

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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1-19-2021

### January 19, 2021

Faculty Senate

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# Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 1/19/2021 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: Abebe, Bruns, Chahyadi, Davis, Holly, Hugo, Kozlowski, Mulvey, Parrish, Porter, Richards (Student Senator), Scher, Shaw, Stowell, and White
- Guests: J. Gatrell (Provost), A. Tumino (DEN), & Brandon Combs (Charleston Mayor)

## II. Approval of Minutes.

- Motion (Bruns/Scher) Approved—13 Yes votes/Porter abstained (Roll call vote taken)

## III. Abridged Committee Reports

- Executive
  - Holly: Welcome to two new Senators: Amy Davis & Will Porter.  
Next Executive Committee Meeting will be February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Elections & Nominations
  - Stowell: Time for committee to verify and confirm any committees that may need to be filled.
- Student Senate
  - Richards: Student Senate will start meeting next Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Student & Staff Relations
  - Scher: No report
- Faculty Forum
  - Abebe: No report but status report coming for next meeting.
- Awards
  - Hugo: Distinguished Faculty Senate Award for the Spring Semester. Nomination form will be sent out to all Faculty within the next few days. Nomination forms will be due February 19<sup>th</sup>, Results from award reviewers due March 5<sup>th</sup>, and Results reported back to senate March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Budget Transparency
  - Holly: Do we still need a Budget Transparency Committee? This was originally formed as an Ad-Hoc Committee. Discussion on necessity of committee took place. A motion was made to eliminate the Ad-Hoc Budget Transparency Committee (Stowell/Parrish). Motion was tabled to allow time for other faculty to review minutes and respond as to whether or not the committee is necessary to continue (Bruns).

## IV. Business

- Provost's Report (Gatrell)
  - Welcome back to everyone from Winter Break.
  - Shield Testing has begun on campus as of today, January 19, 2021. In addition to SHIELD testing, we are also doing traditional testing in the Student Health Center as well as testing in Athletics. Upcoming SHIELD tests will include 400 students and 100 employees who will be randomly chosen and invited to test every week.
  - Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) on campus last week. 279 tests from campus members as well as additional tests from the community.

- Board of Trustees Meeting coming up on Friday, January, 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting will be held virtually.
  - Initial indicators show that enrollment numbers are up with increases in overall headcount, returning degree seeking students, new international students and credit hours. Fall registration and enrollment looks very similar to this time last year which is an amazing place to be in the COVID environment.
  - CARES Act 2 Money has been deployed Nationally which will give \$7.8 Million dollars to support lost revenue and COVID expenses as well as support student aid.
  - Higher Learning Commission (HLC) quality initiatives are moving along. Jeff Stowell and his team have collected data and are in the process of finalizing a draft.
  - A new and updated assessment website has been created in order to streamline the assessment process.
  - COVID related academic impacts. Students have known since they registered as to whether or not the courses would be delivered online or face-to-face which is a benefit for everyone. Credit/No credit grade type requested by students were as follows: Fall 9.6% and in Spring 10.2%.
  - Honors Students total admits is up 7%.
- Chair Report (Holly)
    - Will meet with CAA, COTE, CGS and CFR on January 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - Met with Chair of CAA to discuss pairing down the Grade Appeal Committee to one University wide committee.
    - Attended CUPB. ITS discussed the increasing cost of software. University Advancement discussed positive donor stories. Also discussed was how to increase revenue of the Union Spaces for rent.
    - Discussed the possibility of extending the deadline for when grades are due to be submitted by faculty from Monday to Tuesday.
    - Upcoming Meetings:
      - February 9<sup>th</sup>—Vice President of Business Affairs Sean Reeder
      - February 23<sup>rd</sup> –CLAS Dean Bonnekesen
      - March 9<sup>th</sup>—COE Dean Henderson
      - March 23<sup>rd</sup>—Naming Committee Members Kevin Wetstein and Angie Campbell
      - April—20<sup>th</sup> Filling of Executive Committees
- Think Tank Committee Update (Holly)
    - Micro funding of students via Venmo. Students can apply for small grants and money can be sent out to students. Sometimes education is impacted by very small bills.
- Review of Open Access Policy (Bruns)
    - Introduction of topic for discussion at future meetings.
    - 2014 State of Illinois passed an Open Access Law that required State Universities to come up with a plan to best provide open access to the research being produced on campus. Eastern produced a plan in 2014 that was unanimously approved by faculty and the President's council. The EIU Open Access Plan has not been revisited since. A draft revision of the policy has been written that simplifies the original document. This revision draft needs to be further discussed and addressed at the next meeting in order to allow faculty time to review.
- Guest Speakers / Charleston Mayor (Brandon Combs)

- Discussion took place as to several different issues concerning town and gown relationship. Faculty Senate members were encouraged to submit questions for the mayor ahead of the meeting. Topics discussed included upgrades to Lincoln Ave. and pedestrian crossings, upgrades to Lake Charleston and other Charleston outdoor attractions, Nationally recognized Butterfly City, Butterfly festival, Charleston/Mattoon bike path, marketing of Lake Charleston to students and EIU community, and City of Charleston Police Community and Student safety.

#### V. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 3:53 PM.

*Submitted by Senate faculty recorder, K. Shaw*