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Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 28 January 2014

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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 2:01pm (Booth Library, Room 4440)**
Present: J. Ashley, T. Burns, J. Conwell, M. Dao, S. Knight-Davis, A. Methven, M. Mulvaney, J. Oliver, K. Padmaraju, J. Robertson, A. Rosenstein, S. Scher, G. Sterling, K. English.

Guests: Provost Lord, Dr. Jose Antonio Rosa, Dean Augustine, Dean Lanham, Dr. Wheeler, Jack Cruickshank (DEN)

- II. Presentation to the Senate – Dr. Wheeler and Dean Augustine, regarding mandatory publishing of thesis.**

Dr. Wheeler started his presentation about thesis publication by thanking the Senate for inviting him and mentioned that it was the first time he had come to the Senate and was glad to be there. He stated that the purpose of his visit was two-fold: 1. To let faculty know what is going on with the thesis issue and 2. To continue to promote scholarship. With the thesis publications, a new process has been put in place after Dean Lanham, Dean Augustine and others have met recently with regard to the open access discussions. With the new process, now the faculty thesis director as well as the student had a say in making a thesis open access. Earlier, only the student had the say. Also, now both the student and the faculty director can request that the thesis can be embargoed till a certain time before being published and allowed open access.

Senator Ashley enquired if this issue was only specific to thesis and would the issue of open access impact copyright and intellectual property rights. Senator Sterling also added if that means that there is a change in the intellectual property rights at Eastern. Dr. Wheeler replied that he had no issue with the students holding the intellectual property rights. In some disciplines, he was concerned that with open access, then publishers may not be willing to publish the articles. Senator Bruns dissented saying that was a misunderstanding and publishers usually seek articles that are open access.

Dean Augustine mentioned his long standing work in this area and shared that he felt that at Eastern, we are following best practices with regard to copyright and intellectual property rights. Our policy so far has been more informal, and the quality of work at Eastern continues to be high quality and has led to further research. The new policy is to allow withholding of a thesis for not just one year as it is currently but extend that period to two years if needed on the request of either the student or the faculty director. This does not in any way mean that the degree is not conferred for the student. For formalizing this policy, explicit forms have been developed by the

library and this draft policy is what he is sharing with the Senate and will share with CGS too soon. The draft policy will also be shared with the larger campus community and reorganized and finalized towards the end of the semester after getting feedback. Meanwhile, the graduate school will follow the spirit of the policy for this semester.

Senator Scher asked if one of the reasons for extending the open access permission was if the faculty director or the student is considering the study for publication. Does it need to be already submitted for withholding the open access? Dean Augustine said that either of the reasons could be the case and other reasons till the faculty director or the student are ready, the thesis can be withheld.

Senator Rosenstein asked where the intellectual property guidelines were defined to which Dean Augustine replied that they were defined in the contract. Senator Bruns mentioned that this was a very valuable tool and as the keeper of the Keep, he thought that this open access policy was an excellent opportunity to promote our institutional profile.

Dean Augustine ended his presentation acknowledging Dean Lanham and the library for the work and assistance they have provided in this regard.

III. Approval of Minutes of 14 January, 2014

Minutes from the January 14, 2014 meeting were approved. Motion made by Senator Ashley and seconded by Senator Conwell.

IV. Announcements

No announcements were made.

V. Communications

- a. E-mail from Les Hyder, Re: Budget. [Plus attachment: FY15 3-Year projection]: Senator Sterling mentioned that an IBHE representative was coming to campus and on Dr. Les Hyder's invitation, he and Senator Oliver were meeting him briefly. He invited the Senators to send him any issues that they would like them to bring up with the IBHE representative.
- b. Two attachments from CUPB: Agenda for 1/24 meeting, and Subcommittees for Program Analysis: Senator Sterling reported that CUPB was currently looking into all the processes that were being used for program analysis. Three subcommittees had been created and these subcommittees will be examining the documents in the three areas: Academic Affairs; Business Affairs, President's Area, University Advancement; and Student Affairs. CUPB members have been invited to the Senate later in the semester to have discussions.

Senator Ashley asked that since the Academic Affairs already had started the process in the Fall semester and had started making the cuts, would that count towards the cuts recommended during the program analysis process or would they have to make additional cuts. Provost Lord replied to this, saying that the cuts recommended to the Deans in Fall did not even add up to a million dollars but still

after the targets were given to the respective Deans, they were included in the \$ 7 million cuts that are being considered currently. Senator Ashley commented that if the Deans had already contributed to the cuts, wouldn't it be premature for the Deans to make more cuts before the program analysis stuff plays out.

- c. E-mail from Rebecca Throneburg, Re: Reminder about CAA meeting [Plus two attachments: Proposed Credit Hour Policy and Syllabus Policy]: Senator Sterling drew the attention of the Senate to the email sent by Dr. Throneburg about the new credit hour policy and the Syllabus policy. He added that there was a syllabus policy previously also but it had many variations to it and now CAA is considering a more standard syllabus policy. Senator Scher expressed confusion that he wasn't sure if the CAA adopted the policy, does that mean that there was no opportunity for us to give feedback on it? Senator Sterling and then Senator Rosenstein reminded the Senate that Dr. Lucas and Dr. Throneburg had previously also invited the Senate members to attend their meetings and join the conversations. Since this is not always possible for all senators to attend the CAA meetings, it was suggested that the CAA members be invited for discussions in this regard.

Senator Oliver asked how the new syllabus policy impacted the accreditation processes. Dean Augustine replied to this affirming that the policy did indeed impact the accreditation processes, and that NCA will review if all the departments were adhering to the policy set in place. Senator Scher expressed concerns that with such a policy put in place, he was afraid that there may be many syllabi that may not be adhering to the requirements of the policy and this would get worse with faculty turnover. Provost Lord replied that the NCA accreditation review was based on high level criterion; they do not prescribe a syllabus policy or a credit hour policy. What they will look for is evidence that the learning goals are being met etc. and the syllabus policy will be one of the pieces of evidence which adds to that criterion. Senator Scher added that he was concerned that the policy was too specific and he wasn't sure that faculty would be willing to adhere to such a policy especially for courses that have been in the books for a long time with no revisions being made for many years. Senator Padmaraju mentioned that some time back the CAA was considering taking a look at such courses and seeing if they needed to be revised. Senator Rosenstein mentioned that to look at examples for syllabi adhering to the new policy, CEPS syllabi were good examples. Senator Dao mentioned that he remembered that some years ago, there had been concerns that a student could have grounds to sue the university if what was on the syllabus was not covered in the class. Senator Rosenstein said that the new policy kind of adheres to what we know as best practices. Senator Mulvaney added that there was certainly merit in revisiting a policy that has been in place for too long without being looked at. We all may not agree to the content of the policy but CAA has asked us to be involved in the process and we need to see how this plays out.

- d. E-mail from Janet Fopay: CAA Minutes from 1/16 – No action needed
- e. E-mail from Janet Fopay: CAA Agenda for 1/23 – No action needed

VI. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Senator Sterling reported that the Executive committee had met with the President and Provost and had discussed a few issues that included the weather related closing; retention of quality faculty and what measures can be taken to hold on to them; and the speedy action with regard to the hiring of the new football coach.
2. Nominations Committee: Senator Knight-Davis reported that the committee had met to do random selection of the three volunteers for the Apportionment Board, and as per bye-laws did the random selection. She made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Canam for the position. The motion was seconded by Senator Ashley and carried unanimously.
3. Elections Committee: Senator Sterling mentioned the email from John Allison about volunteering for CUPB. Dean Irwin had forwarded Anita Shelton's name, the Senate had approved her as prompt action was needed due to the upcoming CUPB meeting. Later Dr. Allison communicated that there were other candidates who had not been considered. The Senate made the decision due to the pressing need and accepted Dean Irwin's recommendation. In our by-laws, it is mentioned that if there was only one person on the ballot or any position during the elections, the Senate needs to find more candidates. However this has not been done for many years, and if we want to, then we will need to take steps accordingly for the Spring elections. Senator Ashley mentioned that this kind of issue has come up two times in the last two years, so we need to come up with a process that can be put in place if such a situation arises again. Senator Scher asked why we had not sent out the call to all CAH faculty. Senator Ludlow mentioned that the call had been sent forth by their department chair but she didn't know if all the chairs had done so in CAH. Senator Conwell expressed concerns that the decision was left to be made by a Dean. Senator Sterling mentioned that we have not had very good luck with finding volunteers for committees and there has never been a problem before for someone fighting over one position. Senator Scher said that he felt the Senate had been strong-armed into approving Dr. Shelton. Senator Knight-Davis added that the concern seems to be that the communication was sent forth by the Dean and so we should consider asking the Deans to have directly email the elections committee so the information flows back to the Senate Elections committee. Senator Conwell said that once we had a name, that name must be added to the pot. Senator Dao stated that in our message to the Deans we need to be clear that the Deans just give us the names of all who volunteered and not make a selection themselves. We need to clarify the process. Senator Mulvaney added that we need to encourage more faculty to run for positions and in the years he has been on the Senate, every year, we have had to extend the deadline for faculty to consider running. Senator Ashley expressed similar thoughts. Senator Bruns also added that we need to send the message that shared governance means that the faculty needs to be more involved and not just complain after decisions are made. Senator Mulvaney added that the faculty need to realize the value in serving on these campus committees. Senator Sterling declared that he would like to put together an ad-hoc committee to look into our existing

committees and check with what is happening with each of them. This was because most of the time, the committee members do not let us know if a committee has not been meeting and some faculty do not want to serve. Senator Rosenstein asked if we needed a committee for this or if we could have the work distributed amongst us. Senator Ashley added that we had an elections committee and a nominations committee and couldn't they look into this issue. Senator Scher stated that sometimes when committees do not meet, it is not because they do not need to, but because the chair of the committee decides not to meet. So, we need to also look into why some committees do not meet at all. Senator Ashley added that sometimes, some of the committees may not have to meet currently but that does not mean that they need to be disbanded as they may have issues that could come up in the future which will require them to meet. Senator Bruns added that some of the committees do not meet because the Chair of the committee does not want to meet. Senator Sterling concluded that all these reasons warrant that we have a policy in place and so a committee would be a good option. Senator Scher said that we need to have a list of committee members and ask them for a written response. The other Senators expressed concerns that this may further deter faculty from serving.

Senator Rosenstein moved to form an ad-hoc committee to look at election procedures and committees and report back to the Senate. The motion was seconded by Senator Bruns and carried through with two abstentions from Senator Methven and Senator Oliver.

Senator Methven asked what time frame this ad-hoc committee would work with. Senators Bruns, Rosenstein and Ludlow volunteered to serve on the ad-hoc committee. Senator Bruns mentioned that this could be a good topic for a Faculty forum – to discuss faculty serving on committees. Senator Scher added that another topic he could think of was student evaluations. Senator Conwell asked if we could do a survey to ask faculty what they wanted to talk about before deciding on a topic for a faculty forum.

4. Faculty-Student Relations Committee – No report
5. Faculty-Staff Relations Committee – No report
6. Awards Committee – Senator Dao mentioned that he was waiting to get info from Senator Sterling before calling for nomination for the awards.
7. Faculty Forum Committee – Senator Rosenstein mentioned that Senator Ludlow was compiling the notes from the Forum on diversity held recently. One of the issue that they had seen emerging was the “hate speech” and its impact on the campus.
8. Budget Transparency Committee – No report
9. Other Reports – None

- a. Provost's Report – Provost Lord started his report mentioning the luncheon hosted by CATS and the Hoadley award being given out during the luncheon. He added that the search for the Associate Director had concluded and the new hire was coming from St. Cloud University. The search for the Director of Admissions would be concluding soon.

Provost Lord mentioned that Eastern was one of the group of institutions that had filed a lawsuit against the Pension reform and we need to wait and see what happens with the whole issue. He added that Dean Lanham has been able to schedule a meeting for the discussion about the open access matter among various Illinois institutions. Since Senator Bruns serves on the committee, he said that he could report out to the Senate periodically about the course of the discussions.

Senator Conwell asked the Provost about the request made by Senator Ashley for more transparency with regard to cuts made by the Deans. Provost Lord mentioned that the conversations were ongoing and he hopes to see more transparency from the Deans. Senator Conwell also enquired if the enrollment funnel could only be accessed by the Deans and Chairs or if the faculty also could look into that data. Provost Lord replied that he wasn't sure of that and he would find out more about it and report that to the Senate soon.

- b. Other – None

- B. Other Old Business: Electronic Learning Materials recommendations

VII. New Business

- A. Future Agenda:
Spring 2014 Meeting Dates – February 11 (President Perry: Weather Closing Policies (?)); February 25; March 18; April 1; April 15; April 29
Future sessions will include: Admissions, Program Analysis, e-portfolios (?)
- B. Other New Business – None

VIII. Adjournment – The Senate adjourned at 3:45 pm.