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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

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Agenda & Minutes

Faculty Senate 2022-2023

October 4, 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: Provost Jay Gatrell, Madelyn Kidd, E Corrigan, Dr. Michael Gillespie, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Odeh

- I. Approval of Minutes from September 20
 - a. Motion Abebe, Second Davis, approved unanimously
- II. Welcome Zoom link Participants
- III. Senate Reports
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. September 26th Meeting w/ President & Provost (all)
 1. 2025 Enrollment “cliff” was discussed as well as addressed in the State of University Address.
 2. For the EIU Think Tank (Bruns), we are waiting on President’s appointments and student senate appointee to convene committee.
 3. Senior Diversity Officer search last year did not yield a viable hire, so the search this year is beginning immediately with the same search committee.
 4. Academic Affairs is piloting “Dean of Students” organization model as opposed to Student Accountability and Support model for the next two years. The intent is to use a more familiar structure that is recognizable to students and potential staff and to make management more efficient. No staffing changes are occurring.
 5. Methods of supporting faculty were discussed.
 - a. For regalia support, Provost Gatrell suggested donations from emeritus faculty and funding support for individual purchase were discussed as options. Another possibility is establishing a short-term zero-interest loan for faculty to purchase regalia – Chair Bruns will confer with VPBA.
 - b. A suggestion and feasibility for a post-convocation reception for faculty was discussed as a means of a “kick off” for faculty.
 - c. Current availability of rec center passes was discussed, with current options of adult fitness classes at a reduced rate for faculty and staff as well as use of the rec center

facility prior to 2:00 p.m. at a reduced rate. More discussion will occur. The Provost noted that a “free” pass for faculty to the rec center presents problems due to the student rec center being under bond rate, possibly limiting any flexibility in charges. In addition, Provost Gatrell noted that there is a compete clause that may be in effect since the state (and thus the university) cannot compete with local business for services. More information is needed.

- ii. Chair Bruns has been added to CUPB VPAA subcommittee. He reported that the final EIU budget is not yet set. Currently the budget is being loaded at the same levels as last fiscal year, and is 80% loaded. Possibilities of addressing Computer Science/Math computer lab were also discussed.
 - b. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns)
 - i. Chairs meeting will be next Monday, October 10th. No other report.
 - c. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
 - i. No report
 - d. Student & Staff Relations (Neal/Davis)
 - i. No report
 - e. Faculty Forum (Sterling)
 - i. Committee members will be narrowing the list down on all of the topics suggested from members so far this fall.
 - f. Awards (Scher)
 - i. Committee will be discussing updating nomination forms for the Luis Clay Mendez Award. These will then be forwarded to all faculty.
 - g. Ad-hoc Academic Honesty and Student Standards (Thibault-Geen)
 - i. Senator Thiebault-Geen is in the process of contacting other possible members to begin organizing.
- IV. Provost’s Report
- a. The President’s State of the University address was well attended and provided service awards to four deserving colleagues.
 - b. Strategic Planning Survey was launched last week, and faculty and staff are encouraged to complete the survey soon. Town Halls will be held on October 18 and 19 on campus. Results of community stakeholder surveys will be used with this information to frame priorities.
 - c. Homecoming is coming up soon and we are looking forward to our first return to typical activities since the pandemic.
- V. Final Fridays was held last week after a long hiatus and Chair Bruns thanked the organizers. Chair Bruns highly recommends attending for collegial discussion and fun among faculty.
- VI. Guest Speaker: FDIC Director Michael Gillespie
- a. Dr. Gillespie provided an overview of the extensive programming for faculty FDIC has completed this semester and will have available next semester. Be sure to

take advantage of Instructional Design, Online Learning, and Active Learning opportunities through FDIC.

- b. FDIC has a podcast, The FDIP, which is now available on Google and Spotify. This is posted about every two weeks with the range of 10-30 minutes and covers a variety of topics.
- c. New this year to FDIC is an FDIC Fellowship for a faculty member who has a project that fits within the FDIC mission to help cultivate teaching and learning at the university. This will also include office space and plans to have products for the FDIC. This is a semester-long fellowship.

VII. Discussion Items (on-going and new)

- a. Luis Clay Mendez Service Award (Scher)
 - i. Chair Bruns gave an overview of the current endowment for Distinguished Faculty Award and a summary of his discussion with Ken Wetstein with the EIU Foundation. President Glassman and Ken Wetstein supported the use of monies from the Distinguished Faculty Award endowment to support a re-distribution of funds to provide a monetary award for the Luis Clay Mendez Award in addition to the Distinguished Faculty Award.
 - ii. Faculty Senate would have to vote to agree to a change in the language of the current endowment. If approved, the changes would also have to be approved by the EIU foundation board.
 - iii. Motion to accept resolution Senator Scher and seconded by Senator Thiebault-Geen.
 - iv. Discussion ensued. It was determined that Faculty Senate is the fiscal agent of this endowment so we can make this decision. Senator White asked about having language about an authorizing agent, which would allow someone to make the change to increase the award at a given time. Senator White also suggested considering what the minimum would be to have in the corpus and what is self-generated for sustainability. Senator Abebe discussed concerns with using this funding as it was not originally intended and that these monies could instead be used to increase the value of the Distinguished Faculty Award. Senator Bruns discussed difficulty raising the minimum \$25,000 to establish a new endowment and the time it would take to get this started right away. Several senators shared discussion points about the importance of demonstrating support for service at the university.
 - v. Motion from Senator White, Seconded by Scher to table this motion until the following meeting.
- b. Computer Science computer lab (Reza)
 - i. Senators Reza and Parrish has brought up concerns related to the CS computer lab and ability to have machines and infrastructure to support program needs. Provost Gatrell discussed the purchase of some of these labs using ATAC funds, which were 1-time monies to departments available prior to the budget impasse in 2016. Most of the money in

these ledgers were reassigned during the budget impasse, resulting in ATAC essentially disappearing. He noted that the cost of software maintenance is very different now than when these computers were installed. Provost Gatrell also discussed the possibility of course and student fees and GIFT funding related to replacing technology. Identifying a fee structure and/or moving to virtualization for students enrolled in specialized courses was also discussed. CCLI grants through NSF and junior faculty emerging research grants are also options. It was also noted that we do have GEER funds dedicated to ITS and virtualization structure and have the capacity to have more in the current environment. Provost Gatrell suggested contact IT (Ryan Gibson) to discuss options.

- ii. Additional questions from senators included asking about what happens to the machines we are replacing with the new faculty machines and whether those would support a short-term solution. Because many of those machines are 3+ years old, they are likely not a viable solution.

VIII. The following agenda items were tabled due to time constraints:

- a. Faculty Burnout (Scher)
- b. Chair Listening Tour (Bruns)
- c. On-going Service “shortage” (Bruns)
- d. Budget transparency (Abebe)

IX. Open Session

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.