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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

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Agenda & Minutes

Faculty Senate 2022-2023

February 21, 2023

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

Guests: Michael Gillespie, Tim Zimmerman, Deborah Reifsteck

- I. Approval of Minutes from February 7
 - a. Senator Davis made a motion to approve the minutes, Senator Abebe provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- II. Senate Reports
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. No specific report was provided. The executive committee meets with President Glassman next week.
 - ii. EIU Think Tank (Bruns)
 1. Senator Bruns gave a brief overview of their recent meeting. Many members are working on different discussion right now, including such topics as pass/fail related to retention, demographic shifts in the population of the US and impact on higher education, communication and support for international students, and how to make the international application process easier.
 - iii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns)
 1. Senator Bruns reported that a small group attended the last meeting and each shared brief updates.
 - b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
 - i. By-Laws revision proposal (Stowell)
 1. Senator Stowell led a discussion of potential faculty senate bylaw changes related to elections and nominations, including:
 - a. Better distinguish “Nominations” vs. “Appointments”
 - b. Consider references to “boards” vs “committees”
 - c. Adjust requirements for running for elected committees and appointed committees
 - d. Consider adding language about the selection process for appointed committees
 2. Feedback on bylaw changes will be incorporated into the subsequent draft. Senate will also consider a separate policy & procedure manual for senate subcommittees.

- ii. Senator Stowell also reported that the UPC committee has traditionally had 11 members, but currently has 2 vacancies during their critical work time. Senator Stowell consulted with UPI and the UPC chair about guidelines for deciding how to handle absences. The committee agreed to continue their work this semester at 9 members with an at-large member moving in to fill the college-designated role, providing for all colleges to have representation (a requirement). The additional positions will attempt to be filled later.
 - iii. Results of the recent spring election were shared and winners will be notified after the meeting. We had a 35% participation in the election voting. Faculty Senate thanks anyone who ran for election as well as all those who took to tie to elect their colleagues through voting.
 - c. Student & Staff Relations (Neal/Davis)
 - i. No report was given from either group.
 - d. Faculty Forum (Sterling)
 - i. The topic will be a panel discussion on academic integrity and will be March 2nd from 3:00-4:30. Watch for announcement coming soon for location.
 - e. Awards (Scher)
 - i. The committee is reading through applications for DFA and hope to make decisions soon.
 - f. Ad-hoc Academic Honesty and Student Standards (Thibault-Geen)
 - i. No report. Individuals on the committee will be part of the panel at the forum and look to gain further direction and ideas from that discussion.
- III. Provost's Report
 - a. The VPAA office is working on ways to improve orientation, specifically for transfer students, to make the process more interactional and focus on support and learning about campus. There will also be revisions to welcome week and convocation in the future.
 - b. IGP 157 (Disruption of Academic or Operational Functions) has been reviewed and the language is being addressed related to civility issues. Posters were distributed earlier this semester about civility as a start and students will have some aspects of civility reviewed in orientation (e.g., class expectations).
 - i. Senator Abebe discussed concerns about the revisions not having language in the standards on what a student can or cannot do once they are done in your class (i.e., treatment of each other on campus).
 - c. Strategic planning continues with subcommittees meeting now to draft some measurable goals. Town halls are planned for after spring break.
 - d. Interim Provost description position will be posted soon with plans to hire for the position by the end of the semester.
 - e. Provost Gatrell wanted to express his congratulations to the Daily Eastern News, who recently won every category in their division at an awards ceremony. They were commended on their transition to the new model of printing and distribution.

- i. Senator Bruns encouraged colleagues to sign up for the Daily Eastern News online to get daily updates.

IV. Guest Speaker: VPUA Ken Wetstein

- a. Mr. Wetstein provided updated information from University Advancement. Dollars and donors data from end of January 2023 included 2699 donors who have made a gift to EIU this year. This is 16-18% where we expected to be fiscally compared to last year. Overall decreased number of donors are being seen in all of charity nationally. The VPUA office is also seeing less engagement in academic direct mail campaigns and they are considering how that affects overall donations. VPUA office is expecting increase in donations related to Fandemic (athletics) and Annual Giving Day (April 19), both of which are driven by social media. Currently EIU has received around \$3 million for total gifts, with goals to increase to \$5 million by end of the fiscal year.
- b. Mr. Wetstein also provided personnel updates for the University Advancement office. They are 6 positions under full staff, leaving lots of work for those who are in development officers; all positions are open searches right now.
- c. Mr. Wetstein also discussed the robust regional travel schedule he and others will be participating in throughout spring to engage with alumni and donors in Arizona and Florida and Texas. Other upcoming events include alumni major league baseball games/events, for example. Mr. Wetstein also answered questions about this process and how they know who to meet with, with different emphasis on solicitation, stewardship, and/or interest.
- d. Mr. Wetstein thanked FS for their work in securing funding for recipients of Luis Clay Mendez Award. FS also thanked Mr. Wetstein for his collegiality in making the award funded. Senator Scher suggested continuing to work to increase the endowment as a continued goal for VPUA office.
- e. Mr. Westein commented on how the commencement format will be different this year (Saturday, May 6th), sharing many changes about why and how commencement will look different this year and who will be invited graduation speakers.
- f. Senator Neal asked how communication occurs when a department gets a donation and how to know when to send a thank you. There is a report that is produced on a monthly basis by the VPUA office and that can be communicated to chairs/faculty. Mr. Wetstein described how the VPUA office is trying to standardize levels of gifts that trigger notifications to appropriate people who can thank donors, as well as decrease time to notification.
- g. A question was also asked about how the foundation works with the EIU Annuitants Association. EIUAA is part of the foundation's work and budget. Some are volunteers that work with office staff. Annuitants are more likely to make planned gifts.

V. Open Session/Guests or Visitors

- a. Tim Zimmerman, Facilities, expressed interested in expanding opportunities for collaboration to better understand different units on campus.

VI. A motion to table remaining agenda items was made by Senator Abebe and seconded by Senator Sterling, passing unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.