

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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3-21-2023

**March 21, 2023**

Faculty Senate

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## Agenda & Minutes

Faculty Senate 2022-2023

March 21, 2023

Members Present: Teshome Abebe, Todd Bruns, Amy Davis, Matt Inverso, Stephen Kozlowski, Nichole Mulvey, Jeanne Okrasinski, Alicia Neal, Md Farhadur Reza, Jeff Stowell, Anne Thibault Geen, Larry White

Guests: Jay Gatrell, Mona Davenport, Amber Webb, Jennifer Stringfellow, Michael Gillespie

- I. Approval of Minutes from March 7
  - a. Motion Abebe, second Okrasinski to approve minutes. The motion passed unanimously, with 2 senators abstaining.
- II. Senate Reports
  - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey) – No report.
    - i. EIU Think Tank (Bruns) – No report.
    - ii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns) – No report.
  - b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell)
    - i. Call for appointed committees will be out soon. Watch for an email call for volunteers.
  - c. Student & Staff Relations (Neal/Davis)
    - i. Student representative Jasmine Yosef gave an update about student senate. They recently sponsored “spring into safety” week. One activity included a safety walk on campus and student senate is working on compiling data. Student representative Yosef reported that most things were determined to be safe except for a couple of lights out in a parking lot; this list will be given to facilities to get fixed. “Thank a Professor” envelopes are distributed or will be soon. Elections for next year are being planned but may have a special election in fall for student body president election. EIU student senate is talking to other student senates about how to get more participation and ideas on how to get those elected senators to participate more consistently.
    - ii. Staff relations – No report.
  - d. Faculty Forum (Sterling)
    - i. No report. Spring forum was completed.
  - e. Awards (Scher)
    - i. Dr. Robert Columbo was selected for the distinguished faculty award and has been contacted to get a bio and picture. This will be sent to Faculty Senate Chair Bruns for further processing.
  - f. Ad-hoc Academic Honesty and Student Standards (Thibault-Geen)
    - i. Meeting next Thursday. No current report.
  - g. Bylaws revision (Stowell)

- i. Though there was discussion and voting last meeting, by the time the vote was held, there was no longer quorum. With quorum this meeting, Senator Inverso made the motion and Senator Abebe seconded to approve the bylaws revision proposal for elected committees. The motion passed unanimously, and the revisions will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.
  - h. Re-establish Budget Review Committee (Abebe)
    - i. Similar to the bylaws motion the previous meeting, Faculty Senate re-voted regarding the Budget Review Committee due to lack of quorum by the time the vote was held. Senator Stowell made the motion and Senator Thibault Geen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Provost's Report
  - a. Strategic Planning Town Halls will be held on Thursday and Friday this week. See email provided from Provost Gatrell sent on Monday. Plan to be presented to board in April.
  - b. General Counsel search is this week as well. See email from President Glassman for open sessions.
  - c. First advisor symposium this Friday to address practices, student engagement, processes, etc. This will be held in Doudna at 1:00 p.m.
  - d. Budget hearing meeting with the house appropriations committee was last week. We were able to meet with Springfield legislators to discuss why funding is important at EIU. It was a positive meeting overall. EIU will meet March 29<sup>th</sup> with colleagues in the senate.
  - e. Promotion and tenure advances have been sent to faculty colleagues and will be approved by the board of trustees in April.
  - f. Dinner with the Deans was held recently with Student Senate and one of the topics discussed was additional, unexpected fees for some courses. The office of Academic Affairs plans to investigate how to be more transparent for students to know what costs will be up front and how we can best resource this for faculty use as well. Discussion was also held about open access and possible future opportunities to improve the current programs we have. Several senators provided comments and questions about the use of open access resources.
- IV. Mona Davenport and Amber Webb from the Student Success Center were the invited guests for the meeting.
  - a. Student Success Center is a "revised" department that is now working as a one stop shop with 5 areas: academic advising, academic support, disability services, testing and evaluations, and the Trio program
  - b. Some current initiatives this year included:
    - i. Living learning floors dedicated to undecided students and programming to help guide and counsel.
    - ii. An early alert system reboot to make the process more effective. This now includes 12 graduate assistants who provide academic coaching and are working with RAs on each of the residence hall floors. The GA reaches

out individually, and early alert opens first day of class (which was piloted this year)

- iii. Every workshop their office offered was both in person and through Zoom.
  - iv. Gateway program is smaller this year due to test optional admissions. Trio program is for students who are first gen, low SES, and/or have disabilities. This program gives students opportunities and experiences to prepare them for graduate school.
  - v. EIU will be going back to 2-day orientation and freshmen will register for classes in April and May so new students can focus on how to be successful in college while at orientation.
  - vi. The tutoring center is continuing to be developed with plans to have tutors all day in Gregg Technology Center from 10-7 and always have a GA available during those hours. The computer center will also have all software needed for classes. The office is working with an online tutoring program, Knack, which trains EIU students how to be tutors but also provides online tutoring.
  - vii. EIU is a first gen designated institution and we now have a club and fraternity and sorority that are dedicated to first-gen students.
  - viii. Dr. Davenport had one ask for the faculty – to look at our curriculum guides and see what we can do to improve student graduation rate for getting students to graduate in 4 or 5 years.
  - ix. Faculty are encouraged to engage with FDIC resources to learn about increases student success.
- V. Open Session Discussions: On-going Topics - Senators Round Robin
- a. Campus Climate Survey (Stowell)
    - i. This was completed last fall and the committee is now looking to move forward with focus groups. A call for volunteers for the focus groups will be sent soon.
- VI. With no other items to discuss, Senator Neal made a motion to adjourn, and Senator Scher provided a second. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:21.