

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Minutes

Faculty Senate

4-4-2023

April 4, 2023

Faculty Senate

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Agenda & Minutes

Faculty Senate 2022-2023

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

Guests Present: Jay Gatrell, Michael Gillespie, Kim Pope, Jasmine Yosef (student senate)

- I. Approval of Minutes from March 21
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes by Senator Inverso, second Senator Stowell, abstained Senator Sterling otherwise passed unanimously.
- II. Senate Reports
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey) met with Administration last week.
 - i. The Presidential lecture will be moved to fall as plans continue for addressing artificial intelligence in higher education. The plan will also include a possible workshop for faculty on challenges and opportunities with AI.
 - ii. The administration recently met with Springfield to advocate for AIM High and MAP increases, funding of the campus mental health act, and overall budget increases.
 - iii. The Panther Portal is in the initial stages of use, which integrates Early Alert and My EIU system and some offices are working on integrating language.
 - iv. The strategic plan is near completion and a draft will be shared with the BOT in April.
 - v. The search for a Senior Diversity Officer failed again this year despite making an offer and some outstanding candidates. The plan is to craft more of a definitive plan for what EIU's goals are for DEI and this will hopefully help solidify candidates' understanding of the role.
 - vi. EIU Think Tank (Bruns) – Senator Abebe and Dr. Gillespie wrote a white paper titled THE STRATEGIC APPLICATION OF ALTERNATIVE GRADING TO IMPROVE RETENTION AND ENHANCE EQUITY, which will be distributed to Senators for review.
 - vii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns) – No report.
 - b. Elections & Appointments (Stowell)
 - i. We had a great response for the appointed committees and list will be ready for approval at the next meeting.
 - c. Student & Staff Relations (Neal/Davis)
 - i. Jasmine Yosef discussed need for a Student Activity Fee Board (apportionment board has not been active). Student Senate has had to approve their own budget and wanted to create a system about the

process of approving funding and possible RSO funding. They are working on creating the budget for next year. Student government elections are currently being held, though due to low numbers of volunteers this may be pushed back. Student senate is hosting a lobby day on April 19. Based on a survey by Student Senator Mellott, the Senate created an infographic from 100 students surveyed about the possible strike and impact on students. Student distinguished faculty awards are still being processed. DEI week was last week it was a success. Parking utilization survey will be presented tomorrow to the union and parking board.

- d. Faculty Forum (Sterling) – No report.
- e. Awards (Scher) – No report. DFA information has been posted on the website.
- f. Ad-hoc Academic Honesty and Student Standards (Thibault-Geen)
 - i. Proposed changes to modernize the Student Conduct Code – the committee met and drafted language to address use of sources and rise of use of AI in coursework. Senators provided feedback about wording clarity and discussion occurred about consequences about violations of the standards. Revised language will be presented at the next meeting.
- III. Provost's Report – Unable to stay to report based on re-ordering of the agenda.
- IV. Guest Speaker – Director of Athletics Tom Michael
 - a. Discussed how he has worked to build a relationship between athletics and academics and how that is his focus; commitment to the whole person.
 - b. He provided overview of academic achievements across all sports: 19/21 GPAs of 3.0 or higher; 22 students had 4.0 from fall; 3 teams received academic awards in OVC team GPAs.
 - c. Student athletes gave back over 2,500 hours of community service last year.
 - d. Discussed changes and challenges to athletics based on NIL and transfer portal.
 - e. Increased challenges regarding mental health in student athletes.
 - f. A little over 500 student athletes currently at EIU, and their department is trying help grow enrollment as they work to balance experience with growth in numbers within programs.
 - g. NCAA academic standards: student athletes graduate at 13% higher than national average, graduation success rate is 90%, academic progress rate (eligibility and retention)
 - h. What do faculty need to do? Be sure to provide feedback about student athletes so they can be provided what it takes to be successful academically.
- V. Motion to adjourn Senator Sterling, Second Senator Inverso, unanimously approved.
- VI. Meeting was adjourned at 3:37.