

Eastern Illinois University

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

10-6-2020

October 6, 2020

Faculty Senate

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Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 10/6/2020 Held Remotely via Zoom

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

I. Call to Order

- Chair of Faculty Senate, Don Holly, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm
- Senators in attendance: Stowell, Shaw, Scher, Kozlowski, Abebe, Barnard, White, Mulvey, Bruns, Hugo, Parrish, Richards (Student Senate). Absent: Chahyadi.
- Guests: J. Gatrell (Provost), A. Flaherty (VPSA), H. Webb, M. Beck, A. Tumino (DEN), A. Davis.

II. Approval of Minutes.

- Motion (Mulvey/Parrish) unanimously approved (Roll call vote taken)

III. Abridged Committee Reports

- Executive
 - Faculty Concerns: overwhelmed with captioning of videos for online courses and general technology demands that come with online teaching
 - Rising cost of Healthcare: Large percentage increase for health insurance on EIU employee's paychecks.
 - State of the University Address taking place soon.
 - Spring Break at EIU? Some Illinois Universities are considering changing date or cancelling Spring Break. Eastern Illinois University has currently not made any decisions.
 - Faculty & Staff Flu Shots are in the pipeline. Stay tuned.
- Elections & Nominations
 - No report
- Student Senate
 - Richards: Elections have been held. Another round of elections will take place in November for Student Senators. Orientation Wednesday, October 7, 2020.
- Student & Staff Relations
 - No report. Senator Scher will be contacting the Student & Staff Senates.
- Faculty Forum
 - No Report
- Awards
 - Hugo: Luis Clay Mendez Nomination call has been sent out. Deadline Friday, October 9th at 4pm. Review will take place immediately following and candidate selected by First Faculty senate meeting in November.
 - 2020/2021 Committee Members: Nichole Hugo (Chair), Todd Bruns, Teshome Abebe, Nichole Mulvey
- Budget Transparency
 - Barnard: Discussions about issues that are relevant to pursue this semester as we come out of the budget crisis. What is next? New faculty, new programs, and etc....how should we move forward? The Provost will share more in his report.

IV. Business

- Provost's Report (Gatrell)
 - Dialogue is taking place with Shield Illinois about saliva testing at EIU. The goal is to complete 500 tests per week once the tests become available.

- EIU will be a host site for the Coles County Health Department to do Flu shots and COVID-19 testing hopefully during the week of October 12-16th—more information to come. All information will be publicized.
- CUPB –all members of the PC have received preliminary budget. 5% of the budget has been held back [saved] of the total \$56 million dollar budget due to possible State callbacks. Final budget will be presented and approved at November’s Board of Trustees Meeting. Looking forward to a conservative year relative to resources but this is a good place to start. Faculty is currently at a 13:1 student to faculty ratio institution wide. Base budget obligation should be 16/17:1 to sustain. This is the first year since 2008/2009 for a net increase in degree seeking student credit hour production, which means a modest increase in revenue. Moved from decline to growth, this has taken 4 years to begin to eliminate an enrollment tail.
- Chair Report (Holly)
 - Speakers/Topics for Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings: Sue Gosse-Research Funding, November 10th; (+/-) Grading Scale, December; Mayor Brandon Combs-Town/Gown Relations and Diversity Inclusion Issues, January 2021; Christy Hoosier (Council of Teacher Education).
 - Rich Jones (Making Excellence Inclusive) contacted Chair Holly. Senators on the Adhoc committee include Holly, Shaw, Barnard, and Richards (SS).
 - CUPB and Student Affairs Subcommittee Meetings- Housing had a \$3.5 million cut and Athletics (est. \$1.2 Million) in the Spring due to COVID-19. New Science Building moving ahead-the architecture firm has been chosen.
 - Council of Illinois University Senates—discussed many similar issues that we are having at EIU including—labor issues working remotely, Black Lives Matter, and Spring Break.
- Think Tank Committee Update
 - Holly: Topic being discussed about the lessons of COVID for the future of higher education. The committee members are doing reading and research on the topic. A meeting will take place with the President on October 22nd.
- Guest Speakers (Anne Flaherty (VPSA) and Heather Webb (SS))
 - VPSA Flaherty shared professional and personal background. COVID Testing/ Flu Clinic will take place next Wednesday, October 14th on campus. She also discussed Counseling services and overall student mental health during the Pandemic. Counseling services is currently offering virtual and phone modes of delivery for counseling sessions. In person sessions are available for crisis situations. The counseling center is short staffed and there is a waitlist to see counselors as of about a week ago. Hiring of a new counselor is underway and one temporary counselor will be increasing her hours and patient load. This is not a unique problem to Eastern. Perhaps a shift to group sessions and other “Upstream Approach” methods need to take place. This approach would include a holistic wellness approach to increase the mental health and well being of students.
 - Title IX Update (Dr. Heather Webb). Changes have been made at the National Level and a new Title IX Panel has been formed on campus as well. New federal regulations came out in early July. New regulations allowed changes in EIU policies to be made to better serve the entire campus community. New policy allows for the employee process and student process to mirror one another, which was not previously the case. Moving forward the Panel will make the decision in the case and the appeals for student cases will go to the VPSA and employee cases will go to the appropriate VP and the President.
- Constitution (article IV, section 2)-Proposal sent to Senators in email attachment by Chair Holly. Stowell: We have faculty members who are interested in joining Faculty Senate prior to the current EIU employee timeline restriction but cannot. We can either strike the article completely from the constitution or say that they are eligible in their second semester instead of the fourth.

- Faculty Advisory Council of IBHE
 - White: Looking for faculty driven initiatives that move the University into the Community. Urban Butterfly Initiative, Rural School Initiative, Office of Community Engagement and Volunteerism, Adult Fitness Program, Communication Disorders and Sciences On-Campus Clinic, School Psychology Graduate Program Reading Group, and etc..... Please forward any other information regarding faculty driven community initiatives to Larry White.

V. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 3:22 PM.

Submitted by Senate faculty recorder, K. Shaw