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Minutes

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Faculty Senate

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Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting on Aug 20, 2019 Room 4440, Booth Library

Note: The minutes summarize the proceeding, and do not constitute a verbatim transcript.

Attendance: Abebe, Barnard, Brantley, Eckert, Holly, Hugo, N. Shaw, Stowell, VanGunten, Wharram.
Student Senate Representative: Noor Khamisani
Guests: JJ Bullock, Anya Porter (DEN)

Wharram called meeting to order at 2:00 pm, noting the gavel presented to Senate at the last meeting of the previous year by Chair Todd Bruns in memory of Senator Joe Williams, who passed away in August of 2018.

The members of Senate made brief introductions.

Wharram suggested tabling the minutes from the last Senate proceeding of April 30, 2019, as Senator Hung will submit, when he is able.

Committee Reports:

Wharram had set up a google doc for committee sign-up. He suggested that Chairs of Senate committees might submit brief reports in advance of future sessions in order to help organize minutes for our as-yet-undetermined Recorder and to allow Senators to consider items in advance of meeting. Discussion centered on the utility of oral reports and deliberative exchange during Senate time. The Senate agreed to written reports on a temporary basis, with the proviso that time be allocated for discussion during proceedings.

Executive committee will meet with the President and Provost on August 26, and will discuss the Presidential Lecture Series (on the topic of student mental health), among other topics. Student Representative Khamisani noted that Student Government would be setting aside a week in September to focus on the topic of mental health.

Senator Abebe (Faculty Forum Committee) reminded Senate of the Forum scheduled for September 12, in the Charleston-Mattoon Room at MLK Union @3pm, featuring Professor Dobbs presenting on the mega-drivers of higher education in the coming decades. We encourage all faculty and administrators to attend.

Senator Stowell (Elections and nominations committee) noted a number of vacancies on various committees that need to be filled (see forthcoming Senate communications), including the Senate seat of Tony Oliver, who has taken on the role of the Associate Dean of HHS (and is therefore ineligible for election to Senate). The Senate deliberated filling the role through an election for either a term of one year (temporary, allowing for a return after one year) or a term of three years (making a “permanent” representative for HHS). Senate decided that the motion would set a precedent for future such decisions.

Motion (Wharram/Brantley) that Faculty Senate set an election for a three-year term for the representative of Health & Human Services. Motion passed (Yes: Stowell, Holly, Barnard, N. Shaw, Eckert, Hugo, VanGunten, Brantley, Wharram; No: Scher, Abebe). Motion carried.

Wharram and Stowell assured the Senate that former Senator Oliver would be informed that he would be welcomed back with open arms should he once again become eligible for election in the future.

Wharram informed Senate that he had been contacted by the Council of Illinois University Senates, requesting participation in a Fall (conference call) meeting, and had been asked about items for the agenda. Senator Scher suggested that the UI-UC's student growth model may be a concern for the other state universities, as well as EIU.

Provost's Report: Provost Gatrell noted that enrollment numbers appeared encouraging, in both first-time full-time and transfer enrollments. Dean searches this year have been approved on a quicker timeline and include 18 new Unit A and 4 Unit B hires in CLAS, priority given to delivering curriculum in high-need, high-demand areas. Search committees have been populated for the two dean searches in COE (chaired by Dean Newell) and CLAS (by Dean Hendrickson), noting also upcoming search for Tarble Center director.

The Provost was pleased to announce a proposed plan for a Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing, that is now beginning to wend its way (as quickly as possible) through the internal and external approval processes. Wharram and Stowell confirmed that Provost Gatrell informed the Executive in July. Scher and Stowell queried the Provost on the process, potential enrollments, and primary competitors. Aim will be for 60-70 graduates per year.

After a long, drawn-out appeal for a volunteer for Recorder by Senators Wharram and Stowell, including some discussion of the position's duties and possible (but not constitutional) alternative options, Senator Holly reluctantly, but heroically, volunteered to serve as Recorder.

Motion (Scher/N. Shaw) to accept Don Holly's nomination for Senate Recorder. Motion carried unanimously (Holly abstaining).

Some discussion was given to concerns about the Textbook Rental service and the increasing difficulty prompted by the costs of electronic resources.

Discussion regarding guests to invite to Senate during the semester/year resulted in the following list of names: newcomers Deans Özlem Ersin (HHS), Austin Cheney (LCBT), VP University Advancement Ken Wetstein, Assistant VP Academic Affairs Jason Hood, and newly appointed General Education Czar, Grant Sterling.

Motion (Barnard /Eckert) to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted by CC Wharram.