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Minutes

Faculty Senate

4-2-2022

April 2, 2022

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "April 2, 2022" (2022). *Minutes*. 1162.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/facsen_mins/1162

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Agenda and Minutes
Faculty Senate 2021-2022
April 5, 2022

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

Guests Present: Student Senate Representative Faith Nuss, Provost Jay Gatrell, Director of Athletics Tom Michael, EIU Think Tank Representative Michael Dobbs

- I. Approval of minutes from 03/22
 - a. Motion Senator Stowell, Second Senator Scher; motion passed with Senators Okrasinski, Neal, and Mulvey abstaining
- II. Committee reports
 - a. Exec (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. Senator Bruns attended the recent CUPB meeting with no major changes reported, EIU is working to move back to concerts and other live entertainment soon
 - ii. The Board of Trustees meeting will be held on April 22nd and include a tour of the simulation lab in the School of Nursing; Faculty Senate is invited to attend the tour as well to learn about the facilities and meet members of the Board of Trustees
 - iii. There has been generally favorable feedback on the new mask policy and as of last week, only a .6% positivity rate on campus. There are no plans for the fall, as EIU has to wait on guidance from IDPH.
 - iv. Several faculty and staff searches are in progress, including Vice President for Business Affairs, Director of the Union, Senior DEI Officer, and Labor Relations
 - v. Construction progress includes plans to have MacAfee completed by the end of the spring semester and the current phase of the Life Sciences Building done by the fall; the new science building is still in planning but is progressing.
 - vi. Plans for additional student mental health days in future semesters are being discussed.
 - vii. Three new police officers were recently hired on campus.
 - b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
 - i. There is currently a call out for appointed committees and nominations are due Monday, April 11th at 5:00 p.m.
 - ii. It was noted in both elected and appointed committees that College of Business and College of Health and Human Services both have several vacancies over the last few years. Senator Bruns considered strategies for increasing participation for these colleges and this will be a goal for next year.

- iii. It was brought up that DACs in some departments do not prioritize university service over college or department, which may impact participation.
 - c. Student & Staff Relations (Davis/Bruns)
 - i. Staff Relations: No report
 - ii. Student Relations: Student Senate Representative Faith Nuss shared updates for Student Senate. A recent cost increase from Housing and Dining recently passed in Student Senate. A 2.5% tuition increase proposal will be presented to Student Senate soon.
 - 1. Student Senate is hosting a tabling event on grade appeals on April 7th.
 - 2. Another Mental Health Day Event will be held on April 13th from 3:00-5:00 on the library quad and will include food, games, therapy dogs, etc.
 - 3. Senator Abebe mentioned a project completed by Student Senate where students sent thank you notes to faculty for the influence they have had on their EIU experience. He thanked the Student Senate for this and noted it was much appreciated by faculty.
 - d. Faculty Forum (Mulvey)
 - i. Wednesday, April 6th, 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Witter's Conference Room or Zoom
 - ii. Moderated panel of guests include President David Glassman, Mona Davenport from the Office of Inclusion and Academic Engagements, and Teshome Abebe, Faculty Representative for the EIU Think Tank Committee
 - iii. Theme: From Surviving to Thriving
 - e. Awards (Bruns)
 - i. Once pictures and information are received from recent awardees, awards will be complete for the year.
- III. Provost's Report
 - a. The Master of Arts in Teaching has been approved to move forward and will be discussed at the June Board of Trustees meeting.
 - b. The Strategic Planning Committee, populated by various faculty and staff entities from across campus, recently met briefly to determine next steps moving forward and is expected to have a timeline and plan to the Provost by May 15th.
 - c. All co-chairs for the HLC committee have been appointed and their work continues to progress as expected.
- IV. Guest speaker: Director of Athletics Tom Michael gave an overview of the academic year for Athletics
 - a. Faculty Senate heard about the many triumphs and challenges of student athletes and how athletics fits within the EIU community.
 - i. EIU has 21 sports with over 500 student athletes.

- ii. EIU is continually well-represented in academic honors for the Ohio Valley Conference, with 3 teams having the highest g.p.a in the conference last year
 - iii. EIU student athletes completed over 2,500 community service hours last year
 - iv. Director Michael discussed challenges related to managing student athletes, mental health, social media, and the nature of hiring, recruitment, and retainment.
 - v. Director Michael noted that EIU's priority is being committed to the whole person, where a student athlete leaves EIU better than when they arrived.
 - vi. Faculty can help this process by meeting with potential recruits, working with students to develop relationships that help keep them here, and completing progress reports so the athletic department can offer the right support for EIU's student athletes.
- V. Discussion: Resolution to formally establish the EIU Think Tank
 - a. This was tabled for the next meeting due to time constraints.
- VI. Senator Roll Call for Updates
 - a. No other updates were noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.