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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR January 9, 2007 (Vol. XXXV, No. 12)

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 and VPAA), W. Hine (Dean, SCE), L. Hyder (Faculty representative to the IBHE) 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 5 December.

Approval of the Minutes of 5 December 2006 (Mazumder / Brownson) with correction – Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Pommier, Snyder, Stimac, Van Gunten and Wilson. Abstain: Joyce and Sinclair.

III. Announcements

- A. “Informing our Practice, Sharing our Talents: The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning,” a Faculty Development presentation by Dr. Bonnie Irwin, Dean of the Honors College is scheduled for 17 January, from 2 – 3 PM in the Effingham Room of the MLK Student Union.
- B. “From Myths To Reality: Teaching Culturally Responsive in Higher Education,” a Faculty Development presentation by Dr. Mildred Pearson, Director of Faculty Development, Dr. Pat Fewell, Chair of Secondary Education & Foundations, Dr. Darrel Enck-Wanzer, Communication Studies, and Dr. Suzanne Enck-Wanzer, Communication Studies, is scheduled for 30 January, from 11 AM – 12:30 PM in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of the MLK Student Union.
- C. “Teaching Gender in General Education and Diversity Classes,” a Faculty Development presentation is scheduled for 7 February from 11 AM – 12 noon in the Effingham Room of the MLK Student Union.

IV. Communications

- A. Minutes of the President’s Council meetings on 15 and 29 November and 20 December 2006.
- B. Email of 8 December 2006 from John Stimac, re: Concerns about the availability of crisis/emergency student counseling services.
- C. Email of 10 December 2006 from Audrey Edwards, Chair of COTE, re: replacement for Judy Barbour on COTE.
- D. Email of 11 December 2006 from Sandra Cox, Director of the Counseling Center, re: response to John Stimac’s email concerning regarding the availability of crisis/emergency student counseling services.
- E. Email of 11 December 2006 from Assege HaileMariam, re: direct access to the Counseling Center in case of emergency/crisis outside of business hours.
- F. Minutes of Intercollegiate Athletic Board Meeting on 14 December 2006.
- G. Email of 5 January 2007 from Brenda Wilson, re: Restructuring of the CUPB. Senator Wilson suggested that Senators provide input on the various proposals as to the make up of the CUPB.
- H. Email of 9 January 2007 from Charles Delman, re: Restructuring of the CUPB. He forwarded communication from Gary Fritz, UPI Representative to the CUPB to Pat Fewell, Chair of CUPB, supporting the reduction of CUPB, but asking for UPI representation and “broad” faculty representation.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Senator Stimac reported that during the Executive Committee on 11 December that President Hencken stated that the revised Mission Statement will be presented to the Board of Trustees, but that President Hencken will ask that approval be held until the 19 January meeting of the Board. The request allows the Board of Trustees to approve the Mission Statement during a time when all faculty, staff, and students are on campus rather than during final examinations. President Hencken stated that little additional budgetary information was made available at the recent Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) meeting. President Hencken believes the IBHE will do something shortly concerning funding, but is not sure what that might be. President Hencken speculated that a new capital bill for equipment and furniture for the Doudna Fine Arts Centers, in the amount of ~\$1.5M, architectural plans for a new science building, roughly \$7 - 8M, and plans for a new power plant may pass. President Hencken reported that enrollments appear stable, or slightly down (~100 – 150) for next year.

2. Nominations Committee: no report.
3. Awards Committee: no report.
4. Elections Committee: Senator Ashley stated suggested that a deadline of 2 March be established for candidates to submit election questions and petitions and that this year's faculty elections be held on 21 and 22 March. Senator Fischer (Brownson) motioned that 2 March be the deadline for election materials be returned to the Elections Committee and that the elections be held on 21 and 22 March. Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Joyce, Marshall, Mazumder, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, Van Gunten and Wilson. Motion passes 13-0-0.
5. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: Senator Fischer reported that he met with Sean Anderson and David Keyes concerning their WebCT® proposal and will meet again shortly.
6. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: no report.
7. Budget Transparency Committee: Senator Ashley reported that the committee will meet with VPBA Cooley and ask about placing the entire budget on-line and about using Panther Cards more since they have the magnetic sensing strip on the back.
8. Faculty Forum Committee: Senator Wilson stated that the committee will meet next Tuesday.
9. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord thanked the faculty and reported that the semester has gotten off to a good start. The Provost reported that the December graduating class was the largest on record, which means that spring enrollments may be down a little. The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for 19 January.
 - b) Other Reports: Chair HaileMariam reported that Cynthia Nichols, Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Diversity and Caridad Brito, Professor Psychology, will present the Campus Climate Survey at the next Faculty Senate Meeting. Senator Wilson stated that General Counsel search will review applications received thus far this coming week. They have received 5 applications. Chair HaileMariam reported that there is nothing additional to report on the Presidential Search, but that the next meeting for the committee is 31 January.

V. **New Business**

- A. Les Hyder, Faculty Representative to the IBHE. Hyder handed out his report (attached at the end of the minutes) on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) to the Senators and summarized that key points and stating that there is still not enough money available to do want needs to be done in higher education. Higher education has been placed lower on the state's list of priorities. Hyder expects that the legislature will make Textbook Rental Services, like the one we have at Eastern Illinois University, an important point this year since it appears to be a no-loose option politically. Senator Ashley asked that with respect to teacher preparation, how long it would take for teachers to earn their degrees if the recommendation made by the FAC committee went into effect. Hyder expected that it would be longer, but was not sure. Senator Fischer stated that the state is adding regulations to the growing list of requirements that education majors must follow in order to graduate. The state should review those requirements if they wish to streamline the process. Senator Wilson asked if we have data concerning students who have entered Eastern Illinois University with 2-year degrees versus those who begin and end their degrees here. Senator Wilson stated that she believes those who enter with 2-year degrees are not as successful. Senator Joyce asked why community colleges are less expensive than the 4-year institutions. Provost Lord stated that the cost structure of the community colleges is very different than at the 4-year institutions – different faculty salaries, overhead costs, and the fact that property taxes help pay for community colleges. Provost Lord added that community college students do not always intend to get 4-year degrees so that is also a different experience if they do decide to continue. Hyder added that the impressions being given by the FAC is that universities must make every effort to reduce “wasted” classes that do not transfer to 4-year degrees. Hyder stated that new 2+2 programs have been developed between the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, College of Sciences, and regional community colleges. Chair HaileMariam thanked Dr. Hyder for the report and the discussion that followed.

VI. **Adjournment at 3:22 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

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Assege HaileMariam
DATE: January 9, 2007
SUBJECT: Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council

I always perceive my meetings with the Senate as an opportunity to receive feedback on issues that FAC has considered as well as suggestions regarding others that FAC should address. It is important that my contributions to FAC reflect the values and concerns of my faculty colleagues and serve the interests of the university.

In addition to the Faculty Senate, I have routinely copied the chair of the Council on Academic Affairs, Council on Graduate Studies, Council of Chairs, the provost, and the president. I have encouraged them to share with others as deemed appropriate and to also provide feedback and suggestions. I have found that on some issues they have more or different information that has been made available to FAC and/or different perspectives on some issues, which they should be encouraged to share with the Senate and me.

Legislative Guests. During the past two years, local legislators and state legislative leaders have been invited to attend each FAC meeting. These meetings are perceived as having created a better understanding of each other. One point on which all seem to agree is that the governor and legislative leaders agree on three funding priorities: K-12 education, healthcare, and pensions. Several, including the senate speaker and governor's legislative liaison, have acknowledged that higher education is in lowest category with all the other agencies and programs seeking state funding.

My perception is that higher education is not well understood and its contributions are not appreciated by the state's leaders and that it is imperative that we in higher education must become more aware of and perhaps accepting of their perceptions lest the nature and mission of the academy be irreparably changed, either through legislative action or inertia in providing funding. Several legislators, notably Senate Speaker Emil Jones, expressed their belief that public colleges and universities are inefficient and have been especially critical of faculty workloads, tenure, emphasis on research (much of which was described as "frivolous" or something similar) at the expense of teaching students, and tenure. Research in the hard sciences, however, was recognized by most as having value. We need to do a better job of making known to the public what we are researching and why it is relevant and valuable.

Higher Education Legislative Coalition. A common theme in feedback from meetings with legislators was that higher education's representatives did not speak with a common message.

While the Faculty Advisory Council is not a lobbying group, we recognized the need to seek opportunities to identify common interests and speak with a common voice in our various forums. Beginning this year, a FAC representative has attended some meetings of the legislative coalition. Thus far I have been that representative. Other members of the executive committee are being encouraged to attend meetings during the spring. Recent topics have included A+ Illinois, the political landscape for higher education, pensions and SURS, and textbook rental. Affordability is expected to be the issue that trumps all other higher education issues during this legislative session. The coalition expects to work closely with the higher education legislative caucus in the new legislature.

Teacher Preparation. Last spring discussion and debate of teacher preparation has been an ongoing topic during FAC meetings. A committee, mostly comprised of FAC members who are involved in teacher education in various liberal arts disciplines, began drafting a position statement and began work on a draft last summer. The final draft was widely circulated for comment. I sent it to all EIU departmental teacher education coordinators and department chairs, deans, the vice president for academic affairs, the Council on Academic affairs, and others. Among its significant provisions were that students seeking teacher certification should earn a baccalaureate degree in the discipline for which certification is sought and that there be high academic standards for admission, including a minimum 3.0 GPA in the major and all education courses. Only Dean Jackson, College of Education and Professional Studies, expressed opposition, which was shared with FAC. Her concerns and those shared with FAC members by the education deans at Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University were considered when the final version of the position statement was prepared. It was approved by near unanimous vote and presented to the IBHE in December. The statement received positive feedback from several IBHE members but prompted the state's education deans to write a joint letter encouraging the Board to disregard FAC's statement. FAC last week decided to offer to meet with representatives of the deans and others in an effort to present a statement that has broad support.

A+ Illinois. FAC has contributed to drafts of IBHE staff recommendations for P-20 education. While still in the draft stage, recommendations include

- aligning P-16 standards, expectations and educational outcomes to remedy the disconnect between P-12 learning standards and graduation requirements and the expectations of postsecondary education and the workplace;
- improving teacher preparation, including
 - creation and implementation of professional development schools within teacher preparation programs,
 - requiring that all teacher education programs be accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and
 - requiring teacher candidates to pass performance-based assessments prior to admission to a college of education, student teacher placement and completion of student teaching;
- new IBHE grant program to encourage collaboration between universities and community colleges in recruitment, advisement and transfer of AAT graduates;
- new IBHE grant program to establish partnerships between 4-year institutions and community colleges to provide baccalaureate completion on community college campuses for AAT degree graduates;
- development of a statewide integrated data system – including student records – to assess and inform schools, P-12 districts, community colleges and universities on student, teacher, school, and teacher preparation program performance; and

- establishment of a Joint Education Committee-like coordinating group to oversee the transitions between P-12, community colleges and 4-year institutions, and coordinate P-16 policies that overlap the various areas.

Although skeptical about whether the state Board of Education will effectively implement them when the final recommendations are submitted, FAC members seem generally supportive of the recommendations. Should the BOE then not do so, FAC may recommend that IBHE and colleges and universities go forward in implementing as many as are within their control.

Student Debt. FAC is currently preparing a position statement on student debt. FAC's chair has made several overtures to the Student Advisory Committee about a joint statement, but no response has been received from the SAC chair. Prompting FAC's concern is the increase in loan amounts to cover higher tuition, fees and other expenses at a time when state and federal financial assistance programs are decreasing and interest rates are increasing.

Textbook Rental. Because textbook rental continues to be of interest to members of the legislature, IBHE has encouraged FAC to submit a position statement. FAC has not yet done so, and probably will not. Most FAC members feel that state mandated textbook rental programs at public institutions will have prohibitive start-up costs and impose on academic freedom. I have taken no position on this issue since EIU has a successful program. Too, Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, has advised me that EIU's textbook rental program is an effective recruiting tool. FAC may issue a statement encouraging faculty to be more attentive to timely provision of textbook requirements so competing university and for-profit book sellers can have books in stock.

IBHE Strategic Planning. IBHE staff is in the early stages of preparing to begin a strategic planning process for the Board. The scope and purposes have not yet been determined. This process applies only to IBHE. FAC understands that this process is not one that will be required of colleges and universities and presumably will have minimal impact on them.

Spelling Commission on Higher Education Report. FAC will monitor Congressional and other responses to this report. With the change in majority control of both houses of Congress, the report's reception is not clear. While there is merit in some of the commission's findings, there are other components that raise significant concerns.

FAC received two other reports Friday but no members have yet had time to review them. "Transforming Higher Education: National Imperative-State Responsibility" was issued by the National Conference of State Legislatures. The second report, "Setting a Public Agenda for Higher Education in the States," was released by The National Collaborative for Higher Education Policy. My hasty scanning of the reports identified several findings and recommendations that are worthy of consideration.

Community College Baccalaureate Degrees. It is expected that Harper's College will again seek legislative approval to offer a baccalaureate degree, probably in homeland security and/or nursing. The argument will be that four-year institutions in the region have not responded to needs for such programs. Danville Area Community College's proposal of a couple of years ago to offer a baccalaureate degree in nursing does appear to be on the radar this legislative session. This may be because Eastern has stepped forward and is developing a nursing program. [On a related note, IBHE in December approved funds to retain selected critical needs faculty in nursing. Eastern was ineligible for consideration because only nursing faculty members in existing programs were eligible.]

I believe that EIU has responded to these needs in an appropriate manner that is consistent with its mission and scope. It is unfortunate that this responsible response has not

been rewarded by funding and other support. The state's response is unlikely to encourage other colleges and universities to do likewise.

Online Degrees. FAC has approved a position paper stating that those who complete a degree program (undergraduate or graduate) by taking more than 80 percent of their course work online should not receive the traditional bachelors, master, or doctoral degree. Rather, a new nomenclature should be used to distinguish online programs of study from the traditional means. That statement makes no presumption that online programs are inferior to traditional program but recognizes it is a significantly different learning experience. Implied in the statement is that online programs should establish their credibility without piggybacking on that of the traditional programs. A different nomenclature will provide important information to potential employers, some of who may prefer those who did not earn a traditional degree. Most of the online degree programs are currently offered by for profit business enterprises.

Senior administrators at the University of Illinois are proceeding with planning for a "fourth campus" through which courses are offered online. While this is an interesting concept, FAC representatives from the three U of I campuses report that faculty have not had a significant voice and have many questions and reservations.

Support of EIU Administrators. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity and acknowledge the support of President Lou Hencken and VPAA/Provost Blair Lord for my FAC efforts. Funding has been provided for my travel to meetings and for the two FAC meetings hosted by EIU throughout my term. They have provided additional support this year as I serve as FAC's vice chair and member of the executive committee. Unlike some of their peers at other institutions they have encouraged to be outspoken on issues and have never tried to exercise prior restraint or censorship. They have not tried to manipulate or influence my contributions to and through FAC. To their great credit, they have been prompt in responding to my requests for data, information or background so that the chances have been lessened that I will be ill informed. If I have been misguided, it is through no fault of theirs. Regrettably, several of my FAC colleagues have not had the benefit of the support and trust of their chief administrators. I also acknowledge the consideration shown by the dean of my college, James Johnson, and chair of my department, James Tidwell, who have been accommodating in scheduling my classes and workload assignments. Not all FAC members have received similar consideration from their chair and dean.

From a broader perspective, I perceive that President Hencken, Dr. Lord, and Jill Nilsen are respected by their peers and by the IBHE staff. Thus, they have represented EIU's interests effectively at a time when the university's circumstances could have been even worse.

Copy to:

Christie Roszkowski, Council on Academic Affairs
Kathleen O'Rourke, Council on Graduate Studies
John Oertling, Council of Chairs
Amanda Raz, EIU's IBHE Student Advisory Committee Representative
Blair Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Lou Hencken, President