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Minutes

Faculty Senate

10-24-2023

October 24, 2023

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Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Mulvey, Nichole, "October 24, 2023" (2023). *Minutes*. 1560.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/facsen_mins/1560

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Agenda & Minutes

October 24, 2023

Faculty Senate 2023-2024

Members Present: Todd Bruns (chair), Jeff Stowell (vice chair), Nichole Mulvey (recorder), Teshome Abebe, Matthew Inverso, Alicia Neal, Jeanne Okrasinski, Andrew Parrish, Md Farhadur Reza, Steve Scher. There is an open College of Education seat.

Guests: Ryan Hendrickson, Michael Gillespie, Christopher Laingen, Camden Burd, Nora Heist, Carlos Rodriguez, Jennifer Stringfellow

- I. Senator Parrish made a motion, with a second from student representative Carlos Rodriguez, to approve minutes from October 10, 2023. The vote passed unanimously, with Senator Bruns and Senator Sterling abstaining.
- II. **Announcements:**
 - a. *Celebration of Scholarship* event is October 25, 4 PM, Doudna Concourse
 - b. *Investiture of Dr. Jay Gatrell, 12th President of EIU* November 15, 1 PM, Dvorak Concert Hall
 - c. *This year's Perry Lectures will be this week. The first lecture, intended to be accessible to non-specialists, will be in the West Reading Room of Booth Library at 6 pm on Thursday, October 26th. More information here: <https://www.eiu.edu/calendar/event.php?id=5706>*
- III. **Communications:**
 - a. *IGP resolution*
 - b. *Rationale for IGP resolution*
- IV. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. Executive Committee met on October 17th with Provost Hendrickson and President Gatrell.
 1. CENCERE classroom should be available February 1st and the campus community will be encouraged to utilize the space (meeting room and classroom).
 2. The BOT will be considering name changes at their November meeting and the university naming committee will be meeting to discuss changes related to honoring those making donations for renovations and construction.
 3. VPBA Matt Bierman will be giving a budget update November 1st at 3:00 p.m. in Doudna. A survey for a comprehensive campaign is being guided by a consulting firm and will be looking to identify goals that support learners, academic goals and facilities renovations.
 4. Several construction projects are occurring across campus including safety improvements at the baseball field, safety railings

at O'Brien stadium, and the Lantz water mitigation project. The university has received its first insurance payment to address damage from the recent windstorm.

5. The SDIO search has 3 finalists that will be on campus soon, 11 candidates are being Zoom interviewed for VPUA, and review of candidates for Provost will begin soon.
 6. Positive enrollment news was shared, as we are up 3% compared to last year, but it is early in the process.
 7. OISS has 2 new hires which fill current vacancies, and another position is authorized, which will be a program assistant; the admissions office has hired a Latino/x recruiter, which is also a new position.
 8. IGP process: Academic IGP updates usually go through CAA and/or CGS. Each IGP has an entity responsible for it, so changes start with the entity: VPAA, VPSA, VPBA, President's Office, etc. These are vetted by the President's Council and sometimes PAG. Some travel IGPs are updated due to changes with the state Travel Board. Sometimes an audit finding or shared governance trigger changes.
- ii. EIU Think Tank (Bruns) – At the October 18th meeting, the committee welcomed Nikki Hillier, who is replacing Sace Elder for the remainder of Elder's term. The group had a spirited discussion regarding rigor vs. retention and will be looking at how instruction, class policies, and course designs benefit or discourage student learning outcomes and retention. The group plans to invite administrators, faculty, staff, and students into the discussion, and each Think Tank member will consider a case or example that illuminates this rigor vs. retention tension, such as assignment deadlines, faculty evaluation processes, student course evaluations, student accommodations and accessibility practices, support for international students, and online instruction and course design.
 - iii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns) – A meeting was not held this month and groups shared updated summaries through email instead.
 1. For CGS, they discussed an email template for responding to GA inquiries and recommendations regarding GAs being allowed for non-residential students. In addition, credit for prior learning was approved for six courses so far, all in Nutrition/Dietetics. The Grad Fair was successfully revived this fall. ENG and SPE online MAT program proposals are being considered in late October. CGS considers their website adequate for archiving their content.
 2. CFR reviewed proposals in September, recommended funding Oct. 5, and sent letters to awarded faculty this month.
 3. COTE discussed and approved new MAT coursework and voted unanimously to step away from CAEP accreditation for teacher ed programs.

- iv. Council of University Senates/IBHE FAC (Bruns) – Senator Bruns and Senator White attended the meeting on ISU on Friday, October 20th.
 1. Welcome message from ISU Acting Provost on ISU discussed their campus starting a College of Engineering. The timeline shared included a 2017 task force, 2020 decision to make it a college, 2022 proposed 3 programs, and plans for first cohort to begin in 2025. They are working with Richland and Heartland Community Colleges on engineering summer camps to promote transition to ISU. They will rely on reserves for first years and also employ a differential tuition model. Development is based on new funding sources (including State Farm), which is essentially a “new pot” of resources. They are also developing an interdisciplinary Data Science major. The ISU Provost also shared that the ISU President is pushing for 1,500 international student enrollment and they launched an admissions page in Spanish.
 2. The following universities were present during the Council of IL Univ. Senates meeting: ISU, SIUE, CSU, GSU, NEIU, EIU, SIUC. Topics discussed included the role of Faculty Senate and role of unions on campuses, how other institutions handle their constitution and by-laws, ability to conduct meetings via Zoom, how information about the BOT meeting is shared
 3. A joint lunch meeting was held with IBHE FAC. IBHE FAC asked for input on issues including state resources to stop student exodus. They shared that the new state funding formula is being revisited due to Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action and that the funding formula could increase state appropriations.
- b. Elections and Appointments (Stowell) – No report
- c. Awards (Scher) – Committee has begun the process of reviewing applications for the Luis Clay Mendez Faculty Service Award; Senator Scher will send an email to the senate to gather input on some of the specifics of the award.
- d. Budget Transparency (Parrish) – No report
- e. Faculty Forum (Abebe) – A successful faculty forum was held last Tuesday with a great discussion regarding AI. This will be utilized as a platform for further discussion on AI on campus.
- f. Student and Staff Relations (Brantley)
 - i. Student Senate report was shared by Carlos Rodriguez. Thank a professor week will be November 14-16, with tabling events at Doudna, Food Court, Coleman Hall where students can write thank you letters to faculty. The campus enhancement walk will be in December.
 - ii. No report for Staff Relations.

V. Provost's Report

- a. EIU recently held a successful RISE conference and Provost Hendrickson thanked Dr. Catherine Polydore and Steve Brantley for their work as co-chairs. Seventeen other universities were also in attendance.

- b. An AI Task Force has been created to continue to discuss best practices in AI. Dr. Michael Gillespie and Dr. Angela Vietto will be leading this group.
- c. There have been 2 recent IGP Revisions – 12 (Administrative support roles and conditions under which we would not do a national search) & 14 (Unit B searches that are not national); faculty are asked to review these changes.
- d. Senator Abebe asked about travel budgets and current practice of applying for PD grants available this year. It was noted that increasing funding for travel was a priority this year and that future plans will consider how and when funds are available.
- e. Senator Bruns noted some concern with the role of faculty senate in the provost candidate selection committee and how those members of faculty senate were appointed to the committee. Provost Hendrickson agreed to share this concern with the president. Senators Matt Inverso and Jeanne Okrasinski were selected by the President earlier this year.

VI. Business: Discussions and Clearing Docket

- a. Pass/Fail – The white paper presented by Senator Abebe and Michael Gillespie was shared in the past for discussion. No changes to adopt this have been proposed, but discussions continue in other committees, specifically in Think Tank. Additional discussion at Faculty Senate will be planned later this semester.
- b. +/- Grading (Bruns/Abebe) - Originally raised two years ago by then Senator Don Holly, the proposal was taken to CAA but no action has been taken since then. Discussion about if and how to move forward occurred and this topic will be discussed again at a meeting later this semester.
- c. Writing-in-Major - Nora Heist, who is the gen ed committee chair, attended the meeting and stated that the General Education Committee will be discussing the proposal in the spring. Faculty Senate will wait to hear more information as it becomes available.
- d. Gen Ed Changes - Senator Sterling stated that this item can be removed from the agenda as there has been no further movement with discussion or proposals.
- e. Faculty appointment process for IAB, IRB, IACUC (Scher/Stowell) – This item was tabled for later discussion due to time constraints.
- f. IGP approval process – proposed resolution (Abebe/Parrish) - This item was tabled for later discussion due to time constraints.
- g. Quality Initiative: DAC revisions to promote equity and inclusion – Senator Stowell briefly discussed departments considering this topic for discussion. He shared an explanation through email and additional discussion will be held next meeting.
- h. Updating Faculty Senate bylaws regarding digital archiving (Bruns) - This item was tabled for later discussion due to time constraints.

VII. Guest Speakers:

- a. VPSA Anne Flaherty shared updates about campus programs and her office.
 - i. Office of Student and Family Programs started a newsletter this semester. Faculty are invited to share any information which can be sent to Tanya Willard.

- ii. The Food Pantry is in high demand, as food insecurity seems to be a pervasive part of many students' lives. This semester, the demand has tripled from what it was a year ago. Faculty are encouraged to donate and/or volunteer their time working in the food pantry.
 - iii. Student Affairs has its own strategic plan, which they are working to align with the new university strategic plan. This is available online.
- b. Interim Dean of Students Jody Stone
 - i. The Dean of Students Office is working on more student support and advocacy and tries to work as a customer service care team, focusing on students being happy, healthy, and overcoming barriers to graduation.
 - ii. The campus community can submit non-emergency reports through their website as well as find tools and resources for faculty and students, information about classroom disruptions and academic dishonesty, and the distressed student handbook.
 - iii. The student support team meets every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. to discuss student difficulties across campus (non-emergency) that occurred each week and generate plans to problem solve and intervene.
 - iv. The civility campaign implemented last semester is part of the strategic plan. Faculty were given a civility statement for syllabi and civility posters were placed in classrooms across campus.
- c. Executive Director of Health & Counseling Services Eric Davidson
 - i. He provided updates on mental health activity on campus and the success of the stepped care model they transitioned to last year, which has greatly decreased the wait list and greatly increased the number of students being served. This new model requires a shift in how students think about what counseling services look like and what they need to be successful, but it is working well overall. Any student in crisis can still be seen that day.
 - ii. He also discussed increased continuity with other offices on campus and how this is increasing efficiency in services for students.

Motion to adjourn was made by Senator Parrish, with a second by Senator Inverso; the vote passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.