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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR November 28, 2006 (Vol. XXXV, No. 10)

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 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, D. Van Gunten and B. Wilson.

Guests: B. Lord (Provost/VPAA), C. Chatterji (AVPAA-ITS), M. Hanner (Dean, COS), M. Hoadley (Director, CATS), B. Poulter (ATAC subcommittee on laptop purchase), D. Lawhead (ATAC subcommittee on laptop purchase), J. Eyer (Student Government Representative), C. Kromphardt (Student Government Representative), J. Kinsella (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), and E. Hiltner (Photographer, *Daily Eastern News*).

II. Approval of Minutes of 14 November.

Approval of the Minutes of 14 November 2006 (Brownson / Mazumder) with correction – Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Joyce, Marshall, Mazumder, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, Van Gunten, and Wilson.
Abstain: Kilgore and Pommier.

III. Announcements

- A. The Achievement and Contribution Awards reception will be held on Wednesday, 29 November at 4 PM in the Tarble Arts Center Atrium.

IV. Communications

- A. E-mail from Dr. Karla Sanders, 16 November, re: Electronic Writing Portfolio
B. E-mail from Dr. Dianne Nelson, 19 and 20 November, re: Nursing Program
C. Email from Mike Hoadley on 27 November, re: link to ATAC laptop report (<http://cats.eiu.edu/atac/minutes/ATAC Laptop Purchase Requirements & Information.pdf>)
D. Email from Sean Anderson on 27 November, re: presentation to Faculty Senate. Senator Fischer stated that he will invite Sean Anderson to the Student-Faculty Committee meeting to discuss the proposal.

V. Old Business

- A. Committee Reports
1. Executive Committee: Chair HaileMariam stated that the Executive Committee had met and discussed having Faculty Forum throughout the year by making it electronic in nature. Guest essays would be written and published on the Faculty Senate website and opportunities for discussions would then take place. This would be a virtual forum to some extent. Senator Ashley added that a summary of the key points made each month could then be synthesized into a regular Faculty Forum near the end of the Academic year.
 2. Nominations Committee: no report.
 3. Awards Committee: no report.
 4. Elections Committee: no report.
 5. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: no report.
 6. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: Senator Fischer said that he attended the committee meeting on 13 November. With respect to the proposed smoking ban, it was discussed that SIU-C had received a grant for the study. Questions concerning the use of tobacco by Native Americans in their religious ceremonies were also raised.
 7. Budget Transparency Committee: no report.
 8. Faculty Forum Committee: Senator Wilson passed out a new handout (see attachment at the end of these minutes). Senator Wilson suggested that each breakout session would have a moderator from one of the colleges and that a senator would take notes then summarize. Senator Curry stated that she liked the modified topics. Senator Wilson added that speakers, or experts from the colleges, on each of the four areas could be brought in for a 5 – 10 minute introduction to the topic prior to the discussions.
 9. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord stated that the next Board of Trustees meeting will be on 15 December and reminded faculty to attend the ACA reception on Wednesday, 29 November at 4 PM in the Tarble Arts Center Atrium.

b) Other Reports

- a. Senator Pommier reported for Development and Communication Committee. The Annual Fund has approximately \$110,000 more than last year at this time. The Parent Fund (contributions from parents of current students) has approximately \$26,000. Pre-mailers, sent out prior to the Annual Fund drive are very important in the fund raising effort. Results of the feasibility study for the capital campaign have suggested that the campaign will start with the theme of "Lou's Legacy." Starting 1 January 2007 new endowments must have \$10,000 in them. The Farm Life exhibit will be in Booth Library shortly.
- b. Senator Fischer stated that the Enrollment Management Committee reports applications are down slightly based on this time last year. The Parents Committee is sending newsletters to parents about four times each year. The Faculty Fellows will have a new design based more on academics next semester.
- c. Senator Brownson stated that Great Beginnings Window Committee met and are working out how to solicit quotations from all constituencies. Fundraising will help pay for the etchings of glass inserts that will go in the new sealed windows.
- d. Senator Wilson reported that the search committee for the new General Counsel has had a meeting. If faculty have thoughts as to the qualifications of the new General Counsel, that they should email her (bmwilson@eiu.edu).

V. New Business

- A. Dr. Brian Poulter and Doug Lawhead, members of the ATATC subcommittee on laptop computers. Chair HaileMariam asked what the charge to the subcommittee was that precipitated this report. Poulter replied that a question was raised by ATAC as to what local and regional universities' policies were on laptop computers. The results of the research, this report (<http://cats.eiu.edu/atac/minutes/ATAC Laptop Purchase Requirements & Information.pdf>) should help engage discussions and future decisions. The research indicted four basic types of policies by the universities surveyed: a laissez faire approach in which the university allowed faculty and students to do their own thing. Although a common approach it was a very reactionary approach that had little forethought given to network issues. The second approach was a minimalist approach, which mirrors the approach Eastern Illinois University takes to some degree. Again, a reactive approach, this creates a digital divide between those with technology and those without. The third approach was a middle of the road approach, which is generally well received by students. This approach is implemented at the department, college, or university level. Participants appear to be happier with this approach and it works more efficiently than the others. It is however, more expensive and does not necessarily save money directly. The last approach is a total commitment made by the university, such that it becomes a "laptop university." Again, the expenses for the students, faculty, and infrastructure are higher than the other approaches. This approach is the least reactive. Hoadley stated that based on information supplied by the Housing Office, that 93 – 94 percent of all residence hall students have computers in their rooms. Information supplied by LCBAS indicates that 94.8 percent of its majors have their own computer already. During the fall of 2004 approximately 61 percent of their majors had desktop systems, whereas during the fall of 2006 65 percent of their majors had laptop computers. Similar numbers are also found in CEPS in which more than 90 percent of its majors have their own computers and more than 40 percent have two computers. Poulter added that if computers are required, then the costs can be added to the financial aid package. Senator Ashley asked if any studies had shown an improvement in student when using laptops. Poulter replied that his anecdotal experiences say that they do. However, using the laptop does not mean that students necessarily take notes with them. Use of a laptop allows students to access materials outside of the class. Lawhead added that many faculty initially had trouble adjusting to the use of new technology, but that he has found that his students are more up to speed with class and technology. Senator Ashley asked about software compatibility issues since one browser currently does not work with Banner. Poulter replied that it has not been a problem in his classes since most software is backward compatible. He thought that system operating problems were more of a problem. Chatterji added that new operating systems will be phased in over a number of years. Senator Ashley asked if upgrades and maintenance were the responsibility of the students. Lawhead replied that most colleges who have laptop policies have loaners for hardware problems and that some, e.g., the Kellogg School at Northwestern University, have insurance built into the program. Chatterji added that laptops typically come with a three-year warranty, but that insurance can be added by the student. Hoadley added that students can use the Citrix and Key servers for up-to-date software and that students could also lease hardware is needed. Leasing would allow students to get a laptop their freshman year then upgrade their junior year and purchase at the end of school. Senator Pommier asked what the current technology fee is for students. Hoadley replied that the computer

technology fee is \$55/semester and that the network technology fee is \$48/semester. Senator Pommier asked if the fees would decrease. Hoadley replied that they would not since the money would be going to different technology demands on the campus and network. Senator Wilson asked if there were limits to what financial aid would cover and what the cost would be for students to access the server. Poulter replied that there may be limits with respect to financial aid, but that as far as he knew that the government looked at the total cost of going to school here, which may include the cost of a laptop. In regard to server access, students who have license keys will also have access to the server. Chatterji added that off-campus dial up would also work for students. Senator Wilson then asked how part-time students would be addressed by any of these options. All visitors said that part-time students hadn't been considered yet, but that the question was an excellent example of why these discussions were happening. Senator Wilson also asked about wireless demands. Chatterji replied that infrastructure concerns would have to change in order to meet the increase loads. There would be some type of ramp up required, but to what extent, he wasn't sure. Senator Snyder asked if consideration as to how faculty would change their teaching if students had, or didn't have, laptops was considered. Lawhead replied that faculty are always adapting to changing technology and how they taught, so there is no single answer. Senator Mazumder asked if the laptops would be a university-wide requirement or if they would be discipline specific. Poulter replied that different levels of computers could be offered to different disciplines. The "one flavor fits all" answer is not the best solution. Senator Fischer he could see students in the Biological Sciences needing a couple of different types, or levels, or computers based on their concentration or minor. Lawhead added that there would always be a need for specialty computer labs, based on hardware or software requirements. Senator Fischer asked if money would come from computer labs that are closed to help pay for the new infrastructure. Hoadley replied that it would be re-distributed. Senator Brownson stated that transfers students and students who either declare a major late or change major should also be considered. Senator Curry stated that she personally does not care for the Textbook Rental Service (TRS), but understands that it is used to help recruit students. Her concern is how the University could justify the existence of the TRS, yet consider requiring students to purchase laptops. Lawhead replied that at Indiana State University the students are required to purchase laptops and that surveys are showing that Eastern Illinois University students are already coming with one, or even two, computers. A laptop program will ensure that they arrive with the proper computer. Senator Pommier added that he would be concerned about Eastern Illinois University's rankings in the various reports if laptops are required. Senator Sinclair asked if students are already coming with computers, why are we discussing this issue. Lawhead replied that if the University supported this, then the prices for student computers would be lower. Senator Marshall suggested that computer requirements could be setup based on departmental requirements. Representative Kromphardt stated that if computers are going to be used just for taking notes, then this program would not be the best choice, but if they are used extensively outside the classroom, then it might make for a better use of the computers. Representative Eyer stated that mandatory shouldn't be part of any program considered since many students already have computers when they arrive. Senator Ashley asked if the Journalism Department is the driving force behind this discussion. Poulter replied that it is not, but that he tried to give all options available. Based on the discipline, he [Poulter] could recommend any of the possible options. Senator Ashley suggested that these decisions might be best left up to the departments. Representative Kromphardt asked if students who change major would be burdened with unnecessary purchases. Senator Wilson stated that parents most likely purchase computers for the students while they are still in high school and might be concerned if they are then required to purchase a new computer for college. Poulter suggested that parents would look at the requirements prior to the first purchase. Senator Fischer stated that he disagreed with having discipline-specific computers since he wants students who take courses in his department to be able to do all of the work, even if they are not Biological Science majors. Senator Fischer also added that the digital divide between students who have and those who do not have computers is not what he is worried about. He is worried about the digital divide between students and faculty. Senator Kilgore asked if computer rental might be possible. Poulter replied that rental would be a possibility. Senator HaileMariam asked how faculty would be able to teach if a student's laptop failed in a lab. She added that laptops should be discipline specific, but that if required, the infrastructure will be heavily burdened. Lawhead stated that many places that have instituted laptop programs have done so over a number of years. Senator Mazumder asked how the great price range, from about \$1,000 to over \$4,000 is explained in the research. Such a huge cost, if required, would probably detract many students from applying to Eastern Illinois University. Lawhead replied that the \$4,000 costs is from the University of Michigan art program and includes ancillary art materials. Chair HaileMariam thanked the guests for attending the Faculty and sharing the report.

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 **Promoting Academic Excellence**. 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

Promoting Academic Excellence

Academic Quality and Standard

1. How do we make EIU an academic first choice for students?
2. What do grades tell students, faculty, and employers?
3. What are other indicators of academic success?
4. What are students' responsibilities in achieving academic excellence?
5. How do student evaluations impact teaching?
6. What types of programs could improve academics at EIU?

Research and Creative Activity

1. How do we support faculty initiated research/creative activity?
2. What undergraduate and graduate research opportunities should be available for students?
3. What resources are needed to support research at EIU?

Internships/Study Abroad/Student Exchange

1. What does EIU presently do to promote internships and study abroad?
2. What more could be done?
3. What can students do to create their own opportunities for learning outside of the classroom?

Cultural Opportunities

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