

Eastern Illinois University

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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9-12-2023

### September 12, 2023

Nichole Mulvey  
*Faculty Senate*

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## Faculty Senate Agenda & Minutes

September 12, 2023

Members present: 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.

Guests present: Interim Provost Ryan Hendrickson, Provost Jay Gatrell, Michael Gillespie, Suzy Park, RJ Vanderwerf, Nina Dulabaum, Camden Burd, Christopher Laingen, Jim Bruehler

- I. Approval of minutes from August 29, 2023 occurred. The motion was made by Senator Okrasinski and seconded by Senator Brantley; passed unanimously.
- II. A motion was made by Senator Neal to suspend the agenda and move to the guest speaker. Second provided by Senator Mulvey; passed unanimously.
- III. **Announcements:**
  - a. *Community Picnic* Saturday September 16, Library Quad
  - b. *Celebration of Scholarship* reception October 25, 4 PM, Doudna Concourse
- IV. **Communications:**
  - a. [Plan 2028](#)
  - b. Think Tank white paper: [The Strategic Application of Alternative Grading to Improve Retention and Enhance Equity](#) (Abebe/Gillespie)
  - c. Student Conduct Code proposed language changes
  - d. Resolution: Faculty Senate By-Laws Revision: Digital Archiving of Minutes
- V. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey).
    - i. Executive committee meeting was held September 5 with the President and Provost. It was reported that the Senior Diversity Inclusion Officer search has a strong candidate pool. In addition, the OISS has worked diligently this fall to process applications despite being understaffed. Senator Bruns will be representing EIU at the Council of Illinois University Senates in October. Additional information from this meeting was shared by the President and Provost and included in notes below.
  - b. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns)
    - i. This group is having their first meeting on September 16.
  - c. Elections and Appointments (Stowell)
    - i. Three colleagues were approved (voting through email) as volunteers for the open positions due to no contested races. These included Jule Dietz, CHHS rep on CAA, Cori More, Special Ed rep on COTE, and Marshall Lassak, FA23-only replacement on COTE for Secondary or K-12 program outside of the College of Education.
    - ii. There are still some vacancies on Faculty Senate, UPC, and COTE. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to colleagues to fill this position.
  - d. Awards (Scher)
    - i. No report. The committee will be meeting soon to discuss application due date.
  - e. Budget Transparency (Parrish)
    - i. No report. If there is a refined area of interest that any faculty has, they are encouraged to communicate with Senator Parrish and he will investigate it. VPBA Bierman will be having a town hall meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the budget.
  - f. Faculty Forum (Abebe)

## Faculty Senate Agenda & Minutes

September 12, 2023

- i. The committee met last week and decided on the topic of alternative assessment in the era of AI. They are gathering possible panelists and considering October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, or 24<sup>th</sup> as dates for the forum. More details to come soon.
- g. Student and Staff Relations (Brantley)
  - i. Senator Brantley spoke with Kim Pope, treasure of staff senate. They will continue with the new “shout out” program given its positive reception so far.
  - ii. Student government is meeting again tomorrow and will have a name for a student liaison soon.
- h. Ad-hoc Student Academic Honesty and Student Standards (Thibault Geen)
  - i. Proposed changes to Student Conduct Code were shared and discussed. Senator Parrish made a motion to approve the wording as edited, with Senator Scher providing a second. The motion passed unanimously.
  - ii. Senator Bruns made a motion to forward the approved changes to CAA and Senator Neal provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.
  - iii. Given that the work of this ad-hoc committee is completed at this time, the committee will be dissolved.

### VI. Provost’s Report

- a. Senator Brantley has agreed to be the Faculty Senate representative on the Senior Diversity and Inclusion Officer search and screen committee.
- b. There has been a focus this semester on promoting activities related to research, specifically book launches by EIU faculty members.
- c. Professional Development grants are new this year and available through the FDIC website. Some discussion was held about how to encourage more participation in PD and offerings through the FDIC. Senator Bruns suggested departments consider incorporating PD and attendance at FDIC workshops in their DAC as an incentive.
- d. Provost Hendrickson reported about faculty-led study abroad at the BOT meeting last week and the many positive experiences this is providing to EIU students. In addition, he discussed increased student opportunities for scholarships for research and study abroad.

### VII. Guest Speaker: **President Jay Gatrell**

- a. President Gatrell gave a brief overview of enrollment data with positive outcomes related to international students and graduate enrollment. Overall enrollment is stable. Challenges include fewer transfers from junior colleges since COVID as well as decreases in local scholarships this year. Several scholarships will be reinstated or started this year for recruiting next year.
- b. President’s Council has expanded to include a wider breadth of stakeholders including the CIO, Treasurer, and Director of Athletics. PC will be meeting in venues across campus this year to increase transparency, access, and visibility.
- c. The HLC reaffirmation site visit will occur in approximately 1 year. We are collecting data again this year for the report.
- d. Plan 2028 was discussed. Initiatives and plans for goal updates and implementation will be discussed on September 28 in Doudna beginning at 8:30 a.m. Several questions were posed related to different initiatives listed in plan 2028.

### IX. New Business:

- a. Proposed guest speakers: First Year Experience/Student Success Librarian Amy Odwarka, General Counsel Austin Hill, Dean of Student Success Mona Davenport, VPSA Ann Flaherty and Dean of Students Jody Stone, CHHS Dean Storsved, Int. VPUA Amber May, Int. Dir. of Fac. Chris Phipps, VP Enrollment Mgmt. Josh Norman, OISS Director Andy Kabasele

## Faculty Senate Agenda & Minutes

September 12, 2023

- b. Resolution: Proposed change to Faculty Senate By-Laws regarding standardizing digital archiving of Faculty Senate minutes was shared prior to the meeting by Senator Bruns. Additional discussion will be held at a future meeting.
- c. How colleagues become part of the IAB through Faculty Senate was discussed. Currently, the executive board approves appointments made by the faculty athletic representative and these are ultimately approved by the President. Senator Scher brought up the question of why this particular committee was not managed by the Faculty Senate when almost all other committees are.
  - i. It was noted that IAB, IRB, and IACUC all have specific requirements for the make-up of the board (e.g., certain gender representation based on NCAA requirements, community member, etc.) and thus, have been appointed by the directors of those entities; we confirm appointments through the exec committee.
  - ii. Senator Scher discussed the importance of some faculty senate input or oversight for the IAB committee. Time commitment is significant for IAB. The IAB report was shared for all to review over the summer. Senator Parrish suggested that a shift to FS oversight would be related to the structure of committees and reporting lines. Senator Bruns will reshare the IAB summary report from last year and FS will review at a future meeting to continue this discussion.

A motion to suspend the rest of the agenda and adjourn was made by Senator Parrish and seconded by Senator Sterling. The meeting ended at 3:38 p.m.