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February 25, 1992

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "February 25, 1992" (1992). *Minutes*. 1476.
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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 25, 1992

Volume XXI, Number 24

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Carpenter at 2:08 p.m. in the BOG Room, Booth Library.

Present: Bill Addison, David Carpenter, John Craft, Marietta Deming, Craig Eckert, Robert Jorstad, Linda Leal, Ed Marlow, John Miller, Hal Nordin, Mary Ellen Varble, Gary Wallace, Richard Wandling, Anne Zahlan

Absent: Bill Phillips

Visitors: Alan Baharlou, Emily Bryson, Lewis Coon, Gary Foster, Bob Hennings, Jamie Riley (*Daily Eastern News*)

A motion (Wallace/Craft) to approve the 18 February minutes passed with one abstention.

I. EIU Presidential Search: Address by Alan Baharlou

Citing the "enthusiasm" and commitment evinced by the Senate over the "tumultuous period" of the last seventeen months, Professor Baharlou, [Council of Chairs representative on the Presidential Search Committee], appealed for help in maintaining "the academic integrity, freedom, and independence of this institution" during the upcoming presidential search. Noting the bleak budgetary prospects for the university, Professor Baharlou expressed alarm at indications that the Board of Governors was likely to cut "programs" rather than central administrative expenditures, and at spokesperson Brayzell's published suggestion that the Board was prepared to be "obnoxious" in meeting IBHE demands for cutting costs. Emphasizing Eastern's need for a president who is "our advocate," Professor Baharlou asked the Senate to use its "political power" to that end.

Responding to a question as to how we could best strengthen the Search Committee's ability to promote Eastern's interests (Zahlan), Professor Baharlou called upon faculty "to stand behind that search committee," and appealed to the Senate to "get a campus consensus" as to the kind of president Eastern needs and wants. Emphasizing that the choice of a president should rest with the university, he asked: "Who can judge the president of an academic institution better than us?" Questioned as to whether he was suggesting that there be "no input at all from the BOG" (Wallace), Baharlou proposed that three BOG members serve on the Search Committee and that this expanded Committee have final authority to select Eastern's new president without further recourse to the Chancellor; he also stressed the need for a university spokesperson to counter statements made by the BOG's Brayzell. Emphasizing that he [as a member of the Search Committee] does not "want to be an advisor to Layzell," Professor Baharlou reiterated his challenge to the Senate to take the lead in articulating EIU interests: "If you don't, I don't know who will fill the vacuum."

II. Communications and Actions

A. Copy of 7 February letter from Civil Service Council to President's Council re: "Ethics Statement"

B. Memo of 18 February from President Rives re: Maintaining open channels of communication (Chair's reply attached) *The Senate agreed that the Executive Committee should continue to meet monthly with the University President and asked the Chair to schedule such meetings for the remainder of the academic year.*

C. Memo of 19 February from Senator Marlow re: Recommendation to appoint Dr. Richard Sylvia to the screening committee for a Director of Textbook Rental Services *A motion to confirm the appointment of Dr. Sylvia (Marlow/Jorstad) passed unanimously.*

D. Letter of 20 February from Associate V.P.A.A. Weidner re: Senate appointee to Committee on Academic Computing *The Senate voted (with one abstention) to reappoint John Miller to the Committee for the academic year, 1992-93.*

E. Letter of 20 February from Gary Foster re: Objections to circumventing the "chain of command" in issuing invitations directly, and meeting with BOG administrators while excluding their university counterparts"

F. Memo from Bob Whittenbarger re: His "frustration and anger at your actions related to the meeting of [17 February] with BGU Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Pringle"

III. EIU Senate Discussion of Presidential Search Process and Possible Senate Invitation to BGU Chancellor Layzell

In the light of objections to the visit of BGU VCAA Pringle [see Communications E and F], Chair Carpenter announced that he would invite BGU Chancellor Layzell to meet with the Senate only with formal authorization. In later discussion of the Pringle meeting, the Chair offered his apology to any Senators who may have felt slighted by his arrangements for what had been intended primarily as an occasion for Dr. Pringle to answer questions from the Chairs of CGS, COTE, and CAA. Given that six members of the Council on Academic Affairs [as well as several others] had attended the meeting, the Chair retrospectively wished that "fifteen Senators had been there." In reference to criticisms of the alleged exclusion of Acting VPAA Hill, Carpenter noted that VCAA Pringle had specified that no "administrators" be asked to attend the meeting since he can "see them any time"; commenting on this information, Senator Miller noted that it was then the Vice-Chancellor who had "pre-empted VPAA Hill." On the broader objections to the meeting (such as alleged violations of the "chain of command") as expressed by Professors Foster and Whittenbarger, the Chair noted that the "traditional channels of communication" had failed, and that their failure had led to the situation we find ourselves in at Eastern. Other Senators countered criticisms of alleged "circumventions of CAA" (six of whose members attended the meeting {Zahlan}) by referring to the Senate's constitutional responsibility (Addison) for all issues concerning the welfare of the university.

A motion was made (Nordin/Wallace) that a formal invitation be issued to Chancellor Layzell to meet with the Faculty Senate, a motion subsequently amended to specify that

III. Presidential Search and Layzell Invitation (continued) the meeting be scheduled in March, and that the agenda provide for discussion of the procedures of the EIU presidential search as well as other issues of common concern. Discussion focused on perceived problems with the search procedures as prescribed by the Chancellor's directive on the subject, as expressed by Professor Baharlou and as reflected in the anxiety widespread on campus.

Agreed that the Senate must do what it can to protect the integrity of the search, Senators emphasized the need to ensure that the BOG appoint as president the "first choice" (Nordin) of the EIU community. Opinions differed as to how and at what stage potential BOG manipulation of the search process could be prevented and/or countered. Senators noted that published Board policies apparently empower the Chancellor to "appoint whomever he wants" (Addison) and that the search procedures outlined in the Chancellor's directives to the board "give the campus no power" (Miller). The provisions for "pre-screening" at the System office--a departure from search procedure precedent (Addison)--are disturbing to Senators, as are both the practice in other recent searches of having interviews conducted by "Board staff" (Miller), and the implications of "how far removed . . . that person in Springfield [is]" (Miller). Given, however, that the Council of Chairs and other bodies have already appointed representatives to the "Campus Advisory Committee," that elections for College representatives are underway (Addison *et al.*), and that a legal challenge to the Chancellor's authority to conduct the search might prove difficult (Jorstad), a somewhat uneasy consensus emerged that our only option is to "work within" the guidelines while at the same time seeking to "modify" policy (Deming, Leal, *et al.*). Even though the Chancellor is legally "responsible for developing this process," "nothing says," it was pointed out, that he "can't develop a plan that calls for campus input": "we ought to go after amending this procedure" (Miller).

Suggestions for specific Senate actions to ensure maximum "campus input" included the idea that "political pressure" (Marlow) could be brought to bear, as well as a call for the Senate to issue "a powerful statement" (Eckert) asserting campus views on the search. The proposed invitation to the BGU Chancellor was then considered as a means to further campus participation in the choosing of a new EIU president; the motion to invite Chancellor Layzell to meet with the Senate on an appropriate March date passed unanimously.

IV. Arrangements for Campus Elections

Elections Committee Chair Bill Addison circulated the schedule for Senators to supervise voting in the upcoming Special Election. He also named those University Councils and Boards for which there were as yet no nominees and urged Senators to encourage colleagues to run for vacant posts.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m. The Senate will meet at 2:00 on March 3 in the BOG Room of Booth Library.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS: Council of Faculties Report; EIU Presidential Search (Results of Special Election for College Representatives on Search Committee, Office and Support Needs, University Community Input on Presidential Qualifications); Faculty Representation on EIU's Governing Board; Proposed Academic Calendar, 1993-1994 (Committee Report); VPAA Search Report; Faculty Elections; State-wide Faculty Benefits Advisory Committee; Faculty Senate Office

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Zahlan

NOTICE OF 1992 FACULTY ELECTIONS

Elections to select faculty members to serve on University Boards, Councils, and Committees will be held in the University Union on March 18 and 19. Voters are requested to bring some form of official identification to the polls.

NOTICE OF STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

President Stanley Rives will deliver the annual "State of the University Address" on March 17 at 4:00 p.m., in Coleman Hall Auditorium.

NOTICE OF DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Procedures for selecting the recipient of this year's Distinguished Faculty Award will be announced in the University Newsletter issues of February 28, March 20, and April 10; Information and Nomination Forms will be distributed through campus mail. Credentials in support of nominations are due on April 15, and should be submitted to Professor Hal Nordin, Department of Economics.