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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 17, 1998 (Vol. xxviii, No. 11)

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I. Call to order by James Tidwell at 2:00 p.m. (Conference Room, Booth Library)

Present: J. Allison, J. Best, J. Coons, C. Eberly, P. Fewell, G. Foster, N. Furumo, R. Gholson, B. Irwin, G. Lockart, N. Marlow, J. Tidwell, M. Toosi, L. Walker, A. Zahlan. Guests: T. Abebe, H. Black, N. Coutant, K. Franken, R. Fisher, D. Grigg, J. Henderson, D. Radavich, T. Sloup, W. Weber, B. Witsman.

II. Approval of the minutes of November 10, 1998.

Motion (Allison/Furumo) to approve the minutes of November 10, 1998

Corrections: Add to V.B. (Other Old Business): Some concerns were raised about the CAA's lack of recognition of the Faculty Senate resolution. This may be brought up at the next Faculty Senate Meeting

Yes: Allison, Best, Coons, Foster, Furumo, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow, Tidwell, Toosi, Walker, Zahlan. Abstentions: Eberly, Fewell, Gholson.

III. Communications

- A. Minutes of Council on Graduate Studies—November 3, 1998
- B. Minutes of Council on Academic Affairs—November 5, 1998
- C. Minutes of Staff Senate—October 14, 1998
- D. Memo and IELC Status Report from Carolyn Cooper
- E. Memo from Senator J. Allison regarding meeting of November 12, 1998.
- F. Series of E-mails from K. Franken
- G. Letter from D. Radavich regarding concerns with newly consolidated Department of Biological Sciences
- H. Memo from L. Walker regarding Learning Assistance Center
- I. Letters from students and alumni regarding the merger of Biological Sciences.
- J. Announcement of CAA Open Hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 1998, from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the Casey Room and on Thursday, November 19, 1998, from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Arcola-Tuscola Room on General Education—Human Behavior, Social Interaction, and Well-Being
- K. Letter from Frank Lipousky (businessman from Champaign) regarding merger of Biological Sciences

IV. New Business

- A. User Services Update—Bill Witsman and John Henderson
 1. Asynchronous Learning Ventures. Two projects are being conducted as pilot studies this term and next. One is First Class, an electronic mail/bulletin board combination. There are 380 licenses used in about 12 classes; they can be used on both Macintosh and in the Windows environment. The other is Mallard, which is similar to First Class in that it is networked. It is used for testing services online. It is very time-consuming for faculty to enter the data. About two faculty are using this currently.
 2. Use of Student Technology Fee. Projected for 1999 about \$300,000 will be used for technology in the open labs, \$180,000 for purchases of instructional technology, \$59,175 for overhead and maintenance, and \$86,000 for salaries. Student fee money was used to purchase 42 computers in FY 1995, 103 in FY 96, 24 in FY97, 172 in FY98, and 159 in FY99. About 58 computers were purchased in FY96 and partially paid for in FY97. The number for FY99 is less because about \$100,000 will be spent on non-workstation equipment. The goal is to put all of the computers at Eastern on a four-year replacement cycle. This is theoretically possible, but the sick-leave buy-out can make it more difficult. In total almost \$1.9 million was spent last year on computer purchases for the entire University.
 3. 24-Hour Lab Facility. This is in the process of being designed now. The Triad facility will have to be shared with Booth until the renovation is completed. There will be 50 new machines in an open environment. The students voted on this and asked for it by the year 2000.
 4. Residence Hall Networking Project. The completion of this should relieve some of our access problems from our homes because the students will not be using dial up procedures.
 5. Staffing of User Services. This is almost complete. User Services is very customer-oriented. Director Henderson urged the faculty to use the services and added that he is proud of the staff.
 6. Witsman distributed a flier with important ITS phone numbers.
- In the question/answer period the following issues were raised:
- There is a process on campus to increase the availability and the speed of accessing Internet services. The Internet traffic is doubling every 60 days.

- Labs that are both open and classroom sometimes get caught in the middle, eligible neither for student fee money nor for departmental funding. There are instructional technology proposals that can be applied to discipline-specific technology.
- There are some means for dealing with software (for example SPSS) that faculty need on their machines to be productive. There are some site licenses that are used University-wide. Perhaps there should be some central location for purchasing site licenses. Some software is purchased through departmental purchasing; it is difficult for ITS to know when all this is happening.
- John Henderson, Director of User Services, urged faculty to call him at 3020 with their questions.

V. Old Business

Senator Allison requested that the Senate move to Other Old Business at this time; there were no objections.

A. Other Old Business—Biological Sciences. Chair Tidwell ruled any additional discussion of this issue out of order. Article VII of the Constitution gives CAA exclusive council in matters of curriculum. Faculty Senate does not have the authority to discuss issues that have already gone to CAA regarding curriculum. Senator Allison responded that elsewhere in the Constitution it says that the Senate serves as Ombudsman. This item is not just a curriculum change; it was a new program, which is within our purview. There were requests for CAA to provide more time for discussion and deliberation. It was also disturbing that CAA did not meet the following week because of a wont of business. This issue has not gone away. Chair Tidwell repeated that his ruling was that the issue was out of order, but that the Senate could challenge his rule.

Motion (Allison/Zahlan) that with utmost respect of CAA's decision using information available at the time and in view of the additional information that has been received by Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate respectfully requests CAA to consider reopening discussion of the biological sciences program.

Chair Tidwell ruled the motion out of order. Allison/Zahlan objected.

Vote (on whether to support the Chair's rule) Yes: Best, Fewell, Foster, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow, Tidwell.

No: Allison, Coons, Eberly, Furumo, Gholson, Toosi, Walker, Zahlan.

Discussion of the motion includes the following:

- The tensions will increase if we do not find a way to continue this discussion and dialogue. It will also affect fund raising. There were ample requests for a delay of the voting. CAA did not have such a busy agenda that they could not delay the vote. I respect all members of CAA but they might have learned something important with such a delay. Faculty Senate also deserves respect. The Senate had asked that our communication be conveyed to CAA but it apparently was not. This action will decrease tensions in the long run. People are upset when they do not have opportunity for expression.
- It seems CAA is being second-guessed. I am reluctant to have one body elected at large second-guess another body elected at large.
- I respect CAA and have respect for their decisions, but there has been additional information since that decision—the letter in today's Daily Eastern News, the one we received today, and the many E-mail messages from alums. CAA has not had the opportunity to see those materials. We need to listen to people outside the University. We are not questioning CAA's decision. Now that there is additional information it is reasonable to request them to consider this additional information and to remind them of the extreme outrage expressed in the Faculty Senate resolution. Neither Addison nor the CAA was completely aware of the scope of the Faculty Senate resolution.
- The concern is not just with the process of the merger but also that the Senate's communication was not shared with CAA.
- If we approve this motion we are giving CAA the opportunity to look at this matter again with information from outsiders. Normally CAA takes three meetings to pass course proposals. This was an unnecessary efficiency.
- I am happy with the thoroughness and the expertise applied by CAA in going over the program. We have learned lessons that could be used in the future; this process could have been done differently. However, we cannot pass this motion based on letters that came in after the fact. CAA did what they were elected to do. We took our position and shared it; the time is come to realize that CAA took their position.
- CAA was not aware of the loss of money at the time they took their action. Given the amount of the money, it is not asking too much to ask CAA to reconsider.
- We cannot put any probabilities on those numbers. The anger and passion of the letters speaks eloquently. The reality is it is impossible to know how to take this into account. For Faculty Senate to countermand this work will not help us to get our recommendations heard.
- We are not second-guessing CAA. We have nothing to lose and much to gain by seeing what they think. We are not saying they should not have done this.

- Eastern has always been unique and now we've worked hard to make ourselves not unique with these new programs. The VPAA has told us to think about what makes us unique.
- People tend to give money to departments and identify strongly with departments.
- The alums are stakeholders but we have to be careful. If I were on CAA, I would feel I was being patronized by the Senate. This makes me very uncomfortable. These letters and memos can go to CAA. They can come to a decision to revisit this issue. We do not have to ask them to do this.
- No one is twisting their arms. There is no harm in expressing a wish through a vote.
- The motion seems to indicate that CAA did not take this seriously. They do not need to receive this information from an at-large body asking them to revisit it.
- This is meddlesome. Our constitution is crystal clear on this. This will not make it easier to work with our colleagues on campus. They acted within their charge. We are violating our constitution.

Senator Fewell called the question. Gholson/Allison objected.

Vote on the question. Yes: Best, Fewell, Foster, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow. No: Allison, Coons, Eberly, Furumo, Gholson, Toosi, Walker, Zahlan. Abstentions: Tidwell. Discussion continued:

- We would be grossly at fault not to consider where our students find employment. If we are concerned about alumni driving decisions, why do we ask them to sit on advisory boards?
- Universities are happy to have individuals that are willing to support the University and the departments. These are resources that we do not have. At the same time, I am uncertain that a philanthropic act is not a political act. Would we eliminate a program if somebody promised us a million dollars? It is always easy for people to say I would have given you a million dollars if you would not have made this decision.
- I'm not going to second-guess someone's rationale for donating to the University. If the report in the paper is accurate, we have a person who has been donating \$30,000 per year to the Botany Department and set up a trust for \$1 million.
- If that money was given to Eastern in good faith that there would be a botany program, then we become liars.
- It is great that people have used their degrees to achieve success. Some of those have been out there for awhile. Science and higher education is changing. To say that the way we have been is the same as the way we will continue is not right. We need to have programs designed for our current students to succeed in the world that is becoming.
- The future looks bleak for programs that may be candidates for mergers. We need to have a forum next semester on mergers.
- We devoted several meetings last year to the merger to answer questions that the whole campus had. There were many questions that were never answered by the Dean. We have no business bashing the Senate for being political. We are not the only body that is political. The CAA is not above politics.
- The information is largely from people who are taking their balls and going home.

Walker called the question. There were no objections.

Vote on the motion. Yes: Allison, Coons, Furumo, Gholson, Toosi, Walker, Zahlan. No: Best, Foster, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow, Tidwell. The motion failed.

B. Committee Reports

1. Presidential Search Committee. The three finalists will be on campus during the first two weeks in December. Faculty sessions will be at 3:00 p.m. in the 1895 room for each of the three respectively on Tuesday, December 1; Thursday, December 3; and Monday, December 7. Faculty and Staff Senates will have a continental buffet breakfast with the candidates from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. in the 1895 room on Wednesday, December 2; Friday, December 4; and Tuesday, December 8. There will also be open receptions for each of the candidates.
2. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met with the President and VPAA on Monday, November 16. The President explained the items that Senators had questioned in the President's Council minutes:
 - Revision of IGP. Under Civil Service, many academic administrative positions are civil service positions. Previously, exemptions had to be applied for position by position. With this change, if there is a similar position in the University, we do not have to file this exemption again—subject to an audit by the Civil Service Board.
 - Expulsion Policy Interpretation. Students expelled from Eastern were expelled forever. A specific student, who was expelled ten years ago, has asked to be readmitted to finish his degree. This interpretation would allow a student to petition for readmission after five years. Judicial will probably rewrite the Student Conduct Code next year.
 - Commencement by Exceptionality. Exceptionality is granted on an individual basis by the Deans. Individual Deans have interpreted exceptionality differently. They are looking at making this the same across campus.

- University fleet changed their charge policy to mileage or a minimum of \$75.
3. Search Committee for Director of major Gifts and Planned Giving. One interview has been scheduled as of last week.

VI. **Adjourn at 4:05 p.m. (Walker)**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy D. Marlow, Recorder

NOV 20 1998