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Faculty Senate

Minutes of December 11, 1990 (Vol. XX, # 16)

- Called to order: by Chair David Carpenter at 2:02 p.m., BOG Room, Booth Library
- Present: William Addison, David Carpenter, Luis Clay-Méndez, John Craft, Marietta Deming, Pat Fewell, Glenn Hild, Robert Jorstad, Linda Leal, Ed Marlow, John Miller, Hal Nordin, Richard Sylvia, Mary Ellen Varble, Gary Wallace
- Visitors: President Rives, Desiree Scott, Curtis Cline (Student Senate), Tim Roden, Ryan Cunningham (*Daily Eastern News*)
- Minutes: of the meeting of December 4 were corrected to indicate that the BOG Distinguished Faculty program was the program under discussion at the BOG Council of Faculties (III.1)

I. COMMUNICATIONS AND RESPONSES:

- A. Letters from Jan Marquardt-Cherry (December 3) and Ed Marlow (December 10) regarding logistic problems with "study day" and the final week schedule. *The Senate appointed a subcommittee (Deming (chair), Marlow, Marquardt-Cherry) to investigate the situation.*
- B. Memo of December 4 from Michael Leddy requesting a HPER alternate representative to the Library Advisory Board. *The Senate appointed Priscilla Rice to this position (Deming, Marlow, 15-0-0) .*
- C. Note from Robert Megginson offering to share information with the Senate including analysis of comparative faculty pay scales in Illinois.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Textbook Rental Service.** President Rives explained his reasoning concerning the continuation of the TRS, stressing the following points:
 - It should not be interpreted that the administration feels that a rental system is all good, and that a purchase system is all bad. There are good points for a purchase system as well, and the President is not opposed to a system which combines rental with purchase.
 - A primary reason for the rental system is the cost advantage to students. The system is self-supporting and not a drain on university funds.
 - Citing the analysis of the results of the 1989 Senate-sponsored TRS survey of faculty (where 45% favored elimination of the TRS, 29% favored modification, and 24% favored retention as-is), President Rives indicated that, instead of interpreting this as "75% of the faculty feel that the TRS should be eliminated or modified," it is more appropriate to view the results as "53% of the faculty feel that the TRS should be retained or modified"—resulting in a deduction that there is not a clear voice or consensus among the faculty, and that a healthy percentage feel that modification is in order.
 - If EIU were to dismantle the TRS, it would be fiscally improbable that the system could later be reinstated due to substantial start-up costs.
 - The President recommends a joint faculty-student committee to explore solutions and present recommendations. The faculty should have a major influence on the textbook rental process, in consultation with students.

Discussion followed. Among the comments:

- *Sylvia: The 1982 TRS survey indicated that, even though the cost-to-students factor is perceived by all groups as significant, in reality the cost differences between a rental and a purchase system are minimal (about 10%).*

Comparing the 1989 survey with the 1982 survey, there has been a decrease in support for the rental system, even though modifications have been put into effect.

A rental system encourages a passive attitude by students toward books—not one of active learning.

In the current system, multiple section courses must choose the same texts, often resulting in selections enthusiastically endorsed by nobody, but chosen because they are least objectionable.

- *Addison: A rental system sends the wrong message about books—that they are not worth buying. Meaningful changes in the TRS will be difficult to implement under the current system.*
- *Clay-Méndez: Some improvements have been made. Adoption changes after two years in now in effect. If we must stay with the TRS, we must make it more responsive to our needs.*
- *Wallace: Cost has been the continuing justification for the TRS. We cannot continue to deal only in costs. When students leave after four or five years without a single book, we are not doing them a service.*

B. Personnel. The Senate named Kathryn Bulver its appointee and Michael Havey the alternate member to the campus recycling committee.

C. Elections. Definition of "Faculty." The Faculty Senate Constitution (which addresses other campus elected bodies as well) is unclear and ambiguous regarding the definition of "faculty"—those who may serve on and vote for campus councils such as Faculty Senate, CAA, CGS, COTE, COF, and others. In order to change (and clarify) the wording of the constitution, the Senate must pass any recommended changes by a two-thirds majority of its membership and then bring this change before the faculty for majority approval. The following definition (Deming/Clay-Méndez, 12-2-1) will be presented for approval:

(Faculty): All permanent tenured/tenure track staff holding the rank of Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor or holding appointment as Lecturer. Excluded are those staff or faculty members who hold the title of Chairperson, Dean, Vice President, or President (including Assistant and Associate titles for the preceding administrative positions). The term permanent here means staff holding other than temporary, substitute, or part-time appointments.

Adjourned: 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: 2:00 p.m., January 8, 1991, BOG Room, Booth Library

Respectfully submitted,

John Miller