

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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4-6-2021

### April 6, 2021

Faculty Senate

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#### Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "April 6, 2021" (2021). *Minutes*. 1149.  
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## Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 4/6/2021 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: Abebe, Bruns, Chahyadi, Davis, Holly, Hugo, Kozlowski, Mulvey, Parrish, Richards (Student Senator), Scher, Stowell, and White
- Senators absent: Porter, Shaw
- Guests: J. Gatrell (Provost)

### II. Approval of Minutes.

- Motion (Scher/Bruns) Approved—10 Yes votes (Roll call vote taken) 2 members not present during voting.

### III. Abridged Committee Reports

- Executive
  - Holly: All faculty, including those teaching remotely this academic year, allowed to attend graduation ceremonies. Discussions continue with IDPH regarding Phase transitions. At this time, higher education required to continue to follow 6-foot rule for students though elementary education has decreased to 3 feet required. EIU has space to continue this accommodation. Anticipate several updates and continued discussions between IDPH and universities in near future. Vaccines are available to faculty and students and information is being shared via university emails. Faculty requested making it clear in minutes which senators did not attend.
  - Stowell: Update on science building construction. Funds approved, waiting on release of funds to begin. No clear date for this release.
- Elections & Nominations
  - Stowell: All appointed positions have been filled and all volunteers were notified last weekend. A call went out today for Intercollegiate Board and executive committee will approve with IAB consultation.
- Student Senate
  - Richards: Student Senate will not meet this week due to the wellness day. At their recent meeting they approved 3 RSOs and the student rec center fee increase. They will meet next week and anticipate a busy few weeks as the semester end nears.
- Student & Staff Relations
  - Scher: No report
- Faculty Forum
  - Abebe: No report
- Awards
  - Hugo: No report
- Budget Transparency
  - Holly: Received concerns from a faculty member about disbanding this committee. Confirmed budget is available on Board of Trustees website and Senate will continue to have representation on CUPB.

### IV. Business

- Provost's Report (Gatrell)

- Commencement plans continue for outdoor ceremony following CDC guidelines. Each college is formulating a “Plan B” in case of inclement weather.
  - Continue to make plans for Fall 2021 to allow for traditional college experience, plans for fully face to face. Few classes over 100 students and if 6-foot rule continues, we have the facilities to accommodate.
  - Shield Testing continues and all students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to utilize this service. Health Services reported 0 cases last week.
  - University working to organize transportation to SBLHC for students to get available vaccines
  - Budget hearing for higher education to occur this spring, anticipating minimal changes to proposed budget from governor’s office, optimistic will have budget before May 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Enrollment updates: Committed students up 1% from last year this time despite being down in overall applications (potentially students applying to fewer universities overall and having fewer incomplete applications). International student applications increased from last year as well, transfer enrollment varied and changing, graduate commits stable. Enrollment management believes our marketing to our “backyard” as well as getting visitors to campus has helped.
- Chair Report (Holly)
    - Reorganization of grade appeal committee has moved for approval to CGS
    - Naming committee held several forums, approximately 1,100 response to survey to date and encourage everyone to vote if they haven’t; committee meets again next Wednesday
    - Attended CUPB recently and all facilities budgets are in the black
  - Think Tank Committee Update (Holly)
    - Meet with President next week
    - Lessons from COVID for higher education – discussion will be at next Faculty Senate Meeting
  - Indigenous Land Statement
    - Senator Holly had generated discussion at a previous meeting and shared current statements from peer institutions prior to the meeting.
    - Discussion regarding whether EIU should have a land acknowledgement statement as well as how to make an indigenous land statement more than a token or empty gesture. Questions included what the purpose of the statement, historical knowledge needed, and how to reflect thoughts and perceptions of groups affected.
    - Considered senate working group or group from President’s appointment. Consider need for expert scholars, contact with diversity task force and/or OCR
    - Determined this will be revisited at next week and Senator Holly will discuss with the President’s Council
  - Other Business
    - No other business reported

## V. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 3:01 P.M.

*Submitted by Senate faculty recorder substitute, N. Mulvey*