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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR December 5, 2006 (Vol. XXXV, No. 11)

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

Guests: W. Weber (AVPAA), J. Johnson (Dean, CEPS), S. Anderson (Student Government President), L. Bulgar (Student Government Representative), 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 28 November.

Approval of the Minutes of 28 November 2006 (Brownson / Wilson) with correction – Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Snyder, Stimac, Van Gunten, and Wilson. Abstain: Pommier.

III. Announcements

- A. Chair HaileMariam announced that the first meeting of the Faculty Senate next year will be Tuesday, 9 January.

IV. Communications

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: no report.
2. Nominations Committee: no report.
3. Awards Committee: no report.
4. Elections Committee: no report.
5. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: Senator Fischer reported by email that the Student-Faculty relations committee did meet and that the Student Senate is interested in co-sponsoring the Faculty Forum. The next meeting is scheduled for January or February and WebCT® will be the topic of conversation.
6. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: no report.
7. Budget Transparency Committee: Senator Ashley reported that the next meeting is scheduled for 16 January.
8. Faculty Forum Committee: Senator Wilson reported that she hasn't heard feedback yet from the Student Senate. The committee will meet in early to discuss forum particulars such as refreshments. Chair HaileMariam suggested that the Faculty Senate investigate the possibility of having on-line Faculty Forums and discussions throughout the year, rather than a single Faculty Forum in the spring. Senator Wilson suggested that a committee should look into the possibilities such a forum could be formed and how items could be submitted and if moderation would be needed. Senator Kilgore suggested short articles relevant to the faculty at Eastern Illinois University would be appropriate. Senator Curry stated that this sounded like an op-ed piece. Senator Kilgore added that it could be in a point – counterpoint format. Senator Wilson added that a summary of the topics discussed and ideas brought forward could be the basis for the spring forum.
9. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: no report.
 - b) Other Reports: no reports.

V. New Business

- A. Sean Anderson, Student Government President spoke to the Faculty Senate concerning campus safety issues. Anderson stated that he attended the recent Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) meeting with the Student Advisory Committee and realized that campus safety is not an issue – it has zero dollars appropriated to it in this fiscal year. Anderson is asking that the Faculty Senate ask the Board of Trustees (BOT) for state support on this issue. Anderson stated that Illinois is just one of four states that has not comprehensively considered safety issues on campuses. Senator Curry stated that she is glad that the students have brought this issue up since she believes that 4th Street is a hazard owing to dark conditions in the late fall, winter, and early spring. Senator Wilson stated that campus safety is an important issue and asked where safety is currently handled. Anderson replied that safety

has not be an issue in the past, but that Vice President Nadler is putting together a committee to address the issue. Senator Ashley asked if this is something that Eastern Illinois University' students government is looking into, or something that students governments from across the state are doing. Senator Ashley added that if IBHE shifted priority spending, then from what source, that is currently funded, will they take the new funding. Anderson replied that the President or Provost has discretionary funding, but he is not sure what source the funding might be affected. Chair HaileMariam suggested to Senator Ashley that Mr. Anderson is probably not in a position to answer the question and suggested that when Dr. Hyder visits the Faculty Senate in the spring, might be a better time to ask such a question. Senator Stimac suggested that lighting along 4th Street has been a problem since at the end of Fall semester students are returning textbooks in the dark and concerned with getting out of here. When asked, the University Police Department has said it is a city problem, and when asked, the City states that it is a University problem. Senator Kilgore added that he has concerns with staffing levels at the Counseling Center in light of the recent self-inflicted student death. Anderson replied that campus safety involves so many different areas and is not as simple as adding a light. Senator Pommier (Kilgore) made the motion that "The Eastern Illinois University Faculty Senate hereby expresses its earnest agreement in principle with the Campus Safety Initiative: Illinois (CSI: IL) and urges the Board of Trustees to ask the Illinois Board of Higher Education to engage in careful and thorough consideration of campus safety at Illinois universities and colleges." Senator Ashley stated that if the Faculty Senate forces the IBHE to choose safety, they may do so by moving money from other programs. Senator Curry stated that if we request the IBHE to make the request to the state legislature, they can't say no to safety. Senator HaileMariam echoed the concerns of Senator Ashley in that there is only so much money to go around. AVPAA Weber suggested that Faculty Senate check with the Campus Safety Officer, Gary Henbrink; but added that the characteristics of the fiscal situation are correct, so that if the state places money into campus safety, they may do so at the expense of something else. Representative Bulgar stated that the state legislature could be asked not to change any priorities, just added money to campus safety. Senator Wilson stated that even though safety is an important issue, she would like more information before making any binding decisions. The question was called, Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Pommier, Snyder, Stimac, Van Gunten, and Wilson. Motion passes 12-0-0. Chair HaileMariam thanked the Anderson for attending the Faculty and sharing the concerns on campus safety.

- B. Future Agenda Items. Chair HaileMariam reported that Cynthia Nichols, Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, and Caridad Brito, Psychology, will visit the Faculty Senate in January to discuss campus climate. Les Hyder, Faculty Senate representative to the IBHE, is also invited to the Faculty Senate to report on the IBHE. Senator Wilson suggested that Gary Hanebrink, Campus Safety Officer, be invited next semester as well to comment on campus safety issues; Senator Snyder added that Sean Anderson should be invited back to discuss the status of the CSI: IL proposal. Senator Curry asked that a person from the Office of Disability Services be invited. Senator Snyder asked for an update on the grade appeal process that had been presented to a joint session of the CAA and CGS. Senator Kilgore suggested that childcare and family-friendliness issues be discussed next semester.

VI. Adjournment at 3:15 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