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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

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Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate 2021-2022

February 15, 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: Provost Gatrell, Chief Public Safety Officer Marisol Gamboa, General Counsel Laura McLaughlin

- I. Faculty Senate (FS) welcomed Faith Nuss, Student Senate Representative, who will meet with FS for the rest of the semester.
- II. FS approved the minutes from 02/01; motion Senator Sterling, second Senator Mulvey; Roll call vote passed unanimously.
- III. Committee reports
 - a. Exec (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey): No reports.
 - b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell):
 - i. FS put out a call for a volunteer to EWorx for remainder of semester, with one individual submitting interest and a statement; motion by Senator Stowell, second by Senator Bruns to approve Gabe Grant for the volunteer position; passed unanimously per roll call vote.
 - ii. Reminders for elected positions on campus was sent out today.
 - c. Student & Staff Relations (Davis/Bruns)
 - i. Faith Nuss introduced herself to the FS and will share Student Senate updates in the future.
 - d. Faculty Forum (Mulvey)
 - i. Senator Mulvey asked for feedback about projected dates/times for Spring forum, possibly late March/early April. More information will be shared in the next month as planning continues.
 - e. Awards (Bruns)
 - i. Distinguished faculty award reminder was sent out today. Senators are encouraged to consider their colleagues, with applications due next week.
- IV. Provost's Report
 - a. SHIELD testing: Re-entry (week prior to classes) positivity levels were at 12% (lower than projected, state-wide 18%), surveillance testing on campus positivity rate was 1.8% last week, resulting in positive outlook at this time; vaccinations at about 79.6% for students, faculty and staff 79.8%; all other mitigations still in effect. Provost Gatrell noted that he has had questions about what comes next with potential changes in masking guidelines. EIU will consult with other institutions and continue to honor the MOU.

- b. Strategic Planning coordination continues to move forward with the first steering committee meeting to occur after Spring Break. The steering committee will discuss the plan moving forward, working to include representation of all university constituents. They will report to president's council with plans to take to the BOT June 2023. Additional workgroups will be forming for more specific areas of focus. This group will also be working collaborative with EIU's HLC accreditation committee.
 - c. Enrollment indicators are positive, with more deposits than this time in 2020, and housing reservations and deposits are also up. We have a 60% increase in our Honor's student applications and interests. The new Local Scholars program (total tuition and fees) was implemented this year and EIU is optimistic about this opportunity to invest in high-quality students "in our own backyard." As previously mentioned, we have a record number of international students this year, but it is too early to know if this is a trend or due to aftermath of COVID restrictions.
 - d. President Glassman and Provost Gatrell will be testifying before Senate appropriations committee at 10:00 am. on Thursday (2/17) to discuss higher education budgets.
 - e. Senator Abebe asked a question about academic values and requiring F2F courses to offer exams/tests in person only, as there has been some discussion on campus about the practice of online exams. Provost Gatrell confirmed that a F2F course may have an online exam given chair approval, program need, and faculty present and on campus during the online exam. This is specific to offering the exam in lieu of an in-person class. Additional discussion was held regarding this matter and Provost Gatrell will provide communication regarding this.
- V. President's Advisory Council on Diversity: Senator Porter provided a report after their meeting last week. EIU is currently celebrating African American Heritage month, though some events were cancelled due to weather last week. Many events and opportunities are coming up throughout February, and the council stressed that they would like to see more faculty members supporting these events, and are asked to encourage students as well; there are 5 openings on campus police department, and the council is hoping to have diverse applicants; EIU has a few applications for chief diversity officer so EIU will continue application and interview process; EIU Reads is meeting this semester and has a few openings, faculty are encouraged to attend/join.
- VI. Guest Speaker (2:30 PM): Chief Public Safety Officer Marisol Gamboa
- a. Chief Gamboa introduced herself to FS. Chief Gamboa moved here from Texas and has been in law enforcement for about 20 years. She had previously worked for a community college with several campus locations.
 - b. Chief Gamboa confirmed interviews for the opening on the university police department are on Thursday (February 17th) and then opened the floor for questions.

- c. Senator Bruns asked about the Chief Gamboa's general sense of the state of the police department. Chief Gamboa discussed how excited she was to search for and hire officers that will fit our campus need.
 - d. Senator Porter asked about how the police department has worked to get a diverse pools of applicants since that is a campus priority. Chief Gamboa stated that they have tried to cast a wide net and that they make sure that it is clear diverse applicants are wanted so they feel welcome to apply.
 - e. Senator Decker asked about potential or increased use of upgraded security cameras in several places on campus, particularly Doudna basement and performance rooms which have been known for theft; Chief Gamboa and Provost Gatrell discussed that several entities on campus are working to improve the security infrastructure. IT and building coordinators and UPD have worked together to determine location and need; Provost Gatrell noted that this project is moving forward and plans will begin July 1.
 - f. Senator Abebe asked about an emergency plan and procedure for campus safety. Chief Gamboa discussed continuity of plans and additional investigation for improvements as she learns more about campus need.
 - g. Senator Bruns has how FS can help. Chief Gamboa thanked the EIU community for their warm and friendly welcome and that she would return with more details or reach out with any suggestions for assistance.
- VII. Guest Speaker (3:00 PM): General Counsel Laura McLaughlin
- a. General Counsel Laura McLaughlin discussed how the executive ethics commission and OEIG has allowed university to move to combined sexual harassment and ethics trainings in the future, so there will be one training program in October 2022. This is being developed by the University of Illinois with OEIG. Several state universities utilize the same approved course and process. The plan is to keep this combined program to an hour and a half long or shorter, being mindful of state employees' time.
 - b. Senator Scher discussed concern that the ethics training does not cover relevant ethical situations for university employees. General Counsel McLaughlin clarified that the training is a required, state-level course, so not all aspects will reflect university settings. The greater issue is more about time value, where with increased workload for faculty over the last few years makes the current training feel like there is no purpose. Provost Gatrell confirmed that many employees deal with several aspects of the ethics training each year. General Counsel Laura McLaughlin was also open to suggestions on how to improve the training, which she would be happy to communicate to those working on revising and developing the new, combined course.
- VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.