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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

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Nominations and supporting materials for the Distinguished Faculty Award are due at Senator Steve Scher's office (3143 Physical Sciences) by 4:00 p.m. on February 20, 2004. Nomination forms are available through the CAA and Faculty Senate's web sites and Academic Affairs. Nominees must be in at least their fourth year of full time employment at Eastern. Nominations of faculty from last year are still considered active, although files can be updated. If you have questions, call Steve Scher at 581-7269.

I. Call to order by Chair David Carpenter at 2:00 p.m. (Library Conference Room, Booth Library):

Present: J. Allison, R. Benedict, A. Brownson, D. Carpenter, D. Carwell, L. Comerford, B. Fischer, A. Haile Mariam, M. Monipallil, J. Pommier, S. Scher, J. Stimac, J. Wolski.

Excused: B. Lawrence, W. Ogbomo. Guests: Lou Hencken, Blair Lord, Charles Delman, Bill Davidson, Gary Reed, Jim Nantz, Steve Shroke, Shirley Stewart, Jim Shonkweiler, Chat Chatterji, Jeff Collier, Kyle Donash, Stephen Hass, Amanda Sartore, Nancy Zegler, Kevin Sampler.

II. Approval of the Minutes of January 13, 2004: Motion (Fischer/Comerford) to approve. Yes: Carwell, Comerford, Haile Mariam, Monipallil, Pommier, Scher, Stimac Allison, Carpenter. Abstain: Benedict, Brownson, Wolski. Motion passed.

III. Announcements:

- A. Carpenter: At the next Senate meeting (January 27) members of CAA (Andy Methven, James Tidwell, and others) will visit Faculty Senate to discuss membership of the Honors Council.
- B. Carpenter: On behalf of the Athletics Task Force, Gail Richard has asked to meet with the Senate. Carpenter scheduled her report to begin at 3:15 p.m. next week (January 27)
- C. Carpenter: A meeting (February 3) at the Senate has been arranged with a group from the Facilities Planning and Management.
- D. Carpenter: The Faculty Forum is scheduled for February 24. Carpenter asked Senators to consider ways to compress the list of topics and to choose groups to lead before the next Senate meeting.
- E. Carpenter will contact Sue Songer about the Senate's attendance at the International Tea.

IV. Communications:

- A. Carpenter distributed copies of Les Hyder's memorandum (12/12/03) concerning the December 9 meeting of the IBHE. Carpenter urged all Senators to read the memorandum carefully.
- B. Les Hyder (1/14): E-mail regarding "a recent change in the state group health plan that could have an adverse affect on retirees as well as current employees."
- C. Jan Dowland (1/15): E-mail regarding scheduling for a presentation from members of Facilities Planning and Management.
- D. George Lesica: Undated memorandum indicating that, at the Student Senate, a student "has voiced concern" that "the recreation center is currently very inaccessible to those with families in that it provides no childcare facilities or areas for children and no special times when families are welcome." Chair Carpenter will refer the matter to the Recreation Board.

V. New Business:

A. Discussion with President Hencken and Others

President Hencken is "not overly optimistic" about the tentative budget Eastern will receive on February 3. Also, given that the IBHE and the Bureau of the Budget frequently request special reports to be provided with no more than twenty-four hours notice, he will plans to continue relying on and conferring with a group made up of two persons from each Senate and CUPB. Next fall will bring two tuition increases, one of them higher for new students than for current students. He has no definite idea what the increases will be since he does not yet know what the state will provide, but he is determined to protect the quality of classroom education. He realizes the state's level of funding creates some hardship for students. Last year tuition increased 9%, \$153.00 for full-time students. It is the dollar amount that should be stressed since it indicates the burden for students, many of whom have little or no money to spare.

After hearing from five independent sources that the funding for the Fine Arts Building would soon be announced, now he hears that there will be some delay. However, he has been assured the funding will arrive eventually. With regard to productivity, he believes Eastern can best make its case independent of other state universities because Eastern's productivity is so high. He also reported on the success of Provost Lord's elimination of the \$100.00 tuition deposit three years ago. Since the time, the number of late registrations has greatly diminished. This semester an adequate number of courses have been provided for students' degree programs, and thirty-two tenure-track searches are ongoing. These positions are necessary to adequately serve students. He has no idea when the vacated trustee positions on the BOT (a result of the Ethics Bill, which went into effect 12/9/03) will be filled. He noted that an additional result of the Ethics Bill is that every university employee will be required to pass a test on the Ethics Bill after undergoing training sessions for the test.

Carwell asked if each class level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) will end up paying different tuition rates. President Hencken said "yes." Carwell and Scher raised concerns about the restrictions of the four-year-tuition freeze, especially after Hencken confirmed that four years is a firm limit. Carwell hoped that working students would not be penalized, and Scher suggested the advisability of some sort of an appeal process to avoid encouraging students to rush through special programs and double majors. Fischer asked if another rescission is likely. Hencken said that, given the shortfall of expected revenue expected from gambling taxes other revenues, he would not be surprised if there is another rescission. Pommier noted the departure of one of his best students because of the financial pressure of additional fees. He wondered if some support other than additional loans is available to strapped students. Hencken stated that by mid-year loans are often the only remaining option since little other money is unclaimed by then. Carpenter referred to Table 4 on page 6 of the IBHE Report. The Table makes Eastern appear to spend nearly twice as much on physical plant operations than does Western. Shonkweiler provided a table showing that Eastern, unlike Western, had used an accounting method that included bond-revenue funds along with the appropriated funds. Eastern has since abandoned that reporting method, as Western and other universities had done some time ago.

President Hencken noted that bids for various internet projects were under original expectations. As a result, money is available for wireless connections and for internet maintenance. Mr. Chatterji announced plans to extend wireless connectivity to all classrooms (and other areas) throughout the campus. Much of the infrastructure already exists. Scher pointed out the need for faculty to have appropriate hardware to utilize wireless access. Stimac asked about the range of wireless connectivity; Chatterji said it's about 300 feet but can be expanded. Chatterji explained that providing the service off campus could place Eastern in conflict with commercial providers.

Bill Davidson stated his belief that the fees of off-campus students should go to education, not to subsidize connectivity and other improvements to on-campus housing. President Hencken and Mr. Chatterji said that a weakness in the internet operations of on-campus housing slows down all university internet operations. When Davidson suggested setting some of the money aside for other uses, Hencken noted that many of the funds are earmarked and must be spent by a certain time.

Carpenter thanked President Hencken and others for attending.

B. Faculty Assistance with Student-Voter Registration

Bill Davidson, executive vice-president of Student Senate, requested the Senate to "embrace and support" an effort to help register students to vote. He has garnered support from a variety of Greek organizations, the Black Student Union, and the Parents Committee. In 2000 election only about 300 students voted. Since students are often too hurried between classes to stop at registration tables in campus buildings, he hoped the Senate would in principal support setting aside some class time, no more than fifteen minutes, to afford students an opportunity to register in class. He stressed that faculty participation would be involuntary. He also updated the Senate concerning the Student Action Committee's involvement with the Parent Committee, which voted unanimously to support a letter-writing campaign to encourage legislators to support higher education. Allison asked Lord if he foresaw any legal or ethical difficulties in using class time for voter registration. Lord said that he had not consulted with the university attorney. Allison and Carpenter thought it would be prudent to delay a vote until the next meeting to learn if there might be legal/ethical ramifications, especially in light of the new ethics legislation. In a follow up comment, however, Lord stated that while he did not claim legal expertise, legal/ethical complications are unlikely since the process is nonpartisan and since no financial benefit occurs. Comerford applauded the motives for Davidson's request but expressed reservations about using class time for voter registration. Students come to Eastern for an education and can register elsewhere; many students may wish to register at home, for example. Carwell believed that making students a captive audience, as well as a perception of pressure from professors raise ethical problems. Scher agreed about the seriousness of perceived compulsion as an ethical problem but also stressed the value of encouraging voter registration. Benedict confirmed that the Student/Faculty Relations Committee had seen the proposal; he expressed his strong advocacy of the idea. Benedict and Fischer encouraged the Senate to vote to support Davidson's request. **A motion (Benedict/Scher) to suspend the Bylaws to allow for an immediate vote on the request passed as follows: Yes (Benedict, Brownson, Fischer, Monipallil, Pommier, Scher, Stimac, Haile Mariam, Wolski, Carpenter). No (Carwell, Comerford). Abstain: (Allison). A follow-up motion (Benedict/Scher) to endorse the principle of encouraging faculty to afford students an opportunity to register to vote during class passed as follows: Yes (Brownson, Fischer, Monipallil, Pommier, Scher, Stimac,**

Haile Mariam, Wolski, Benedict, Carpenter). No (Allison, Carwell, Comerford).

C. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Carpenter asked Senators' advice about whether or not to retain Academic/Faculty Advising and Evaluation of Administrators as future agenda items. Wolski, Scher, and Pommier recalled information related to Senate interest in Advising, and Carpenter agreed to invite Andy Methven and Fraun Lewis to discuss the topic. Fischer and others expressed interest in evaluation of Administrators.

D. Ruffalo Cody and Fundraising

Pommier said that he has heard that the university and Ruffalo Cody will take 33% of every \$1.00 raised for telefund. He and Carwell voiced concern about diversion of funds from departments. Pommier warned against depersonalizing the telefund process, an outcome that would eventually alienate many donors. According to Lord, 33% is close to the national average for telefund operations, which are the most expensive means of raising money. There was also discussion of expenses for updated telefund facilities on campus.

Adjournment: 3:54 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

Activities of Enrollment Management, Academic/Faculty Advising, Evaluation of Administrators, Faculty Representation on the Board of Trustees, Shared Governance for Academic Technologies, Community Service Programs and Opportunities, Luis Clay-Mendez Award, Composition of Honors Council, Meeting with Members of CAA.

Respectfully submitted,

John Allison