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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of June 24, 1975

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abell, Buchanan, Connelly, Doughty, Goodrich, Johnson, Knott, MacLaren, North, Price, Rearden, Weidner, Wiseman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hackler, Wood

FACULTY VISITOR: President Fite

STUDENT VISITOR: Joe Natale

The meeting was called to order at 1500.

The minutes of June 17, 1975 were approved with a correction in the spelling of the name Fethi Kopuz.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Student Senate Meeting Minutes---June 12, 1975.
2. Memo from Ron Leathers, Chairman, COTE, requesting Senate advice and approval concerning summer membership of the COTE. At the request of Chairman MacLaren, the Secretary will communicate with Leathers regarding Senate policy on this matter.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President engaged in a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion with the Senate. Discussion included the following:

1. Terminal contracts issued to faculty with satisfactory work records. The President pointed out that the cause of overstaffing in some areas is the changing demand of students. He pointed out that the university is here to serve the students, not to provide jobs. Fite believes it necessary to shift the resources of the university where the jobs are; e.g., business and psychology. While some people in overstaffed departments have been shifted to other responsibilities, there are insufficient positions in which to shift more people. Fite said that, on the basis of good management, the university cannot provide administrative or faculty make-work positions.
2. The granting of temporary, period, or fixed-time contracts to faculty so that these people would not be included in the tenure track. This recommendation, already being implemented, was issued by the faculty committee on tenure as one means to prevent departments from being tenured in. Fite believes that this policy will protect tenured faculty in case severe personnel cutbacks become necessary in a financial emergency.

3. The budget, a review. The President discussed the areas in which the cutbacks, announced in the most recent Newsletter, are to be made. These were discussed and generally approved at a June 23, 1975 meeting of the Council on University Budget, the UPC, and the Senate Executive Committee. The \$917,000 in cuts demanded by Governor Walker's 6% edict will generate an average 5% raise for the university community. In practical terms, it will provide enough money to give a raise of 75% of the originally-suggested base. There will be no merit and the \$20 catch-up money will not be available.
4. Faculty and administrative cutbacks. Doughty pointed out that figures from the President's office indicate that, since 1970-71, the number of full time equivalent faculty has declined by 72 while the number of administrators has declined by 1. He and the Senate wanted to know the reasons for this discrepancy. The President gave the following reasons:
 - a. There is a "critical mass" (Dr. Ben Mortons' term) of administrators necessary to oversee the smooth functioning of the university. This number is relatively insensitive to change in student population. President Fite believes most EIU administrators belong to this mass and sees little chance for reduction in the number of administrators in the near future.
 - b. Despite a decrease in the number of students and faculty, the workload of many offices has increased because of new and increasing demands from the BOG, the BHE, legislators, and students. Therefore, the number of personnel in some offices has had to be increased.

President Fite declared that faculty need to get a better picture of the administration. It was pointed out by some members of the Senate that administrators seldom are seen in the academic buildings, an indication that administration needs to get a better picture of faculty.

The Senate moved into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting adjourned at 1703.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for July 1, 1975 in the University Union Martinsville Room.

Terry M. Weidner
Faculty Senate Secretary