

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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12-8-2020

**December 8, 2020**

Faculty Senate

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## Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 12/08/2020 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 2:00 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), A. Jacobs (CGS), C. Danyi (CAA) & Dean Henderson (COE)

### II. Approval of Minutes.

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

### III. Abridged Committee Reports

- Executive
  - Holly: The Counseling center has seen a significant increase in caseload: grades are one of the top three issues reported causing stress/anxiety for students. New counselor has been hired to address increased counseling needs and will start January 2021. Discussion also took place on confidentiality for faculty members submitting digital portfolios. (Gatrell) The review process has been redesigned and roles and nomenclature will be more understandable than in years past. Provost needs to know as soon as possible if there are any “hiccups” in the submission and/or review of the digital portfolio process.
- Elections & Nominations
  - Bruce Barnard is attending his final Faculty Senate meeting. Congratulations and appreciation to him for his service to Faculty Senate. Senator Porter will be taking his spot.
- Student Senate
  - Richards: Student Senators delivered COVID Care Packages to 48 students in Quarantine during Thanksgiving Break and will continue to disperse the remaining packages as needed over the coming weeks. Dining with the Deans was a success; discussion took place regarding +/- Grading Scale and COVID. Student Senator Skylar Coffey needs 1 Faculty Senate member to serve on the apportionment board. Student Senate is recessed until start of Spring 2021 Semester.
- Student & Staff Relations
  - No report
- Faculty Forum
  - No report
- Awards
  - No report
- Budget Transparency
  - No report

### IV. Business

- Provost's Report (Gatrell)
  - Enjoy the last week of the semester!
  - Please do anything you can to support student success. It is greatly appreciated.

- Shout out to Dr. Mona Davenport, Mandi Starwalt, Tyler Phelps and Josh Norman for all of their work with students that had holds on their accounts. They have been working tirelessly to reach out to students and get them registered for classes. Before the communications and new practices on lifting holds were implemented, 7.5-8% of students were not registered for Spring 2021, then down to 3.5%, and then as of today [December 8] registration is essentially even. Also a major thank you to the team of advisors who also helped in this process.
- Strategic Planning with the IBHE is underway. Equity, Access and Student Success are the focus of the planning with an emphasis on the importance of Student Scholarship. Congratulations to Dr. Mona Davenport; she has been appointed to the Strategic Planning Advisory Board for IBHE.
- Today [December 8] is the deadline to submit CR/NCR for students. Please remember the deadline date, as it cannot be extended.
- More progress is being made on another Capitol Project [other than Science Building previously mentioned]. The Illinois Innovation Network has received authorization for the East Central Illinois Hub at the CENCERE building. It will include a 2,000 square foot addition to the building and finishing of the pathway between Greek Court and the CENCERE Building. This project is being completed in partnership with Lakeland College. The ECI Hub will focus on community development and sustainability. Thank you to Dr. Nichole Hugo for the Illinois Innovation Network Conference that she hosted in October. Dr. Hugo also taught the first collaborative course as part of the Illinois Innovation Network. Eastern Illinois University is at the center of the project thanks to the work completed by Dr. Hugo and Dean Ryan Hendrickson.
- Joint Resolution 41 (Student Success and Equity Issues) goes forward and EIU is participating in reporting data for the last two cohorts. SJR-41 is part of a broader dialog. Thank you to Tim Taylor who is representing us on the state wide advisory board.
- Spring Break 2021: the decision was made to scatter days rather than starting a week later or ending a week earlier for three reasons. (1) Student loans would have to be re-originated and awards be re-awarded; which would have a significant impact of the disbursement date of loans for students. Many students rely heavily on the disbursement of those funds on a particular date. (2) Registrar would have had to go in the system and re-register every student, in every section, of every course as a part of a new date structure. (3) We needed to provide students and faculty with some sort of time off during the semester.
- Chair Report (Holly)
  - Speakers/Topics for Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings:
    - Mayor Brandon Combs-Town/Gown Relations and Diversity Inclusion Issues, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please send questions for the Mayor to Don Holly as soon as possible.
  - The First Tuesday of the Month Alarm (EIU Alert Siren) will now go off on campus at 9:25am instead of the usual 10:00am. Thank you to President Glassman and the administration for working to make this happen.
  - BOT: \$100,000 was raised (in just under two years) and the Glen Hild Art Gallery was officially named in Doudna.
  - The University Naming Committee continues work on a possible name for Douglas Hall. Soliciting feedback from community, faculty, staff and etc....
  - CUPB: Basketball team has earned some money from games. There is also a concern about holdback money for the state. Perhaps some funding relief will come from the federal level because of COVID relief.
- Think Tank Committee Update

- No report
- Proposal to change Constitution --Article IV, section 2 (Stowell)
  - The Constitution Amendment Faculty Vote had a 25% response rate; 62% majority in favor of the amendment, 38% not in favor. The proposal will now go on to the BOT meeting in January 2021.
- +/- Grade Change Discussion (Holly)
  - Faculty Senate members and guests discussed the possibility of changing the current grading scale to include a +/- system. Chair Holly presented information (via PowerPoint) on the positive impact that including a +/- system at EIU could have. Discussion took place amongst senators and guests on both the positive and negative outcome of such a system as well as the different possibilities on how the new grading scale could “look”/work. Senators look forward to more discussion in the future on this matter and perhaps a more formal proposal.

#### V. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 3:52 PM.

*Submitted by Senate faculty recorder, K. Shaw*