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Minutes

Faculty Senate

4-23-2024

April 23, 2024

Jeff Stowell

Faculty Senate Designated Recorder

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April 23, 2024 Minutes

Faculty Senate 2023-2024

Members Present: Todd Bruns, Jeff Stowell, Matt Inverso, Teshome Abebe, Jeanne Okrasinski, Alicia Neal, Anne Thibault-Geen, Grant Sterling, Larry White, Emily Boyd (Student Senate)

Guests: Michael Gillespie, Brad Decker, Anna Kochigina, Irene Jacobsen, Provost Ryan Hendrickson

Note: Because we did not have a quorum, business will be conducted electronically.

I. Approval of minutes from April 9, 2024

II. Announcements

- a. Thank you for your service: Alicia Neal, Andrew Parrish, Larry White!
- b. Welcome new senators Barbara Carlsward, Brad Decker, and Anna Kochigina!

III. Communications

- a. Course Fee Resolution v2 (Sterling/Abebe)
- b. IAB Questions (Sterling)

IV. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - HLC public comment phase is in process; site visit Sept. 30 to Oct. 1
 - Plan 2028 Townhall was a success; IBHE Chair was present. Updates to progress can be found on the President's page 'Strategic Initiatives' section; One place of advancement – 65% of new faculty hires self-identify as under-represented.
 - President Gatrell will be on the Formula Funding committee; testified in Springfield against Community College Bachelor degrees; pushed for maintained higher funding for student mental health, was only institution to do so.
 - Faculty retirement dinner will be May 8 or 9th.
 - Campus picnic is May 8 at the Pond.
 - Community Softball was Saturday April 20; Staff/Fac Baseball is 4/23 at 3 PM.
 - DWF Program Grants expected to be awarded to 8 departments.
 - Discussion about course fees, noted Chronicle did a series on this.
 - Formal proposal on changes to Credit/No Credit expected to be delivered to CAA.
- b. EIU Think Tank (Bruns)

Based on our research and conversations this year, each Think Tank member has identified an area of focus that center on a broader consideration of academic integrity and the state of our place (EIU) in higher education. The membership, collectively, is concerned with the state of academic integrity and rigor from varied angles, all of which converge at the teaching and learning experience at EIU: if there is an expectation of academic integrity and rigor from our learners, then there also needs to be that same expectation for course instruction. Here is a list of topics for next academic year.

- Shifting public perceptions and support of higher education, and the polarized climate in which we exist, and the impacts this has on the learning process.
 - The choice of and utility of learning materials (texts, articles, activities, etc.) that become the corpus of the course, including the textbook rental model and access to e-books and open access materials.
 - Integrity (perceived and real) that is negotiated through the faculty-student relationship, and how these are more consequential in impacting everyday commitment to integrity and rigor than institutionalized practices and codes of conduct.
 - Test-optional policies and their effects on how students navigate through their academic programs, including scholarship eligibility and academic advising.
 - The quality and rigor of online courses and programs, including how these are evaluated and assessed at the department, college, and university levels.
- c. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns)
- CAA – Have approved most proposals, expect a few more to come in. Had some discussions about the Gen Ed review committee. Stressed that it is a subcommittee of CAA, so when Nora Heist is invited to speak to groups on behalf of the committee, the chair of CAA should accompany her. The Gen Ed review process is a long haul, should be about 4-5 years to completion.
 - COTE – Not many EIU program proposals this year, expect more next year. Teacher credits for programs needs to go through COTE, and there have been late, incomplete, and non-submissions. COTE is contemplating requiring a 2-week “get on the agenda” lead time to rectify this. COTE chair in 2024-2025 TBD.
 - CGS – Some course and programs cleanup, nothing major. There is a new Kinesiology course being considered at the next meeting. Group has been reviewing applications for the Programs of Excellence award, Bonnie expects about 6 new programs to achieve this distinction. CGS chair in 2024-2025 will be Alexis Jones.
- d. BoT Meeting (Bruns)
- Gave brief FS update on recent events. Mentioned Course Fees Resolution being considered, and that planning for 24-25 AY coming up. 11 tenure recommendations approved.
 - The BOT for 24-25 will be Chris Hicks as Chair, Julie Everett as Vice-Chair, Audrey Edwards as Secretary, Barb Bauer as Pro-Tem. BOT approved Jay’s recommendation to move BOT meetings to Thursdays for more transparency.
 - Coles County “20 under 40” featured two EIU people – School of Tech Chair Mahmoud Al-Odeh and University Advancement’s Amber May.
 - Ty Rea will be the Student Senate Vice President of Academic Affairs and therefore Faculty Senate representative.
- e. Elections and Appointments (Stowell): Introduction of new senators
- f. Awards (Scher): Distinguished faculty award bio posted on FS website.
- g. Budget Transparency (Parrish): No report

- h. Faculty Forum (Abebe): No report
- i. Student and Staff Relations (Boyd/Bruns): Student government awards banquet @Stadium Grill to announce student scholarships for work on student government. New executive board for next year. EIU hosting Special Olympics this weekend at O'Brien Stadium.

V. Provost's Report

- a. EIU Student Research Conference last Friday had 107 participants.
- b. EIU Phishing test found 13% of recipients provided login information. Cybersecurity policy to be revised to increase campus IT security.
- c. Non-academic IGP revisions for auditing, federal policies, compliance will be sent to senate.
- d. Recognition of Todd Bruns's exemplary service as Faculty Senate Chair

VI. Discussions Items

- a. Organizing for 2024-2025 Faculty Senate (Nominations only)
 - i. Exec
 1. Chair (Bruns)
 2. Vice-Chair (Stowell)
 3. Recorder (Mulvey)
 - ii. Remaining subcommittee chairs to be determined after vote on executive committee.
- b. Course Fee Resolution (Sterling/Abebe)
- c. Resolution in support of petition for all-gender restrooms.
 - Request to have all-gender restrooms in each academic building
 - Already an institutional priority of the President. Remodeling in Old Main is currently in progress, with plans for others. Kochigina suggested that maps/signage added in buildings to assist with locating all-gender restrooms.
- d. Assessing the 23-24 Faculty Senate (Abebe)
 - Noted several areas which may have been missed opportunities for greater discussion including 2023 faculty strike, Plan 2028, Faculty Forum attendance, budget transfers, and DWF initiative. We need to keep discussion going on some of these issues.
 - Should consider strategic priorities of the senate for next year's meetings.

Meeting ended at 3:30 pm

J. Stowell, designated recorder.