

1976

March 16, 1976

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate, "March 16, 1976" (1976). *Minutes*. 634.
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of March 16, 1976

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abell, Buchanan, Connelly, Dolton, Goodrich, Hackler, Murray, Nordin, North, Pierson, Price, Rearden, Rooke, Weidner, Wood

FACULTY VISITORS: L. Coon, R. White, G. Wilson, D. Morlan, A. DiPietro, M. Rahman

STUDENT VISITORS: M. Vise, B. Halleran

The meeting was called to order at 1405.

The minutes of March 9, 1976 were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Memo from Mick Chizmar, Student Body President, with a request that the Faculty and Student Senates examine the grade appeals system.
2. Minutes of the Intercollegiate Athletic Board---March 1, 1976.
3. Minutes of the Student Senate---March 4, 1976.
4. Minutes of the Council of Faculties---February 29 - March 1, 1976.
5. Agenda for the March 18, 1976 BOG meeting.
EIU report for the March 18, 1976 BOG meeting.
Executive Officer's Report for the March 18, 1976 meeting.
Minutes of the February 19, 1976 BOG meeting.
6. Memo from Dean Taber requesting Senate comments on the proposed 1977-78 Academic Calendar.

Senator North was appointed chairman of an ad hoc committee of the Senate to report to the Senate on the Calendar.

REPORTS

1. Nominations Committee---Buchanan

Buchanan reported that, through an oversight, the requirement that "members of the Faculty Senate shall be at least in their fourth semester of appointment in the University" was not published with the call for candidates. This requirement makes Jack W. Waldrip ineligible for the Senate and his name was accordingly removed from the ballot.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Subcommittee on Tenure.

The Senate ad hoc committee on tenure (Rearden, Buchanan, Wood) presented a draft of a letter addressed to the COF, stating Senate views on the Joint Committees' Report on Tenure.

It was moved (Rearden) and seconded (Connelly) that the letter stating the Senate's position be sent to Angelina Pedroso, Chairman, COF, and that a copy of the letter be published as an appendix to the minutes.

Motion carried unanimously. (See Appendix A.)

2. Faculty peer evaluation.

G. Wilson, D. Morlan, A. DiPietro and M. Rahman were present to discuss their objections to the procedures employed in peer evaluation. Among the ideas presented, strong arguments were made for allowing greater flexibility in the assignment of weight to the separate evaluative categories. Considerable argument against any type of numerical quantification of faculty evaluations was presented. Particularly criticized were the composite totals presumed to summarize all five evaluative categories. A lengthy discussion ensued in which it was further stated that changes in evaluation procedures should not be made effective retroactively. For example, if some changes in procedures are adopted during 1976, these changes should not be implemented until evaluations for the year 1977 are being prepared.

The Senate made no recommendations regarding this matter at this time.

The Faculty Senate then moved to executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

The meeting adjourned at 1540.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for March 30, 1976 at 1400 in the University Union Martinsville Room.

Michael Goodrich
Faculty Senate Secretary

Appendix A

TO: Prof. Angelina Pedroso, Chairman
Council of Faculties, BOG

FROM: Faculty Senate, Eastern Illinois University

SUBJECT: Draft of Revision of BOG Policies on Tenure Prepared
by the Subcommittee on Tenure

DATE: March 12, 1976

The Senate at EIU feels that the proposed changes in the draft copy actually weaken the tenure system in the guise of strengthening it. By vote of 14-0, the Faculty Senate rejects any form of tenure quota. Objections are both philosophical and practical--it doesn't achieve the stated goal; it in fact produces a less innovative faculty.

On the other two points (tenure review and five year probation) sentiment is mixed, but in no way positive. Many senators adamantly oppose any change from current policies. Others could accept the principles of Section VI, 2.3 only if the wording were changed to remove the term "Tenure Review" wherever it occurs. Since "Tenure Review" means different things to different people, a future BOG could reinterpret Section VI, 2.3 to suit its purposes. If the concept is useful and desirable, it can be reformulated in different words. We have communicated one possible change of wording to Prof. George Rommel, doubtless other wordings are possible.

While changes are being considered, we also suggest that the due-process provision (Section VI, 2.1,f) be amended by replacing the word "should" by the word "shall" in the five places where it occurs.

Revision of tenure policies, for any purpose, good or bad, involves manipulation of the very foundation of American higher education--any sudden motion could bring down the whole structure.