

9-24-2002

September 24, 2002

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "September 24, 2002" (2002). *Minutes*. 169.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/facsen_mins/169

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR September 24, 2002 (Vol. XXXI, No. 5)

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I. Call to order by Anne Zahlan at 2:01 p.m. (Conference Room, Booth Library)

Present: R. Benedict, D. Brandt, G. Canivez, D. Carpenter, D. Carwell, J. Dilworth, F. Fraker, B. Lawrence, M. Monippallil, J. Pommier, W. Ogbomo, S. Scher, M. Toosi, J. Wolski, A. Zahlan. Guests: L. Baum, J. Danielewicz, D. Fernandez, M. Hoadley, B. Lord, K. Martin, A. Sartore, J. Tidwell.

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 17, 2002

Motion (Dilworth/Wolski) to approve the Minutes of September 17, 2002. Although no corrections to the Minutes were suggested, Senators Benedict and Scher expressed concern about given speakers' colloquial expressions, or "spoken nuances" (Benedict), such as "gonna" for going to, being recorded verbatim in the Minutes. Carpenter said he would change such expressions in the future to standard English. Senator Benedict also indicated that a "constituency-driven" suggestion of his had been omitted, re: the need to have a discussion on campus about possibly using \$250,000, now dedicated to TEDE grants, for the improvement of Eastern's technological infrastructure. Yes: Carpenter, Carwell, Fraker, Lawrence, Monippallil, Ogbomo, Wolski. No: Benedict, Pommier, Toosi. Abstain: Brandt, Canivez, Dilworth, Scher, Zahlan. **Passed.**

III. Announcements: Zahlan welcomed new student members: L. Baum and K. Martin, as well as new DEN reporter J. Danielewicz.

IV. Communications:

- A. Phone call from Marty Hackler re: Distinguished Faculty Award
- B. Phone call from Ken Baker re: Campus Recreation Board
- C. E-mail message of 9/20/02 from Jeff Cooley re: appointment of Senator Ogbomo to Budget-Director Screening Committee.
- D. Telephone message from Dr. Nate Anderson, of BOT, re: his intention to schedule a meeting with the Senate.
- E. Minutes of College of Education and Professional Studies Curriculum Committee's 9/27/02 meeting.
- F. Notice of CUPB's 9/27/02 meeting
- G. Honors College Proposal, 9/23/02, from Dr. Herb Lasky.

V. Old Business:

- A. Committee Reports
 - 1. Executive Committee: Only Chair Zahlan was able to meet with Interim President Hencken and Provost Lord on 16 September 2002, and most of what was discussed at that meeting was discussed the following day, 17 September, when the interim president and vice presidents met with the Senate [see 17 September 2002 Minutes]. On 20 September 2002, Chair Zahlan and CAA Chair Marlow met with the interim president to discuss the official naming of sites on campus, as well as the present procedure for such naming, as spelled out in the **Internal Governing Policies**, and the possibility of creating a standing committee to consider proposed names of given sites, classrooms, buildings, etc.

On 23 September 2002, Zahlan and Senate Vice Chair Brandt attended the meeting of the Council of Illinois Faculty Senates in Bloomington, at which representatives from nine other Illinois universities were present. A number of issues were discussed: e.g., budget cuts, faculty representation on boards of trustees, the allocation of state funds to private universities and how detrimental this is to public universities, the protection of academic freedom and the use of annually contracted faculty.

Hearing no objection, Chair Zahlan suspended published order of business to permit the Senate's discussion with Drs. Michael Hoadley and James Tidwell re: academic computing

IV. New Business:

- A. Hoadley: The atmosphere here at Eastern is very positive in terms of the potential for the use of technology as appropriate, in terms of instruction, as well as research, and of course service. One of the things that enticed me the most about coming to Eastern was the CATS staff, a very talented group of people, and the campus is very fortunate to have that type of resource available. I realize, though, they're not the ones who are going to answer all the questions for the campus. There are technological pioneers here (I've read a lot of the TEDE reports; I've talked to people in the different academic units; and I see some really talented people here, some very innovative risk-takers), and it's very important that we recognize those people and utilize their backgrounds and expertise. There's also a new, emerging pocket of expertise, of new faculty coming on, or faculty who have been here for some time and now have decided they want to take on the technological challenge. So those are all very important resources that I look to; it's critical to listen to people and involve as many as possible.

Technology is the tool, not the answer. Faculty are not technologists; faculty are content experts—they're hired to be content experts. As they want to use technology, or they want to enhance their skills, in terms of using technology, that's what we'll help them do. I look at our job [in CATS] as providing technological support for those people. Sometimes people don't get involved because they're afraid of the technology, but we're going to do everything we can to help them get over that because you can do many things to enhance your courses, to enhance your program by using that technology; but the technology should be transparent, used to help get the content across. A reliable and accessible infrastructure is one of the keys to success, but you always have to have a back-up plan because the technology can fail; and any instructor who is not prepared to have a back-up plan has some things to learn. Technology is expensive, and anyone who tells you it's not is wrong; but it's a very good investment because it is the future. Planning is going to be very critical, in terms of the use of technology, but you're going to have to be flexible; you're going to have to deal with some ambiguities; and you're going to have to be patient. Whether you teach on campus or on-line, your students are the same; they deserve the same quality of instruction, which they get from the faculty; they deserve the same quality of services, which they get from the university.

We [in CATS] intend to create an advisory board for CATS. I'm looking for representation from across the campus; we haven't defined that representation yet, but obviously faculty will be well represented on that. There will be administration; there will be staff; there will be students. Collaboration is really important, everybody working together toward the common goal: How do we effectively, efficiently and appropriately integrate technology into our curriculum.

Tidwell: Mike [Hoadley] mentioned the creation of an advisory committee [for CATS], but there needs to be some permanent committee structure established for the TEDE grants, whether the CFR model is used or not. Also, ATAC [Academic Technology Advisory Committee] has to be re-evaluated; it's a cast of thousands which is not very effective. The only important function ATAC still fulfills is determining how the student-fee money is distributed; that's a very important function, and it has to have very strong student involvement. ATAC could be abolished completely, and a separate committee could be set up—with students, faculty and administrators—to administer the student technology-fee money. A university technology advisory committee might be what's needed, business affairs and academic affairs cooperating.

Monippallil: [To Hoadley] We seem to have spent a great deal of resources without recognizing what our niche is in this particular marketplace [of on-line courses], and what programs are going to be successful here, as opposed to the current modality where individual faculty members apply for grants and we essentially give away money. The time has come for the university to formulate directions, goals and policies that will advance the mission of the institution. Hoadley: There does need to be a long-range technology plan for the campus put together, not just from the academic side but also in terms of hardware infrastructure. We need to find out exactly who we are serving, and who we serve very well here at Eastern. I'm definitely interested in enhancing courses with technology to help faculty. Ogbomo: Wherever I have been, even in a developing country like Nigeria, whenever technology is mentioned there is always an

attempt to make a very strong case why it is very important in the education of students. How do you allay the fears of faculty when, even now, they wake up and are not even sure if they can send e-mail? We can't communicate with some of our colleagues who are on the other side of Fourth Street. In the olden days we could use drums to talk to them, but now [we're dependent upon technology]. It's very interesting to say we need to respond to our market, we need to respond to students, but the [dependable infrastructure is not there]. The problems we had ten years ago are still here; we're spending more money on [administrative] positions, but we don't seem to see the result of the money spent. Hoadley: The campus has to show that that investment is important. This campus has made an investment in faculty; it's trying to show it's supporting them in a variety of ways. The infrastructure is a big issue and we have to deal with that. We've got to make sure it's reliable, but it's going to take some time; it's not going to happen over night. Canivez: [To Hoadley] Is Eastern proceeding to secure site licenses for Macintosh software? Hoadley: We need to support both platforms [Microsoft and Macintosh] because Macs are on this campus. Again, we have to be looking at new opportunities for how we can make better use of our resources to get those contractual agreements.

At this point the Senate returned to its published order of business.

V. Old Business:

B. Zahlan requested that Senators review Dr. Lasky's "Honors College Proposal" for discussion at the 10/1/2002 meeting.

VII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

Enrollment and Enrollment Management; IBHE Faculty-Advisory-Committee Report; Convocation "Affirmation"; Women's Studies Proposal; Honors College Proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
David Carpenter

REMINDER: Volunteer needed, from College of Education and Professional Studies, to serve on Library Advisory Board. Contact Gary Canivez or any other Faculty Senator.