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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR August 23, 2005 (Vol. XXXIV, No. 1)

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Call to Faculty: Please contact any of the Senators with ideas for future agenda items. You may use the individual, or group, email links found on the Faculty Senate's members page.

- I. Call to order by Chair Dr. Assege HaileMariam at 2:00 p.m.** (Library Conference Room, Booth Library)
Present: J. Ashley, A. Brownson, L. Curry, M. Dao, R. Fischer, A. HaileMariam, J. Kilgore, R. Marshall, M. Monipallil, J. Pommier, T. Sinclair, J. Stimac, and B. Wilson.
Guests: B. Lord (Provost and VPAA), C. Rohn (Dean, CEPS), D. Carpenter, D. Markelis, R. Murray, C. Frederick (Student VPAA), and K. Mahugh (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*).

- II. Approval of Minutes of 26 April 2005.**
Motion (Fischer / Brownson) to approve the Minutes of 26 April 2005. Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Fischer, HaileMariam, Kilgore, and Stimac. Abstain: Curry, Dao, Marshall, Sinclair, and Wilson.

III. Announcements

- A. Convocation is being held 30 August at 7 PM in the University Grand Ballroom. Chair HaileMariam encouraged all Senators who could attend to please do so in welcoming entering freshman to Eastern Illinois University.
- B. New Faculty Reception to be held 20 September from 4 – 6 PM in the Tarble Arts Center. This is co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate.
- C. Chair of Board of Trustees (BOT), Julie Nimmons, visits the Faculty Senate on 20 September.
- D. VPAA Lord announced that the Faculty Luncheon, co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate, is being held on 31 August beginning at 11:30 AM in the Grand Ballroom.

IV. Communications

- A. Letter of 6 July from John Kilgore, re: Memorandum to EIU Health Service Staff. Senator Kilgore stated that the memorandum asked Health Service staff to refrain from commenting on a lawsuit being brought against it. Staff are to refer questions to the official University spokesperson. Senator Kilgore stated that considering the institution is dedicated to free speech, open and free discussions should be allowed on the matter. To stifle such a discussion would be an injustice. Senator Kilgore believes that this issue is a human rights issue as well. Senator Kilgore referred to an issue that was reported a few years ago in which an employee was suspended with pay owing to publishing his opinions in the *Daily Eastern News*. Senator Ashley asked if Senator Kilgore knew if the memorandum had stopped discussion of the issue at Health Services. Senator Kilgore replied that he would be surprised if it had and that such a memorandum had disturbing overtones in that only the issuing authority was issuing the official statements. Senator Fischer asked if such a memorandum isn't considered usual under pending lawsuits. Senator Brownson agreed with Senator Fischer and added that this should be considered a personnel matter. Senator Curry stated that the issue should be worked out before any discussion happened. Representative Frederick stated that this issue is a "crisis communication item" and that discussion now would take the issue out side of the proper bounds. Senator Monipallil stated that the British use of the concept of *sub judice*, in which once a lawsuit begins all public comment must cease, should be practiced in this case. Persons making public statements run the risk of having their statements being printed out of context. Senator Monipallil added that he believed that it would be best to remain quiet until the issue is legally resolved. Chair HaileMariam asked if the University's General Counsel should be invited to the Faculty Senate in order to explain the situation. Senator Kilgore replied that he would talk with the General Counsel privately.

- B. Email of 5 August from President's Council, re: Request to attend Faculty Senate meeting on 6 September.
- C. Memorandum of 8 August from Provost Lord, re: Suspension of a Portion of IGP 57.
- D. Letter of 9 August from William Hine, re: Appointment to School of Continuing Education Advisory Council.
- E. Communication of 9 August from Robert Chesnut, re: Request to meet with the Faculty Senate.
- F. Email of 10 August from Chair of BOT, re: Possible September meeting with Faculty Senate. Chair HaileMariam stated that the Chair of the BOT will attend the 20 September Faculty Senate Meeting.
- G. Communication of 10 August from Judicial Affairs, re: 2004-2005 Academic Misconduct Cases and Referrals.
- H. Email of 16 August from Mildred Pearson, re: Request to meet with the Faculty Senate to report on the status of Faculty Development.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Chair HaileMariam announced that a review of the Faculty Senate By-laws requires the Senate to meet at least twice each month. In the past the Faculty Senate has usually met weekly and has often adjourned early in business was completed. Chair HaileMariam requested that the Senators consider meeting just twice a month, one a roughly two-week schedule. Such a schedule would allow the intervening week to be used for committee work and would also allow for emergency meetings to be called if required. Senator Pommier asked who had proposed this change and Chair HaileMariam replied that the Executive Committee (HaileMariam, Ashley, and Stimac) had considered it during the summer. Senator Wilson commented that if Senate business could be accomplished and that if additional meetings could be scheduled if needed, such a schedule would be fine. Hearing no contrary opinions, Chair HaileMariam passed out the Faculty Senate Meeting schedule for the Fall 2005 semester:

23 August	Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440
30 August	Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440
6 September	Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440
20 September	Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440
4 October	Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440
18 October	Location to be determined
1 November	Location to be determined
15 November	Location to be determined
6 December	Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440
2. Nominations Committee: Chair HaileMariam passed around sign-up sheets for Senators interested in serving on Senate committees. The Election Committee shall be senators Brownson, Curry, and Sinclair; the Nominations Committee shall be senators Kilgore, Monipallil, and Pommier; the Faculty-Student Relations Committee shall be senators Curry, Fischer, Marshall, and Sinclair, and the Faculty-Staff Relations Committee shall be senators Brownson, Kilgore, and Wilson. Motion (Ashley / Wilson) to approve the committees as reported. Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Dao, Fischer, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Marshall, Monipallil, Pommier, Sinclair, Stimac, and Wilson. Motion passes 13-0-0.
3. Elections Committee: Senator Ashley reported that Senator Allison and Senator Comerford are on sabbatical this semester and that all alternative nominees have either declined or are not available. In order to be proactive in similar circumstances in the future, Senator Ashley (Marshall) made the motion "That the By-laws of the Faculty Senate be changed so that Section II, paragraph B, subsection d be modified. The original: "d. When the list of alternates to the Senate (as specified in section II, B.8.a.) has been depleted, the Senate will hold a special election." The proposal: "d. When the list of alternates to the Senate (as specified in section II, B.8.a.) has been depleted, ~~the Senate will hold a special election.~~ *nominees receiving the highest number of votes, short of being elected, in subsequent elections shall be appointed to the Senate.*" Senator Pommier suggested a friendly amendment motion such that section d would read "When the list of alternates to the Senate (as specified in section II, B.8.a.) has been depleted, nominees receiving the highest number of votes, short of being elected, in subsequent elections shall be appointed to the Senate; if no nominees are available then the Senate will hold a special election." Senators Ashley and

Marshall accepted the friendly amendment. Carpenter informed the Faculty Senate in reference to this particular by-law, that the by-laws have been suspended in order to make available nominees from subsequent elections. Chair HaileMariam asked that the motion be postponed until next week. In order that the two vacant Senate positions could be filled in a timely manner, Senator Pommier (Brownson) made the motion that the Faculty Senate By-laws be suspended. Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Dao, Fischer, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Marshall, Monipallil, Pommier, Sinclair, Stimac, and Wilson. Motion passed 13-0-0.

4. Faculty – Student Relations: no report.
5. Faculty – Staff Relations: no report.
6. Faculty – Forum Committee: no report.
7. Budget Transparency Committee: Chair HaileMariam stated that the Budget-transparency committee was an ad-hoc committee, but inquired if it should be made into a standing committee. Senator Ashley stated that making it a standing committee would help keep things above board. Such a change however, would require an amendment to the Senate By-laws.
8. Other Reports
 - a) Chair HaileMariam asked if other standing or ad-hoc committees should be formed. Senator HaileMariam suggested a technology committee. Senator Dao stated that this is already done at the college-level, e.g., in COS. Senator Pommier added that CEPS also has a technology committee. Senator Ashley stated that broader issues could be dealt with in a Faculty Senate technology committee, e.g., email access and password changes. Senator Dao said that items such as that would best be dealt with by involving ITS. Chair HaileMariam suggested that such a committee might start as an ad-hoc committee. The Chair also asked if members of the University community should be invited to the Senate for technology discussions. There was a general consensus that they should.
 - b) Provost's Report – Provost Lord welcome the members back to the Faculty Senate and reminded everyone that Convocation, scheduled for 30 August is an ideal time to welcome the incoming freshman to the University. The Provost said that the network is running well this first week and that during his participation welcoming students to campus and shuttling them around that they all seemed pleased. A response on the Childcare issue that had been forwarded to the President is forthcoming. The University has also filled a civil service position for a designated web master, Ryan Gibson, so that the web presence can be made ADA compatible. The Provost said that this since this was the first meeting of the year, he would like to take questions from the senators. Senator Fischer asked about an ad-hoc committee for student engagement. Provost Lord replied that it was being looked into and that he would report back to the Senate. Senator Sinclair asked if the parking situation was being addressed. Provost Lord stated that the first week or so was always a difficult time finding parking, but that the good, and bad, news on parking was that it was mostly impacted on the east side of campus. Ongoing construction is removing some parking from being available and the situation will probably get worse before it gets better. The Parking Committee is addressing the situation the best they can. Faculty concerns on parking should be directed to the Parking Committee. Senator HaileMariam asked the Provost for an update on Blair Hall. The Provost replied that there has been a great deal of progress. During a recent walk through, the Provost reported that on some floors drywall is being hung. Delays began when construction began on the new addition on the west side. Crews encountered foundations from an old steam plant. The Provost anticipates a mid-semester occupation. Construction on Doudna is on schedule.

VI. New Business

- A. John Allison's replacement. Previously discussed under section V. A. 3.
- B. Faculty Senate Committee assignments. Previously discussed under section V. A. 2
- C. Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP) assessment. Senator Stimac asked the Provost to comment on the flyer asking for assessors to review portfolio submissions. The flyer made it sound as if the assessors were going to assess the assessment that had been done by the instructors of the writing intensive courses. Markelis stated that there is some disagreement as to how to assess the EWP since there is no assignment handed in with the submission from which the original submission was based. Senator HaileMariam asked if such a grading method isn't going back to what was used previously. Senator

HaileMariam also suggested that one reason that the assessment of the portfolio was being done might be for inter-rate reliability. Markelis stated that another problem is when an instructor from one discipline makes the assignment and does the initial assessment prior to submission to the portfolio, the new assessors may assess differently. Murray also stated that each submission could be very different for others, even when submitted by the same student. For example, students could submit an essay written in Spanish, then a poem, and then a technical paper. Senator Fischer asked how does the EWP work, if not in the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) initiative. He believes that there is no way understand if student writing is getting better since there is no requirement that students must submit their best work. Senator Kilgore added that students are discouraged when they learn that after the submission to the portfolio, no one reads their works. Assessment, however, should be used to improve student writing. Provost Lord said that the Writing Competency exam, used prior to the EWP, did not result in improved student writing. This second tier assessment of the portfolio will not be used to assess the faculty or to get inter-rate reliability statistics. The goal is to get the students writing better and that the EWP has helped with this goal. The second tier assessment will be looking at the portfolios as an aggregate. Markelis said then when assessing student-writing, portfolios should be reviewed. Senator Fischer stated that students realize that no one reads the paper after submission, and that makes it difficult to get the students to submit their best work. The EWP and WAC would best be accomplished if similar general education courses were taken over time. Murray responded in that the ideal goal would be have writing centered courses at lower and upper levels. Representative Frederick informed that Faculty Senate that students she has talked to concerning the EWP, is that they do not take the requirement seriously. She added that Student Government will be looking into the EWP and its assessment and will be circulating a survey to students. Senator Kilgore added that having students take writing courses each year was a good idea. Markelis replied that in her review of submissions to the portfolio, the students were writing well. Senator Fischer suggested that the EWP needed to be re-sold to the faculty and students in order to combat the apparent apathy. Senator Wilson suggested that the Faculty Senate invite faculty who are being trained to the Senate so that they might give their perspectives on the matter and what is being asked of them. Senator Kilgore suggested that this issue might also be appropriate of the Faculty-Student Relations Committee to investigate. The appendix to the 2005 Report on the Electronic Writing Portfolio may be found online at <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php>

- D. Ideas for future agenda items. Senator Pommier suggested that the new University web master, Ryan Gibson, be invited to the Senate. Senator Fischer suggested that the Senate look at the future of Eastern Illinois University and where the faculty would like it to go. Such an item would go along with one of the goals of the Provost. Another suggestion was a discussion prior to the chair of the BOT visit.
- E. Other

VII. Adjournment at 3:20 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

Future Agenda Items: Study Abroad; Admissions and enrollment; Childcare follow-up; Faculty representation on BOT; Campus atmosphere.

Respectfully submitted,

John Paul Stimac