

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Minutes

Faculty Senate

9-20-2022

September 20, 2022

Faculty Senate

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Agenda & Minutes

Faculty Senate 2022-2023

September 20, 2022

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

Guests Present: Provost Jay Gatrell, Bhanu Prakash Tumu, Size Naveen Pulambeti, Fredrick Lufferodt, Srinath Sirigadde, Narendaq Koppula, Srikanth Bandi, Thrishul Raj Vodnala, Sai Baratch Reddy Puttur, Swetha Chintala, Ian Centus, Jennifer Stringfellow, Ellen Corrigan, Sham'ah Md-Yunus, David Melton, Madelyn Kidd

- I. Approval of Minutes from September 6
 - a. Motion Mulvey, Second Sterling, passed unanimously with Okrasinski abstaining
- II. Welcome and Brief Explanation to Zoom link Participants
 - a. Senator Bruns welcomed those online and in person, with several students attending the meeting.
- III. Senate Reports
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. All faculty are encouraged to complete the Quality Initiative Campus Climate Survey. Please check your email for this important opportunity for feedback.
 - b. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns)
 - i. CAA, CGS, COTE, CFR, FS monthly meeting was held recently. Discussed recent fall elections and open seats, specifically on CAA. Colleagues from CHHS are encouraged to contact Dean Storsved or Senator Stowell if interested.
 - ii. Ad hoc committee on Student Academic Honesty and Integrity was discussed with plans for appointments from several committees.
 - c. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
 - i. Fall faculty elections were completed with the Qualtrics system, which had a 27% response rate. Results were shared with faculty through email. David Melton will serve in CAA LCBT, Jeanne Okrasinski for COTE for TLF. Stowell motion, second Bruns to accept these appointments, with the motion passing unanimously.
 - d. Student & Staff Relations (Neal/Davis)
 - i. Senator Davis reached out to the recently appointed staff senate liaison, Tony Craven. No report at this time.
 - ii. Student Senate is still working on establishing their executive board and who is going to be in what roles. Senator Neal will continue to work with student senate to determine who their FS representative will be.
 - e. Faculty Forum (Sterling)

- i. No report. Faculty is invited to submit ideas for fall faculty forum.
 - f. Awards (Scher)
 - i. Senator Scher has a scheduled meeting with VP Ken Wetstein this week to discuss possibility of how to raise money for a financial award for the Luis Clay Mendez award.
 - g. Other (Open Call)
 - i. There is a new faculty publication and creative works display in the faculty reading room in Booth Library on main level, north side. This is a nice space for faculty to utilize for meetings and individual work. Plans are underway for making the current display permanent to showcase the work done by EIU faculty.
 - ii. Planned speakers and presentations are tentatively scheduled as follows:
 1. October 4: FDIC Michael Gillespie
 2. October 18: VP Enrollment Management Josh Norman
 3. November 1: AD International Students & Scholars Andy Kabasele
 4. November 15: VP Student Affairs Anne Flarhety and ED Health and Counseling Services Eric Davidson
 5. November 29: VP Business Affairs Matt Bierman
 6. January 24: IT Director Ryan Gibson
 7. February 7: CPO Marisol Gamboa
 8. March 7: Dir Facilities Planning and Management Tim Zimmer
 9. April 4: Dir Athletics, Tom Michael
 - iii. Senator Abebe discussed the need for more information related to budget reallocation. Provost Gatrell discussed the work of the CUPB subcommittee and invited FS members to attend to get that information.
 - iv. EIU Presidential Search is beginning and questions for consideration are on the Faculty Senate website. Three faculty senate members are serving on that committee. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to share their thoughts for what to look for in a new president.
- IV. Provost's Report
 - a. Enrollment numbers are good! Four of the last five years we have been increasing enrollment. First-time full-time student enrollment is up 11%, students who live within 50 miles of EIU is up 37%, honors student enrollment is up 26%, with an overall incoming 3.4 GPA. Large increases in international students and graduate student education also. Enrollment is up 2.9% overall from last year by headcount.
 - b. The university is planning hiring for 1 unit A and several unit B positions to expand staffing where EIU has need and demand (e.g., technology).
 - c. Formulation of the new Strategic Plan will be addressed in State of the University address next week.
 - d. Two current searches are underway, including Dean of Library Services and VP of Academic Affairs.
- V. Discussion Items
 - a. Ad-hoc Committee on Academic Honesty and Student Standards

- i. CAA, Student Senate, Student Standards & Accountability (Brittany Floyd) appointments are occurring soon and will lead discussions on standards and current trends on campus.
 - ii. Faculty Senate appointee was discussed. Senator Thibault Geen volunteered and will be chairing the committee. She will check in with FS as student standards are reviewed and updated and to determine goals.
- b. Convening the EIU Think Tank
 - i. Nominations for Faculty Senate representative
 - 1. This is a rotating yearly position with Teshome Abebe (2023) Michael Dobbs (2024) currently serving as faculty representatives. FS has one open seat.
 - 2. Senator Abebe nominated Sace Elder to fill the position through 2025. Second Senator Davis. Senator Abebe provided positive comments about Dr. Elder's knowledge related to the university and thoughtfulness to innovation. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Discussion of Topics for 2022-2023
 - i. Faculty Burnout (Scher)
 - 1. Senator Scher suggested FS discuss ways to address faculty stress given student stress has been addressed at the university level. We need to hear from faculty about suggestions for ways to address faculty needs. Discussion of ideas and concerns included:
 - a. Requesting administration to deliberately consider that decisions to address students' needs also affect faculty and faculty were often getting information at the same time as students.
 - b. Dedication to resources for faculty mental health resources. Can counseling center provide discussion to faculty about their own stress?
 - c. How to strengthen emotional and physical resilience. Ideas included free access to Student Recreation Center and other opportunities to engage with each other to build relationships.
 - d. Revisit previous practices for faculty engagement. Ideas included a faculty semester kick off/luncheon and pairing faculty gathering with Convocation.
 - e. Where are we with faculty turnover? Are we losing BIPOC that we are trying to hire and what are we doing to determine why they are leaving?
 - ii. Chair Listening Tour (Bruns)
 - 1. Senator Bruns would like to reach out to all departments on campus and ask to attend department meetings to hear what faculty have on their minds. Support for this was expressed to

increase access to faculty concerns so they can be more readily addressed.

- iii. On-going Service “crunch” (Bruns)
 - 1. We are a smaller faculty body, and even though we have decreased the number of overall service commitments by combining or dissolving committees, several vacancies exist each year. How can we resolve this issue? Faculty ideas are welcome.
- iv. Ongoing technology concerns
 - 1. Senator Reza discussed concerns with lab computers and access to the basic infrastructure necessary to run the computer science department. Another technology concern is difficulty obtaining technology for graduate assistants who are doing work for faculty. Additional discussion about budgets, support, and questions about how to solve problems occurred. This will be addressed first by the executive committee with the President and Provost.
- v. Next negotiations for the union will occur this Thursday, September 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room in the Union. We are currently working without a contract and observers are encouraged for the meeting.

VI. Open Session

Guests attending in-person or remotely may pose questions or share thoughts with Faculty Senate

Adjourned at 3:22.