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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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August 31, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate 2021-2022

August 31, 2021

Members in attendance: Teshome Abebe, Todd Bruns, Amy Davis, Brad Decker, Stephen Kozlowski, Nichole Mulvey, Alicia Neal, Jeanne Okrasinski, Stephen Kozlowski, Will Porter, Jeff Stowell, Larry White, Andrew Parrish (arrived 2:20)

Members not in attendance: Steve Scher, Nicholas Shaw

Guests Present: DEN Reporter Corryn Brock, VPAA Jay Gatrell, Dean Zach Newell, Dr. Michael Gillespie

- I. Welcome back to campus
 - a. Faculty Senate members were welcomed back at 2:00 by Chair Todd Bruns. Senators briefly introduced themselves to the group.
- II. Organizing subcommittees
 - a. Nominations/Elections Committee - Jeff Stowell will continue to chair this committee and volunteered to Jeanne Okrasinski and Stephen Koslowski will serve on this committee.
 - b. Faculty Forum – Chair will be Nichole Mulvey, and Teshome Abebe, Larry White, Alicia Neal will serve on this committee.
 - c. Faculty/Staff/Student Relations Committee – Co-chairs serving will be Todd Bruns (focus on Faculty/Staff) and Amy Davis (focus on Student Relations)
 - d. Awards Committee – Todd Bruns will chair, Will Porter, Alicia Neal, Teshome Abebe will serve on the committee.
- III. Executive Committee Update on Previous Topics
 - a. Plus/Minus Grading – It was determined that this would need to be a formal proposal from faculty member (s) to go to CAA and CGS and they would confer with us for support or input.
 - b. Indigenous land statement – Some departments have a statement, but the university as a whole does not yet have a statement. We will wait on EIU Admin to come to us for input/approval
 - c. DEI subcommittee discussion – We need to consider where this is being addressed already on campus and determine how/if we see Faculty Senate fitting in.
 - d. Think Tank – This started about 3 years ago during vitalization group meetings. With a proposal to form EIU Think Tank, half of the members were appointed by Faculty Senate and half appointed by President. The Think Tank was tasked at looking toward horizon and discussing plans for the future of EIU. This will be up for renewal/further discussion in the spring semester. Examples of topics discussed in previous years included the Common App, making EIU test optional for admissions, with last year more operationally focused around COVID. The Think Tank allows faculty and administration to think more creatively about the future of EIU.
 - e. Chair Todd Bruns will attend BOT meetings and will be sharing information with them at their monthly meetings.
 - f. There is an active recommendation to hire a Senior DEI officer on campus.
 - g. Presidential lecture series that was cancelled in Spring 2021 will be held in Spring 2022 and focus on student mental health.
 - h. Asbestos abatement is occurring in science building on third floor, being complete floor-by-floor.
 - i. McAfee deferred maintenance is scheduled to begin this fall.

- j. Textbook rental pilot – The electronic textbook/ORE pilot is taking place this fall again and campus is collecting feedback from students about this process.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Elections/Nominations Report – 6 vacant positions this fall, so please encourage and support colleagues who are interested. Nominations due by Friday and elections will likely run mid to late next week for one week.
- b. Faculty Forum – We have planned a forum on mental health and committee is seeking feedback on location and whether it should be offered as an in-person, online only, or hybrid event. The consensus was that we will offer a hybrid event. The committee will follow up with the speaker to confirm that they are interested in still coming to campus for an in-person event and secure a date and location for the event, with plans for this to occur in September or October.

V. Provost's Welcome and Report

- a. Quality Initiative Group/Report - Related to the HLC, this group has recommended that we must focus on increasing diversity on campus to improve quality of education at EIU. This includes needing to continue to have national searches for Unit A and B positions. This is moving forward and will be presented to BOT at September meeting. Question was asked regarding how this affects hiring in relation to the budget crisis, where several Unit A were getting hired as Unit B. The process was clarified that unit B faculty would be eligible for being part of national searches.
- b. New science building is moving forward. EIU is the planning phase after vetting 16 proposals and university is moving forward with the architects in the planning phase.
- c. IIN Sustainability Project - CENCERE (Center for Clean Energy Research and Education) is being updated with an addition from IIN funds.
- d. Fall semester data – University is not yet at 10-day count, but we know we have strong international and graduate enrollments for sure. More information to come after next week.
- e. Governor's mandate last week resulted in requiring vaccination or submitting to weekly testing. As of today, 72% of employees have verified vaccination, but university needs students to upload vaccination cards. Faculty are encouraged to talk to their students and encourage them to upload as indicated in today's email. EIU enforces mandate through COVID compliance through student accountability. Mandated testing will begin the week of September 5th. A question arose about incentives for students to get vaccinations, but due to it being a "mandate" at this time, administration is planning for the issue to take care of itself. HERFF is being directed to areas of revenue loss such as housing and tuition, though discussions of incentives have been had and continue to be explored. Another question arose regarding about what faculty should do if a student refuses/is noncompliant within classroom. As instructor, you have an obligation to instruct students to maintain safety for themselves and others and obligation to report student to standards. Student and faculty safety is paramount.
- f. Senator Abebe asked inquired about an update on the establishment of a new college (CHHS). Provost gave examples: RN to BSN program has grown exponentially, Health Promotions/Public Health has been essential to managing COVID on campus and in Coles County, etc.. Provost Gatrell gave additional examples of ways colleges and departments are working together, looking for a 3-4 year window to watch for continued growth.

VI. Guests: Michael Gillespie (FDIC) and Zach Newell (Dean of Library Services) arrived at 3:00 p.m. to present information.

- a. Proposal to combine FDIC and Library Advisory Boards (Gillespie/Newell)
 - i. Guests spoke to senate about establishing a Booth Collaborative Advisory Committee, one board combined from the library advisory board and FDIC. The one board recognizes the way the library is moving forward in building a community for teaching and learning and scholarship in a joint, intentional way. Merging would minimize work

of faculty senate on appointing library board and would be more efficient in utilizing faculty voices who are currently serving on the board(s).

- ii. The memo suggested a new combined board of approximately 10, including a graduate and undergraduate student member. Discussion regarding how individuals are appointed to the committee took place, and based on the proposal, senate suggested a faculty senate appointee (one of the senators) and 1 from each college except 2 from CLAS, 5 total appointed. As it currently stands, the library advisory committee is the largest advisory board appointed by faculty senate and FDIC is second, essentially 15 faculty members total.
 - iii. Discussion from senators regarding continued mission and making an intentional link to scholarship. Speakers discussed moving towards a more teaching and learning centered resource for faculty.
 - iv. A motion was made by Senator Bruns to support the merger of the FDIC and Library Advisory Boards to form the Booth Collaborative Advisory Committee with faculty appointments through shared governance (as discussed above). The motion was seconded by Senator Stowell. A called vote resulted in the motion passing unanimously.
- b. FDIC 2021-2022 (Gillespie)
- i. Michael Gillespie provided updates and information about FDIC since taking over June 1, 2021.
 1. FDIC services are divided into 4 themes: develop, teach and learn, consult, connect
 2. FDIC has a new YouTube channel. Right now "Teaching Tips and Tricks" is available and they are currently collecting "5 Questions" about faculty.
 3. Faculty Senate is asked to share information, promote FDIC services, and provide feedback to drive mission and activities.
 4. Fall workshops will be moving toward F2F and currently include grant writing and re-engaging with scholarship.
 5. Partnership grants are due October 15, focusing on trying to foster innovation and creativity.
 6. Dr. Jeffrey Stowell was the first recipient of the Quality Online Course certification at EIU and information about learning about teaching online courses was shared and discussed.

VII. Topics for 2021-2022

- a. Due to time constraints, the senate only discussed possible areas of focus, including rebuilding a faculty culture and moving away from survival mode to invigorate engagement. More discussion will be held at the next meeting.
 - i. On campus in the COVID era: Concerns?
 - ii. Faculty numbers: Concerns?
 - iii. 2021-2022 Theme?
 1. "Moving from the Survival Era to the Investment Era"
 2. "Rebuilding a Faculty Culture"

Meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.