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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR November 12, 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. Ochwa-Echel, J. Oliver, K. Padmaraju, J. Ludlow, J. Robertson, K. English.

Guests: Jon Blitz, John Allison, Jeff Stowell, John Mace, Jason Howell, Provost Lord, Jose Antonio Rosa, Dean Irwin

II. Approval of the Minutes of 15 October

Minutes from the October 29, 2013 meeting were approved. Motion made by Senator Bruns and seconded by Senator Mulvaney.

III. Announcements

No announcements were made.

IV. Communications

- a. CAA Agenda for 11/7/13 - No Action needed
- b. Proposed Academic Calendar for 2015-16 – No action needed
- c. CIUS Pension resolution – Senator Sterling provided information about the CIUS Pension resolution, informing the Senate that Northern passed a resolution and are encouraging other institutions to do so too. Other senates are also doing similar resolutions. Senator Sterling reiterated that our Senate was not required to do so but he wanted to share the info with the Senate. Senator Bruns thought it was important to join our peer institutions and said that it was important for us to weigh in on the issue. He volunteered to draft a resolution and present it to the Senate. Senator Ludlow concurred. Senator Scher mentioned that however we proceed, we need to know that this is not just a pension problem. The state has not been putting funds into the pension fund and he would like to emphasize this in the resolution. Senator Bruns agreed with Senator Scher that it is not a pension problem and the resolution must start with a strong statement and then lead on to increasing funding for education. Senator Mulvaney enquired if the Staff Senate was also discussing this issue and suggested that there could be collaboration with them. Senator Ludlow asked Senator Sterling if he knew of other staff senates participating to which he said he was not aware of that. Senator Bruns suggested that we have a multipronged approach, resolutions by Faculty Senate, Staff Senate and also Student Senate. Senator Sterling asked if we needed to have a committee to engage in this process. Senator Bruns made a motion to form a subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Senator Scher and carried unanimously. Senators

Robertson and Bruns volunteered to serve on the committee. Senator Mulvaney volunteered to contact Staff Senate and Kathryn English volunteered to contact the Student Senate.

d. Letter from Jonathan Blitz, Re: Tuition Recovery – He presented to the Senate

V. Presentation to the Senate – Jonathan Blitz, Tuition Recovery

Dr. Blitz's Presentation to Faculty Senate, November 12, 2013
<p>President Perry sent a sobering email to all of us last Monday, November 4. Here are some snippets from that correspondence:</p> <p><i>“As you know, we have been managing reduced resources for several years...we now need to aggressively employ new strategies for our financial sustainability in future years. As we plan... (we will) develop budget reductions and reallocations that will enhance our financial sustainability.”</i></p> <p>At about the same time I became aware of two seemingly contradictory developments in the College of Sciences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) A credible rumor that the college is to reduce by 5 the number of positions in the college; and2) approximately 650 K in funds was provided to this college from the “tuition recovery model”. <p>In COS approximately 25% was retained by the College, the remainder (unevenly) distributed amongst all College departments presumably to supplement operating budgets.</p>
<p>Extrapolate to 2.5 M in “tuition recovery model” funds distributed to the 4 main colleges (COS, CAH, CEPS, Business/Applied Sciences)</p> <p>It is understood that colleges and surely departments enjoy, and some may even require, for want of a better word kickbacks, from Academic Affairs. But there are issues that may fall into the purview of Faculty Senate, perhaps others into UPI's.</p> <p>Given:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The sobering correspondence from President Perry;2. the continuing and potentially accelerating reductions in personnel in the COS and presumably beyond;3. the existence of an estimated 2.5 M in funds distributed to colleges and departments above and beyond normal operating budgets that (in theory) are not necessary for continuing operations;4. the “tuition recovery model” was stricken from the agreement reached between EIU and UPI in the current contract negotiated in 2012; there are some questions that perhaps should be asked.

Some possible questions:

1. Where are the “tuition recovery model” funds coming from? How are these funds being generated?
2. How and why are these funds being distributed in the way they are? These decisions are made based on what information?
3. Is it possible that there are additional funds that the community and stakeholders are not aware of? (DEN on Friday, Nov 8 suggests a 1 M “reserve fund” available to Housing and Dining Services.) What is the full and complete financial picture?

In general:

1. Administrators have a responsibility to run the institution and a right to make the decisions required to do so. “Managerial Rights”
2. Administrators do not have the right to make decisions and use funds (or not) that are not readily detected by the casual and even the conscientious observer. “Shared Governance”

Shedding light on managerial decisions results in more careful and improved decision making. It is natural that administrators just want to do their jobs and to not be bothered by such accountability. **It is detrimental to our institution to allow that to happen.**

Questions after Dr. Blitz’s presentation:

Senator Oliver expressed concerns about the word, “rumors” being used during the presentation. He said that we would need to know the source of this rumor at some point to which Dr. Blitz replied that the DEN report was from Judy Stone.

Senator Conwell enquired from Provost Lord regarding his communication with Deans about reduction in workforces. Provost Lord replied that each Dean had been given a different target, and the College of Sciences Dean was given a number of 5. This reduction in workforce is in response to the declining student credit hours.

Dr. Stowell mentioned that Housing and Dining talked about a reserve budget and said that the Senate should check into that. Provost Lord replied that the University had to follow certain protocols about where funds from each source can be used. Funds collected for housing and dining have to be used in that area only. For some years, the State has been asking to put sprinklers into residence halls and such expenses are met through the reserve funds that are assigned to Housing and Dining. This is one example of the use of a reserve funds and there are many more like that.

Dr. John Allison Asked Provost Lord if tuition recovery model was still being used. Provost Lord replied that it was a model that was being used since 20 years. Four years ago, after TRM had been overused by many departments, a budget line was set at \$ 1.2 millions to limit the TRM for each department. The TRM money is used in

certain models like cohorts, Study Abroad etc. The faculty salaries that are paid on overload come from the TRM monies too. The remaining is distributed as follows: 20% to Business; 20 % to Continuing Education and 60 % goes back to the Deans. Most of the summer salaries paid as overload also come from these monies. Senator Sterling asked if some departments got extra money if they offered online classes during the year. Provost Lord said that he would need to look into it. Dean Irwin said that some online classes are in-load and some are not.

VI. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee – No report as they had not met since last meeting.
2. Nominations Committee - No report.
3. Elections Committee – Senator Oliver thanked Senator Mulvaney and Senator Methven for helping populate all the councils and committees. He contacted the councils to see if they were all functioning and he was happy to report that they all were.
4. Faculty-Student Relations Committee – No report
5. Faculty-Staff Relations Committee – No report
6. Awards Committee – No report
7. Faculty Forum Committee – Has not met, the Faculty Forum is On Dec. 3rd at 3:30 pm
8. Budget Transparency Committee – Senator Sterling informed the Senate that the committee will have access to some of the Program analysis reports.
9. Bye-laws Committee - No Report
10. Other Reports
 - a. Provost's Report - Provost Lord informed the Senate about the upcoming Board meeting on Friday. The matter of relevance to the Senate was that the Board will be asked to approve the list of members on the Open Access Task Force. Senator Dao enquired about the Spring semester starting late. Provost Lord mentioned that the academic calendar is put together by the Registrar's office based on guidelines set forth about 17 to 18 years ago. Every six years, the calendar is reset to accommodate for the holiday break. Senator Scher asked Provost Lord if there could be a change in the Fall break as it always seemed to fall right before the Monday of Canadian Thanksgiving. A similar problem occurred during President's Day. Provost Lord replied that those dates are determined in order for public high schools to have open houses at Eastern as they

have the days off then. Senator Conwell said that this was a good idea as high school students would much rather see classes in sessions.

b. Other Old Business - None

VII. New Business

A. Future Agenda:

Fall 2013 Meeting Dates – December 3 (Bill Weber—Program Analysis):
followed by Forum on Diversity?

Spring 2014 Meeting Dates – January 14; January 28; February 11;
February 25; March 18; April 1; April 15; April 29

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.