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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR January 11, 2005 (Vol. XXXIII, No. 16)

The 2004 – 2005 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 Coleman Hall 3556 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 David Carpenter at 2:00 p.m.** (Library Conference Room, Booth Library)
Present: J. Allison, J. Ashley, R. Benedict, A. Brownson, D. Carpenter, L. Comerford, R. Fischer, A. HaileMariam, J. Kilgore, M. Monipallil, W. Ogbomo, J. Pommier, and J. Stimac. Excused: B. Wilson and J. Wiolski.
Guests: B. Lord (Provost and VPAA), G. Reed (Facilities Planning and Management), D. Miffler (VPAA, Student Government), J. Peryam (reporter, *Daily Eastern News*), K. Crement (photographer, *Daily Eastern News*), and J.C. Miller (Student Government Academic Affairs).

II. Approval of Minutes of 7 December 2004.

Motion (Fischer / Allison) to approve the Minutes of 7 December 2004. Yes: Allison, Ashley, Benedict, Brownson, Carpenter, Fischer, HaileMariam, Kilgore, Monipallil, and Stimac. Abstain: Comerford, Ogbomo, and Pommier.

III. Announcements

- A. Senator Fischer announced two speakers that Faculty Development Committee is sponsoring. The first speaker will discuss “Keeping it personal in large classes” on 26 January from 12 – 1 PM in the Lord Dining Room of Pemberton Hall. The second speaker will discuss “Making grading a more user friendly activity for the teacher and the student”. That talk will be in the Lord Dining Room of Pemberton Hall on 1 April from 1 – 4 PM.
- B. Senator Brownson announced that Booth Library is sponsoring its first One Book, One University reading project, *Nickel and Dime*, *On (Not) Getting By in America*, by Barbara Ehrenreich. Starting in late January, the library will sponsor group discussions about the book and its related issues.

IV. Communications

- A. Memo of 4 December, re: revised bylaws of Inter-Collegiate Athletic Board.
- B. Memo from Chair Carpenter, re: text of his commencement address.
- C. Memo of 12 December, re: minutes of Inter-Collegiate Athletic Board.
- D. Memo of 13 December from President Hencken, re: response to Senate’s suggestions concerning IGP 31. Chair Carpenter reported that President Hencken responded favorably to the suggestions made by the Faculty Senate concerning IGP 31. The only exception concerned the desire to preserve anonymity of evaluators. Senator HaileMariam stated that student evaluations of faculty are anonymous; should evaluators of administrators be as well? Provost Lord stated that the anonymity of the evaluators is preserved in the sense that supervisors summarize the evaluators comments before turning them in to the administrator. Understanding this, the Faculty Senate suggested that Chair Carpenter inform the President that it would be acceptable to remove the anonymity part of the evaluation.
- E. Email of 4 January from R. Chesnut, re: request visit to Faculty Senate in early Spring.
- F. Email from J. Blitz, re: request for Faculty Senate to visit the question of the plus/minus system of grading. Chair Carpenter asked if this wasn’t the purview of CAA. Senator Allison stated that the Faculty Senate had addressed concerns that might also have been addressed by CAA and that it would be appropriate to forward to CAA any recommendations or ideas that Faculty Senate had on this matter. Senator Kilgore suggested that the topic might fit in well with Faculty Forum. Senator Benedict stated that he understands that Faculty Senate is not prohibited from addressing the issue, but he would like CAA to look at it as well. Chair Carpenter stated that he would recommend that J. Blitz forward his concern to CAA.

V. Old Business

- A. Committee Reports
1. Executive Committee: the Executive Committee met with President Hencken and Provost Lord and discussed the retirement of VPSA Stewart. President Hencken stated that the retirement was

sudden, but that it made financial sense for Stewart to do so when she did. There would be an internal search for a replacement and that it does not make any sense to eliminate the position – the financial savings are greatly outweighed by the benefits to the university and students in having such a position. IGP 31 was also discussed (see IV.D. above for more information).

2. Nominations Committee: no report
 3. Elections Committee: no report
 4. Student-Faculty Relations Committee: D. Miffler reported that the Faculty Forum can be co-sponsored by Student Government.
 5. Faculty-Staff Relations Committee: Senator Ogbomo reported that he is in communication with Staff Senate and that they will send someone to the Faculty Senate meeting concerning the daycare issue.
 6. Faculty-Forum Committee: please see discussion below (V.B.).
 7. Budget-Transparency Committee: Senator Allison stated that the committee met on 2 December with VPBA Cooley and that he was very forthcoming with budget information. Much of the information will be posted on a web site, most likely linked from the VPBA page. The posted information will be the final numbers after the auditors have approved them. As such, it will be a while before the first pages are posted.
- B. Faculty Forum: 1 February 2005, in Campus Ballroom. Senator Fischer reported that some faculty desired to make the topics broader than those listed on the Faculty Forum addendum (attached). Senator Fischer suggested that the break-out groups decide how to narrow or broaden the subtopics. Senator Allison also suggested that attendees be informed that they may participate in any of the break-out groups and that they may move to other groups if they desire. Senator Kilgore suggested that the subtopic of grading practices (consistencies and fairness) be added to Student Interactions with Faculty group heading. Senator Allison suggested the subtopic: “Do we encourage students to attend cultural activities such as lectures, concerts and plays?” be added to the Enriching the Educational Experience group. The updated Faculty Forum list of groups and topics is attached below.
- C. Campus Beautification: Discussion with Gray Reed, Facilities Planning and Management (FPM). Reed began by handing out a copy of IGP 171 (<http://www.eiu.edu/~auditing/IGP/policy171.html>) and a composite designated smoking area map (found online at <http://www.eiu.edu/~physplnt/smokemap.htm>). Reed stated that campus beautification is important to the mission of Eastern Illinois University since the campus is the first thing that prospective students and their parents see when they visit. Reed reported that he has had many comments on the beauty of the campus. Reed stated that past projects that help in campus beautification include: routine gardening and new garden implementation; softening of parking areas by the addition of trees and planters; replacement of trees that posed hazards or that are better suited to our campus; addressing sidewalk flooding when fiscally possible; increasing the number and quality of the recreational fields; upgrading the South Quadrangle; adding a garden area near Old Main; the addition of the Commemorative Courtyard; the addition of the front plaza in front of Old Main; and boulevard upgrades on Lincoln Avenue (done in collaboration with the city). Future plans that are included in the campus master plan include a pedestrian mall on 7th Street once it is closed to vehicular traffic; movement and upgrade of the power plant to an area east of Greek Court (the current power plant building must remain since it is on the Historic Registry, but the interior can be remodeled); and installation of a sidewalk on Roosevelt Street (again in collaboration with the city). Senator Kilgore asked if parking had been lost and Reed responded that the number of parking spaces has increased over the years. Senator Ashley asked about access with respect to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reed replied that since state funding had been cut in implementing ADA compliant buildings, buildings are prioritized for eventual compliance. Senator Stimac asked if considerations were being made for access for the various trades to the buildings using the sidewalks. Reed replied that it is being considered by potentially increasing the width of sidewalks. However, with the budget in that state that it is, little can be done right now. Senator Pommier stated that he was very impressed with the efforts being made to beautify campus since it is very important in recruitment. Senator Pommier asked about the designated smoking areas. Reed replied that there are designated smoking areas and violations of the smoking policy are addressed in IGP 171. There is also a Tobacco Task Force on campus headed by Nancy Mathewson and some of the smoking issues will be addressed by them. Senator Allison asked if FPM staffing levels had increased or decreased. Reed replied that one position was directly lost owing to the rescission, but that an additional five Building Service Workers

(BSW) positions were lost. The BSWs are responsible for areas immediately outside entrance ways, so there is probably some deterioration in those locations. Senator Fischer stated that Reed was doing a great job with campus beautification. He asked if additional outside lounge areas with tables are being considered. Reed stated that yes, and that this is also a concern of Housing. Senator Ashley asked about the large number of cigarette butts outside entrance ways that are not designated smoking areas. Senator Brownson reported that cigarette receptacles will occasionally get on fire and that the smoke makes it inside. Reed stated that the IGP does address enforcement. J.C. Miller asked if additional artwork is being considered. Reed stated that part of any Capital Development Project, a percentage of funds are mandated for artwork. Chair Carpenter thank Reed for his report and his answers to the Senators' questions.

VI. New Business

- A. Campus Day-Care Center: to be discussed 18 January.
- B. Other.

VII. Adjournment at 3:05 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

Future Agenda Items: Board Trustees' Visit To/With Faculty Senate; Faculty Representation on BOT; Community Service Programs and Opportunities; EIU Foundation; Faculty Participation in Establishing Fundraising Priorities

Respectfully submitted,

John Paul Stimac

Student Engagement: Pathways to Success

A simple powerful idea is that students who put more time and energy into activities that are relevant to their education both inside and outside of class learn significantly more during their college experience. The benefits gained from this type of educational experience include greater critical thinking skills, the ability to relate classroom knowledge to the real world, an appreciation of cultural differences, civic engagement, time management skills, and decisions making skills. Thus, it is the responsibility of the campus policies and practices that can create and sustain a culture that supports student achievement, satisfaction and persistence.

Level of Academic Challenge:

1. Do we send prospective students a clear message about the institution's mission, values and expectations?
2. What are the academic expectations we have for our students?
3. Do students spend enough time preparing for class?
4. Do the courses on campus emphasize
 - a. synthesizing and organizing ideas
 - b. making judgments about the value of information
 - c. analyzing the basic elements of an idea
 - d. applying theories to practical problems
5. What role should writing play on campus?
6. Do we create a campus environment that emphasizes students spending time on academic work?
7. Does the university allocate resources, structures and reward systems consistent with the educational mission?
8. Are grading practices consistent, fair and objective?

Enriching the Educational Experience:

1. Do students have ample opportunities to participate in practicum, internship, field experiences, service learning and co-op experiences?
2. Do students have adequate opportunities to participate in study abroad?
3. Do we have an effective senior experience?
4. Have we developed a campus environment that encourages serious respectful conversations about religious beliefs, political opinions or personal values?
5. Have we developed a campus environment that encourages serious respectful conversations with students of different races/ethnicities?
6. Have we developed a campus environment that encourages contact among students from different economic, social, and racial and ethnic backgrounds?
7. Should the students have an opportunity to participate in a self designed major?
8. Should we offer the students the opportunity to participate in a learning community?
9. Do we instill in students a commitment to immerse themselves fully in campus life?
10. Do we encourage students to attend cultural activities such as lectures, concerts and plays?

Student Interactions with Faculty:

1. Do we create a culture where students feel free to discuss grades and assignments?
2. Do faculty supply prompt feedback to students on their academic progress?
3. Do faculty play a significant role in assisting students with their career plans?
4. Do students have adequate chances to work with faculty on activities other than coursework?
5. Do students have enough opportunities to participate in research/creative activities on campus?
6. Do we create a campus environment that encourages students to discuss ideas outside of class with faculty members?

Encouraging Active Learning:

1. Does the level of class participation meet the expectations of the faculty?
2. What role should class presentations play in the academic experience?
3. Do our classes facilitate the group learning experience?
4. Do we engage students in community-based projects as part of their class experience?
5. Do we create a campus environment that encourages students to have discussions outside of class with other students?