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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR October 1, 2013

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Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

I. Call to Order by Chair Grant Sterling at 2:02pm (Booth Library, Room 4440)

Present: T. Bruns, J. Conwell, M. Dao, S. Knight-Davis, J. Ludlow, A. Methven, M. Mulvaney, S. Scher, G. Sterling, J. Oliver, K. Padmaraju, J. Ochawa-Echel, K. English (Student Rep.)

Guests: Jeff Cross (Academic Affairs), Dean Orem (COS), Jared Jarmon (DEN)

II. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 17, 2013 meeting were approved. Motion made by Senator Mulvaney and seconded by Senator Methven.

III. Announcements - None

IV. Communications

- a. E-mail from Lisa Dallas Re: ELM Task Force and ATAC – No Action Needed
- b. 9/19/13 CAA (non-)Minutes – No action taken
- c. Mendez Award announcement and application form
- d. Response from Provost Lord to Memo from Chair Sterling
- e. CIUS agenda from 2/27/12(?) and for 9/23/13

V. Presentation to the Senate – Tim Zimmer, FPM: Zimmer started his report to the Senate introducing a couple of consultants that he had used to check where he could use the resources best. He reported that they had started to burn wood chips at the Power plant and have started remodeling of the Honors College which is turning out quite good. He mentioned that they were trying to talk to the Capital Development Board to release some funds to get the piping updated in the Life Sciences building and also to upgrade the electrical network. He urged the Faculty to let him know when things were going right, so he could compliment his staff. He said that all the preparations had gone well for the football game after they had fixed an issue where there was some seepage of alcohol through the flooring in the Lantz gym.

Senator Conwell enquired as to which building needed the most maintenance. Zimmer referred to the lack of maintenance funding due to a backlog with regard to release of funds. When research monies come into the university, EIU does not allocate as much as U of I for facilities, so he has to work with limited budgets. Senator Methven mentioned that if the renewal energy plant was burning wood chips now, we need to let the campus know as so far the perception has been that we are still burning natural gas. Zimmer replied that till 7 days previously, we had been burning natural gas and have started burning wood chips only since then. What we have with the Power plant is a state of the art facility. EPA wanted to see if we get clean air and we expect to get a clean air permit

from EPA by November. He further added that there is some maintenance that needs to be done with some sump pumps.

Zimmer mentioned that he and his staff were working with Dr. Ping Lu on the practicum part for the Sustenance studies program so students will be able to see different aspects of the operations of the plant. Senator Oliver asked Zimmer to prioritize the needs that the campus had. Zimmer replied that there were some locations on campus where there wasn't a tight outer shell; windows etc. which have not been updated and let the water seep through. They are examining at such areas to determine where the most need is so as to use the funds more efficiently. Restroom updates are also needed in some buildings and these will be starting soon. He reported that the noisiest work would be done during the Christmas break. He mentioned that the south end of the Physical Sciences building is excavated to help the city manage their storm sewers better. Senator Oliver asked what Eastern should be most proud of with regard to facilities. Zimmer replied that he would consider the service aspect as the most important – we have generations of employees; the Old Main and Doudna buildings have turned out really good. The LED lighting at Old Main was an energy conservation project that has turned out very good and the images on Flickr (posted by Dr. Weber) show how good the lights work.

Dean Orem asked Zimmer: When we walk under the Student Center walkway, if we wanted to put a suggestion box for parents and students, who would pay and is there campus money that can be used for such a thing? Senator Methven added that we really need to do something about the walkway, this is the area that many students and parents see when they first come and if we are worried about enrollment, we need to make that look good. Zimmer replied that it was a matter of prioritization and that his goal was to get into partnerships with departments and make something happen.

Senator Mulvaney asked Zimmer about the surprises he has had since he started working here. As everyone at Eastern is trying to do more with less, how is the morale of his staff with maintenance being deferred more and more. Zimmer replied that the morale of his staff was very upbeat, they are pleased to be here and they don't want to go anywhere else. The employees like the opportunity to provide customer service and he was amazed at how much they are able to do with what they had. If we look at funds – we need to pump 15 millions a year to maintain status quo and more if we need to improve and that doesn't count the funding needed for the grounds. His goal was not to have an adverse relationship with the academic enterprise but to ensure that they support it as much as possible. They have to figure out what is the new normal for technology in new buildings – making sure that they don't use stuff that will be obsolete in a few years.

Senator Sterling asked about Carman Hall to which Zimmer replied that 75% of the work had been completed but they were looking at \$55.00 per sq. ft. for bringing it forward. As it was a 1968 building, it does not have the technology access updated. So they were looking to see if they needed to repurpose the building and it was sitting empty right now. Senator Conwell asked – At what point is it cheaper to demolish a building and put up a new one rather than update an old one? Zimmer replied that that was something that Mark Hudson was trying to figure out. Senator Scher commented that he had just learned that Carman was not being used and he wanted to know why? Dr. Cross replied that the space was not needed and it made more sense to close one building completely rather than have all open partially. Zimmer added that they were working on trying to figure out how they

could use the building and if there was need for more physical space as the university's needs change with students taking online classes etc.

Senator Methven asked what was happening with the Life Sciences building which was more than 50 years old. He asked if there was ever going to be a new building. Zimmer replied that a new Science building has been # 1 on Eastern's priority list but the Governor has the power to pick whatever items he thinks are important and decides to fund accordingly. Senator Methven added that not only the Life Sciences building but also the Physical Sciences building also was older. Zimmer concluded his report by saying that they were trying to leverage the contacts he had developed and move politically to move this forward.

VI. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee - Senator Oliver reported that he and Senator Padmaraju met with President Perry and Provost Lord. This first executive meeting was more of a welcome to the new executive committee and the topic that dominated the conversation was the Barn party incident and concern regarding how misinformation was being spread about the incident. Other topics in the discussions were with regard to Diversity issues on campus and the funding for faculty travel. President Perry and Provost Lord sympathized but reminded us of the financial situation.
2. Nominations Committee - No report
3. Elections Committee - Senator Oliver reported that Senator Mulvaney and he were working with David Miller at ITS to develop the online tool to do the electronic ballot and it seemed ready to go.
4. Faculty-Student Relations Committee – No report
5. Faculty-Staff Relations Committee – No report
6. Awards Committee – No report
7. Faculty Forum Committee – No report
8. Budget Transparency Committee – No report
9. Other –
 - a. Provost's Report (The Provost is unable to attend this week's meeting)
 - b. Other - Senator Sterling mentioned that Provost Lord was looking for a volunteer for the Registrar Search committee.

Senator Bruns asked what happened when there is a committee that never meets, and who determines that and why? Senator Sterling replied that part of this needs to be resolved, so that communication can be sent to the Senate. We need to decide what procedure we want to follow so we don't keep putting people into committees that do not even meet.

VII. New Business

- A. Future Agenda: Fall 2013 Meeting Dates – October 15 (NSA Self-study);
October 29; November 12; December 3
- B. Other New Business – None

VII. Adjournment - Adjourned at 3:10 pm.