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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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March 22, 2022

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate
March 22, 2022

Present: Senators Abebe, Bruns, Davis, Decker, Kozlowski, Parrish, Scher, Sterling, Stowell, White; Provost Gatrell and Student Representative Nuss

Present after Minutes approval vote: Mulvey

Guests: Dr. Eric Davidson, Executive Director of Health & Counseling Services; Dr. Melinda Mueller and Dr. Michael Dobbs, Faculty Senate representatives on the EIU Think Tank.

- I. Faculty Senate Minutes 3/1
 - a. Motion to approve/second: Sterling/Decker
 - b. Approved by Roll Call vote – 8 Yes (Abebe, Bruns, Decker, Kozlowski, Parrish, Scher, Sterling, White), 2 Abstentions (Davis, Stowell)
- II. Committee Reports
 - a. Exec Committee
 - i. Chair Bruns announced he will serve on behalf of Faculty Senate on the VPBA Search & Screen committee
 - b. Elections
 - i. Chair Stowell announced the results of the elections ended 3/22. There was a 31.6% response rate. Dr. Larry White received enough write-in votes to qualify for filling a LCBT position on Faculty Senate, for which he agreed. Winners will be notified and the Faculty Senate site updated. We will hold a Fall 2022 election to fill vacant elected positions that have more than 1 year left in the term. The call for nominated committees will be forthcoming.
 - ii. Bruns and Stowell suggested addressing the continual lack of faculty running for election to service positions as a focal point of the 22-23 Faculty Senate agenda.
 - c. Student and Staff Relations
 - i. Student Rep Faith Nuss reported that Dr. Don Holly had presented to Student Senate regarding his proposal for EIU to change to a +/- grading system. The presentation was well received, and Student Senate intends to send out a survey to the general student population to gauge their thoughts.
 - ii. Scher asked Nuss what her perception was of how acceptable such a change is to the Student Senate body. Nuss said she feels that its viewed generally positively.
 - d. Faculty Forum
 - i. Senator Abebe reported, on behalf of the committee, the next Faculty Forum:

“From Surviving to Thriving: What we, as faculty, can do to be prepared to provide the best education to EIU students”

Wed. 4/6, 3 PM, Witters Room/Zoom, Booth Library

Panelists: President Glassman, Dr. Mona Davenport

The forum will raise questions related to EIU's "vulnerability" and the changing demographic of the student body. How can we best address their learning needs? This includes issues related to post-COVID/attempts to return to "normal," growing numbers of international students, and the continuing evolution of how courses are offered (F2F, online, hybrid).

- e. Awards
 - i. Chair Bruns reported that the bios and pics of Distinguished Faculty Award 2022 winners Dr. Sterling and Dr. Stowell would be added to the Senate website soon. All other considerations – financial award and commencement announcements/plaques – have been taken care of by notification of the appropriate parties.

III. Provost's Report

- a. We will be having three commencement ceremonies this Spring in Lantz, it's nice to get back to having the ceremonies in person
- b. The Strategic Planning Group, comprised of 13 individuals, will be meeting tomorrow 3/23 to discuss organizing and process
- c. VPBA Search & Screen has been established and will begin the review process of candidates, there is an organizational meeting today 3/22 at 3:30 pm via Zoom. Chair Bruns asked if there is an Interim VPBA and the Provost stated that there has been no notice of such an appointment at this point.
- d. The Provost welcomed two new administrative appointments, one Chair search remains in process:
 - i. Dr. John Storsved, Dean of CHHS
 - ii. Dr. Mahmoud Al-Odeh, Chair of the School of Technology
- e. **"Inclusive Excellence in Education"** Wednesday, 4/6, 6:30 PM, Doudna Recital Hall, speakers: Dr. Darryll Pines, President of University of Maryland-College Park and Ms. Ginger Ostro, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, moderated by Dr. Ed Wehrle.
- f. Enrollment numbers continue to look very positive, exceeding 2020/2021 numbers in nearly every area, including admits, deposits, housing contracts, housing deposits, etc. International enrollments are at 299 currently compared to 162 at this point last year, and show signs of diversifying into more majors
- g. Progress is being made on the repairs to MacAfee, the work is into the clock face now

IV. Guest: Dr. Eric Davidson, Executive Director of Health & Counseling Services

- a. There are four areas of HCS: Medical clinic, Counseling clinic, Health Promotion, and Student Insurance
- b. Medical clinic updates: focused highly on the response to COVID; there has been only 1 positive COVID test result in the clinic in the last 6 weeks; there were few flu cases; they have seen allergy cases this spring; International student immunizations is a busy area; There will be a COVID vaccination clinic (all three shots available) next week Tuesday 3/29

- c. Counseling clinic updates: Seeing increasing numbers of students presenting with mental health issues, similar to national trends; counseling is a balance of providing both Access and Treatment, demands on Access take time away from available time for Treatment; Sometimes crisis appointments have been booked for the day; there are currently 40 students on the wait list; students in crisis must occasionally be triaged in order to work with the more severe situations first; there have been some staff shortages, but the clinic has a new counselor and there is another search in progress; In 2019 IL govt passed Early Action on Campus Act to address mental health issues on HE campuses but didn't fund it – there is a bill in 2022 session to fund it, hoping for passage; VPSA Flaherty is assessing EIU as an institution in supporting our students, and will report to the Board of Trustees
 - d. Health promotion updates: Primarily focused on providing COVID screening testing
 - e. Student insurance updates: Supplemental for most domestic students, but the primary insurance for many international students
- V. Guests: Dr. Melinda Mueller and Dr. Michael Dobbs, along with Senator Abebe, for the EIU Think Tank – feedback/discussion on the EIU Think Tank pilot
- a. Mueller – Believes a mechanism for rotating terms on the Think Tank would be good; noted there wasn't a student appointee this year; believes that the COVID crisis upended the initial goal of looking at macrotrends, though the Think Tank successfully did that its first year. While last year's COVID focus was unusual, the emphasis on student and faculty mental health reflects an important macrotrend. Also, this past fall, we did begin a discussion of equity issues, another important macrotrend, based on President Glassman's suggestion last spring.
 - b. Dobbs – Fall 2020 the Think Tank did look at macrotrends then Spring 2020 COVID hit. The Think Tank correctly assessed "test optional" as being an important direction for the institution to consider, and this proved prudent with the onset of COVID restrictions; wondered how best to decide on which issues to select for consideration each year
 - c. Abebe – Considers the existence of the Think Tank to have been crucial for assessing that the administrative response to the pandemic was on target and ahead of the curve
 - d. Gatrell (Admin rep) – Feels it's very beneficial to discuss things in the abstract, addressing broader themes like equity as it applies to developmental education.
 - e. Chair Bruns noted that the reporting lines need to be clarified as the Faculty Senate didn't hear enough about the Think Tank's work. Suggested solution: The Faculty Senate Chair serve as the Think Tank "Convener," setting the AY meeting times, and the Think Tank would report to the Senate at the beginning of the AY about general themes to look at, then at the end to report their analysis
 - f. Discussion –
 - i. Current members feel a mix of the occasional new member, replacing one stepping down, and other members continuing to serve is ideal.

Suggestion to rotate seats, such that each AY one of the Fac Senate seats comes to term so the serving person can opt to step down in favor of a new Fac Senate appointment, was generally positively received.

- ii. Members felt it's important that Faculty Senate have equal weight with the President in terms of suggesting issues for the Think Tank to consider
- iii. Members felt that appointment to the Think Tank is a careful consideration, that it's not merely another service opportunity for faculty but instead the people serving should have the ability and skills to "see the big picture" and analyze data/trends
- iv. Chair Bruns asked Fac Senate members and Dr. Mueller and Dr. Dobbs to review the original EIU Think Tank pilot project document and suggest changes/revisions to it for a probable resolution (4/5 or 4/19) making the Think Tank permanent

VI. Call for General Updates

- a. Receiving no response on the call for general updates, Chair Bruns gaveled the Senate meet adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully compiled by Chair Bruns in the absence of Recorder Mulvey, with assistance from Senators Abebe and Stowell, and Provost Gatrell