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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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March 5, 2024

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Agenda & Minutes

March 5, 2024

Faculty Senate 2023-2024

Members Present: Todd Bruns (chair), Jeff Stowell (vice chair), Nichole Mulvey (recorder), Teshome Abebe, Matthew Inverso, Alicia Neal, Jeanne Okrasinski, Md Farhadur Reza, Steve Scher, Isaac Slaven, Grant Sterling, Anne Thibault Geen

Guests: Michael Gillespie, Emilee Boyd, Tom Woodall, James Buehler

I. Approval of minutes from February 20, 2024

- a. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Inverso with Senator Slaven making a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Senator Abebe requested that the emailed document shared by Senator Sterling on 2/22 be entered into the minutes as an addendum. The emailed document contained Senator Sterling's thoughts and views regarding the General Education Committee and their current work as presented at the February 20 meeting.

II. Announcements

- a. Authors@EIU March 13: Julie Campbell & Bob Klein, Booth Library West Reading Room
- b. FDIC Pedagogy Day, March 14, 2024
- c. Plan 2028 Update, March 26, Doudna Recital Hall

III. Communications

- a. Authors@EIU Series Events Poster
- b. FDIC Pedagogy Day Poster

IV. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. EIU Think Tank (Bruns): Think Tank recently hosted a student focus group on academic integrity and rigor. The group will be meeting again on March 6th.
 - ii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns): No report
 - iii. CUPB (Bruns): Report from the President's subcommittee on CUPB included that the update about Plan 2028 (on March 26) will include information from the recent economic impact study. EIU will be working with consultants/lobbyists to increasing our outreach in D.C. In reports from Springfield, the Governor's budget address proposed a 2% increase in funding for higher education; we had asked for 8%. The President's Council is currently discussing increases and changes to tuition and fees. The HLC quality initiative report has been accepted and approved.
- b. Elections and Appointments (Stowell)
 - i. There was a 35 % voting response rate for the recent elections. All faculty have been contacted about whether they were elected, and the list will be shared to campus later this week. After this election, there are only 3 openings (1 CAA

Lumpkin, 1 CUPB Library, 1 UPC CLAS), but this will still require a special election in the fall.

- ii. The call for appointed committees will be sent out this week.
- c. Awards (Scher) – The committee had to postpone their meeting to choose the next distinguished faculty award from the 7 qualified candidates. They will meet next week and report the winner at the next meeting.
- d. Budget Transparency (Parrish): No report
- e. Faculty Forum (Abebe): The spring faculty forum is next Tuesday, March 12, at 3:00 p.m. in the West Reading Room of Booth Library. Announcements were sent last week and will be sent multiple times this week as well. All are encouraged to attend.
- f. Student and Staff Relations (Bruns)
 - i. Emilee Boyd, Student Senate representative, shared that the constitution revision committee has been working to review and revise their constitution per their bylaws. The committee is presenting drafts this week. The Student Senate is also hosting an event for Women's History Month, and they are also working to finalize budgets.
 - ii. No report for staff senate.

V. Provost's Report

- a. EIU has 21 undergraduate students going to NCUR, which is the most we have had for almost a decade. This increase is a positive indication of the research and mentoring occurring across campus.
- b. A new social work bachelor's degree is being developed and currently moving through the curricular process.
- c. Senator Parrish asked for clarification regarding a recent change to IGP 71 related to student employment. Provost Hendrickson explained that changes were related to changing the office that oversees student employment (from VPAA to VPBA) and to update the links to make student employment paperwork available under the human services tab website instead of the financial aid website. This came from information from auditor, Natalie Black.

VI. Jim Bruehler, Professor of Economics – Alternative Way of Calculating Grades

- a. Dr. Bruehler explained an alternative grading method he has developed and uses in his courses, which has been received positively by his students. He is developing a D2L external tool that he hopes to have available for all faculty to consider for fall 2024. The alternative grading system discussed provides opportunities for students to reach passing grades even when a student has difficulty with a smaller set of graded materials, thus improving motivation and capability to reach minimal competency. Dr. Bruehler also discussed the benefits of motivation to those high-achieving students who already "love to learn."
- b. Several senators had questions about understanding the mathematical calculations and benefits, as well as how this formula for grading fits within competency-based courses, among other discussions.

VII. Discussions Items/Upcoming Agenda

- a. Campus communication procedures

- i. Senator Slaven noted difficulties with keeping up with emails or electronic communication on a daily basis, as the inundation of emails seems excessive.
- ii. Discussion centered on how to make communication helpful and efficient, noting that the daily digest delivered this year is an improvement from the past and helps faculty understand what is going on across campus.
- iii. Senator Stowell suggested that another way to improve the daily digest and other university emails is by allowing a user to subscribe or unsubscribe to specific categories of mail or related to specific interests.
- iv. Provost Hendrickson stated that, from an administrative standpoint, conveying a large amount of information to the campus community is vital. Everyone agreed it is necessary, but we all suffer from email fatigue.
- b. Gen Ed review process (All) – Due to time constraints, Senator Bruns made a motion to suspend the rest of the agenda, with a second by Senator Sterling; the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.