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The Keep

Minutes

Faculty Senate

9-10-2024

September 10, 2024

Nichole Mulvey

Faculty Senate Recorder

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Agenda & Minutes

September 10

Faculty Senate 2024-2025

Members Present: Todd Bruns (chair), Jeff Stowell (vice chair), Nichole Mulvey (recorder), Teshome Abebe, Steve Brantley, Barbara Carlsward, Bradley Decker, Matthew Inverso, Anna Kochigina, Jeanne Okrasinski, Md Farhadur Reza, Steve Scher, Grant Sterling, Anne Thibault Geen

Guests: Michael Gillespie, Ryan Hendrickson, Jay Gatrell, Brian Keith, Ngozi Onuora, Wade Smith

I. Call to Order

- a. Senator Slaven made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 27th meeting. Senator Inverso made the second. The motion carried with Senator Scher abstaining.

II. Announcements

- a. EIU Fall Update – 8 AM donuts; 8:30 AM 9/25
- b. HLC Campus Visit – September 30-October 1

III. Communications

- a. IAB Concerns and Questions (Sterling)
- b. Review of 23/24 (Abebe)

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. Senator Bruns will be attending the Council of Illinois Senates meeting on October 18 at Illinois State University and asked for feedback from others to share about EIU at the meeting.
 - ii. As Faculty Senate Chair, Senator Bruns has been completing his planned Department Listening Tour goal, having visited 4 departments so far, with another 6 scheduled. Senator Bruns will provide a summary of faculty and departmental input when finished.
 - iii. EIU Think Tank – No report.
 - iv. Shared Governance Chairs – No report.
 - v. CUPB – No report.
- b. Elections and Appointments – (Stowell);
 - i. Senator Stowell noted that a call for a 1-semester replacement on the Booth Collaborative Advisory Committee from the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology had recently been posted. Earlier this semester, we had posted a call for 3 elected positions not filled from the spring elections. The elected CAA position for LCBT has 2 candidates so an election will be held. The other 2 positions (CUPB Library Faculty and UPC CLAS Faculty) had no candidates. Senator Stowell asked Dean Keith to appoint a library representative to CUPB through spring term since the position was not filled and he agreed. A review of UPC current membership found that the current roster of faculty actually meets

all the criteria in the current contract, including the number of faculty from CLAS, so we will not send out further calls for position until the spring semester.

- c. Awards – (Scher) No report.
- d. Budget Transparency – (Sterling) No report.
- e. Faculty Forum – (Thibault Geen) No report.
- f. Student and Staff Relations – (Bruns, Decker)
 - i. Faculty Senate welcomed the student representative, Kayla Reyes Morales, who gave a brief personal introduction. She reported that the Student Senate had just met with committees and was working to figure out meeting times and events. More information will be shared later.
 - ii. Staff Relations -No report.
- g. Facilities Reinvestment Committee (Scher) – Senator Scher reported that the group had met this morning for the first time this semester. They are just starting the data collection phase. The entire campus got a survey on Monday to complete (title: Help Shape the Future of Our Campus) and all are encouraged to take the 10 minutes to provide input on where the committee should focus.

V. Provost's Report

- a. All faculty received an email last week about using academic alerts and there was a good response (60 alerts submitted last week alone). Provost Hendrickson wanted to thank faculty for their participation and support of the program and encourages continued use as soon as faculty have concerns about a student. He stated research supports early alerts as a key component in retention. When asked about what the standard protocol is once a faculty member fills out an alert, Provost Hendrickson gave a brief overview (personal contact by graduate assistant), but suggested the Faculty Senate invite Amber Webb, who runs the program, as a guest speaker to clarify the new process and answer questions.
- b. Provost Hendrickson reminded all faculty and students that Campus Clean Up Day is September 25th, and all are welcome to attend and assist.
- c. Following a question last meeting about how faculty can know where they are on the Computer Replacement Cycle Program, Provost Hendrickson clarified that Ryan Gibson is working on a website where faculty can check to see their status. More information will be shared when this is ready for viewing.
- d. Earlier today, Mona Davenport hosted a professional development speaker, Dr. Jarrod Benjamin, focused on student success and culturally responsive pedagogy. The speaker met with several chairs and faculty as well as several student groups across campus and was very well received.
- e. There will be an upcoming search for the Dean of the Graduate School, as Dr. Chesnut is retiring June 30, 2025. Senator Okrasinski will serve on the committee as the Faculty Senate representative. It was clarified that the position includes overseeing both the Graduate School and Research and Sponsored Programs, as increased staff in the ORSP has allowed only one administrator in the role previously held by 2 different people.
- f. Plans for the Science Building continue to move forward, with an upcoming meeting this Friday to continue to work out the details of item location within

classrooms, lab spaces, etc. The plan is still to hopefully have construction begin in 2025, with an approximate 2-year building completion.

- g. As has been discussed in the past meeting, Provost Hendrickson addressed questions about what can be done to increase international student enrollment since there was a large drop in enrollment this year. Provost Hendrickson stated that inability to obtain actual appointments with embassies was the biggest problem, which was consistent at other universities and difficult for us to address. He did take notes on suggestions to make international students feel more welcome, including to help them meet others from nearby countries and/or speak the same language, as suggested by Senator Kochigina.

VI. Guest Speakers

- a. President Jay Gatrell
 - i. President Gatrell highlighted progress related to Plan 2028
 1. There is overall success around retention, as we remained stable from last year without increasing tuition discount rates, which some other universities had to do. He noted an increase in domestic grad students with challenges in international student enrollment.
 2. Investments to increase engagement on campus continue to improve the student experience. Examples include the active learning spaces in Gregg Technology Center, several cultural hubs across campus, etc.
 3. We do face decreased revenue, and thus a tighter budget, due to overall decreased student enrollment, but we will still be able to focus on restoration, safety, construction, deferred maintenance, and campus beautification.
 4. Other goal areas and work being done this year for Plan 2028 include increases in student achievement and engagement (e.g., increased study abroad opportunities and participation), facilities reinvestment, and philanthropy, with increases in donations and new donors last year and plans to move forward with the capital campaign.
 - ii. President Gatrell invited everyone to the upcoming Budget Town Hall and Facilities Reinvestment Meeting on September 16th at 3:00 in Doudna for more information on financials and future plans.
- b. Dean of Library Services Brian Keith
 - i. Dean Keith highlighted several accomplishments and opportunities for faculty use and engagement with Booth Library.
 1. The Booth Collaborative Advisory Committee is an active group of faculty that meets monthly and works closely with the FDIC to improve the faculty and student experience.
 2. Faculty are encouraged to connect with their department's library liaison, and Dean Keith wants faculty to be aware of support for teaching and research that are available. Faculty are also

important in communicating what the needs are for their department. The department library liaison can play an important role in community building by working with students and supporting collaboration.

3. Data highlights from last year were shared. Some of these included: over 250,000 visits to the library, which is a 48% increase from the prior academic year; 2,400 attendees to library instructional sessions; 199,000 article downloads; 31,019 physical checkouts; The Keep adding 100,000th and having over 6 million downloads from 235 countries; laptop loan program for students being very busy; budget included 90% electronic and 10% physical.
4. New or continuing programs include: extending laptop loaning to employees; video and media services for faculty centralizing the digitization of DVDs and CDs for use on D2L; 3D printing on demand (any EIU affiliate can submit jobs for free for the fall); interlibrary loan is available by contact; training and resource engagement with GAs, RSOs, athletics; sociotechnical supports through CSI, including creative reality studio, more podcasting booths, loanable technology, 3D scanners; GAs from writing and speech programs available to assist students a couple nights per week. Dean Keith also noted that the library is moving towards a focus on Digital Literacy over Information Literacy and a goal of democratizing technology.
5. Dean Keith and Dr. Gillespie from FDIC are Co-PIs on a state libraries of Illinois grant, which awards faculty for the creation or adaptation of OER content that can also be made available to other institutions. Some faculty have been awarded money to complete projects and are currently working on yjr OER resources.
6. For digital scholarship, Dean Keith and other library staff continue to work with faculty about submitting to The Keep and its new faculty profile interface, Scholars@eiu.
7. The Authors at EIU series will continue celebrating and promoting scholarly works at EIU. Interested faculty should reach out.

VII. Discussion Items

- a. Organization of Faculty Senate Agendas/Time for Discussions (Bruns)
 - i. Senator Bruns proposed an agenda time template to increase opportunities for faculty to have discussion time about items that need to be discussed outside of guest speaker times. Senator Bruns suggested 2:00-3:00 p.m. as the discussion time, with 3:00-3:30 as guest speaker time.
 - ii. Since there may be times that the entire 2:00-3:00 may not be needed, other senators suggested that some meetings do not have a guest speaker and the entire time be used to address discussion items instead.

- iii. Since there is no guest speaker planned for the next meeting, the Faculty Senate will address items yet to be discussed (e.g., IAB report, review of 23-24 year).

Senator Abebe made the motion to suspend the rest of the agenda and adjourn the meeting, with Senator Inverso making the second. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.