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Faculty Senate

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Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting on Jan 22, 2019
Room 4440, Booth Library

Note: This minutes is a summary of the proceeding, not a verbatim transcript.

Attendance: Abebe, Brantley, Bruns, Chahyadi, Corrigan, Eckert, Holly, Hung, Oliver, Shaw, Stowell, Wharram, VanGunten
Student Senate Representative: Gordon
Guests: Provost Gatrell, Mr. Awalt (ITS), Dr. Krakenbaker (VPAA Office) Ms. Haynes (DEN)

Bruns called meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Stowell moved. Second Holly. All pass. Teshome and Shaw abstained.

First executive board meeting with Dr. Glassman will be Jan 28.

Feb 5, Interim Dean Lord will come to talk about CHHS. Dr. Larry White will talk about IBHE.

Feb 19, Interim Dean Shelton from CLAS.

April 16, Interim VP Drake will come talk about VP Student Affairs.

Will invite VP McCann in Fall. Possibly invite Athletic Director Michaels as well.

Given the election for Senate in Feb, the by-law changes, APERC/STHC changes, and dedicated ACF seat will need to be resolved first prior to other items of interest.

Regarding APERC/STHC, Stowell contacted Dr. Ludlow concerning any possible contradictions with the contract. In correspondence, Dr. Ludlow expressed that the contract stipulated that the members on these committees should be elected, not appointed. Dr. Ludlow also expressed concerns whether the members chosen in the proposed method would be representative at the college level. Stowell mentioned the method we proposed cannot guarantee that college-level representation, but given the number of people on the committee it is unlikely to fail in that. Stowell also posed the question on whether deliberate selecting members in the new model is any easier than simply holding elections. So perhaps we should continue doing the same method and wait to resolve the remaining difficulties in the new model. Hung suggested since the underlying problems of reduced number of faculty and lack of participation from faculty are still not resolved, perhaps the executive board of the Senate should meet with UPI executive board to discuss what can be done.

CUPB report by Hung:

- Josh Norman and Ryan Gibson gave report at CUPB on the work and progress of the marketing efforts. Reports included numbers in their budgets.
- Spring enrollment number looks good, but not official yet.
- Currently, the recruitment funnel looks as good as it did last year. Dr. Glassman said that the new challenge now is to increase the number of acceptance from the pool.
- New legislature in Springfield brings new hope towards increasing university appropriation budget as well as capital expenditure projects.
- McCann's report said that we are short on budget for personnel expenses, but he anticipates that the summer income will make that even.

Abebe asked whether the marketing expenses this year is the same as it was last year. Gatrell answered that the budget this year is lower, because right now we are spending mostly on media buy, and not so much on brand development. Bruns mentioned at CUPB he suggested that budgets for each section of the campus should be made transparent and for the campus to review. Gatrell said that he will forward the IPEDS report to the Senate for review.

Stowell: Election committee has a one-semester vacancy on CGS for Fall, due to sabbatical. Probably run it as election. If not, then appoint.

Oliver: Updated on reports of activities from the appointed or self-nominated committees. The committee on continuing education should be renamed to extended learning advisory council, as per interim Dean Bower. In some committees, the roster seemed to not have been updated. So follow-ups are required. The duties of the Student Process committee may now be encompassed by the EWORKS committee. The Library Advisory committee is planning on eliminating the use of alternates, so that will cut down on the number of faculty needed.

Eckert: Announcement for distinguished faculty award is out. Waiting on one appointment to the selection committee.

Gatrell: Stand-alone program from Fashion Merchandizing and Design going to CAA in the next 2 weeks, going to BOT in March. BOT is this Friday with open section. Thank you for those who participated in Dean searches. Lumpkin Dean will be here this week, chaired by Dean England. Search for VP University Advancement is still going on. No 10th day yet due to holiday.

Bruns: Call for topics for Presidential Lecture Topics. Topics potentially include: Big Data. College Student Mental Health. Loneliness and social media use. The role of college education in political/voting decisions. Artificial intelligence.

Awalt: Interim Assistant VP of ITS. Reported on current initiatives from ITS. No significant changes to the department's budget compared to the year before. Due to the campus budget issues, the charge-back from department has been terminated. There needs to be conversation about new income streams for ITS. The new ITS now handles technology needs of both Business Affairs and Academic Affairs, and that is providing new challenges. Some highlights:

- Negotiating new site licenses of software can possible save us significant amount of money.
- We have updated connectivity to 10 gigabytes in our campus buildings to support growing need and to enable the use of virtual desktops.
- The cost of thin clients is significantly lower than the price for conventional desktops or laptops. Individuals who need functionality not offered by thin clients will still have access to what they need.
- Thin clients and virtual desktops can allow users to pull up their own individualized desktop from any thin clients on campus, i.e., a professor can walk into a classroom and pull up their own desktop to use, eliminating issues like moving files, transferring files, or customizing classroom stations.
- Added new revenue streams like partnering with Illinois Realtors Association's training program.
- Helped bring the online Nursing degree program.
- 15,500 tickets closed by IFT from Aug1 to Aug1.
- With academic tech support now part of ITS, new systems need to be established to make sure ITS is accountable for the areas that ITS now impacts, so that requests and communications do not have to jump from VP office to VP office.
- Abebe thanked Awalt for providing leadership to ITS. Raised the issue of making technology ready and prepared in classrooms so faculty can do our jobs seamlessly. What can faculty do to minimize the disruption caused by interruptions in classroom technology. Awalt said that part of the solution is a new technology refreshment plan for the campus so technology can be appropriately upgraded and updated. Awalt is proposing a technology plan to even out the amounts needed to keep up the technology needs over the years. If maintenance and upkeep can be done regularly, then the school will not need to come up with huge sums of money at once.
- Hung asked that when ITS gets the budget for updating technology, what is the process used in determining who gets technology updates on campus? A lot of technical difficulties are localized to a specific classroom in a specific building. What processes do we have that these difficulties are being addressed in the context of technology updates? Awalt said that University Technology Advisory Committee should take point in the making recommendations. His plan is to take the total amount available and divide it evenly across the colleges, knowing that not all colleges are equal in size, but this plan takes away any issues of decisions made in terms of preferences. ITS does have a list of problem classrooms. Currently ITS has budget to refresh 54. This comes out to be about 12 to 13 classrooms per college.

Will need to partner with departments in the effort. Hung asked to clarify that once ITS gives the number of refreshing stations available to each college then it's up to the Dean and department chairs to decide which stations get updated. Awalt said he will provide background information to assist the Deans in making the decision.

- Virtual desktops are now available due to updated infrastructure and will be rolled out to administrators, faculty, and students. This allows for each user to access the technology at any time, instead of having to be in a specific computer lab. While personalized desktop and laptops are still important, the goal of ITS is to standardize the user experience across the board.
- Library faculty should be added to the UTEC.
- Bruns raised the question on where decisions for technology purchase are made. Awalt responded that they work with faculty to determine the technology need and then to find the right equipment to meet that need, but after that, the order is out of the hands of ITS. Any purchase that is out of the P-card limit will need to go through an RFP process.
- Hugo asked the roll-out time table for virtual desktop. Right now, some programs are already using it. More will be done in Spring, to make sure the technology supports are available. The plan is to complete any transitions to be done before Fall. Approximately 500 to 600 thin clients, spread across campus offices and classrooms, before Fall.
- Wharram raised the issue that since colleges now are not comparable in size (number of faculty), if technology updates are done in equal parts across campus, then CLAS will lag behind in updates. Awalt explained that since the lifespan of thin clients is 10 years, the anticipated plan is that the smaller colleges will complete a thorough update first, so that after the first two years, the allotment will go to the larger colleges. Hung suggested that perhaps some communications with the deans council or VPAA may help ITS come up with a plan of technology renewal that can address some of these issues in the academic area. Bruns suggested that this may not be a good plan since it appears to open up renewal as negotiation each year. He suggested that it'd be better if ITS comes up with a plan that proportionately reflect the school's reality, using whatever metrics they think is best, like number of students served, student contact hours, etc.
- Awalt said that thin clients will not be considered for areas where technology demands are specific, e.g. Journalism and Chemistry. That also goes for faculty and staff as well when it comes to their productivity.
- Bruns commended Awalt on the ability and willingness to shift the technology plans when new information and new data become known.
- Brantley asked if there are updates on the brute force attack on EIU log ins. Awalt said that EIU has implemented CAPTCHA technology in log in screens and other new features to try to deter those attempts. There needs to be a balance between holding security and still not giving too much barriers to people doing their work.
- Abebe asked what faculty can do to help ITS do their jobs better. Awalt said that the new ITS is trying to incorporate the process of supporting academic technology

needs. So the most helpful is to find channels to let him know of any problems. If he does not know of a problem, then he cannot start to fix it. Hung suggested that the UTEC will now have a bigger role in opening the communication between campus and ITS. Faculty can bring the information about the new channels of communication so that the new model of service gets on everyone's radar.

- Wharram asked if there are permissions granted to faculty to update computers aside from ITS. Awalt responded that it is important for ITS to know what updates and upgrades have been done to each station so that they can provide the support when users need support. Awalt also said that some of the issues will be resolved with virtual desktops.
- Shaw commented that the tickets she submitted this past fall have all be resolved speedily and satisfactorily.

Abebe motioned to adjourn at 3:40 pm. Wharram seconded. Motion passed.