

Eastern Illinois University

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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10-12-2021

### October 12, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate 2021-2022 Agenda and Minutes  
October 12, 2021

Members Present: Teshome Abebe, Todd Bruns, Amy Davis, Brad Decker, Stephen Kozlowski, Nichole Mulvey, Alicia Neal, Stephen Kozlowski, Andrew Parrish, Will Porter, Steve Scher, Jeff Stowell, Larry White

- I. Approval of minutes from 9/28
  - a. Motion for approval Senator Abebe, second Senator Neal; motion carried unanimously
- II. Committee reports
  - a. Exec (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
    - i. Senator Scher was appointed as the Faculty Senate representative to the university naming committee. This committee will be meeting on Thursday morning, no formal agenda was available at this time but meeting will be mostly informational.
    - ii. RISE conference is this Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Faculty are encouraged to attend.
  - b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
    - i. No report.
  - c. Student & Staff Relations (Davis/Bruns)
    - i. No report from Staff Relations because they have not met again since our last meeting.
    - ii. Student Relations report was given by Student Government member Prabin Karki who provided an updated.
      1. There are 26 student seats each year but only 16 spots are filled at this time, with 14 needed to meet quorum. Student Government is working to recruit more members. Committees are up and running so campus should be seeing more action from Student Senate soon.
      2. Student Government is trying to work on developing a freshman council since they have had a different experience with COVID and is working with other university student government organizations to improve university student governments.
      3. Student Government is researching the possibility for shuttles to Mattoon, Champaign, and access outside of campus (e.g., Walmart), etc. for students without cars
      4. Student Government is working on a TikTok event on campus the weekend of Halloween, setting up dining with the Deans events and working on facilitating printer access in all buildings on campus
  - d. Faculty Forum (Mulvey)
    - i. Scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00-4:00, tentatively in 1418 Klehm as a hybrid event. It is titled "Faculty's Role in Student Mental Health" and will

be facilitated by Ray Bement, LCSW and Haley Spengler, B.S., graduate student at EIU. Senator Mulvey will serve as moderator. A Zoom link and invitation will be sent out Thursday and again next week on Tuesday.

- e. Awards (Bruns)
  - i. Applications for Luis Clay Mendez Award were provided to committee for review with decisions to be made within next couple of weeks.
- III. Provost Gatrell could not attend. He shared with Senator Bruns that he wanted to share good news that the reported COVID testing for the last 3 weeks has been under 1% positivity.
- IV. Guest Speaker: Registrar Brad Bennington started at 2:20. The registrar was invited to Faculty Senate to address questions about prerequisites but also to give an overview of his role on campus.
  - a. Mr. Bennington described his role as registrar and said that his offices motto is "How can we make this happen?" for students and staff.
  - b. Senator Abebe asked about prerequisites and how those are enforced. Waiving is policed by the department, often by the Chair. After approved at CAA or CGS, registrar office in charge of putting courses into Banner. With course proposal sheet, office puts information into Banner (including prerequisites); if there are questions, they go back to department to get questions answered. Jennifer Porter in registrar's office enters that information, which is regularly audited/checked/reviewed by Registrar. Registrar Bennington provided examples of different ways that prerequisites may be used for all students.
    - i. Students can enroll in a next course in sequence if they are currently enrolled in prerequisite. Failed prerequisites report is run at end of semester by registrar's office. This information is sent out to department chairs to make a decision about enrollment.
  - c. Senator Stowell commented that he notices that course attributes become outdated over time and need to be reflected on course proposal forms. Currently, the forms have "some online content in WebCT "(we no longer use WebCT) and "requires turning point keypad" (we no longer using these). Registrar Bennington noted these and will discuss with CAA.
  - d. Senator Stowell asked for an update on the campus moving to Degree Works for student audits. Conversion to Degree Works began 1 year ago. We are now in version 5.02 and will move to 5.04 on November 1<sup>st</sup> in testing mode with use in Spring 2022 semester. The new version will be in latest interface with increased efficiency and updates. Faculty and student views will be exactly the same with this new version. It will look similar to previous versions so ease of use for students and faculty should be the same.
  - e. Senator Stowell asked about course offering information and what is available at EIU since there seems to be a proliferation for terms of offering. Registrar Bennington described the 10-12 different offerings (semester, ½ semesters A/B, 10-week, 5-week, 14-week, etc.). The office works to make things work for the students and with diverse programs, students have diverse needs.

- f. Registrar Bennington discussed how smoothly IAI is working for the registrar's office (agreement of transfer among Illinois universities) following a senator question. Registrar Bennington commented that IAI is very smooth for the most parts. The IAI will call our courses to be reviewed every 3-5 years and this is a lot of work by department chairs, require information to send back, but there seems to be consistent acceptance of courses.
        - g. Faculty Senate thanked Registrar Bennington for his time and the information shared during the meeting.
- V. Faculty Senate held a discussion, led by Senator Bruns to reflection on the President's State of the University address. Several areas of focus were noted.
  - a. Financial focus – “now is the time for all of us to EIU and regroup with admissions and recruiting, all of us being “all in” for recruitment and retention”
    - i. Increased enrollment should result in departments needing more faculty, which should address faculty concerns about being understaffed.
  - b. Aesthetic and functional appeal of campus
    - i. Several initiatives were discussed during the address.
  - c. All In on student success from day one
  - d. Focus on student recruitment through a large marketing push the last few years
  - e. Challenge EIU to demonstrate commitment to DEI
  - f. Anticipating a President search next fall, new President Summer 2023
- VI. Additional comments/discussion
  - a. Senator White commented about use of Microsoft Teams linked on D2L for office hours with open chat sessions. Had to have ITS go in and remove a comment that should not be public from a student. Faculty Senate discussed ways to make online office hours work more efficiently and privately.
  - b. Senator White also had a question about student cost for access codes for Redshelf and whether someone is tracking this. Senator Stowell, who was on the textbook committee, noted that two years ago the university stopped paying for electronic access codes. Students now pay for those or they are part of a course fee.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40.