

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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9-28-2021

### September 28, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate 2021-2022  
Agenda and Minutes September 28, 2021

Senators in Attendance: Teshome Abebe, Todd Bruns, Amy Davis, Brad Decker, Stephen Kozlowski, Nichole Mulvey, Alicia Neal, Jeanne Okrasinski, Andrew Parrish, Will Porter, Jeff Stowell, Larry White (arrived 2:15)

Guests Present: VPAA Jay Gatrell, Robert Le Cates (Daily Eastern News), Rege'nte Myers, John Wills, Ryan Meyer, Braxton Griffy (photojournalism students)

The meeting was called to order by Senator Bruns at 2:00 p.m.

- I. The senate welcomed Prabin Karki, the new representative from Student Senate, as well as members of a photojournalism class attending.
- II. Approval of minutes from 9/14/21; Motion by Alicia Neal, Second by Andrew Parrish; minutes passed unanimously and will be posted on Faculty Senate website.
- III. Committee reports
  - a. Exec (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey) – Met with President and Provost on Monday, September 27th
    - i. Mental Health Resources for Faculty – The executive committee discussed making sure faculty mental health was being addressed. We plan to provide links on Faculty Senate website as well as having Linda Holloway (HR) come to a meeting to make sure faculty know what resources are available to them.
    - ii. DEI President's Advisory Committee – Senator Porter will be the representative from Faculty Senate; Currently conducting search for Senior Diversity Officer and committee will be assisting.
    - iii. Current search for Chief of Campus Police, occurring within the next couple of weeks, look for open public interviews to attend.
    - iv. Senator Bruns will be attending state faculty senate presidents meeting in the next couple of weeks and will report back at next meeting.
    - v. State of University Address from President Glassman will be occurring in the next few weeks.
    - vi. Construction efforts continue on campus at MacAfee and Life Sciences Building and Women's Locker Room at Lantz. The same construction company is working on all of these, so progress is occurring in phases.
    - vii. The new science building update – currently looking at data collected on needs (number of classes, lab sizes, etc.) and looking at potential sites on campus. The building is being described as a "gateway to campus" in terms of architecture and location planning. The project is currently slated to be completed in 2025.
    - viii. Panther Pantry opens on October 1 in MacAfee and available to all students with their Panther Card. Please advise students of availability and encourage them to utilize this resource as needed.

- b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
    - i. Jessica Zanton agreed to volunteer to fill vacancy on FDIC representing COE.
  - c. Student & Staff Relations (Davis/Bruns)
    - i. Staff Senate has not met again this month (meet once a monthly), so no new report.
    - ii. Student Relations – Prabin Karki gave the Student Senate report after introducing himself. Student senate will meet tomorrow (Wednesday) to organize committees and plan for the year. They meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in 7<sup>th</sup> Street underground. The student senate plans to focus on getting all voices heard on campus this year. The executive board is all new to student government, so they are excited to begin.
  - d. Faculty Forum (Mulvey)
    - i. Fall Forum on Faculty’s Role in Student Mental Health is set for Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00-4:00 p.m. as a hybrid event. In person attendance in Witter’s Conference Room, Teams invitation available by RSVP. More information will be shared to all faculty soon as plans are solidified.
  - e. Awards (Bruns)
    - i. Luis Clay Mendez service award reminder was sent out September 23<sup>rd</sup>. No nominations at this time, so please encourage your colleagues to nominate deserving faculty.
- IV. Provost’s report
- a. COVID update – Seeing increase in compliance since last meeting. Student vaccinations or in progress at 71%. Please encourage students to upload vaccine card (not the same as what students turned in to Health Services); Employees 77% vaccinated or in progress; Anyone not vaccinated will be required to test (not vaccinated, partially vaccinated, choosing not to disclose) unless 100% remote teaching or attending.
  - b. IIN Cincere is moving forward with planning to start next year.
  - c. Planning for next semester regarding COVID and implications. Current plan is to continue as was done for fall semester, no anticipated changes.
  - d. 2021 searches (for 2022 hires) – 20 have been approved (2 chairs, 10 Unit A, 8 Unit B) to meet demands of growing enrollment in select programs; this year, all retirements have been replaced.
  - e. New Tutoring Center, staffed by Mona Davenport, provides supports for all 1000- and 2000-level courses. Portions of this office are open with continued expansion into next semester.
  - f. Senator Mulvey asked about barriers to accessing student evaluations that are sent to them and intended to be used for portfolio or award applications. When attempting to combine PDFs, faculty get an error notice due to the forms being password protected. While there are various ways faculty have found to “work around” this, it seems to be an unnecessary burden when faculty are being asked

to submit portfolios or awards entirely online. Provost Gatrell suggested contacting Carrie Gossett to determine possibilities.

- V. Guest Speaker: VP of Student Affairs Anne Flaherty joined the group at 2:30 to discuss services available to students and staff. She shared data from the past year and resources for faculty to share with students.
- a. Last year, 91% of students completed an online course on mental well-being.
  - b. Academic Concerns jumped up to top 3 concerns of students being seen in the counseling center, this is new related to COVID.
  - c. She shared slide on academic, behavioral, physical indicators of mental health concerns faculty may see in students. This is available on the website and in paper form at FDIC.
  - d. Student Accountability and Support facilitates the Student Support Team, led by Dr. Heather Webb. <https://www.eiu.edu/judicial/stusupportteam.php>
  - e. Health Education Resource Center – several topics covered for students throughout the year <https://www.eiu.edu/herc/>
  - f. Counseling Services <https://www.eiu.edu/counsctr/>
    - i. Online Mental Health Screener – available on website
    - ii. Many opportunities for Group Counseling
    - iii. Lifelinks Grant – New partnership to provide additional counseling opportunities for students; just received grant, working out details this week
  - g. Recognizing Students in Need of Support - Document available at FDIC, faculty encouraged to share with colleagues  
<https://www.eiu.edu/judicial/2021SupportingourStudents.pdf>
  - h. A question was asked regarding the status of student need and services this semester. There is currently a wait list of 60 students for counseling and additional discussions are made about facilitating services. Students are always offered group sessions first; students in crisis will always be served immediately.
  - i. Campus Recreation – Faculty should encourage students to engage in self-care through focusing on physical health <https://www.eiu.edu/campusrec/index.php>
  - j. Student Legal Services – Faculty should let students know this is free to students for several reasons including landlord disputes, citations, etc. that could be causing student stress. <https://www.eiu.edu/sls/>
  - k. Senator Abebe asked about if/where students are taught classroom etiquette and faculty discussed possible avenues such as Foundations courses, social justice statements in syllabi, etc.
  - l. Faculty discussed FDIC developing student mental health resources and learning opportunities for faculty.
  - m. Faculty can help students by sharing resources. For example, a faculty member could do “housekeeping” items in front of students in class to quickly get the information in front of them.

Adjourned: 3:14 (motion Abebe, second Mulvey)