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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 19, 1999 (Vol. xxviii, No. 15)

The 1998-99 Faculty Senate minutes and other information are available on the Web at <http://www.eiu.edu/~FacSen>
The Faculty Senate agenda is posted weekly on the Web, at 2540 Buzzard, outside the Conference Room in the Library.

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, G. Foster, N. Furumo, R. Gholson, B. Irwin, G. Lockart, N. Marlow, J. Tidwell, M. Toosi, L. Walker, A. Zahlan. Guests: T. Abebe, K. Franken, L. Irvine, M. McMahan.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Meeting of January 12, 1999. **Motion (Gholson/Irwin) to approve the minutes of January 12, 1999.**
Yes: Allison, Foster, Furumo, Gholson, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow, Tidwell, Toosi. Abstentions: Best, Walker.
- B. Executive Session of December 8, 1998. **Motion (Allison/Foster) to make the minutes of the Executive Session of December 8, 1998 public.**
Yes: Allison, Best, Foster, Furumo, Gholson, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow, Tidwell, Toosi, Walker.
Motion (Allison/Gholson) to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of December 8, 1998.
Yes: Allison, Best, Coons, Eberly, Foster, Furumo, Gholson, Irwin, Lockart, Marlow, Tidwell, Toosi, Walker, Zahlan. The minutes of the December 8, 1998, Executive Session are attached.

III. Communications

- A. Minutes of Council on Graduate Studies—December 1, 1998
B. Environmental health and Safety Committee Meeting Notes—November 30, 1998
C. Minutes of Council on Academic Affairs—December 10, 1998

IV. Old Business

- A. Committee Reports
1. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have its first meeting of the semester with President Jorns and VPAA Abebe on Wednesday, January 27, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. Chair Tidwell received a letter from President Jorns and VPAA Abebe about the possibility of calling together a committee to determine the feasibility of forming a committee to name a room in booth Library after the renovation is complete.
 2. Elections Committee. There has been some interest expressed in the Applications Appeal Committee. The Elections Committee will be preparing a list of positions for the spring election.
 3. Student-Faculty Relations. The Student-Faculty Relations Committee presented Student Senate Resolutions 98-99-13 and 98-99-14.
 - a. Resolution 98-99-13: Whereas, Career Services provides the student body with many excellent services that assist in a search for future employment, and whereas, it is important for students to receive information regarding these services, and whereas, advisors in the Academic Assistance Center and all University Departments regularly meet with students to assist them in their academic careers, therefore be it resolved, the Student Senate encourages all advisors in the Academic Assistance Center and within all University Departments to familiarize themselves with the Career Services offerings. Further be it resolved, that all advisors provide current information to all students through the distribution of handouts, Career Services business cards, and encourage students to schedule an appointment at Career Services. Concerns expressed during the discussion included:
 - Academic advisors are already asked to do a significant amount of work. This may be asking people to do more as well as changing their job descriptions.
 - Some departments have placement committees. There may be some confusion about the sphere of responsibility.
 - The first part of resolution 13 should not be a problem; the second part is too vague.
 - There is a distinction between academic advisement and career advisement. The responsibility for career advisement may be the department's, not the academic advisor's.
 - Some departments take care of this through their professional organizations and clubs. There are advisors with 50 or more advisees. These advisors cannot be responsible for both academic and career advising.
 - Freshman seminars have a session devoted to career planning.
 - b. Resolution 98-99-14. Whereas Career Services traditionally sponsors one Job Fair per semester, the purpose of which is to allow students to meet and talk with potential employers, and whereas these Job Fairs are an important part of the student's University experience, and whereas students are often forced to choose between attending the Job Fair and attending a regularly scheduled class, therefore be it resolved that the Student Senate encourages faculty and staff to accept the following documentation as an excused absence

for any classes missed on these designated days: (a) a signed form from Career Services Personnel acknowledging a student's attendance at the Job Fair and (b) the student's written summary of his/her experience at the Job Fair. Discussion raised the following concerns:

- Job Fairs often go from 9:00 until 4:00. Students may abuse this as an excuse to miss class—especially in light of the letter received last week from Floyd Merritt. Documentation that the student had to miss class to attend would be preferable.
- Absences are excused on a professor-by-professor basis.

Both resolutions were returned to the Student-Faculty Relations Committee for further investigation.

4. Faculty-Staff Relations. The Faculty-Staff Relations Committee will schedule another meeting after Ted Weidner has an opportunity to speak to the Senate.
5. Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Procedures. This committee will hold its first meeting on Thursday, January 21, 1999, at 8:30 a.m.

B. Screening Committee for Director of Financial Aid. Norbert Furumo and Mahar Izadi expressed interest in this committee. **Motion (Walker/Zahlan) to forward both names for the Screening Committee for Director of Financial Aid to Frank Hohengarten.**

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

C. Old Main Centennial Committee. Some individuals have expressed interest in this committee. That call will remain open for another week or so.

Any faculty members interested in serving on the Old Main Centennial Committee should contact James Tidwell, Journalism (cfjat).

D. Other Old Business.

1. Director of Planned Giving. It is assumed that a new search will require a new search committee.
2. Faculty Forum on Mergers. The UPI negotiating committee is aware of the ambiguity of the contract language and hope to clear it up in the next contract. If people have concerns about this issue, they should contact the UPI Negotiating Committee. David Radavich is the chair. Other concerns were raised in the discussion:

- There are other matters that are not strictly contractual that arise with mergers. It is the procedure for mergers that is within UPI's purview. There is a clause in the contract for the procedure but it is vague.
- There is a separation between the procedure and the rationale for doing such mergers.
- A forum on mergers could be a ver good way to get the type of information UPI needs.
- There are mergers other than departmental mergers. The departmental structure that exists has been in evolution. We cannot freeze that in any way. Some language would have to recognize a cooperative spirit.
- UPI does not want to discuss its negotiating techniques in public.
- The Senate is an open body. We have been called the last resort for some. This is a faculty concern. What we want is open communication.
- Mergers in the business world are often economic. It is a mistake for a University to make decisions at a University solely for economic reasons. We need to consider the quality of education.
- Are there still concerns—things that need to be said about future mergers? This should determine whether we have a forum on this issue.
- When a merger is in process, then the contract comes into play. It would not be out of the Faculty Senate's interests to make recommendations about when mergers should take place—under what circumstances would mergers be advantageous. That decisions needs to be made on an academic basis—with an understanding the economics will play some role.
- The university has obligations to alumni, students, and other stakeholders. These obligations are not the responsibility of UPI, but they are the responsibility of Faculty Senate.

V. Adjourn at 3:00 p.m. (Walker)

Future Agenda Items

- A. Dean Lanham will meet with the Senate January 26.
- B. Ted Weidner will meet with the Senate February 2.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy D. Marlow, Recorder

Faculty interested in serving in any of the following ways should contact James Tidwell, Journalism (cfjat).

- **Any search/screening committees in the future**
- **Old Main Centennial Committee**