

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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8-27-2024

### August 27, 2024

Nichole Mulvey

*Faculty Senate Recorder*

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#### Recommended Citation

Mulvey, Nichole, "August 27, 2024" (2024). *Minutes*. 1570.

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## Agenda & Minutes

**August 27**

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, Grant Sterling, Anne Thibault Geen

Guests: Michael Gillespie, Ryan Hendrickson, Michelle McDaniel, Amy Odwarka

- I. Welcome Back!**
- II. Announcements**
  - a. None
- III. Communications**
  - a. None
- IV. Committee Reports/Organizing for 24-25:**
  - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey) – The Executive Committee met with President Gatrell and Provost Hendrickson on August 20<sup>th</sup>. A summary of information discussed includes:
    - i. Plan 2028 – Various aspects are in motion this Fall, including the establishment of the BAEC (Belonging, Access, and Equity Council) and utilizing a climate survey on campus.
    - ii. New programs - A new social work program is currently being developed. New program development will be crucial for future enrollment growth, with many current students enrolling in newly developed programs in the last five years. We will keep working to meet the needs of the evolving needs of students.
    - iii. IT Replacement Plan – Starting this year, faculty/staff will be on a five year rotation for computer upgrades.
    - iv. Phones – Teams transition is underway and is enabling every faculty/staff to have a phone again.
    - v. Facilities – A facilities study took place over the summer and found we have more square footage than we need. The university will be looking at possible relocation of some services to better utilize spaces. The state has allocated \$450 million for deferred maintenance projects around state. We put in for the Physical Science Building updates and some structural updates related to safety at O’Brien Field. Some updates to O’Brien field were completed already, including a new video board/score board funded by donors. The track was cleaned and lines re-painted. The old sheds were replaced with new ones built in collaboration with Charleston High School. These upgrades ensured we would be able to keep hosting the IHSA state track meet. Plans for the new Science Building are progressing and prioritizing campus beautification continues to move forward.

- vi. Fall dates of note – Thursday, September 5, Board of Trustees meeting; Wednesday, September 25, Campus Fall Update at 8 AM, donuts at Doudna; Monday, September 30 through Tuesday, October 1, HLC campus visit.
  - vii. Budget – The university budget will be very tight this year in all areas. While overall enrollment rates are looking good, international student numbers are in flux and the late FAFSA made it difficult for some students. We will have to be very conservative on staffing. President Gatrell supports the State Funding Formula and expects it to help EIU. It should accelerate growth in state funding of regional universities while it slows growth of state funding of R1 schools. This has not yet passed in the Illinois government but seems to be moving forward.
  - viii. Retention – Rates are looking very good, possibly a 2.5-3% improvement over last year. President Gatrell’s goal is a retention rate of 75-77%. Last year we were at 69%. The state has allocated \$500,000 for equity-based programs which should help retention. Mental health monies have been received again.
  - ix. Two-Year Residency Requirement - This has been implemented starting next fall and is expected to enhance student success and retention. It also brings us into compliance with NCAA requirements.
  - x. Bow Tie Project - If you hear about the “Big Bow Tie”, that is an idea and work of Greg Cooper and Michael Gillespie, working with community partners, and does not involve EIU funds.
  - xi. ADA Compliance - FDIC is ready to assist faculty with bringing their course content on D2L into ADA compliance, a federal requirement. FDIC will be working with faculty over the next year to address this and has several resources on their website.
  - xii. Academic Alert system – Faculty are reminded to use this system if students are failing to come to class or showing signs of falling behind. Alerts should be issued early, in weeks 2-3, rather than waiting until it’s too late (weeks 6-7). The university is being more proactive in use of the system.
  - xiii. AI – Provost Hendrickson asks that Faculty Senate devote some discussion time to the AI report issued by the AI Task Force last year.
  - xiv. DWF Project – Eight programs are participating this year after receiving training during summer term. Governor Pritzker has expressed interest in the project, as has the Lumina Foundation.
  - xv. Listening tour - Bruns reported setting up academic department meetings as a Chair “listening tour” to gather information about faculty concern/needs; 13 departments have been set up or are in progress.
- b. EIU Think Tank – President Gatrell has asked Ryan Burge to serve another 3-year term on the EIU Think Tank as the presidential appointment. Dr. Michael Gillespie will serve as chair again this year.

- c. Shared Governance Chairs Meeting – The monthly Zoom meeting has not been scheduled yet this fall. Senator Bruns will attend for Faculty Senate.
- d. CUPB – This university committee will be meeting Friday, September 6. Senator Bruns will be attending as the Faculty Senate representative.
- e. Elections and Appointments – Senator Stowell reported that a call for volunteers was sent via email last week for the 3 vacancies in university councils not filled from the fall. A reminder will be sent this week also. Senators are asked to encourage colleagues to apply. An update and voting for approval will be completed at the next meeting.
- f. Faculty Senate committees needed to organize and fill internal committees. The following senators volunteered:
  - i. Elections and Appointments – Chair Jeffrey Stowell, Steve Brantley, Jeanne Okrasinski
  - ii. Awards – Chair Steve Scher, Anne Thibault Geen, Farhad Reza
  - iii. Budget Transparency – Chair Grant Sterling, Isaac Slaven, Barbara Carlsward
  - iv. Faculty Forum – Chair Anne Thibault Geen, Matt Inverso, Farhad Reza, Anna Kochingina
  - v. Student & Staff Relations – Brad Decker, Anna Kochingina, Todd Bruns

**V. Provost's Report**

- a. Provost Hendrickson gave a brief update which included:
  - i. EIU welcomed 23 people at the new faculty orientation. Thanks was given to the FDIC for leading the informative day.
  - ii. Submissions for the Celebration of Scholarship are needed by September 6 with the actual event taking place in October.
- b. The author series at Booth library will be held again this year; faculty are encouraged to submit their work for sharing.
- c. Overall enrollment is about where we were last year; we have an increase in dual credit students but are down just slightly for first-time, full-time freshman. International student enrollment is down about 240 students compared to last year, possibly related to visa denials.
- d. Senator Abebe asked for clarification about increasing the residential requirement for new freshman to two years from the current one-year requirement. Provost Hendrickson discussed research related to how living in university housing increases retention of new students. This policy is also similar to several regional public universities and will generate revenue for continued improvements in on campus housing.
- e. Senator Stowell asked for updates regarding textbook rental services. Senator Okrasinski asked if there was any discussion for students who are in programs that are moving to OER sources and not using textbooks regularly. Provost Hendrickson reported that the only discussions have been related to codes at this point.

**VI. Action Items**

- a. The Faculty Senate needed to appoint a representative to the Belonging, Access, and Equity Council (BAEC) for a 2-year term.
  - i. Senator Slaven will serve as the faculty senate representative.
- b. The Faculty Senate needed to nominate a faculty member to EIU Think Tank for a 3-year term.
  - i. Senator Abebe made the motion, with a second from Senator Sterling, to nominate Michael Dobbs as the faculty representative. The nomination passed unanimously.
- c. Term Limits for Faculty Senate Executive Board
  - i. At the last meeting of Spring 2024, a senator suggested that term limits be considered for the Faculty Senate executive committee. Senator Bruns brought this suggestion to the current senate for discussion. Several senators expressed ideas for increasing efficiency of elections to increase nominations and ways to foster interest in more senators considering nominating themselves or others for the executive committee when the time comes. The Faculty Senate plans to elect the executive committee after spring elections but prior to the last meeting of the semester. The procedural manual for the executive committee, which is available on the Faculty Senate website and developed last year, was also discussed as a way to communicate about the roles and responsibilities of officers to increase interest. Opportunities for intentional shadowing/training of officers also arose as a possibility. These ideas will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- d. Future Agenda Items – The Faculty Senate discussed possible items to add to future agendas for discussion or to consider for future guest speakers.
  - i. IAB Questions (from Spring 24) – It was determined that a meeting will be devoted to reviewing the recent report and generating a list of discussion items. Guest speakers from athletics will also be invited to a future meeting.
  - ii. DWF Program (from Spring 24) – Given that some departments have been trained and are implementing this program this year, an update and further discussion is warranted at a future meeting.
  - iii. International Student Concerns – Transportation for international students has been a previous concern discussed and was brought up for discussion today. Provost Hendrickson provided some information about EIU providing transportation to and from airports for our international students. More discussion will be held in conjunction with inviting speakers from the office of International Students and Scholars.
  - iv. Admissions and Enrollment/Advising – Questions about how new students are advised into certain majors were discussed. It was determined that a guest speaker from enrollment and advising would be beneficial.

**V. Guest Speakers: Amy Odwarka and Michelle McDaniel from Booth Library**

- The Family Hub at Booth Library is open and ready for use. The Family Hub includes 4 distinct spaces in the library; two spaces are available for individuals with small children for studying/working, two spaces are available as a lactation station, and now several public restrooms have changing tables. The Family Hub also has loanable engagement activities (e.g., Magna tiles, audiobooks, music, etc.) as well as take home coloring packs for families. These spaces are available for faculty, staff, students, and community members. A flier describing the space and providing example talking points and syllabi statements was shared with the faculty.