

10-15-2013

October 15, 2013

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "October 15, 2013" (2013). *Minutes*. 1047.
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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR October 15, 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: S. Knight-Davis, A. Methven, M. Dao, S. Scher, G. Sterling, J. Conwell, M. Mulvaney, J. Oliver, K. English. Guests: J. Stowell

- II. **Preliminary Announcement:**
Chair Sterling indicated that Senate did not have quorum. He knew this might occur today and reviewed Roberts Rules of Order for guidance on meeting procedures and policies. Based upon this review, Chair Sterling recommended that the Senate discuss pressing agenda items, such as the results of the Fall 2013 Special (Faculty) Election. If unanimous support is received for motions related to these items, the Senate shall vote and officially ratify these items at the next meeting. This approach would allow the Elections Committee Chair to notify candidates of the process and encourage them to begin work with their councils/committees with final ratification being obtained during the next Senate meeting.

- III. **Approval of the Minutes of 1 October**
Minutes from the October 1, 2013 meeting had not been made available to the Senate. Thus, no action was taken.

- IV. **Announcements**
No announcements were made.

- V. **Communications**
 - a. CIUS Minutes 9/30/13
 - b. CUPB Minutes 9/13/13
 - c. CAA Agenda 10/10/13
 - d. Email from Chair Sterling, Request for Registrar search committee volunteers

- VI. **Presentation to the Senate – Jeff Stowell, NCA Self Study**
Dr. Stowell thanked the Senate for allowing him to visit and discuss the NCA Self Study process and timeline at EIU. In initiating this discussion, Dr. Stowell shared the NCA informational video. Dr. Stowell followed the video with a powerpoint presentation that highlighted a few of the results from the NCA Self-Study Survey that was distributed (online) to faculty, staff, students, and external constituents during the last week of August thru mid-September (2013). Following the presentation, a discussion ensued with the following questions raised:
 - Senator Oliver asked if the data was collected before the “Barn Party” incident. Dr. Stowell indicated the data collection concluded the Monday after the incident.
 - K. English asked if the data will be made available to the public. Dr. Stowell indicated the data will be made available on the NCA Self-Study website

following the development of the initial draft of the NCA Self-Study report which is scheduled for spring 2014. Dr. Stowell shared the NCA website which includes information related to the membership of the NCA Self-Study committee, self-study timeline, engagement opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and external constituents, and updates/news related to the study. Dr. Stowell encouraged interested individuals to attend one of the First Friday NCA Seminars held at 7:30am in the 7th Street Underground. The next Seminar is scheduled for Friday, November 1st and will include a discussion of Criterion 3: Teaching and Learning – Quality, Resources, and Support.

- Senator Dao was interested in the survey data regarding factors influencing decisions to attend EIU. In his review, he wondered about the “Learning Activities” and “Academic Activities” response items and what EIU should do based on this data. Dr. Stowell stated that can be hard to tell with just one data point and there are likely several reasons why students attend EIU.
- Senator Knight-Davis asked if there were definitions provided for each of the response categories or if students were left to interpret and create their own definitions. Dr. Stowell indicated that no definitions were provided and response items were left open for student interpretation.
- Senator Conwell asked how the items from the 2013 survey compare to items from the 2004 survey. Dr. Stowell stated that this analysis had not been conducted yet, but would be examined at a later date.
- Senator Dao asked a follow-up question to Senator Knight-Davis and his initial question regarding the response items for the factors influencing decisions to attend EIU survey item. Senator Dao asked if the survey provided examples for the response items. Dr. Stowell indicated no examples were provided and asked K. English for her perspective on the response categories related to this question. K. English responded that many students, in her opinion, focus heavily on the cost and quality of the educational experience. Senator Conwell wondered if students were simply unaware of the learning resources when considering EIU and that they learn of these resources after they get here.
- Senator Oliver asked Dr. Stowell about the survey data and its value or role for the NCA Self-Study process. Dr. Stowell indicated that each item is used in a different manner. Dr. Stowell explained that the 2004 survey was reviewed by each Criterion sub-committee. The sub-committees reviewed the 2004 items and the content of their criteria and developed survey items to assist their committee in addressing these content areas.
- Senator Scher encouraged the NCA Committee to recognize the sample size and response rates when reviewing and interpreting the data. Senator Dao felt it was important to understand why participants were not responding to the survey as these individuals and their views might be somewhere “in the middle”, but could also differ in some way. Senator Dao suggested this non-response bias be considered in the data analysis and interpretation. Dr. Stowell did state the response rates for all groups (students, faculty, staff, and external constituents) of the 2013 survey exceeded the response rates from the 2004 survey.

- Chair Sterling asked if the Senate should expect a return visit from Dr. Stowell and the NCA Self-Study Committee. Dr. Stowell stated the initial draft of the report will be publicly available for review and feedback this spring (2014). Should the Senate be interested, Dr. Stowell would be happy to return at this time to discuss and collect feedback.
- Dr. Stowell also stated that the NCA Self-Study Committee is also reviewing the recommendations from the 2004-05 report/visit. Senator Scher indicated that no ongoing process related to the review/revision of EIU's mission statement has been implemented despite the recommendations by the visitors from the 2004 report.

VII. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: No report.
2. Nominations Committee: Senator Knight-Davis has been in the process of contacting faculty who were appointed (last spring) to a committee/council to determine the status of these committees. Specifically, Senator Knight-Davis is trying to determine if each of these committees is actively meeting or is no longer active. Senator Knight-Davis expects to have a comprehensive list of her assessment by the next Senate meeting.
3. Elections Committee: Senator Oliver shared the results of the Fall (Faculty) Special Election. In particular, seven of the eight positions had clear winners based on the Senate's by-laws and election procedures. One position, UPC (at-large) did not have an official candidate and the election results yielded one "write-in" candidate who received seven votes. According to Senate by-laws, "write-in" candidates must receive 10 votes to be eligible. Senator Mulvaney stated that Senate has the authority (according to Senate's by-laws and procedures) to appoint individuals to elected councils and committees. Senator Mulvaney stated this practice has been done in the past with UPC and several other councils. Senator Mulvaney recommended appointing the faculty member who received seven votes. Senator Scher expressed concern with appointing someone to this position given the contractual nature associated with this council. Chair Sterling felt this position needed to be discussed at the next Senate meeting when all Senators would be available. Senator Methven agreed with Senator Scher's concern and given that the position is an "at-large" position wondered if it was needed. Senator Methven suggested the Senate contact UPC and ask if the position was needed. Senator Mulvaney asked if we could approve the other seven positions and postpone discussions and action on the UPC position until the next meeting. Chair Sterling indicated Senate could approve the election results with the UPC "at-large" position not

being filled at this time. Senator Conwell motioned to approve the results (Mulvaney 2nd). Vote passed with unanimous support.

4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: No report
5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: Senator Mulvaney stated the Staff Senate was undergoing a few changes with their executive officers.
6. Awards Committee: Senator Dao indicated the committee would be meeting October 17 to review applications.
7. Faculty Forum Committee: Chair Sterling reported on behalf of Senator Rosenstein that a date has been set for the fall forum with more information to follow at upcoming Senate meetings.
8. Budget Transparency Committee: No report
9. Other Reports
 - a. Provost's Report: Provost Lord indicated there was a good turnout of the 10/14 prospective student campus visit/recruitment day. The event was moved to Doudna (from Lantz) this year. Provost Lord stated Mr. Lou Hencken has been appointed as the interim Director of Admissions. Provost Lord felt EIU needed someone in the interim to aid with the transition and was excited to have Mr. Hencken agree to serve in this capacity. A search for the Director of Admissions will be underway very soon. Senator Scher asked about the role of the former Director of Admissions. Provost Lord stated the former Director of Admissions is working within the EIU Athletic Department. Senator Conwell asked if EIU's organizational chart will remain the same during the transition. Provost Lord responded that the organizational chart will remain the same. Provost Lord shared information relating to the Biss Act. State Representative Biss was concerned about the availability of published research from public universities in Illinois. The Act is an effort to allow increased access to this research. The Act requires each public university in Illinois to establish an Open Public Task Force to discuss this topic and implementation of this Act within their respective campuses. Each university should establish an Open Public Task Force by 1/1/14. The Open Public Task Force would have one calendar year to determine a plan and policy that is appropriate to EIU. Provost Lord stated at least one publisher (of the university's choice) must serve on the Task Force. Provost Lord also stated the University of Michigan has created a system that might be helpful to review as one example. Provost Lord needs to identify participants for the Open Public Task Force. Provost Lord suggested the individual(s) might be an active publisher; perhaps at least one person from the arts &

humanities area given the unique nature of their research compared to other disciplines. Provost Lord needs participants prior to the 11/15 Board of Trustees Meeting. Senator Knight-Davis recommended Senator Todd Bruns as a possible member of the Open Public Task Force. Senator Knight-Davis stated the Biss Act is primarily focused on making access to research easier for the public. Senator Scher expressed concerns that the Biss Act seeks to make all research accessible by 1/1/15. Provost Lord indicated that he would forward (to Chair Sterling) a link to the Biss Act for Senator to review.

B. Other Old Business

Chair Sterling shared a few concerns he was hearing among faculty regarding CAA's discussions on credit hours. Specifically, Chair Sterling shared concerns that EIU doesn't have a policy in this area while Federal mandates a policy needs to be established. Chair Sterling shared an update from the IBHE meeting with funding issues being the primary focus for IBHE.

C. Future Agenda

Chair Sterling has received several letters relating to the Imaging Software process and the electronic portfolios. Chair Sterling felt one or both of these issues should be discussed by Senate at future meetings. Chair Sterling asked Provost Lord for insight on the primary contacts for each of these items. Provost Lord recommended V.P. Weber for the Imaging Software discussion and himself and Dr. Cross for the electronic portfolio process. Chair Sterling also shared V.P. Weber will be attending the Senate's 12/3 meeting to provide an update to the Program Analysis. Senator Conwell asked about the availability of the Noel-Levitz information/data. Provost Lord indicated that he would forward a link to this information (to Chair Sterling).

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.