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Minutes

Faculty Senate

2-1-2022

February 1, 2022

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "February 1, 2022" (2022). *Minutes*. 1158.

https://thekeep.eiu.edu/facsen_mins/1158

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Agenda and Minutes
Faculty Senate 2021-2022
February 1, 2022

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

Guests: Jay Gatrell (Provost), Ryan Gibson, Director of Information Technology

- I. Welcome (back) to Grant Sterling, who will be serving as a Senator for the remainder of the 2021-2022 year.
- II. Approval of minutes from 11/30 occurred. Motion was made by Senator Stowell, seconded by Senator Davis. Vote passed with all senators voting yes; Senator Sterling abstained.
- III. Committee reports
 - a. Exec (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. Shield testing reports were shared. When we started the semester, EIU had a 10% positivity rate the first week, dropping to 6% by second week. This (6%) is like other institutions that were online the first two weeks unlike EIU.
 - ii. Illinois appropriations committee will be meeting online soon. President Glassman will be attending. IBHE is recommending an average of 5% for all universities (EIU in middle of that average, at 6%) based on Pell eligible students, but we are uncertain if the appropriations committee will follow this recommendation.
 - iii. The search for a senior DEI officer is occurring. Senator Abebe, who is the faculty senate representative on the search and screen committee, provided an update. There are several other institutions looking for this position as well, which may make hiring challenging. The senior DEI officer will be on President's Council and report directly to the President.
 - iv. University-level strategic planning is being discussed. All 3 senates will be asked to contribute for this 5-year plan. More information will be shared by the Provost.
 - v. The new science building is moving forward in planning. The biology and chemistry departments will be housed in this new building.
 - vi. EIU think tank started as a pilot committee three years ago. This spring faculty senate will consider making this a resolution for continuation.
 - b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
 - i. Spring elections will begin soon. There are 29 open positions on 9 elected committees this spring. Current membership for committees is listed on the faculty senate website. Announcements will be out this week and deadline for nominations is 4:00 p.m. Monday, February 21st.

- ii. A member of Eworks (enrollment management) is unable to continue service; volunteers will be solicited.
 - c. Student & Staff Relations (Karki/Davis/Bruns)
 - i. Student senate representative Karki is no longer available for meetings this spring semester. A new student representative will be found to take his place. No student report occurred at this meeting.
 - ii. Staff relations had no report.
 - d. Faculty Forum (Mulvey)
 - i. Senator Mulvey summarized ideas generated by the committee for spring forum. This included a possible panel discussion regarding changes in enrollment, student demographics, and modality of course offerings. This would be considered within the context of EIU's brand and vulnerability. More details will be shared as they develop.
 - e. Awards (Bruns)
 - i. Call for Distinguished Faculty Award was sent out Monday, and a reminder will be sent February 14th, with February 23rd as the due date for packets. The review committee is being formed with representatives from graduate students, undergraduate students, alumni services, and appointment from president.
- IV. Provost's Report
 - a. Spring enrollment update was summarized. Dual credit enrollment decreased (COVID restraints) but enrollment increased in degree-seeking students, and EIU has an all-time high in international student enrollment from 55 different countries; fall 2022 enrollment numbers are also looking positive at this time.
 - b. Science building project is in the final design phase with plans to locate the building as a south gateway to the campus situated on the parking lot/tennis course diagonally across from Ninth St. Hall to intentionally to save green space.
 - c. CENCERE project continues to move forward, focusing on community sustainability and improvements within the current building and in area outside. This is also a partnership with Lakeland.
 - d. CHHS Dean Search public phase will begin over the next month.
 - e. University-level strategic planning will move forward in earnest in the fall. This semester the focus will be making sure all stakeholders are represented, with plans to meet starting after spring break and writing the Strategic Plan in 22-23. Sustainability will be the theme. This will be done in tandem with the HLC report, and the current core group will be working to establish the HLC committee by the end of this semester. The HLC preparation will occur over the course of the next two years to prepare for the site visit in the 24-25 year.
 - f. What about the snow day? Provost Gatrell is watching everything closely and has been in contact with local entities. Watch the website and social media for updates.
- V. Update: Naming Commission (Scher)

- a. The committee met the first week of semester and shared feedback with the President. This was shared with the BOT at their recent meeting. There will probably be a motion moving forward at the next BOT meeting in April.
- VI. Update: HLC quality initiative (Stowell)
 - a. No additional major updates were provided. Most of the recommendations hinge on the hiring of the Senior Diversity officer.
- VII. Guest Speaker: Ryan Gibson, Director of Information Technology
 - a. Reported on 2021 progress
 - i. 26 classrooms were updated, 6-year plan to upgrade all classrooms on campus
 - ii. Full ISS support team hired, first time in over a year and a half fully staffed
 - iii. 13, 878 support tickets closed; 7,000+ support calls
 - iv. MFA/Duo is a minimum for cybersecurity. We will continue to see increasing needs to stay in front of security threats.
 - v. Two external grants were funded last year in conjunction with Booth Library. One was to support students during COVID. The other was through the office of broadband in the state of Illinois, people from EIU teaching workshops about technology throughout central Illinois area.
 - vi. Degree Works launched in 2021 for degree audits. From a student perspective, it is mobile friendly and makes access to their information easier.
 - vii. Increased student worker opportunities in 2021 through ISS; we are uniquely positioned to give students an experience that is hard to get
 - b. Looking ahead into 2022
 - i. Will be shifting to a new phone system through Microsoft Teams platform. Lots of flexibility with the functionality of your phone. There was a discussion about the need for faculty to have access to the phones.
 - ii. 25 classrooms will be upgraded in summer 2022. This typically includes a new computer, projector, and control systems.
 - iii. 2 Mac computer labs to be upgraded this summer.
 - iv. Cybersecurity virtual lab was able to be funded by GEER funds, allowing courses to be taught in new and innovative ways.
 - v. A new Banner/Paws will be installed at some point. There won't be any major changes in functionality; this will update the interface to make it more student friendly.
 - vi. Complete housing Wi-Fi refresh will continue
 - vii. Complete migration to Zoom
 - viii. 400 laptops deployed (350 PCs and 50 Macs)
 - ix. Continue to harden security posture
 - c. Faculty Senate thanked Ryan Gibson for his time and all his staff's efforts in meeting the technology needs for the campus.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.