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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

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EIU Faculty Senate Session Agenda - Revised
March 21st, 2017, 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Booth Library Conference Room

- I. Attendance and Welcome 2:00 p.m.
*Welcome – Chair Jemmie Robertson
*Senators in Attendance – T. Abebe, T. Bruns, S. Eckert, S. Gosse, H. Hugo, B. Hung, J. Oliver, J. Robertson, A. Rosenstein, G. Sterling, J. Stowell, J. Waller, CC Wharram, B. Young, L. Young (SVPAA)
*Guests in Attendance – D. Klarup (COS), B. Lord (AA), J. Blitz (UPI), C. Buchman (DEN)
- II. Approval of Minutes from March 7th, 2017 2:00-2:05
* Motion to Approve – B. Hung
* Seconded – CC Wharram
* Discussion
- Robertson – point of clarification – motion to endorse the satellite march was approved at our previous meeting – how should we follow up with this?
- Hung – a simple endorsement letter from EIU Faculty Senate to Coles For Science (name of organizing group) – I can author the letter if you would like.
- Robertson > to Rosenstein > IGP 82 was approved – listed at end of minutes from last meeting
* **Vote – unanimous** – (*abstentions – Waller, Rosenstein, Hugo)
- III. Committee Reports 2:05-2:20
1. Executive Committee
a. Update on Provost Search (See Dates Below)
- Robertson – Ad-hoc committee for review of workgroup #7 recommendations were forward to President Glassman. I attended provost candidate meetings prior to Spring Break. Search has been narrowed down to four candidates. Search firm recommended confidentiality of candidates for various reasons – mostly to ‘control’ the announcements and information distribution. My apologies if that causes any frustrations. Also – we were assigned the 11 am time with UPI to meet with candidates in Arcola/Tuscola room – some of us won’t be able to attend. Hopefully several senators can attend. The first candidate’s information has been posted online. He/she will be on campus on Thursday and Friday.
- Wharram – will the candidate letters of interest/intent become available for review? Would be helpful.
- Robertson - I will inquire to see if those can be made available.
b. Provost’s Report: Provost Blair M. Lord
- Lord – welcome back from Spring Break. In the middle of two important searches – interim Library Dean – reviewing three internal candidate applications that have expressed interest. Interviews will be arranged soon, hopefully a decision in two weeks. Dean of CEPS – inviting comments about the long-time associate dean from internal sources. Hopefully will be able to complete this process also in two weeks. Thank you for the extensive feedback on Vitalization WG #7 recommendations. The President will review the feedback, along with recommendations from APERC and CAA on the four programs recommended for significant action. The President’s Council has also been reviewing recommendations from other Vitalization work groups.
- Hung – any recent updates on the student recruitment outlook for Fall 2017?
- Lord – estimated numbers for new freshmen are lagging compared to last year at this time. Around April we literally ‘fell off the cliff’ because of external factors, like the ‘stop-gap’ budget. We are catching up a little bit during the last few weeks in terms of commitments from new freshmen. We hope to continue to make gains. Still an anxious time right now.
- Hung – due to previously discussed factors?
- Lord – yes, the fiscal uncertainties, as well as the movement of FAFSA deadlines, etc
- Gosse – so the budget outlook is still unclear?
- Lord – the ‘grand resolution’ in the Illinois Senate has stalled...probably dead...discussion seems to be moving towards another year of ‘stopgap’ funding.
2. Elections Committee 2:20-2:30
a. Update on Spring Elections

- Stowell – on schedule to run elections on Wed at 8 am until next Wed at 5 pm. Several unfilled positions... hopefully write-in candidates will politic for at least 10 votes during the election process. ITS has it set up, it has been tested, it is ready to go.
- Oliver – encourages a 2nd email (*last reminder*) next Tues or Wed.
- Stowell – maybe the day before – Tuesday.
- Abebe – asks for clarification on how write-in candidates can participate
- Stowell – provides clarification on process for write-in candidate participation
- Gosse – what about Faculty Senate?
- Stowell – 6 candidates for 5 positions – so other positions on the ballot

3. Nominations Committee

2:30-2:45

- Rosenstein – IGP change will require update on the committee description list managed by S. Stowell. I will complete a list of open positions on nominated committees for Fall 2017 following the results of the Faculty Senate Elections. I should have a list ready for announcing position openings and ‘request for nominations’ in early April.

4. Faculty-Student Relations Committee

- Waller - Student Parking proposed change – email from Lynnette Drake – proposal to allow students to park in any student or student/staff lots regardless of class distinction. Do we want to comment? If so, how?
- Abebe – adds comments on previous contractual negotiation that involved parking spaces/lots. Clarification is needed on which lots are being discussed here? As well as how many spaces? Then we can provide input.
- Blitz – this is a definitely a contractual matter – negotiated back in 2009-2010 – Chief of Police approached us recently to transfer faculty lots to faculty/student lots - Across from Coleman near basketball court and across from Old Main. Have not responded yet, and faculty senate is welcome to provide insights, but this is really a contractual issue that UPI will need to negotiate.
- Robertson – so the issue being discussed here does not really affect faculty lots – the issue J Blitz is discussing is a separate parking situation.
- Abebe – only if it is a staff or faculty lot
- Rosenstein – there are graduate students that teach off campus, and then they come to campus and try to find parking for a 4 pm class – difficult to find at times. For this group, the student/staff parking lots may be more important to them than to undergraduate students. Adds more comments.
- Bruns – this issue could impact student/staff parking lots, not faculty parking lots – has this been brought up to staff senate? Also – this is recommended as a ‘trial’ run – can be tested to see if any changes work.
- L. Young – I serve on this particular committee – the biggest lot of concern is the lots by the football field vs. the campus recreation center – the recreation center lot is upperclassmen only but usually only half filled – underclass students have to park all the way over by the football stadium. Suggestion – that is unnecessary if the recreation center is only half full on average.
- G. Sterling – still a viable concern if undergraduate students park their car and leaving it there for extended periods of time – maybe a change in overnight parking policy is also in order if class distinction is changed?
- L. Young – another factor is the ‘visual’ impact of a ½ filled parking lot when student tours are being guided over by the Campus Recreation Center. Fill lot = more visually appealing lot to prospective students.

5. Faculty-Staff Relations Committee

- Bruns > report from E. Corrigan – Staff Senate met on March 8th – J. Norman was set to attend, had to rescheduled to April 12. Discussed EIU impact study, a mobile calendar app under consideration, prospective changes to parking permit fees, staff senate elections, years of service luncheon on April 18th, provost search, ongoing AFSCME negotiations on health insurance, additional discussion planned by faculty-staff committee to enhance relations between staff and faculty senates.

6. Awards Committee

- Hugo – no report – will send DFA award recipient info for website to S. Oliver soon

7. Faculty Forum Committee

- Bruns – no report

8. Budget Transparency Committee

- Sterling – no report

9. Ad hoc Committee on Extracurricular Athletics

- Wharram – no report

10. Ad hoc Committee for the Review of Workgroup 7 Recommendations

- Wharram – the report was submitted

- Robertson – both APERRC Report and CAA reports were submitted and are worthy of review/discussion – CAA will vote on report at their next meeting on Thursday. Have not received the COTE report yet. All received reports seem to be congruent in terms of response to Vitalization WG #7 recommendations – Philosophy is central to the mission of EIU and it should be retained.

- B. Young – I note with satisfaction the CAA report that stresses the quality of the Philosophy Department, something that WG#7 overlooked. For a somewhat small department, it covers/includes all major discipline components in the curriculum. This is important to note – the program is high quality and is well adapted to the needs of this university.

IV. Communications

1. Faculty Senate Minutes from March 7th, 2017

2. CAA Minutes from March 2nd, 2017

3. Ad hoc Committee Review of Workgroup 7 Recommendations (Final Submitted Version)

4. APERRC Report

5. CAA Review of Workgroup 7 Recommendations

6. Email from Lynette Drake Regarding Student Parking

V. Jonathan Blitz, UPI President, Presentation on April 27th UPI Teach Out event 2:45-3:00

- Blitz – UPI is preparing an event for April 27th – we hope for wide-ranging participation – students, faculty, staff

- Blitz – shares EIU institutional data on # of employees by category during recent years (2006-2016), as well as student enrollment decline. * Conclusions = Lost 45% of civil service employees during decade. A&P/administration has experienced the lowest/slowest decline (not surprising?). *Note – chairs are sometimes counted as faculty.

- Blitz – shares 42 years of state appropriated funding for EIU – inflation adjusted to 2015 dollars – 2000 to 2006 years were strong funding years for EIU. After 2010 – sharp decline in funding levels. Average funding - \$57.8 million. Last ‘good’ year was \$43 million (AY2015) – still significantly below 42-year average. Adds more comments about state funding levels for other categories = higher education shows largest losses.

- Rosenstein – did you correlate with the ‘ups and downs’ with student enrollment?

- Blitz – did not collect/calculate that data

- Hung – adds comments – enrollment crested in 2007-2010, and we still received less funding from state of Illinois.

- Blitz – the point in showing you this data is to emphasize that higher education has received the least amount of funding during the past decade – really only receiving ‘trickle’ of funding to keep us ‘alive’ – the data clearly shows that higher education is clearly being singled out in Illinois.

- Blitz – compares EIU funding situation with Illinois ‘sister’ institutions – decreased funding has resulted in severe cutbacks for everyone – cites Chicago State – 65% less funding resulting, laid off significant portion of faculty and staff = only 86 incoming freshmen this year – does not include transfer students or students that have left the institution. Cites dire funding situation and layoffs at other ‘sister’ institutions.

- Blitz – this data clearly reflects the ‘de-funding’ of higher education in Illinois – we have lost 54% in per student funding between 2008 and 2015.

- Wharram – notes that Arizona has massively increased cost of tuition, which has probably clearly placed us (Illinois) at the bottom of the funding list.

- Eckert and Hung – asks related questions about Kansas and if pension support/lack of support is included in data

- Blitz – what can we do about it? We need to do something? Results = UPI has scheduled a ‘teach out’ for April 27th – a day trip to Springfield to voice our concerns about the terrible funding for higher education in Illinois – we invite faculty, staff, and students to participate. Classes will be taught at the state capitol building – will attempt to create a ‘show’ for legislators – we can’t sit back passively any more – we have reached out to Student Senate for support/participation as well – you need to register to attend and you need to sign up for a bus seat – UPI will pay for the busses.

- Hung – if you can’t leave that day because of obligations, I ask that you consider encouraging students to still attend with an opportunity to make up the work for the missed day – we need to fight for funding and what we believe in – we need a strong presence in order for our elected officials to feel the ‘pressure’ from their electorate. Makes additional comments about the importance of advocacy right now.

- Gosse – is there wifi at the Capitol Building? I teach online but I need wifi access to do so.

- Rosenstein – I support advocating for more funding for higher education – discusses perception of higher education jobs being ‘soft’ – my concern about a ‘teach out’ is that it may reinforce the perception that we can just take our

courses anywhere we want at any time in order to advocate for our profession while other groups of professionals clearly could not be able to do so - suggests other options to advocate – such as a 14 hour broadcast from campus, that may not reinforce the perception of our ‘soft’ jobs. Deserting our universities for a day may not be the best option. Never great for me or my students to miss any class, even one for the worthy cause of advocating for higher education funding.

Gosse – I believe this is a great opportunity to take the message to the seat of supposed state power (if any left). Yes, every day is important, every day counts – but I think it is a great idea.

Robertson – university approved travel or personal day?

Blitz – personal day

Robertson – what about students?

Blitz – please consider not penalizing students that participate

Bruns – people who think faculty are lazy will think this regardless, so this opportunity will allow us to share a clear message against opponents like the Illinois Policy Institute – and point out important benefits of higher education.

Stowell – my personal feeling is that teaching a class in Springfield will result in limited attendance – and this is the last day of class of this semester – I completely support the democratic process – is there another option to complement the teach-out for those who cannot attend?

Gosse – maybe attach letters to the resolution you brought?

Blitz – review the resolution and endorse it if you want to

Abebe – I move that we adopt/endorse the resolution/event

Eckert – I second the motion

* Roll Call vote – Bruns, Robertson, Sterling, Waller, Eckert, Abebe, Gosse, Hung, Oliver (9)

* No – Stowell, Rosenstein, Hugo (3) * Abstain – Wharram (1)

L. Young – mentions upcoming student elections

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjournment no later than 3:00 PM

Upcoming Dates for Spring 2017 Faculty Senate Sessions: April 4th & 18th

- Guests Scheduled for April 4th: Kelly Miller and Joshua Norman

Provost Candidate Interviews:

- Candidate 1: March 23rd, 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. Faculty Senate and UPI, Arcola-Tuscola Room

- Candidate 2: March 27th, 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. Faculty Senate and UPI, Arcola-Tuscola Room

- Candidate 3: March 30th, 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. Faculty Senate and UPI, Arcola-Tuscola Room

- Candidate 4: April 4th, 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. Faculty Senate and UPI, Arcola-Tuscola Room

Robertson – bring questions for the candidates – a chance to get to know each candidate

Gosse – will we be asked to make a recommendation?

Robertson – I don’t believe so – probably asked to fill out an individual survey for each candidate

Hung – related comment – the hiring of a marketing firm for EIU – received email from President Glassman – I encourage all senators to consider volunteering to participate in the discussion w/firm

Rosenstein – is it a contractual arrangement with the marketing firm?

Hung - yes

Sterling – I have been a part of 3 strategic planning processes – none of the efforts attempted to discuss what EIU is – mission, target student audience, vision, etc. All focused on pieces of the larger

process, but none on all pieces. Concern is that an outside firm may be charged with this process – definitely encourage senators to get involved and provide input.

Robertson > to Stowell > there is a work group that is working on some of this now

Stowell – the WG focus is on academic programs. This is also a part of the every 10-year accreditation process. But we usually have been ‘reactive’ - I share some of your concerns.

* Annual Faculty Retirement Reception - - * May 4th, 4:00 p.m., Tarble (TBA)