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Minutes

Faculty Senate

9-26-2023

September 26, 2023

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Faculty Senate Recorder

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Agenda & Minutes

September 26, 2023

Faculty Senate 2023-2024

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, Larry White. There is an open College of Education seat.

Guests present: Ryan Hendrickson, Michael Gillespie, Camden Burd, Christopher Laingen, Angela Vietto, Brian Kieth, Lokesh Anand Ramadason, Shravani Reddy Chelb, Pravallika Vuppula, Vaishnavi Chadm, Teja Sri Varala, Bharath Reddy Varala, Gowthami Sure, Udayani Yalamandala, Vinay Reddy Karai, Aravind Reddy Damasani

- I. Senator Inverso made the motion to approve minutes from September 12, 2023, and Senator Parrish seconded. The vote passed unanimously.
- II. **Announcements:**
 - a. *Celebration of Scholarship* event is October 25, 4 PM, Doudna Concourse
- III. **Communications:**
 - a. *IAB Report*
 - b. *FDIC Guidance on Adapting to AI and Academic Integrity*
 - c. *FDIC Sample Syllabus Statements on AI and Academic Integrity*
 - d. *An email statement from President Gatrell was shared addressing how the new turf was funded for football field. The project monies (roughly \$750,000) are from a combination of:*
 1. *Industry / Business Sponsorships (as well as donor monies) specifically dedicated to support the football program & O'Brien Stadium improvements;*
 2. *Non-Conference game football income; and*
 3. *The contractual buy-out for the former football coach (~2 years of salary).**For additional context, the old turf was well beyond its projected life cycle and replacement was needed. Indeed, the new turf and improved installation technology will contribute to enhanced safety for our student athletes.*
- IV. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. EIU Think Tank – As Chair of Faculty Senate, Senator Bruns will convene the first meeting of the year and then the group can elect a chair for further planning, as recommended by Senator Abebe.
 - ii. Shared Governance Chairs Meeting – Senator Bruns shared updates.
 1. Staff Senate – They will be making a nomination for the university naming committee soon. Due to the success of the shout out program, an increase to a \$10 gift will be given to staff receiving a

shout out. Phone interviews for a new direct of facilities are underway.

2. CAA has approved a major revision of bylaws, which was presented to Faculty Senate and other groups last year. The revision states that a representative from a specific college must sit on CAA for any proposals from that college to be considered.
 3. CGS is currently recruiting programs to apply for the program of excellence distinction. In addition, CGS is discussing continued communication with international students and graduate assistantships.
 4. CFD and COTE had no report.
 5. The group was able to establish regular monthly blocks of when each shared governance entity can meet and not conflict with each other's meeting times.
 6. A policies and procedures manual is being established for Faculty Senate, and CAA may also begin working on a manual for their group.
 7. Archiving of work also being discussed by other shared governance groups across campus.
- b. Elections and Appointments (Stowell)
- i. Senator Stowell discussed the need for a Faculty Senate member to serve on university naming committee as requested by the President; Nomination of Steve Scher by Senator Bruns, Second Abebe. The vote passed unanimously with Senator Scher abstaining.
- c. Awards (Scher)
- i. The call for the Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service Award is out through email, with nominations due October 13th. The committee will meet after the deadline.
- d. Budget Transparency (Parrish)
- i. Senator Parrish discussed the mission of this committee being service as a liaison between Faculty Senate and the university's business office. Senator Parrish has spoken to VPBA Bierman, and they will be meeting soon.
- e. Faculty Forum (Abebe)
- i. The date and time were shared with colleagues last week through email *Alternative Assessment in the Era of AI* will take place on Tuesday, October 17th beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the West Reading Room of Booth Library.
 - ii. Plans continue to provide a Zoom option and to record the forum.
- f. Student and Staff Relations (Brantley)
- i. Senator Brantley shared that Carlos Rodriguez will be the student representative for Student Senate and they will be invited to attend the meetings and added to the email group.
 - ii. Staff Senate: No report.

V. Provost's Report

- a. The Presidential Update will be tomorrow (Wednesday) at 8:30 in Doudna.
- b. The university hosted a very successful community picnic, and Provost Hendrickson thanked several departments (chemistry, library, biological sciences) who participated in different ways to assist. Several community members as well as prospective students participated. There was a large faculty participation and turnout and Provost Hendrickson expressed gratitude for their help in the success as well.
- c. WEIU HitMix/radio station recently successfully completed an independent fundraiser, raising \$18,000 for a new piece of equipment necessary for operations.
- d. At a recent PAG meeting, Director of Academic Support Services Amber Webb, talked about the revision and reorganization of the office and several positive changes overseen by Dean of Student Success Dr. Mona Davenport.
- e. The Graduate Fall Summit was recently held. EIU has a large influx of interest from students from abroad who want into our graduate programs. OISS is working to help manage this and working with programs to continue the process.
- f. Campus beautification day is today (Tuesday, September 26) from 2:00-6:00. Anyone willing to help can go to Old Main and they will direct you on what needs to be done.

VI. Guest Speakers:

- a. **Dean of Library Services Brian Keith (2:30 PM)**
 - i. Dean Kieth positively discussed how there is “no better time” to be in academic libraries. He discussed EIU’s focus on information literacy, becoming co-instructor partners and partners in research, and a focus on democratizing access to technology (e.g., loaning computers to students, inclusion and belonging – services, spaces, collections).
 - ii. Dean Kieth stated some of his goals, including emphasis on student success (in classroom and at EIU, retention of students), equitable experience when modality of education is online, and recognition of EIU scholarly and creative works.
 - iii. Some highlights of successful recent library-sponsored events included: outreach and engagement nights where RAs encourage students to come to library; a successful book sale; sponsoring an AI sandbox in partnership with FDIC with more to be held throughout the year; EIU Kickoff; Latino heritage story time in Ballard teacher center; families belong at Booth event; addition of a Family Hub in the library that includes a lactation and feeding room on third floor of Booth and a group family room; implementing library ambassadors, undergrad students who market the library to peers, staff events, and serve as advisors; initiating a collection of AI response, exploration, adoption materials deliberately, with opportunities for faculty/student learning, research consultations about AI statements in syllabi, and AI and impact on informational literacy.

1. Senator Reza discussed challenges to aiding student research when there is limited access to research materials such as discipline-specific conference papers, which may require individual purchase of access. Dean Kieth discussed how to enable student access and increase student research with limited resources. Faculty are encouraged to contact their departmental librarians to discuss needs and solve these issues on an individual faculty or departmental basis.
- b. **FDIC Director Michael Gillespie (3:00 PM)**
 - i. Dr. Gillespie highlighted how the FDIC has changed over the past year. The FDIC has doubled the staff and now includes instructional support and training specialists. These staff members can problem solve and provide training within colleges. The group meets weekly to discuss needs of the campus.
 - ii. EIU now has an agreement with Adobe Creative Cloud so FDIC will have a full suite of trainings coming this year to help faculty learn how to use Adobe for research and working with students.
 - iii. Dr. Gillespie highlighted that faculty can email the FDIC to get direct and quick assistance with any teaching technology issues at fdic_help@eiu.edu
 - iv. Dr. Gillespie shared Fall 2023 learning opportunities for faculty at FDIC as well as ongoing opportunities such as podcasts, new faculty mentoring (all faculty welcome to become part of the ambassadors), online teaching, faculty learning communities, etc.
 - v. New professional development grants are available for faculty. Information about the grants was sent through email about 2 weeks ago and includes up to 20 \$1,000 grants to be used towards professional development.

VII. New Business

- a. Senator Bruns asked if there were any new business issues to discuss in the short amount of time left.
- b. Senator Reza asked about faculty searches (Unit B) being paid for by departments which can limit the ability to recruit many candidates. Provost Hendrickson will provide specific information regarding this at the next meeting.

Due to time constraints, a motion to suspend the rest of the agenda was made by Senator Sterling, and Senator Parrish provided the second. The motion passed with members voting to adjourn. Senator Abebe abstained. The meeting was concluded at 3:35 p.m.