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Minutes

Faculty Senate

10-20-2020

October 20, 2020

Faculty Senate

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Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 10/20/2020 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 2:00 pm
- Senators in attendance: Stowell, Shaw, Scher, Kozlowski, Abebe, Barnard, White, Mulvey, Bruns, Hugo, Parrish, Chahyadi, Richards (Student Senate).
- Guests: J. Gatrell (Provost), A. Tumino (DEN), N. Khamisani & S. Coffey (Student Senate)

II. Approval of Minutes.

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

III. Abridged Committee Reports

- Executive
 - No report
- Elections & Nominations
 - No report
- Student Senate
 - Richards: First Meeting 10/21/2020
- Student & Staff Relations
 - No report
- Faculty Forum
 - Met 10/20/2020: Faculty Forum for Fall 2020 will address the constitution amendment (article IV, section 2) that is currently being discussed. Faculty Forum for Spring 2021 will coincide with the President's plan for a guest speaker on mental health.
- Awards
 - Hugo: Luis Clay Mendez awardee will be announced at the first Faculty Senate meeting in November 2020.
- Budget Transparency
 - No report

IV. Business

- Provost's Report (Gatrell)
 - EIU /Coles County Health Department Flu Shot /COVID-19 testing event (October 14, 2020) resulted in 765 COVID tests and several hundred Flu Shots for EIU faculty, students, and staff and community members.
 - COVID positive case and quarantine numbers on campus have been down for two weeks in a row. These numbers do not include the previously mentioned on-campus COVID testing event.
 - No decision has been made by administration as to whether or not Spring Break 2021 will be cancelled due to COVID-19.
 - Applications are currently being accepted for a new Director of Student Publications and a new Director of Faculty Development and Innovation Center (FDIC) both are due November 6th, 2020.

- Chair Report (Holly)
 - Speakers/Topics for Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings:
 - Sue Gosse-Research Funding, November 10th;
 - (+/-) Grading Scale Discussion, December 8th;
 - Mayor Brandon Combs-Town/Gown Relations and Diversity Inclusion Issues, January 8th;
- Think Tank Committee Update
 - Holly: Meeting with President October 22nd, 2020.
- Proposal to change Constitution (article IV, section 2) - tabled until next meeting after proposal documentation can be sent out.
- Proposal to reconstitute Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) ad-hoc subcommittee – discussed pros and cons of making a permanent DEI subcommittee.
- Alert EIU/ Coles County Emergency Services Siren- discussed the disruption caused during class when siren goes off for testing. Provost Gatrell will look into doing the siren/ emergency testing at a different time to avoid classroom disruptions.
- Guest Speakers (S. Coffey, N. Khamisani, J. Richards (Student Senate))
 - Student senators discussed overall feeling of changes and challenges in the learning environment due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Student Senators expressed student concerns about feeling engaged in online courses, contacting and communicating with faculty, harsher grading, and assignments being given online with a 24 hour turn-around for due dates. Student Senators also said that most students, themselves included, are empathetic to the fact that many faculty are overwhelmed with online learning and also struggling.

V. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 3:19 PM.

Submitted by Senate faculty recorder, K. Shaw