faculty's time grading, and regarding the submissions. Senator Ashley asked if the NCA Accreditation report commented on the EWP.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: no report.
2. Nominations Committee: no report.
3. Awards Committee: Senator Curry announced that the Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service Committee has selected a faculty member who is truly an excellent teacher, an award winning researcher, is selfless with their service to the discipline, University, and community, and has contributed in all aspects of their career. Senator Curry (Marshall) motioned that Dr. Debra Reid, Associate Professor of History, be selected as the Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service recipient for 2006. Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Joyce, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Pommier, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, and Van Gunten. Motion passes unanimously.
4. Elections Committee: no report.
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 Sinclair discussed the Faculty Forum handout distributed last week (attached at the end of these minutes). Senator Fischer suggested that the last three items fit together well and that the first item seemed a little out of place. Senator Kilgore agreed and added that he would like to see a discussion of grade inflation. Senator Curry agreed that the faculty are mostly involved with the first set of items, and that the University community are involved with the other items. Representative Bulgar stated that students would most likely not want to discuss grade inflation. Senator Pommier suggested that items 1, 4, and 5 be removed and that item 2 (How do we make EIU a first choice for students?), 3 (What constitutes good teaching?), and 6 (What is the most important learning experience you have had at EIU?) be modified to bring them under one comprehensive theme. Senator Mazumder suggested that if we are to talk about quality teaching, then consistency of grading should be included. Senator Van Gunten suggested that the 2006 Faculty Forum Summary should be reviewed in order to eliminate similar topics. Senator Joyce stated that the CPA Examination is an external measure of how well students in his college are doing. Although the University CGPA is > 3.0, the pass rate of the CPA Examination is < 50 percent. Student grading should be an important discussion that we should have. Under the Research/Creative Activity section, Senator Snyder stated that items 2 and 6 are exactly the same. Senator Van Gunten added that items 1 and 3 were from last year as well. The next section, Internships/Study Abroad was also from last year. Senator Fischer suggested that the last topic should be modified to be Cultural/Academic Opportunities since we want engagement from the freshman experience through graduation. This engagement should also be an expectation on the faculty as well. Representative suggested that student engagement should be required, not an “extra credit” opportunity as it is typically done now. Senator Fischer suggested that faculty should be held to a higher standard. Senator Sinclair stated that he would take all of the suggestions back to the committee for consideration.
9. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord stated that he had attended the IBHE staff meeting last week. The consensus from the meeting was that when looking at state appropriations, the governor looks at K-12 education, the healthcare system, and pensions before looking at the next tier of requests. Higher education, along with many other groups, is in that next tier. Provost Lord reported that at best, we should expect only small increases, if any, over the next few years. Items that will take precedence will be affordability of higher education, faculty/staff compensation, maintenance and improvement of the facilities, and performance contracts. Provost Lord stated that base allocations will be just that – base allocations. Additional allocations will be based on better deliverables such as energy efficiency improvements and transfer students.

V. New Business

- A. Dr. Dianne Nelson, Director of the Nursing Program. Nelson began the presentation by stating that there are three levels of nursing education: 1) a 4-year Bachelor's degree (this would be equivalent to the program at the Lakeview College of Nursing), 2) an Associate's program that is administered primarily from community colleges, and 3) a diploma program which is 3-years in length and is a host-based program. Background on the nursing

programs was then presented: in the 1940s and 50s the length of nursing programs were shortened so that now roughly 60 percent of all nurses are from Associate-degree programs. However, new forces drove nurses to be better-credentialed so 2-year program that focus on acute illnesses began. The RN → BS program that is starting at Eastern Illinois University will expand the nurses knowledge and training, broaden their career opportunities, allow advancement in their position, prepare many of them for graduate school, and allow improved salaries. Some states are proposing requirements that nurses obtain their Bachelor's degree within 10 years of getting an Associate's degree. Our program at Eastern Illinois University is designed specifically for the Registered Nurse (RN) who wants a BS in Nursing. It will be a four-semester sequence (2 courses per semester) with the first course offered in the fall of 2007. The program will be structured, but will allow some flexibility in scheduling since the participants will be active RNs who have tight schedules already. Much of the program is based on *The essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice*. Requirements for admission include an RN license, admission to Eastern Illinois University, application to the RN → BS program, a CGPA of ≥ 2.5, meeting all health requirements, and completion of required courses for admission. Nelson presented the suggested curriculum schedule (<http://www.eiu.edu/~nursing/rntobsinnursingcourses.html>). Priorities of the program will be the quality, such that only about 30 students are desired at the start. Access for the students to courses at non-traditional times will also be of concern and seamless articulation will be of concern. Personal attention and guidance will be important as will problem-based learning. A tentative timetable for the program is Fall 2006 – courses approved, late Fall 2006 – advisement, Summer 2007 – applications received, August 2007 – classes begin, Spring 2009 – the first class graduates. In terms of financing the program, Nelson stated that there is a working endowment and several scholarships have already been established. Marketing is proceeding and a website has been developed (<http://www.eiu.edu/~nursing>). Senator Pommier asked how many faculty are planned for the program. Nelson replied that initially one or two with more being hired as adjuncts to help in clinicals. Senator Kilgore asked about the number of hours in the program. Nelson replied that this program would be 42 hours of nursing courses and 18 as electives or general education courses. Senator Pommier stated that when this program was first announced there was a great deal of excitement. However, what of those nurses who do not have an Associate's degree. Nelson replied that right now, those nurses couldn't be accepted. Senator Joyce asked about research time for faculty in the program. Nelson replied that at first program development will be the first priority, but after successful development, then research time will be built into the faculty loads. Senator Mazumder expressed concern about a statement made by Nelson earlier concerning to on-line nursing instruction in some programs. Nelson replied that the basic skills are not taught on-line, only the theoretical parts are on-line, then the students are partnered with preceptors. With respect to a statement made by Nelson earlier, Senator HaileMariam asked clarification that only students who received their nursing degrees in U.S. states or possessions would be allowed admission to this program. Nelson replied that this was a requirement made by the Illinois Division of Professional Regulation with regard to RN nurses. Senator HaileMariam expressed concern that those nurses can be recruited to serve here, but then cannot advance by getting into our program. Senator HaileMariam asked about funding of the program. Provost Lord stated that money is still being secured. The small increase in the state allocation and increased money from larger enrollments helped start the program this year. Other sources are being actively pursued and the state has Nursing as one of its top priorities. Senator Brownson asked if increased library materials were needed. Provost Lord stated that a search of what Booth Library had in its collections found a surprising amount, but that additional requests will be made. Senator Fischer asked if the Nursing program needed to be state-certified. Nelson replied yes in that the students who graduate are licensed. Senator Kilgore asked how this program would impact the Lakeview program, nurses at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital and other programs. Nelson replied that a nursing glut in not anticipated owing to retirements. This program will be taking existing students and expanding their knowledge base. Senator Fischer asked how many students the program expects to handle once it is mature. Nelson replied approximately 70. Chair HaileMariam thanked Dr. Nelson for her presentation and answering questions from the Senators.

VI. Adjournment at 3:50 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: IBHE Faculty Advisory Council; Vision for Future, Long Range Planning; Housing; Campus Atmosphere; Research and Sponsored Programs; Faculty Handbook.

Respectfully submitted,

John Paul Stimac

Faculty and Student Forum

The Faculty and Student Senates invite all campus constituents to a Spring Forum to discuss the topic of Creating an Academic Atmosphere. The forum will discuss issues related to academics at EIU. The Senates will then use insights from the Forum to make recommendations for improving the academic atmosphere at EIU.

Where: University Ballroom

When: Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Time: 2-4 pm

Creating an Academic Atmosphere

Academic Quality and Standards

1. How do we attract and retain quality faculty?
2. How do we make EIU a first choice for students?
3. What constitutes good teaching?
4. How should teachers be evaluated?
5. Are we using grades to achieve academic excellence?
6. What is the most important learning experience you have had at EIU?

Research and Creative Activity

1. What are the benefits of undergraduate research and creative activity?
2. What types of research and creative activities are available?
3. What resources are needed to support undergraduate research and creative activity?
4. Are they sufficient?
5. What are the benefits of faculty research and creative activity?
6. What types of research and creative activities are available?
7. What resources are needed to support faculty research and creative activity?
8. Are they sufficient?

Internships/Study Abroad

1. What is the special value of learning experiences outside of the classroom?
2. What does EIU presently do to promote internships and study abroad?
3. What more could be done?
4. What can students do to create their own opportunities for learning outside of the classroom?
5. How do we evaluate internships and other nontraditional learning experiences?

Cultural Opportunities

1. What types of cultural opportunities contribute to learning?
2. What types of cultural experiences are available to EIU students?
3. How could the range of such experiences be broadened, and accessibility for EIU students improved?
4. How can we promote international awareness and experiences of cultural and ethnic diversity?