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Minutes

Faculty Senate

3-1-2022

March 1, 2022

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "March 1, 2022" (2022). *Minutes*. 1160.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/facsen_mins/1160

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Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate 2021-2022

March 1, 2022

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

Guests: Provost Gatrell, Student Senate Representative Nuss

- I. Faculty Senate (FS) approved the minutes from 02/15; motion Senator Sterling, second Senator Neal; Roll call vote passed unanimously.

- II. Committee reports
 - a. Exec (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)

Executive committee met with president on 2/28. VP of Business Affairs will be leaving end of March. Search for replacement will start soon. FS updated President on recent activities. Discussed enrollment; numbers looking good, but slight downturn in transfer students (could be due to covid-related impacts on Community Colleges). President reported that the State Governor proposed 5% budget increase for Eastern. \$35m has been budgeted for AIM high (same as previous) and \$122m for MAP (increase). Student mental health was discussed, as was holistic support for low-income students.
 - b. Elections & Nominations (Okarakinski)

Elections will be open until Friday March 11th. Unfilled positions: 12
Uncontested positions: 14.
 - c. Student & Staff Relations (Davis/Bruns)

Faith Nuss shared Student Senate Updates. Additional student fee allocation for Sports and Rec: \$20k for new bikes. Additional student fee allocation for university board: \$34,400. Additional student fee allocation for student government: \$ 9,450.
 - d. Faculty Forum (Mulvey)

No report
 - e. Awards (Bruns)

Numerous nominations for Distinguished faculty award. Recommendation from the Awards Committee is a tie: Grant Sterling and Jeff Stowell. Abebe motioned to approve; Second Bruns. Role call vote passed unanimously, Sterling abstained. Senator Scher asked how the award funds will be split. Answer: The award will not be split, both candidates will receive the full amount each (Provost Gatrell). Scher asked where the funds for this award comes from, and what the process is

to have them increased. Bruns replied that FS can investigate where the funds come from, and how long the award amount has been at the current level.

III. Provost's Report

Progress being made on Quality Initiative. Senior Diversity Officer (SDO) search still underway. New SDO will most likely start early summer. Climate update survey will take place once the SDO starts. Drafts have already been made.

HLC committee have been meeting to form a working group – Suzie Park and Jeff Stowell will be co-chairs of the group. Strategic planning is underway.

Masking policy remains unchanged (masking still required in classrooms and learning spaces). Discussions being had as to what the next stage will be. Provost gave reminder to respect people who make other decisions (in terms of masking), and encouraged all to get vaccinated.

Decker asked: Is it currently assumed that masks in classrooms will still be in place after spring break? Answer: unclear at this time. CDC guidance has been changing quickly and there is still an MOU in place.

Parrish asked: how free are we (as a university) to set our own masking policy? (i.e. guidance vs directives). Are there any studies on how policies have affected retention? Answer: There are no studies currently. We have a policy that states masking is required in classroom environments – any change would require a change in policy. Policy is determined by guidance

IV. Senator Roll Call for Updates

Parrish requested that the office of international students and scholarships provide some communication about Ukrainian students at EIU. Provost Gatrell answered that this has already been investigated: there are no Ukrainian students enrolled at EIU.

V. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.