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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Recorder

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Agenda

January 9, 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, Andrew Parrish, Md Farhadur Reza, Steve Scher, Isaac Slaven, Grant Sterling, Anne Thibault Geen, Larry White.

Guests: Ryan Hendrickson, Michael Gillespie, Marita Gronnvoll

- I. **Approval of minutes from November 28, 2023**
 - a. Motion from Senator Parrish with a second from Senator Inverso. The motion passed unanimously with Senators Neal and Slaven abstaining.
- II. **Announcements**
 - a. The senate welcomed Isaac Slaven to their first meeting. Senator Slaven is filling the at-large position in Senator Brantley's absence due to sabbatical.
- III. **Communications:**
 - a. *Digital Archiving: Faculty Senate By-Laws Revision*
 - b. *Process for Reviewing Admissions Applicants with a Felony Conviction or Dismissal from a Previous Institution for Disciplinary Reasons*
 - c. *IGP 7.6: Personal Leave Time for Part-Time Employees*
 - ii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns)
- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
 - i. EIU Think Tank (Bruns) – No report. The committee is meeting later this month with a focus on academic integrity and grading.
 - Dr. Gillespie also shared that the FDIC is hosting a Pedagogy Day on March 14th. Information has been sent to all faculty about this event. Faculty are encouraged to submit to speak about pedagogy in their classroom.
 - ii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns) – No report. The committee will share information in the next couple of weeks.
 - b. Elections and Appointments (Stowell) - Julie Dietz had served to fill a CAA vacancy for CHHS in fall; Aimee Janssen-Robinson was nominated to fill the vacancy for the spring 2024 semester. Senator Stowell made the motion to appoint Dr. Janssen-Robinson to CAA and Senator Bruns made the second. The vote passed unanimously.
 - c. Awards (Scher) – No report. The committee will be working on the Distinguished Faculty Award soon and Senator Scher will organize this.
 - d. Budget Transparency (Parrish) – No report.
 - e. Faculty Forum (Abebe) – No report.
 - f. Student and Staff Relations (Brantley) - No report. In Senator Brantley's absence, Senator Bruns will continue to communicate with Student and Staff Senate.
- V. **Provost's Report**
 - a. The next BOT meeting is coming up the end of January.
 - b. There are several new degrees either soon available or making progress through

various approval entities. These include the MAT in special education, BAAS in Applied Engineering, BAAS in Emergency Management, BS in Computer Engineering, BS in Social Work, BAAS in Cyber Security, and BAAS in Health Practice.

- c. The Spring 2024 Presidential Chat will take place on Wednesday, January 24th at 8:30 a.m. with donuts and coffee available at 8:00. All are encouraged to attend.
- d. John Blue, the new Senior Diversity Officer, is on campus and acclimating to his new role.
- e. Mindy Spencer, the new Vice President for University Advancement, will be joining campus on February 5th.
- f. When the floor opened for questions, Senator Bruns asked about a notable decrease in international students in their courses for the spring semester and whether a reinstatement of the application fee could be deterring international students from applying. Provost Hendrickson stated that the main reason appears to be related to difficulties with students getting appointments at their respective foreign embassy to be able to come to EIU. He noted that the \$30 application fee is very competitive compared to the application fees at other institutions and assists the graduate school in more consistently determining who will actually enroll in programs at EIU.

VI. Discussions

- a. Admissions policies changes for felons/pending felony charges (Gronnvoll/Bruns)
 - i. Marita Gronnvoll, Chair of CAA, discussed a document shared with CAA last semester about admission policy changes. The main change was that individuals with pending felony charges (not just those with convictions) will be required to go through admissions review committee before being admitted. At the time of the document, CAA had several questions about the policy and raised issues about social justice. At the time, CAA felt this should be a larger campus discussion and reached out to Faculty Senate for further input.
 - ii. Provost Hendrickson responded, clarifying that he was not in attendance at the CAA meeting when the document was provided and will be attending CAA next week to clarify the document and answer questions. Provost Hendrickson provided Faculty Senate with context for the purpose of the policy and discussed the committee members that review the applications. He also clarified that this was approved by legal counsel and a common policy across all universities.
- b. Faculty appointment process for IAB, IRB, IACUC (Scher/Stowell)
 - i. Senator Scher raised concerns regarding how individuals are appointed to the Intercollegiate Athletic Board (IAB), Institutional Review Board (IRB), and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). It was clarified that IRB and IACUC have specific criteria for its membership that is federally mandated (e.g., scientist) and the solicitation and appointment of these boards have been handled by the Dean of the Graduate School and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, respectively. Further discussion clarified the process for IAB appointment, which includes NCAA regulations, solicitation and appointment of board members by the Faculty Athletics Representative, term limits, consultation with the Faculty Senate Election &

Appointments Committee, and final approval by the President, see <https://www.eiu.edu/auditing/igp/84>.

- ii. Several senators contributed to the discussion with questions about process, purpose of the concern, the role of faculty senate, and ongoing reported concerns athletes experience that may not be being addressed.
 - iii. Senator Sterling will provide a summary of patterns from recent and past IAB reports for the Faculty Senate to consider. An upcoming guest speaker will be Tom Michael, who will be able to address questions and facilitate discussion.
- VII. Senator Bruns made a motion to suspend the rest of the agenda with a second from Senator Stowell. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.