

1978

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Faculty Senate

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of June 20, 1978

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abell, Hamand, Johnson, Knoop, Rang, Rearden, Rooke, Shuff, Smith, Weiler, Williams, Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carey, Dolton, Helwig, Pierson

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Martinsville Room.

The minutes of June 13, 1978 were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Larry Thorsen - Textbook Purchase Moratorium

REPORTS

1. Executive Committee Report - The Senate Executive Committee met with President Marvin on Monday, June 19. Among topics discussed were: Affirmative Action Proposal (President Marvin will meet with the Senate on Wednesday, July 12 at 2:30 p.m.), Status of the Budget Committee, Progress of Search Committees, and Office space for Senate in Old Main.
2. Instructional Improvement Committee Report - Weiler - The basic goal of the committee was to suggest ways to promote the overall educational opportunities of the students at Eastern. Recommendations were made which would (1) provide the faculty the opportunity to increase their teaching effectiveness by providing more accessible means for course and curriculum improvement and for professional growth and development, (2) provide the means for identifying and assisting students significantly below or above average, (3) provide an integrated program of testing, counseling, advisement and placement for the student, and (4) promote the growth and utilization (by faculty and students) of the educational support services on campus.

In summary, the Committee presented the following proposals:

1. Remedial Programs - Although certain pertinent data were not available, research by the subcommittee emphasized the growing need for remedial courses in English composition, reading, and mathematics.
2. Honors Programs - If an honors program is to be established, it should be limited to departmental honors in an attempt to give autonomy to the departments in its design and implementation and to place the administration of the program within the department. Such programs will allow substantial flexibility in design, greater faculty involvement, reduced cost of implementation, and to place the administration of the program

within the department. Such programs will allow substantial flexibility in design, greater faculty involvement, reduced cost of implementation, and generally less administrative red tape.

3. Experimental Courses - There is a need for more flexibility in existing curricula, such as to expediate multidisciplinary offerings. An experimental course might be offered once (or twice) to determine its student appeal and its compatibility with the existing curriculum.
4. Expanding University Catalog - The current course descriptions in the catalog are insufficient and are often interpreted incorrectly by students, academic advisors, and departments. Department chairpersons and curriculum committees should be charged with the collection and compilation of expanding course descriptions every two (or three) years.
5. Faculty Development - In order to improve the quality of instruction, instructors should (1) continue to learn, (2) become more conscious of their role as teachers, (3) broaden their classroom skills. These goals could be met through: Expanding the responsibilities of the present Committee on the Faculty Research to include evaluation and selection of special projects. The purpose of these grants would be to establish released time solely for the improvement of instruction. The integration of faculty research with sabbatical requests would be encouraged. Only those sabbatical requests which contribute to instructional improvement either by significant research accomplishment or by improved instructional competence would be funded.
6. Instructional Quality - The committee proposed to investigate the feasibility and appropriateness of a permanent committee on Instructional Quality.

Wood moved, Rooke seconded a motion to go into Executive Session at 3:15.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 1978, in the Martinsville Room at 2:30 p.m.

Carol Helwig  
Faculty Senate Secretary