

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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11-10-2020

**November 10, 2020**

Faculty Senate

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## Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 11/10/2020 Held Remotely via Zoom

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*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, Chahyadi, Richards (Student Senate).
- Guests: J. Gatrell (Provost), A. Tumino (DEN), S. Brantley, S. Gosse, A. Kerins, & H. Ramrattan

### II. Approval of Minutes.

- Motion (Stowell/Abebe) Approved—12 Yes votes/Parrish abstained (Roll call vote taken)

### III. Abridged Committee Reports

- Executive
  - Holly: Coles County recently moved to COVID-19 Tier 1; which means no indoor dining. The university is exempt but will still take extra precautions. Spring break remains scheduled as originally planned in the academic calendar. Fall 2021 is expected to look as much like Fall 2019 as possible. Plans for the new science building are moving forward as planned. Administration has met with the architecture firm.
- Elections & Nominations
  - No report
- Student Senate
  - Richards: Meeting regularly. Executive Meeting this evening 11/10/2020
- Student & Staff Relations
  - No report
- Faculty Forum
  - Abebe: Faculty Forum for Fall 2020: Constitution Changes will take place November 12, 2020 @ 3pm via Zoom.
- Awards
  - Hugo: Luis Clay Mendez awardee announced—Dr. Shelia Simons.
  - Dr. Sheila Simons is a Professor in the Department of Public Health at EIU. She has been very active on the EIU GSD (Gender and Sexual Diversity) Advisory committee, which has involved mentoring students and assisting with planning for an HIV testing clinic. She also works with SACIS (Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services) to offer training to staff and assist them with being able to see clients safely. During the COVID-19 pandemic she delivered information to the public and academic community through presentations and papers, spearheaded contract tracing on campus, and works to assist students and faculty with understanding proper procedures at EIU. Outside of EIU, she assisted with delivering food to older residents in the community and held community meetings to respond to questions regarding the virus. She puts students first by working to fundraise for scholarships and delivered needed items for students in quarantine. Her hard work and dedication to EIU and the community has been exceptional, particularly during a time of substantial disruption and concern.
  - Motion to Award the 2020/2021 Luis Clay Mendez Award to Dr. Shelia Simons (Hugo/Bruns) Unanimously Approved (Roll call vote taken).

- Budget Transparency
  - No report

#### IV. Business

- Provost's Report (Gatrell)
  - Welcome to campus the new Assessment & Curriculum Coordinator in the VPAA office- Yvette Smith. Yvette will be working with program assessment, program reviews, and compliance with IBHE and HLC.
  - The University Community continues work to reduce the spread of positive COVID cases and create a safe environment for Students, Staff, and Faculty. The "Halloween Bump" in numbers of positive cases was lower than expected. Shield tests should be coming to campus soon.
- Chair Report (Holly)
  - Speakers/Topics for Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings:
    - (+/-) Grading Scale Discussion, December 8<sup>th</sup>;
    - Mayor Brandon Combs-Town/Gown Relations and Diversity Inclusion Issues, January 8<sup>th</sup>;
  - Met with CAA, COTE, and CFR on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Discussed curriculum issues as they are slower to address and change in the COVID environment. Also reevaluating the future of courses—perhaps Hybrid or Hyflex learning. CGS is working on revisions and additions to the learning goals.
  - Working with Kris Phipps to change the First Tuesday of the Month alarm time frame in order for the alarm to be less disruptive to lecture in classes. The PC is also supportive of this campus wide change.
  - The University Naming Committee is working towards a new name for Douglas Hall.
- Think Tank Committee Update (Holly)
  - Continued work on COVID Lessons for Higher Education. Also looking ahead in order to meet changing student demographic needs: specifically the Latinx population and adult learners.
- Proposal to change Constitution --Article IV, section 2 (Stowell)
  - The Faculty Senate constitution currently states that a faculty member must be in at least their fourth semester of appointment at the university to be eligible to run for elected university committee positions. I propose to remove the following eligibility criteria from the faculty senate constitution.
    - Article IV Section 2. ~~"Members of the faculty, as defined by Article I, shall become eligible for election to the Faculty Senate in their fourth semester of appointment in the university."~~
    - Article VI Section 6. c) ~~"Any member of the faculty who is in at least their fourth semester of appointment at the university shall be eligible for nomination and election to any of the standing committees of the faculty"~~
    - Elected standing committees include CAA, COTE, CGS, and CFR
  - Motion to Amend the Proposal (White/Stowell) Unanimously Approved (Roll call vote taken).
  - Motion to Approve Constitutional Amendment(Barnard/White) 11 yes/ 2 no (Roll call vote taken).
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- Guest Speakers / Faculty Research Funding (S. Gosse, A. Kerins, & H. Ramrattan-- Faculty)

- Faculty members discussed the ongoing lack of funding for faculty research and dissemination of research from the university. There is a concern for the normalization of the lack of funds for scholarship, especially for junior faculty who are working towards tenure. One idea is to develop a database of equipment/resources that are available for faculty members to use for research purposes across campus.
- Do we need to reevaluate funding? Since funding has not returned since the budget impasse, perhaps we either need resources to return or we need to recalibrate the DACs.

#### V. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 3:12 PM.

*Submitted by Senate faculty recorder, K. Shaw*