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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR February 20, 2007 (Vol. XXXV, No. 15)

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. (University Ballroom)

Present: J. Ashley, A. Brownson, L. Curry, R. Fischer, A. HaileMariam, B. Joyce, J. Kilgore, R. Marshall, J. Pommier, T. Sinclair, J. Snyder, J. Stimac, and B. Wilson. Excused: R. Mazumder and D. Van Gunten. Guests: B. Lord (Provost and VPAA), D. Jackman (Dean, CEPS), C. Phillips (Director, Human Resources), K. Waggoner (Assistant Director for the Office of Disability Services), D. Cuthbert (Student Government), J. Eyer (Student Government), J. Kinsella (*Daily Eastern News* reporter), J. Grabiec (*Daily Eastern News* photographer).

II. Approval of Minutes of 6 February.

Approval of the Minutes of 6 February (Wilson / Joyce) with correction – Yes: Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Joyce, Kilgore, Pommier, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, and Wilson. Abstain: Ashley and Marshall.

III. Announcements

- A. Distinguished Faculty Award Announcement is now on-line at the Faculty Senate's web site.
- B. Email of 19 February from Assege HaileMariam, re: revised grade appeals policy.
- C. Email of 19 February from Michael Hoadley, re: Turning Point Conference on 5 – 6 March.
- D. Communication from John Kilgore, re: concern raised by L. Coleman as to the need of better communication regarding email interruptions or outages. Provost Lord indicated that there has been a lack of Help Desk reports indicating email problems. If faculty have problems, they should be reported to the Help Desk (581-4357) so the data can be recorded and a report made.

IV. Communications

- A. Minutes of the President's Council, 24 January. It was noted that the composition of the CUPB has been reduced from 37 voting members to 24 voting members.
- B. Email of 13 February from Dave Keyes, re: Faculty Senate student representative.
- C. Email of 13 February from Provost Lord, re: 2008-2009 Academic Calendar
- D. Email of 14 February from Dean Jackman, re: Replacement on COTE

V. Old Business

- A. Committee Reports
 1. Executive Committee: no report.
 2. Nominations Committee: Senator Pommier stated that Olaf Hoerschelmann has agreed to serve on the University Personnel Committee and Timothy Croy has agreed to serve on the Tuition and Fees Committee. Rose Gong, David Melton, Brenda Wilson, and Jean Wolski will serve on the Research/Creative Activities Advisory Committee.
 3. Awards Committee: Senator Ashley reported that the deadline to submit faculty elections petitions is Friday, 2 March. A list of open positions can be found at the Faculty Senate's web site.
 4. Elections Committee: Senator Fischer stated that the committee met and discussed methods to implement faculty use of WebCT[®], or similar method, of posting syllabi and grades. Senator Curry stated that the committee would write a statement to consider using electronic enhancements in teaching. Senator Wilson said she thought the original intent of the request by S. Anderson and D. Keyes was for access to midterm grades. Senator Fischer said that it would be up to faculty as to what is posted. Senator Snyder said that posting anything would raise awareness for the students of their progress in class. Senator Fischer added that there is discussion to make the new Safety Committee a standing committee.
 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 Wilson stated that the general recommendations from the Faculty Forum are listed at the end of the Faculty Forum minutes. Chair HaileMariam indicated that if the Faculty Senate wanted to start an Electronic Faculty Forum column, then now would be the time. Senator Fischer said that a listserv would be one method to begin discussions. Senator HaileMariam said that blogs, columns, and listserves are all possibilities, but added that this column will not be a place for complaints. Senator Curry stated that even a listserv would need a moderator. Senator Kilgore stated that in his experience with a listserv, obsessive posters would tend to force others out. Senator Brownson said that this idea would be perfect for an RSS feed. Senator Fischer added that links on the *University Newsletter* and Faculty Senate web site with a short information piece, then link to the primary column, would work well.
9. Awards Committee – Senator Brownson said that the Distinguished Faculty Award material is now online.
10. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord asked the Faculty Senate if the 2008-2009 calendar was acceptable. No senators raised any concerns. Provost Lord also informed the Faculty Senate that the Registrar, Sue Harvey, broke her ankle last week, but is doing better.
 - b) Other Reports: Senator Fischer reported that the Enrollment Management Advisory Committee was pleased with the large number of participants at the recent Open House. Enrollment numbers are increasing. Senator Fischer also informed the Faculty Senate that the *Eastern Reads! A First-Year Reading Experience* has chosen the book *A Hope Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League*, by Ron Suskind, as its first book. Students will receive the book during EIU Debut, and that ancillary material will be posted on a web site. Information sheets will be given to parents. Book discussions will be led by faculty, staff, and administrators on the Friday before classes begin in August. Chair HaileMariam stated that the Presidential Search Advisory Committee had narrowed the number of applicants down to 14 and would be meeting shortly to further narrow the field and begin off-campus interviews.

V. New Business

A. Faculty and Student Forum.

Charles Phillips, Director of Human Resources and Kathy Waggoner, Assistant Director for the Office of Disability Services visited the Faculty Senate. Waggoner brought information from previous presentations given to other committees and councils in order to answer questions more effectively. The Office of Disability Services now serves 484 students (304 have permanently registered, 105 are prospective, and 15 are interim) and provides counseling with respect to the services they provide and documents eligibility for college services versus high school requirements. Annual reports are also generated. Senator Ashley asked how faculty are supposed to know the procedures for students who present notes to the instructors concerning special needs of the students. Waggoner explained the procedures and the fact that they are done in the manner they currently are done primarily owing to resources scarcity. Everything is done to preserve the student's confidentiality and security of tests or examinations. Senator HaileMariam stated that the current system might be effective from Disability Services' perspective, but not the faculty member's. Waggoner stated that a streamlined process could be considered, but that security and confidentiality would need to be paramount. Senator Joyce stated that he is frustrated when a student brings a letter mentioning accommodation, yet who doesn't request it when a test arrives. Waggoner explained that the burden is not on the faculty member to make the accommodation available, but on the student to ask. Waggoner recommends that the faculty ask the student to initial the accommodation letter stating that they do not want the accommodation. Waggoner said that Disability Services is trying to get a grant to help with assisted technology, such as the Universal Reader[®], and placing that across campus. Senator Ashley asked why there is an Office of Disability Services if faculty are responsible for the accommodation. Waggoner said that their office is qualified to judge the various disabilities. Provost Lord added that the University is obligated to provide accommodation. Such accommodation is typically extended time on examinations or notes. If special software is required, the University will provide adaptive technology if needed. Senator Curry stated that most faculty are not qualified to judge the various accommodations and do not have room for allowing students to take an examination at a separate computer station, e.g., in her case, the student would have to use Senator Curry's computer. This again indicates that resources are lacking. Senator Sinclair said that the primary reason new Special Education teachers leave the profession is the large amount of paperwork that must be completed. Senator Snyder suggested that a

Graduate Teaching Assistant might be assigned to the Office of Disability Services to help. Waggoner responded that a GA would be a great help, but that they should be there for two years in order to learn the procedures; a one semester, or even one year assignment would be difficult on both the office and the GA. Phillips explained that he is also the American with Disabilities Act coordinator for faculty and staff and helps to ensure compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, e.g., if temporary accommodations are required then the faculty member or staff should contact his office and they will review the request. Departments will pay for any accommodation. Senator Ashley asked if the final judgment is Phillips' and the response was yes. Phillips added that authorization of the accommodation is made by him, not a judgment as to what accommodation needs to be made, e.g., he would authorize an accommodation for a faculty member, then it is up to the faculty member to check with their physician to identify the most appropriate software, for example, that would help. The department would pay for the software. Phillips indicated that his decisions could be appealed. Senator Ashley why it is the department's responsibility to pay for the accommodation and not the institutions. Phillips replied that ultimately the institution does pay for the accommodation since it is taken from the departmental budget, which is authorized by the institution. Senator Fischer stated that he thought the services that the Office of Disability Services offers are great, since he had a daughter who used their services. Senator Brownson asked if the Office of Disability Services employs any student workers. Waggoner said that at this time, no, on account of confidentiality concerns. Chair HaileMariam suggested that the Office of Disability Services look at making the process more streamlined and suggested that Human Resources publicize the fact that they should be contact when faculty and staff have accommodation requests. Chair HaileMariam thanked both for speaking with the Faculty Senate.

VI. Adjournment at 3:55 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: Construction Updates; Athletics; Research and Sponsored Programs, Faculty Retirement Reception, EWP Survey Results; Family Friendly Campus Initiative; Faculty Handbook.

Respectfully submitted,

John Paul Stimac