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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 11 FEBRUARY 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, J. Ludlow, A. Methven, M. Mulvaney, J. Ochwa-Echel, J. Oliver, K. Padmaraju, J. Robertson, A. Rosenstein, S. Scher, G. Sterling, K. English.

Guests: President Perry, Provost Lord, Dr. Jeanne Lord (LCBAS), Jack Cruickshank (DEN)

- II. Approval of Minutes of 28 January, 2014**
Minutes from the January 28, 2014 meeting were approved. Motion made by Senator Ashley and seconded by Senator Ludlow.

- III. Announcements**
No announcements were made.

- IV. Presentations to the Senate:** 1) President Perry: Weather Closure Policy:
President Perry thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak with the Senate. He was glad to talk to the Senate about the weather closing policies in place at Eastern. He mentioned IGP 158 – which provides for a consultation with a committee if it is available to discuss closing based on inclement weather. Last week, we had the occasion to meet with the committee when the storm came through and so we were able to close at 2:30 pm. The policy is applied in all situations but always does not result in closure. Senator Ashley asked about January 5th and 6th when the weather was predicted to be life-threatening but still the university had not been closed. He asked if that was because the committee had not met. President Perry replied that that does not prevent closure but during that time, the weather was going to clear up soon and with last week, EIU was closed since the city was also indicating limited salt availability. He had consulted with Dr. Cameron Craig who directed him to a specific weather service that would give more accurate information regarding local weather. The closing of the university is unrelated to classes not being held. Sometimes classes may be cancelled but the university may not be closed. Senator Scher commented that EIU was a residential campus but more and more students are commuters so should we start to reconsider the policy. President Perry replied that there is a separate policy related to inclement weather closing which starts with “Due to the residential nature.....” but we do realize that some students and faculty are commuting and I will ask the President’s council to look at the cancellation protocol which was last updated in 2004. This winter has been pretty harsh and the snow piles are getting bigger and bigger. Senator Rosenstein asked about the “use your discretion” policy. As far as students are concerned, the faculty give that consideration but with faculty the situation is different. She was not able to make it and another faculty member had to cover her class but other than that she was working from home. She does not want to mark it as a sick day as technically it was not, so how is she supposed to report it.

Senator Scher added that this issue raises philosophical issues – a student can use their discretion vs. an employee who has to take a sick/personal day because of being unable to get to work. President Perry replied that any time these issues are raised, it depends on how they play out in the regulations but he will look deeper into these issues. Senator Dao mentioned that employees made a choice about living out of town. Senator Rosenstein added that sometimes employees living close by also are not able to come over. Senator Scher said that it was just that while students were allowed to “use their discretion” faculty and staff were not to which President Perry said that well, students are not employees.

Senator Ochwa-Echel had a technology question and mentioned that some of the links related to inclement weather closing were not working and President Perry said that he will look into it. Senator Oliver asked if we need to consider using the weather advisories as part of the weather related policies and if that would be integrated into the policies. President Perry replied that the weather advisories are given with suggestions about protection. The committee has support resources where they look into all of this but the question is how definitive they are. Sometimes the weather advisories are to be looked at with more detail and then taken into account. My understanding is that the wind chill advisories also need to be taken into account and safety is the primary concern.

President Perry concluded saying that he appreciated the discussion and that he will get back to Senator Sterling after the President’s council discussed the issues.

2) Senator Knight-Davis: ATAC/ELM Proposal: Senator Knight-Davis directed the senators’ attention to the report shared earlier as part of the communications and asked if any senators had any questions. Senator Rosenstein asked if faculty needed to know specifically which classroom they were teaching in before putting in the request for the electronic materials. Senator Scher added that this issue can be a problem as classes are scheduled in different rooms and then the technology that he requested may not be supported by the equipment in that room. While faculty is encouraged to use technology, the equipment in some of the classrooms is not up to par to use certain technologies. Senator Knight-Davis concluded that the intent of the form was to have chairs make important decisions about classrooms based on the technology requirements of the courses. Many ISS’s were involved in writing these forms and these will be taken to the Council of Chairs next after which it will be finalized at ATAC.

V. Communications

- a. ‘Faculty Senate Draft’: policy for records retention – Senator Sterling reported that the policy had been sent forth earlier as part of the communications and that this was a state requirement whenever any records needed to be destroyed or archived.
- b. E-mail and 4 attachments from Stacey Knight-Davis, Re; ATAc/ELM (Fac_usage, ELMdraft, Electronic Material, Points to consider)

- c. 3 attachments re: Distinguished Faculty Award – Senator Dao mentioned that the call for the two awards had been distributed and they are waiting for applications to start coming in.
- d. E-mail with schedule for CAA Learning Goals workshops – Senator Sterling encouraged all senators to participate in the workshops that CAA was hosting.
- e. Faculty Laureate Award Nominations form – No action needed
- f. E-mail from Dr. Mary Herrington-Perry, Re; Strategic Enrollment Plan – Senator Sterling mentioned that the Strategic Enrollment Plan was going public and that all of us should look into it.

VI. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Executive Committee – No report
- 2. Nominations Committee – No report
- 3. Elections Committee: Replacement for COS representative to CUPB: Senator Oliver passed along the list of vacancies for the year 2014-15 for the upcoming Faculty elections. He mentioned that the elections subcommittee (Oliver, Methven, & Mulvaney) had met and developed a timeline for the Spring elections. He sought approval from the Senate to be able to send the call out to faculty the next day with a deadline of February 21st for volunteers to submit the petition forms and their statements. The subcommittee had considered that there may be a need for extending the deadline if there weren't enough candidates for the vacancies. The elections will be on March 21st and 22nd. Senator Ashley suggested that the call be sent out to the Council of Chairs too to encourage faculty to run for the different positions.

Senator Rosenstein asked if we need to have the petition form for getting 10 signatures to run for a position to which Senator Oliver replied that as per the by-laws, we do need to. Senator Rosenstein asked the Senate to consider if such requirements were barriers that prevent more faculty from running for elections. Senator Ashley added that he had talked to someone recently who had been advised not to get involved as new faculty. Senator Scher asked if we had looked into the increase or decrease in votes after we have moved to electronic voting. Senator Ashley said that we did have an increase. Senator Scher mentioned that running for positions was still a cumbersome process. Senator Conwell suggested that we draft the call in such a way as to encourage all faculty to run for the positions. Senator Ludlow suggested that we perhaps may not be reaching as many people as we should. There may be a lot of new faculty who have no idea about the whole process and there should be a better system for educating the faculty about the whole process. Senator Bruns called out to all Senators that we need to counteract this general belief that junior faculty being advised not to get involved. We are having many changes and shared governance is very important as these changes are being

made that impact all of us. Senator Scher added that we do need to encourage members of our department to participate in the elections. Senator Bruns mentioned a Senior Colleague program at the library which allows colleagues to encourage more participation from junior faculty.

Senator Oliver added that with Senator Methven retiring at the end of the year, we have another opening on the Senate to complete Senator Methven's term. Senator Oliver will contact the three candidates from last year who had more than 10 votes and see if any of them would be willing to serve out Senator Methven's term.

Senator Sterling mentioned the urgent need to replace the COS representative on CUPB for one semester because of the program analysis that CUPB was engaged in. He emphasized that it was critical that the position be filled immediately. Considering the urgent need, emails were sent to all faculty in COS and names of volunteers had been forwarded to the Senators. There was no precedent for what the Senate needed to do in this regard. We have 3 names, we could do random selection but this is an important committee and we don't want this to be purely based on chance. Senator Rosenstein suggested a random selection but Senator Conwell moved to have a discussion of the volunteers. Senator Ashely seconded the discussion motion and added that he didn't want it to be an occasion for dissecting every volunteer's suitability but rather to discuss the pros and cons and then maybe call for a private vote. Senator Scher asked if we are allowed to have a closed session to which Senator Sterling replied that he was not aware of any provisions for the Senate to go into a closed session. Senator Sterling suggested that we amend the motion to limit our debate to positive comments on why one of the candidates should be considered. We should also take into consideration the statements submitted by the volunteers. This amendment was seconded by Senator Bruns. Some of the Senators mentioned that they did not know any of the candidates personally but others knew all three of them.

Senator Ochwa-Echel made note that he felt that Dr. Blitz was committed to faculty interests and based on this he prefers Dr. Blitz to fill the position. Senator Conwell concurred with him and added that since Dr. Blitz had been on negotiations a number of times, he would be very savvy with negotiations during the proposed cuts after program analysis. Senator Conwell continued that he felt that Dr. McNitt (from political science) had an advantage since he has been here at Eastern the longest and he knows about the talks going on about consolidating some departments into a School of Social Sciences even for some disciplines which are very distinct. Senator Conwell added that Dr. Daniels (Chair of Physics) would also be a good fit since he would be more knowledgeable about the budget process being a department chair.

Senator Knight-Davis mentioned that after looking at the statements, she felt that Dr. Daniels who had mentioned advocacy would be a strong candidate. Senator Sterling concluded that all the three volunteers were strong candidates but he felt that Dr. Blitz and Dr. Daniels were stronger with regard to analyzing numbers and data. He called for a vote. The senators voted and

there were 3 votes for Dr. Mc Nitt, 2 votes for Dr. Daniels, and 9 votes for Dr. Blitz and one abstention. So Dr. Blitz was selected by the Senate to serve on CUPB.

4. Faculty-Student Relations Committee – No report
5. Faculty-Staff Relations Committee – The members mentioned that they were planning on attending the upcoming Staff Senate meeting.
6. Awards Committee - Senator Dao mentioned that the committee was being formed and thanked Senator Sterling for helping in the process. Two students had already been identified to serve on the committee and Dr. Bailey Young had also been appointed by Provost Lord. He was waiting on a name from Alumni Services from Dr. Steve Rich.
7. Faculty Forum Committee – Senator Rosenstein reported that they were waiting on verifying the dates for two forums that they were planning – one on “Hate Speech” to follow up on the Diversity forum and another one to talk about possible topics of interest for future forums.
8. Budget Transparency Committee – Senator Sterling reported that he had just gotten the official report from Dr. Weber and that they will wait to act on these till the program analysis thing plays out.
9. Committee on Committees – No report as it has not met yet.
10. Constitution/By-laws Revision – No report
11. Other Reports
 - a. Provost’s Report - Provost Lord mentioned that he had been with the other Deans at Lakeland college to talk about how to promote more transferability and had heard about their concerns also with declining enrollments at Lakeland and Parkland and other colleges too. He mentioned that they had candidates for the Director of Admissions coming to campus, and open sessions were in the next week. He reminded the Senate about the presentation by Dr. Mary Herrington-Perry to make the enrollment plan public. He encouraged all to attend. On Monday, Feb. 17th, there is an open house and they had the largest number of RSVP’s with around 600 students and their families attending. He urged the Senators and everyone on campus to be welcoming and gracious when we have this huge turnout.
 - b. Other – None

B. Other Old Business: None

VII. New Business

A. Future Agenda:

Spring 2014 Meeting Dates – February 25; March 18; April 1 (e-portfolios?); April 15 (CUPB-Program Analysis?); April 29

Future sessions will include: Admissions, CAA

B. Other New Business – None

VIII. Adjournment – Adjourned at 3:40 pm