

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Minutes

Faculty Senate

8-29-2023

August 29, 2023

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Agenda and Minutes

Faculty Senate 2023-2024

August 29, 2023

Faculty Senate 2023-2024 is: Todd Bruns (chair), Jeff Stowell (vice chair), Nichole Mulvey (recorder), Teshome Abebe, Steve Brantley, Matthew Inverso, Alicia Neal, Jeanne Okrasinski, Andrew Parrish, Md Farhadur Reza, Steve Scher, Grant Sterling, Anne Thibault Geen, Larry White. There is an open College of Education seat.

Attendance: All Senators were present for the meeting. Guests included: RJ Vanderwerf, Camden Burd, Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, Michael Gillespie, and Interim Provost Ryan Hendrickson.

- I. A motion to approve the minutes from the April 25th meeting was made by Senator Reza with a second by Senator Brantley. Motion passed unanimously.
- II. Fall Semester Welcome from Interim Provost Ryan Hendrickson
 - a. All faculty, students, and staff are invited to attend a community picnic on September 16th at noon at the library quad.
 - b. *Celebration of Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity* submission deadline is September 8, with the event being held on October 25, 4 PM, Doudna Concourse
- III. General Announcements:
 - a. Information regarding several programs for students is available on the Booth Library website and include Empowered Researcher, Write Night, and Library Tours. Faculty are encouraged to share this information with students.
 - b. The Department of Mathematics & Computer Science is hosting a Perry lecture by Prof. Bruce Reznick from UIUC on Oct. 26, 6-7 pm in the West Reading Room, 3000 Level of Booth Library. The lecture is titled: What does “2023” really mean? All faculty are invited to attend.
 - c. The FDIC has several upcoming workshops about working with students, Open Educational Resources (OER), Generative Artificial Intelligence like chatGPT and more. Registration is available on their website at https://www.eiu.edu/fdic/upcoming_programs.php.
- IV. Faculty Senate Reports (review committee assignments & discuss plans)
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey) – The executive committee will be meeting with the new President and Provost for the first time on September 5th.
 - i. EIU Think Tank – Faculty Senate discussed the need to appoint a faculty member for 2023-2026 seat; President Gatrell has re-appointed the three previous members for rotating terms.
 1. Motion to re-appoint Teshome Abebe by Senator Bruns, second by Senator Scher. All senators approved with Senator Abebe abstaining from the vote.
 - ii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns): No report, has not yet met.

- iii. Archiving Faculty Senate – Senator Bruns discussed his role in archiving Faculty Senate minutes and noted the inconsistent use of numbering that makes archiving and organization difficult. Senator Bruns suggested the possibility of assigning volume and number for each meeting, beginning with volume 52 for the 23-24 academic year, for digital archiving purposes and will bring a resolution to the next meeting for further discussion.
 - b. Elections and Appointments (Stowell)
 - i. We are conducting a fall election for seats not filled in spring and two notices have been sent by email. All Unit A and B faculty, including Chairs, are eligible for these seats.
 - 1. Open COE seat on Faculty Senate
 - 2. Open CHHS seat on CAA
 - ii. Senator Okrasinski discussed difficulty with overlapping dates of some meetings for these groups and that providing specific dates or time frames may increase participation and clear confusion.
 - c. Awards (Scher)
 - i. The awards committee will soon be discussing the Luis Clay Mendez nomination process, as it is awarded in the fall.
 - d. Budget Transparency (Parrish)
 - i. No report.
 - e. Faculty Forum (Abebe)
 - i. The committee will be meeting soon and is open to suggestions for topics for the forum. Senator Mulvey suggested a continuation of discussion and work with FDIC and the President’s lecture surrounding AI.
 - f. Student and Staff Relations (Brantley)
 - i. No report. Senator Brantley will reach out to student and staff senate to determine who the contacts will be.
 - g. Ad-hoc Student Academic Honesty and Student Standards (Thibault Geen)
 - i. Senator Thibault Geen shared proposed changes to the student conduct code and the final language was shared after several groups provided updates and revisions. The Faculty Senate will be recommending that the language be updated for the student conduct code. This will be discussed in full at the next meeting.
- V. New Business
 - a. Setting the Agenda for 2023-2024
 - i. Speakers – Senator Bruns gathered suggestions for potential speakers and a list will be shared to plan for the year.
 - ii. Plan 2028 – This will be discussed with President Gatrell at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
 - iii. Faculty Concerns –
 - 1. Convocation – It was noted that faculty were not recognized during the ceremony this year. Provost Hendrickson stated the plan was based on last year’s script and was not intentional. This was noted and will be added to future plans for convocation.

- 2. Commencement – Senator Mulvey shared some concerns related to logistics and coordination of ceremonies for departments. Provost Hendrickson stated that concerns had been noted from spring commencement and plans were made to make adjustments for the future.
 - iv. Other – Senators shared other ideas/concerns for discussion, including IGP revisions and the process for how they are approved, safeguarding academic freedoms, continued discussion of online resources for students in conjunction with TRS, and pass/fail and plus/minus grading proposals.
 - v. Senior Diversity Officer search is still ongoing and is underway for this year. It was not clear who the Faculty Senate representative is, and Provost Hendrickson will clarify.
- VI. A motion was made by Senator Sterling to table old business and seconded by Senator Parrish. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20.