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Minutes

Faculty Senate

10-29-2019

October 29, 2019

Faculty Senate

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Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 10/29/2019 Room 4440, Booth Library

the minutes summarize the proceeding, and do not constitute a verbatim transcript

I. Call to Order

- Chair of Faculty Senate, C.C. Wharram, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm
- Senators in attendance: Abebe, VanGunten, Barnard, Chahyadi, Holly, Hugo, K. Shaw, N. Shaw, Stowell, Wharram, Brantley, Gosse, White, Eckert, Scher
- Guests: JJ Bullock (DEN reporter); Provost J. Gattrell; AVPAA J. Hood

II. Approval of Minutes.

Motion (VanGunten/Abebe), Holly abstain

III. Committee Reports

- Executive
 - Wharram: meeting held on 10/21/2019. President appointed Dean Z. Newell (Library), D. Holly (Anthropology), and S. Park (English) to Think Tank; they join Senate appointees T. Abebe (Economics), M. Dobbs (Business), and M. Mueller (Political Science). Think Tank will be meeting soon. Searches underway/soon for VP Student Affairs, VP Business Affairs, and Director of Admissions. General desire of BoT to make interim positions permanent.
 - Stowell: “Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act” bill signed by Governor, but not yet actuated (7/1/2020). Concern that it will be an unfunded mandate. EIU is in the process of hiring one counselor now. Certainly rising demand for mental health services, with # of students seeking help increasing.
Discussion
 - Gosse: other universities are supporting escalating needs with student fees
 - Stowell [reading act]: “No Section of this Act may be funded by student fees created on or after July 1, 2020.”
 - Wharram: Senator Scher was appointed to textbook rental committee without formal Faculty Senate approval (apologies!). Call for retroactive vote. Motion (Stowell/N. Shaw). Motion carries. Scher abstains.
Senator L. White arrives (2:17 pm)
- Elections & Nominations
 - Stowell: nothing to report
- Student Senate
 - (no report given as student senator Khamisani absent)
- Student and Staff Relations
 - Brantley: nothing to report
- Awards Committee
 - N. Hugo: 9 nominations (!) for the Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service award; Danelle Larson (Music) was chosen as this year’s recipient. Motion (N. Hugo/Barnard). Motion carried unanimously.
- Faculty Forum
 - Abebe: event for November is not going to work out. Now planning for Spring.
- Budget Transparency
 - Barnard: nothing to report

IV. Business

- Provost's Report
 - Provost Gatrell: Homecoming wet and cold, many thanks to all those that participated. Distinguished Alumni (homecoming awards) impressive, example: Monica Genta (Windsor, IL educator). Dean searches (CLAS, CoE) moving toward semi-finalists. Testing Accommodations expected to be running in Spring; staffing (costs) a concern, but hope to add a permanent position next year; also building online system through which students can schedule testing services and faculty can upload exams. Assessment 'task force' has conveyed recommendations, waiting on feedback from Deans; expect something to campus this winter. Emphasis and opportunities for depts. and programs to reflect on curriculum, devise outcomes, and also to think about General Education—what it means to us (EIU).
Discussion
 - Scher: since many majors don't get job in (specific) field, how to assess?
 - Stowell: there are discipline-specific learning goals
 - Abebe: how to assess those that transferred? EIU "natives" vs. transfers?
 - Barnard: assessment of Gen. Ed. should help (capture) this
- School of the Arts, update
 - N. Shaw: building School of Arts student community with social events; programming underway for Spring semester; developing intimacy training (for intimate (theatre) scenes: safe communication/practice); in "discussion" about SoA logo/branding; putting together recruitment material too.
- Testing Accommodations update
 - Wharram: already discussed [see Provost report]
K. Shaw departs (3:00pm)
- IBHE/CUPB Report
 - Wharram: went to IBHE talk by Nyle Robinson on IL higher Ed. Budget: best budget for higher ed. since 1990 (8.2% increase); MAP budget increase (12.5%); appropriations (adjusted) is today about half of that in 2002; pension liability (from underfunding in past) is consuming money; K-12 to Higher Ed ratio of funding has skewed toward K-12 in last decade or so; deferred maintenance costs have escalated; MAP formerly funded students @ 100% tuition, now 34%; IL working on "stay in IL" campaign to keep students in-state; 'truth in tuition' program is hurting IL since other states can attract (with low tuition) and then raise tuition after enrollment.
- Other Business?
 - Wharram: I'm going to CUPB meeting next week

V. Adjournment

- Motion (Holly/Barnard) to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Adjourned at 3:23 PM.

Submitted by Senate faculty recorder, D. Holly