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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR April 24, 2007 (Vol. XXXV, No. 21)

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

Guests: B. Lord (Provost and VPAA), J. Johnson (Dean, CAH), D. Cuthbert (Student Government Representative), J. Eyer (Student Government Representative), C. Kromphardt (Student Government Representative).

II. Approval of Minutes of 17 April.

Approval of the Minutes of 17 April (Snyder / Sinclair) with correction – Yes: Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Mazumder, Pommier, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, and Van Gunten. Abstain: Ashley, Marshall, and Wilson.

III. Announcements

- A. Ceremony for Virginia Tech shooting victims, 24 April from 1 – 4 PM (public participation). Program begins at 4 PM, Grand Ballroom, MLK Jr. Union. Senator Kilgore (see IV.F) suggested that with respect to the tragedy last week at Virginia Tech, that maybe the Faculty Senate make a statement about mass shootings on campuses and possibly urge our legislators to fast-track the Brady Bill. Senator Curry said that as an individual, she would be comfortable with contacting her legislators, but that she is not comfortable with the Faculty Senate doing so. Senator Ashley suggested that a call to faculty be placed to see what the faculty think. Senator HaileMariam said that it is a person's right to bear arms, but the problem arises when the person is mentally unfit.
- B. Senator Fischer asked that faculty interested in the Eastern Reads! Program please contact him (rufischer@eiu.edu). The program needs about twenty additional faculty who are willing to commit 1.5 hours of their time on Friday, 17 August. If interested in volunteering for the program, faculty access a form at <http://www.eiu.edu/~orient/ervolunteer.php>. If you have any questions about the program please feel free to contact Bud Fischer (rufischer@eiu.edu) or Bonnie Irwin (bdirwin@eiu.edu).

IV. Communications

- A. Email of 16 April from Joseph Williams, Chair of UPC, re: Membership for the 2007 – 2008 Academic Year.
- B. Memorandum of 22 April from Christine McCormick, re: Criteria for recognition of faculty retirees.
- C. Email of 23 April from Gail Richard, re: Faculty Senate Appointments.
- D. Email of 23 April from John Kilgore, re: Gun control.
- E. Email of 24 April from Rich McDuffie, re: Scholarship for Study Abroad

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Chair HaileMariam gave the end of the year summary of Faculty Senate activities. Chair HaileMariam thanked the Senate and indicated that serving as chair was a unique opportunity to learn about Eastern Illinois University and to see the larger picture. She thanked each senator for being good colleague and teachers to her during her chair tenure and indicated that she could not have asked for a better Faculty Senate these last two years. Chair HaileMariam added that the Executive Committee functioned as a team during the tenure and she thanked Senator Ashley and Senator Stimac for their hard work. Chair HaileMariam indicated that during the 2006 – 2007 Academic Year, the Faculty Senate was able to accomplish the following:
 - a. Increased collegiality and communication with other committees on campus as well as the administration. The status of the Faculty Senate was raised on campus by including these other committees and by the role it took on key issues. Larger issues, e.g., working on the EWP with John Oertling and Debra Reid; reduction in number of members on CUPB; problems involving

ITS/Business Affairs should be identified through program evaluation, were worked on prior to them being brought before the Faculty Senate.

- b. This year's Faculty Forum, given the weather conditions, were very successful and the outcome of having electronic discussions in the future.
- c. The Faculty Retirement Recognition Wall will be built this summer. Thanks to the committee, chaired by Christine McCormick, the criteria have been decided (more than 15 years of service, Unit A or Unit B faculty or chairs, must have retired since 2000). President Hencken, Provost Lord, and Dean Lanham are thanked for their efforts in this as well.

The Faculty Senate still needs to focus or accomplish the following items:

- a. The status of departmental chairs serving on the executive committee should be clarified. They are elected to Faculty Senate, but there is an apparent hesitation to allow them to serve on the committee.
- b. The Faculty Senate webpage needs to be updated and follow the suggestions of web template for Eastern Illinois University. The Faculty Senate needs a dedicated graduate assistant. The Faculty Senate webpage should be the primary source of communication for the faculty.
- c. The Faculty Senate Chair position should help raise the status and profile of the Faculty Senate across campus. Part of this should be that the chair should be invited to all university functions and introduced.
- d. The Faculty Senate should be closely involved with the process of revising the EWP.
- e. The Faculty Senate is urged to consider expanding the role of the Budget Transparency Committee to include following up with ITS/Business Affairs' program evaluation.

The Executive Committee thanks Provost Lord for his leadership. Through the Provost's Management Letter, the academic mission of Eastern Illinois University has a real direction in which to head. The Provost has also been supportive of the needs of the faculty and has respectfully listened, even when he disagreed, and always gives explanations to his view.

2. Nominations Committee: Senator Pommier stated that John Oliver would be appointed to the Intercollegiate Athletic Board to serve out the term of Daneen Deptula. This will be a two-year position.
3. Elections Committee: Executive Committee elections were held. Senator Brownson nominated Senator Curry for Chair. There were no other nominations. Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Pommier, Sinclair, Snyder, Stimac, Van Gunten, and Wilson. Senator Curry elected 14-0-0 as the chair of Faculty Senate for the 2007 – 2008 year. Senator Ashley nominated Senator Brownson for Vice Chair. Senator Stimac nominated Senator Snyder for Vice Chair. A roll call vote was taken; voting for Brownson: Ashley, Brownson, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Sinclair, Van Gunten, and Wilson; voting for Snyder: Curry, Fischer, HaileMariam, Pommier, Snyder, and Stimac. Senator Brownson elected as Vice Chair of Faculty Senate for the 2007 – 2008 year. Senator Ashley nominated Senator Snyder for Recorder. Senator HaileMariam nominated Senator Stimac for Recorder. A roll call vote was taken; voting for Snyder: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Fischer, Kilgore, Marshall, Mazumder, Pommier, Sinclair, Snyder, Van Gunten, and Wilson; voting for Stimac: HaileMariam. Abstain: Stimac. Senator Snyder elected as Recorder of Faculty Senate for the 2007 – 2008 year. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate for 2007 – 2008 will be Curry (Chair), Brownson (Vice Chair), and Snyder (Recorder).
4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: no report.
5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: no report.
6. Budget Transparency Committee: Senator Ashley stated that he liked the suggestion made by Chair HaileMariam to expand the role of the Budget Transparency Committee.
7. Faculty Forum Committee: no report.
8. Other Reports
 - a) Provost's Report: Provost Lord indicated that he will try to get help from CATS as well as a graduate assistant for the Faculty Senate in the future. The Provost stated that this past Saturday's Open House was very successful and that the number of incoming freshman appears good. This Thursday he, President Hencken, and others will be going to Springfield to discuss budgets. They will be asking for additional funding, but are not sure of how the legislature will proceed with the requests from higher education. The Provost encouraged all faculty to attend Commencement on 5 May if possible. Provost Lord thanked the Executive Committee for the work they did this year.

- b) Other Reports: Senator Wilson stated that the Dr. Perry will meet with the two prospective General Counsel candidates on Friday.

V. New Business

- A. The summer meeting of the Faculty is Scheduled for Tuesday, 19 June at 2 PM in the Booth Library Conference Room.
- B. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will on Thursday, 26 April at 2 PM in the Martinsville Room of the MLK, Jr. Student Union. This is a special meeting.
- C. Senator Brownson asked if there will be any response to the issue raised at last meeting concerning the column written by Harry Reynolds. Senator Kilgore suggested that his column may have been an upside down compliment. The recent letter to the editor by Herb Lasky, retired Dean of the Honors College, indicated that he had always been treated with respect when at Faculty Senate.
- D. Chair HaileMariam thanked those members of Faculty Senate who are leaving the Senate – Jeff Ashley, John Kilgore, Rajit Mazumder, and Brenda Wilson.

VI. Adjournment at 3:00 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: Construction Updates; Family Friendly Campus Initiative; Faculty Handbook.

Respectfully submitted,

John Paul Stimac