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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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September 6, 2022

Faculty Senate

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Agenda & Minutes

Faculty Senate 2022-2023

September 6, 2022

Members Present: Teshome Abebe, Todd Bruns, Amy Davis, Stephen Kozlowski, Nichole Mulvey, Alicia Neal, Md Farhadur Reza, Steve Scher, Grant Sterling, Jeff Stowell, Anne Thibault Geen, Larry White

Guests Present: Provost Jay Gatrell, Andy Parrish

- I. Senator Bruns welcomed everyone back to campus and also welcomed new Senators Thibault Geen and Reza. Senators all introduced or reintroduced themselves.
- II. Provost Gatrell gave a brief welcome and updates on several areas of interest.
 - i. Official naming and dedication of Powell-Norton Hall will be on Friday, September 9th at 3:00 p.m.
 - ii. The university will be doing a search for a new library dean. The interim dean is Dean Ryan Hendrickson.
 - iii. HLC reaffirmation committee met last week, and updates will be shared soon.
 - iv. University Strategic Planning meetings are underway. External stakeholders were surveyed this summer and those results will be shared with the committee.
 - v. Quality Initiative Campus Climate Survey will be launched this week.
 - vi. The university will be moving to third party credentialing for international students to increase efficiency of student transcript approval.
 - vii. Updates on several facilities were given. The science building is moving forward, work continues on the north library steps, modification were made on the science building plan due to inflation, and work continues in several floors of the life sciences building.
 - viii. Senator White asked about university plans for monkeypox (MPV). Provost Gatrell stated EIU is working with IDPH and the Health Center to educate and ensure safety of the campus community. There are no plans for institutional mandates.
- III. Discussion: The coming academic year
 - a. Senior Diversity Officer search and screen did not find a candidate last year. Motion by Bruns, second White (11 yes, 1 abstained) to appoint Senator Abebe as the faculty senate representative on this committee for this year.
 - b. Senator Bruns suggested that the Teams link for meetings be shared with all faculty on campus to make meetings more accessible. Discussion was held regarding any concerns or ideas for accessibility. All faculty will be sent the link for the meeting to join and listen and will have access to the chat for comments or questions. The senate agreed this was a good idea to try for this academic

year with some structure, including someone to monitor the chat. Senators Davis and Thibault Geen will both serve as the volunteer monitors for the online chat.

- c. Senator Stowell gave an update on fall elections. This year we are using Qualtrics, which is much more simplistic than the previous system. The deadline to vote is next Tuesday, September 13th. Extending the deadline did increase the number of faculty submitting their name for a nomination, but 3 spots remain without any faculty running.
- d. Remaining items from 2021-2022
 - i. The plus/minus grading proposal was brought to CAA for discussion. We will continue to monitor this topic following Senator Bruns' meeting with CGS, CAA, and COTE.
 - ii. Tabled Amendment: Academic Honesty and Student Standards
 1. Last spring, an amendment was brought forth by Senator Parrish regarding the university's stance and action on academic dishonesty, particularly with online resources. Discussion was held regarding current concerns and possible resolutions. Scher motion, second Bruns to accept the resolution as presented in spring 2022. After much discussion regarding changing information in light of advice from legal counsel, the resolution did not pass (1 "Yes", 12 "No" for accepting resolution).
 2. Education of students about academic conduct as a means of mitigation was discussed. There is no current policy about uploading materials or sharing online materials and many students may not know rule and regulations.
 3. It was suggested that the fall Faculty Forum could address academic integrity and updating the academic policy with input from faculty across campus.
 4. Provost Gatrell suggested also bringing a resolution to IBHE faculty advisor council and bringing this issue to the attention of the Councils of University Senates.
 5. Faculty senate suggested a joint ad hoc committee meeting with Student Senate (Senator Neal will reach out) and CAA (Senator Bruns will reach out) and student standards and accountability (Thibault Geen will reach out) regarding academic integrity and plagiarism with online resources and student conduct codes at EIU. The committee would work to address responses to the distribution of course materials to online sources and the use of websites that provide academic work to be used in EIU classes. Motion Bruns, Second Abebe to form an ad hoc joint committee with 1 representative of each entity (CAA, Student Senate, Student Standards and Accountability).
 - iii. Endowing the Luis Clay Mendez Service Award (Scher)
 1. The Luis Clay Mendez Service Award is awarded each year in honor of a former EIU faculty member. Currently, the award does

not have a financial component. Senator Scher met with the Foundation office to discuss possibilities or ways to establish an endowment. Discussion led to plans to ask VP Wetstein about further possibilities for funding and ideas.

iv. Convening the EIU Think Tank

1. Faculty Senate Nomination for FS Think Tank: Teshome Abebe and Michael Dobbs are currently the FS representatives. Due to lack of time, no nominations were made at this meeting will be discussed next time.

e. Reminder that the Teach Out is on Thursday, September 8th

f. EIU President Search Faculty Forum with Zoom link is on the Faculty Senate Page. Senator Mulvey will send emails with Zoom links to encourage faculty to attend.

g. Additional agenda items were tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.