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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Minutes of June 1 (Vol. XXIV, No. 33)

Called to order by Vice Chair Gary Foster at 11:15 a.m., Room 333, Coleman Hall

Present: G. Foster, F. Fraker, R. Gholson, R. Jorstad, W. Kirk, G. Mason, J. Ozier, J. Simpson, W. Weber, D. Wolf

Absent: J. Allison, C. Eberly, M. Goodrich, J. Lambert, J. Lasky

Visitors: Bob Saltmarsh, Jim Quivy, Rob Bates, Bob Augustine, Virginia Baldwin, Kelly Allee, Minh Dao, Ebi Karbassioon

Minutes: A motion (Simpson/Weber) passed (7-0-3) to approve the Minutes of May 9 with the following amendment: Under Communications G., it should read, "Chair Allison" instead of "Chair Simpson."

I. CONTROVERSY INVOLVING THE FOUNDATION BOARD AND PRESIDENT JORNS

Senator Mason reported on the Staff Senate meeting she attended on May 30. Their discussion addressed many issues, among them were the following: (1) The welfare of the university, (2) How the EIU and Charleston communities might interpret the Foundation Board of Directors' vote indicating lack of confidence in President Jorns' fund-raising abilities, (3) The vote taken by the Board before President Jorns has engaged in fund-raising activities, and (4) The involvement of the Foundation Board in the governance of the university. The Staff Senate discussed drafting a resolution that reflected their concerns.

Senator Foster reported that the concerns expressed by Staff Senate were also expressed by faculty members and department chairs. Senator Simpson noted that the public "no confidence" vote that received press coverage can be viewed as the Foundation Board of Directors "throwing down the gauntlet." A draft of a resolution that reflected comments made at Staff Senate, and concerns received by Senator Foster from faculty and department chairs.

Approximately an hour was spent reworking the resolution, with all Senators providing input into the resolution's wording. Once general agreement was reached, Senators discussed the necessity for not delaying sending out the resolution. Visitors expressed their desire to see the resolution sent immediately.

A motion (Ozier/Fraker) passed unanimously (10-0-0) to suspend Robert's Rules of Order in order to vote on the resolution immediately.

A motion (Jorstad/Kirk) passed unanimously to accept the resolution as amended (11-0-0; this vote included one proxy vote).

Senators suggested that copies be sent to, among other places, local and regional newspapers, state legislators in our area, relevant campus councils and senates, the BOG and the IBHE.

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas the implications of the recent no-confidence vote in the President's fund-raising ability by the Foundation Board of Directors ("the Board") has potentially serious consequences for the university, and

Whereas the Board may disagree with the President's proposed fund-raising strategies, the Faculty Senate believes the no-confidence vote is an inappropriate and unwarranted intrusion upon the internal functioning and organization of the university, and

Whereas said no-confidence vote is unwarranted in that the President's proposal, fully consistent with North Central recommendations is still under review, and has not been implemented, and

Whereas the timing of said no-confidence vote, moving toward transition to an individual board and during summer session with few faculty present, is not in the interests of the university, whatever the motives, and

Whereas although the concerns of the Foundation Board are important, a balanced view of the university's past, present and plans for its future course is essential and must prevail, and

Whereas the Foundation Board has influenced the Board of Governors to hold executive sessions for the discussion of President Jorns' performance without benefit of faculty consultation, and

Whereas said no-confidence vote was without benefit of open campus consultation,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Eastern Illinois University, while occasionally expressing opinions of variance with President Jorns, has full confidence in, and supports the President, and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate urges the Foundation Board of Directors and the President, with grace, dignity and civility, to resolve any differences and to achieve a cooperative spirit for the welfare, benefit and interest of Eastern Illinois University.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40. The next meeting is Friday, June 9, 2:00 p.m., BOG Room, Booth Library. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS: IBHE Articulation Plan, Reorganization

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Mason, Recorder