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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 10, 1998(Vol. xxviii, No. 10)

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- I. **Call to order by James Tidwell at 2:02 p.m. (Conference Room, Booth Library)**
Present: J. Allison, J. Best, J. Coons, C. Eberly, G. Foster, N. Furumo, R. Gholson, B. Irwin, G. Lockart, N. Marlow, J. Tidwell, M. Toosi, L. Walker, A. Zahlan. Guests: T. Abebe, A. Cox, J. Cross, J. Daugherty, K. Franken, H. Lasky, D. Ochwat, T. Sloup, B. Weber.
- II. **Approval of the minutes of November 3, 1998.**
Motion (Allison/Walker) to approve the minutes of November 3, 1998.
Corrections: In Section V.B. last bullet, add the words "it is not" to the end of the second sentence.
Yes: Allison, Best, Eberly, Foster, Furumo, Gholson, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow, Tidwell, Toosi, Walker, Zahlan.
- III. **Communications**
 - A. Minutes of Council on Teacher Education—October 27, 1998
 - B. Minutes of Council on Academic Affairs—October 29, 1998
 - C. Minutes of COEPS Curriculum Committee—October 26, 1998
 - D. Minutes of President's Council—May 13, May 27, June 17, July 9, July 22, July 29, September 16, September 30, October 21, November 4, 1998
 - E. E-mail from Kevin Franken concerning CAA discussion of Biological Sciences—November 4, 1998
 - F. Council on University Planning and Budget: Agenda for November 13, 1998, meeting; Minutes of October 16, 1998, meeting; Executive Board recommendations for Vice Presidential Advisory Subcommittees; Budget Transfer Subcommittee Summary Report of October 16, 1998; 1998-99 meetings calendar
 - G. Account Statement of Faculty Senate—October 31, 1998
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. Honors Program—Herbert Lasky. The Honors Program has a presidential goal of 1,000 students. There were 178 students when that goal was set; today there are 618. This number is those registered in classes and in good standing; there are always some minor fluctuations in that number. The Honors Program has been expanding at a steady rate partly because of a concerted recruiting effort, but one cannot recruit for a hollow program. The program has been highly successful, and there has been great cooperation from faculty, chairs, and deans. Students are generally highly favorable about the program. Students in the program are not allowed to believe that they are superior to anyone else. They are a talented group within the academic community. Honors students have a tutoring program that has become an outreach program. They are also active in every part of University life nor are they in any particular major. The grading in honors classes is non-competitive; classes are graded against the norm for a non-honors class. By and large, the grades are high. There is a writing requirement in every honors class. The papers go to the Honors Office where they build a portfolio. One of the ways success is measured is by what students do upon completion of their studies at Eastern. Seventy-two percent of the honors students are women. The Honors Program is also active nationally, and Lasky is president of the national organization, which consists of 710 universities and colleges. Eastern's program is prominent among those in the guide to honors programs. Eastern's program is the only one to have its own archeological site. That project in Belgium is entirely self-financed. They try to provide facilities and opportunities for talented students. To enter the program, freshmen must have a 26 ACT and be in the top 10 percent of their class. If the high school does not rank or is highly competitive, Lasky will make a judgment call. Students enrolled at Eastern can enter the Honors Program if they are in good standing on campus with a 3.5 cumulative GPA for a minimum of 12 semester hours. In addition to the University Honors Program, there are departmental honors programs, which consist of 12 hours in the department. Students must have a 3.5 GPA and permission of the department as well as Lasky's permission. The minimum requirement in that program is a senior thesis. Students in both programs are eligible for scholarships. In response to questions from Senators, Lasky added the following:
 - The Honors Program has had a measurable effect on the ACT average for the University. The number of ACT scores above 25 has increased measurably. The average ACT for students in the Honors Program is about 28.
 - Students in University Honors take 25 hours of classes (minimum) in honors. They must be continually enrolled in the program. The Honors office would like the students to take no more than 2 honors classes per semester.
 - There is evidence that the presence of Honors students in regular classes has a good effect.
 - The total of 618 includes both University and departmental honors students.

- The program is governed by the Honors Council, which has 9 members, 3 of which are Honors students.
- The residence hall issue was raised. When the Honors residence hall program began 5 years ago, it was agreed that the first hall would be McKinney. Lasky's plan was to use the dining hall as a meeting center and a place to put on programs. For reasons beyond his control, it was decided to close the Triad dining center. It is difficult to recruit students and tell them that they will be living in a place without dining facilities. The University suggested that Pemberton would be a good alternative. It appears to be the most difficult residence hall to fill. The building is in need of repairs, and there might be some opportunity to make those repairs with this shift. Lasky has always worked closely with University housing. He wrote to each Honors student to explain the change and the reasons. Although there has been some controversy on campus, it appears that Pemberton will be an Honors residence hall. Lasky assured the Senate that he has significant experience in architectural history, and great care will be taken to maintain the architectural integrity of the facility. They also plan to keep Pemberton as a women's residence hall; about 230-280 students can be housed in Pemberton. They will not ask students who are in residence in the building to leave. As places become available, they will give first priority to honors students. If honors students come to campus and plan to live with a friend who is not in the honors program, that is fine. This has always been done. Many non-honors students request placement in honors residence halls.
- The Honors program should reflect the nature of the institution.
- Lasky recruits at college nights, by mail, by being featured in publications, through the purchase of PSAT lists, and with the Honors Day Open House (this Saturday). He spends about 35-40 percent of his time recruiting students.

B. VPAA Abebe introduced Associate VPAA Cross to the Senate.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee. This committee will meet next week. The library relocation has been talked about already in this committee several times. The announcement on locations has been made. The off-campus site is still under negotiation. This will be a major task affecting the entire campus for the next two years. The library will start moving out sometime during the summer.
2. Nominations Committee. No report
3. Elections Committee. They will be submitting a proposal for a change in the bylaws dealing with vacancies before the end of the semester.
4. Student-Faculty Relations. Student government elections are this week.
5. Faculty-Staff Relations. They will likely be meeting this Thursday at noon.
6. Presidential Search Committee. The members leave today to interview candidates tomorrow and Thursday in Chicago. They will decide on 3 candidates to bring to campus. They have not decided on when the announcement of the 3 will be because of the necessity of completing background checks first. The schedules for interviews will likely come out without names. All candidates will be asked the same bank of questions; other questions may also be asked that relate specifically to those candidates.
7. Search Committee for Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. They have identified 3 candidates and sent the names forward to Acting VPEA Nilsen.
8. IBHE FAC. They met Friday, November 6, at the University of Illinois—Springfield. The morning session consisted of a panel discussion about the planned University Center in Lake County and its impact on academia. During the afternoon they heard a short report from Keith Sanders via liaison Doug Day and discussed suggested changes to the IBHE Citizens' Agenda.

B. Other Old Business:

- Senators requested information on items on minutes from the President's Council of May 27, July 22, and October 21.
- K. Franken questioned whether the Faculty Senate conveyed its position to the CAA in regards to its earlier resolution. Chair Tidwell had talked with CAA Chair Addison.

VI. Adjourn at 3:45 p.m. (Walker)

Future Agenda Items

- A. User Services Update—Bill Witsman and John Henderson will visit the Senate November 17, 1998
- B. Enrollment Management—Lou Hencken and Frank Hohengarten will visit the Senate December 8, 1998
- C. Senator Toosi's suggestions regarding future directions of the Senate

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy D. Marlow, Recorder