

1988

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Faculty Senate

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The meeting was called to order by Chairperson North at 2:00 p.m. in the Martinsville Room of the Martin Luther King Student Union.

PRESENT: Gary Foster, John North, Bill Heyduck, Sharon Bartling, Evelyn Goodrick, Kipp Kruse, Tony Schaeffer, Nancy McMillan, Bob Barford, Ron Sutliff, Michael Loudon

ABSENT: Bob Wiseman, Pal Rao, Tony Oseguera

VISITORS: Glenn Williams, Vice President of Student Affairs; Sandy Gallion, Drug, Alcohol, and AIDS Coordinator; Jeff Lynch, English; Carol Kiefer, Finance; Shelly Armstrong, University Relations; Mike Harris, Eastern News; Mary Tate, Eastern News; Caryn Mazanec, Eastern News; Allen Keith, Decatur Herald and Review; Jeff Raymond, Decatur Herald and Review; Steve Binder, Charleston Times Courier; Cris Selfridge, WEIU

I. Minutes of the April 19 meeting were approved as presented.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Received from the Committee on Academic Computing its minutes from its April 1 meeting.
- B. Received from VPAA Kindrick and John Beabout communications concerning the proposed reorganization of the Radio and TV Board. The desire is to expand the board to 19 positions, including campus and noncampus members. The Radio/TV Center has expanded and can now serve other communities and the expansion would assist in future fundraising efforts. It was suggested that the Senate defer the issue. It will be considered next week.
- C. North met with the Department Chairs' Council yesterday; Weaver and Woodyard were present. They reported that EIU is doing more to express its position on a tax increase than any other university. Both stated they would vote for an increase if it is earmarked for education. The problem is that no one is taking the point position for higher education in Illinois, unlike the situation in Ohio and other states. Woodyard said action may not be taken until the veto session in the fall, after the general elections.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. McMillan, of the Senate Committee on a Tax Increase, reported that only about 100 letters have been returned and a plea will be forthcoming, urging all staff and faculty to write letters. The deadline is extended to April 25.
- B. Bill Heyduck, Chair of the Nominations Committee, disseminated to senators the appointments to the Student Faculty Boards. All positions except for the alternate for the Faculty Advisory Board (a 4 year position) were filled. Heyduck submitted the appointments as a motion (Schaeffer, second); accepted unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. VP Williams and Sandy Gallion were present to discuss substance abuse. Last year, the IBHE mandated a substance abuse/AIDS Information Officer/Coordinator be established at each campus. Gallion disseminated materials and a report on substance abuse/AIDS and presented a video on AIDS. These materials and videos are available for campus use, and Gallion is also available to make presentations to groups.
- B. BOG action on April 14 did not approve airing the "Untouchables" on WEIU-TV. President Rives withdrew this item at the BOG's January meeting on the basis of a concern expressed by Mr. Bufalino about the ethnic stereotypes portrayed. EIU considered the objection and concluded that it was appropriate for the BOG to act on the matter for the following reasons: 1.) EIU looked at the issue and determined that appropriate action was taken; as a result of Congressional hearings, during the showing of the program, all law suits filed against the program were dismissed. EIU Proposed to air only the last 3 years after changes were made to deal with objections of portrayal of Italian-Americans as

purveyors of crime. 2.) The program is a classic of American TV; it won 6 Emmy awards for quality TV production and is one of the most watched programs in the U.S. 3.) The request for BOG approval was made after asking the Director of Radio-TV to re-examine the issue; Dr. Beabout recommended airing the program. Rives asked the VPAA to review the decision and he concurred with Beabout. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting grant from which funds would come for the purchase has as its #1 criterion that each grantee must have a staff headed by a manager who "has the responsibility and authority to determine when and what material shall be broadcast over the station..." Rives noted that EIU has a professional and respects his professional judgement. 4.) Airing the program does not imply an endorsement of crime and violence any more than teaching about Karl Marx in Economics implies support of communist philosophy. Rives concluded by saying that he would be "much more comfortable with the Board dealing with this issue as a matter of Board policy rather than disapproval of a request for approval of a specific program. To the best of my knowledge, there is no specific Board policy or regulation dealing with the issue at hand. It is, of course, appropriate for the Board to decide the issue. For the reasons I have indicated, I encourage you to approve this request." Mr. Bufalino objected to the violence of the program and all BOG members present voted with Bufalino. President Rives said, "I am, of course, disappointed that the Board did not approve my recommendation for airing the "Untouchables" on WEIU-TV. That, of course, is the Board's prerogative. Since there was no discussion of the issue by the Board other than Mr. Bufalino's statement, I cannot indicate why Board members chose to vote against the recommendation." Senate/visitor discussion was heated AND unanimous. Bartling moved (Heyduck, second) that the Faculty Senate of EIU commend President Rives for the statement that he read to the BOG on April 17 concerning the purchase of the Untouchables and that the Faculty Senate request the BOG to reconsider its vote on Item 8 on these grounds: 1. Members offered no valid reason for voting against the request to purchase and show The Untouchables; 2. The Director of the EIU Radio-TV station is a professional with academic credentials, training and experience, who was carefully chosen for his expertise in this area; his professional judgement should be respected; 3. For the BOG to disregard professional judgement in this matter sets a dangerous precedent for the Board to disregard in the future the professional judgement of faculty and staff in academic matters, such as the selection of books and films for the library or class assignments; passed unanimously. North and Bartling will draft the communication to the Board; the Senate urged a strong letter of protest. Further discussion suggested that the Board decision was an infringement on academic freedom. Loudon moved (Kruse, second) to censure Dr. Tom Layzell, Chancellor of the BOG, for failing to support academic freedom regarding the vote on item 8, April 14, 1988; passed unanimously.

C. President Rives will be present April 26 to meet with the Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting will be at 2:00pm, April 26.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary S. Foster