

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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2-20-2024

**February 20, 2024**

Nichole Mulvey

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**Agenda & Minutes  
February 20, 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: Michale Gillespie

**I. Approval of minutes from February 6, 2024**

- a. Senator Stowell made the motion, with a second from Senator Inverso, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Announcements**

- a. Congratulations were extended to recently hired Provost Ryan Hendrickson.
- b. Authors@EIU Speaker Series – Dean of Library Services Brian Keith came to promote and describe this new series and invited everyone to attend. The first event this semester is on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the West Reading Room of Booth Library. Additional events with other authors will be held later this semester.
- c. OER@EIU Grant Opportunity – There is an upcoming virtual information session about this opportunity on Feb. 21 at 4:00 p.m. All faculty are encouraged to consider submitting a proposal. Dean Keith described the process and the grant in conjunction with FDIC Director Michael Gillespie.
- d. FDIC Pedagogy Day will be March 14, 2024. All faculty are invited to attend for free with free lunch included. Besides the keynote speaker, all presenters are from EIU.
- e. Plan 2028 Town Hall Update will occur March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Doudna Recital Hall.

**III. Communications**

- a. Authors@EIU Series Events Poster
- b. OER@EIU Funding Information
- c. FDIC Pedagogy Day Poster

**IV. Committee Reports:**

- a. Executive (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey)
  - i. The executive committee met with President Gatrell and Provost Hendrickson on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Senator Bruns shared general announcements with input from Provost Hendrickson.
    - FAFSA information continues to be delayed, which moved back priority date for acceptance and is impacting all universities.
    - Admit rates are similar to last year with a nominal increase, but overall enrollment is projected to decrease next year since we had the biggest jump in enrollment in 2019 for first-time, full-time freshman. These students will graduate this spring.
    - The new VPUA, Mindy Spencer, started at EIU on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and Faculty Senate plans for her to join us for a meeting next

fall.

- Due to continued concerns with cybersecurity, DuoMobile authentication will now only be available through the app, not through a phone call. This change is a result of 2/3 of fraud cases on campus resulting from the Duo Mobile calls and the heightened cost of calls.
  - The tornado alarm issues brought up at the last meeting have been resolved with the alarm planning to occur at 9:25 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.
  - EIU admin is already looking into contracts for electrical vehicle chargers, but this is in the beginning stages.
  - We have received money for tunnel repairs (\$19 million), and faculty will notice the replacing of many roofs this spring/summer with insurance money from the storm last summer.
  - The science building is moving forward with plans and the university is working to create a proposal to stay within budget (revised architectural plan from when it was first proposed, less \$20 million) with input from several departments.
- ii. EIU Think Tank (Bruns) – Michael Gillespie noted that the group is meeting tomorrow with Josh Norman and learning about current approaches to recruitment and retention of students. The committee is planning an event to meet with students to get feedback about these issues on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m.
  - iii. Shared Governance Chairs (Bruns) – No report.
- b. Elections and Appointments (Stowell)
    - i. The previous deadline had been extended until tomorrow. At the time of the meeting, there were still 7 positions for which no one was running, 18 uncontested positions, and 4 contested positions. Senator Stowell reached out to Deans where vacancies are apparent and one final call will be sent today. Voting will begin later this week, and all are encouraged to participate.
  - c. Awards (Scher) – The Distinguished Faculty Award deadline is this Friday. The committee plans to meet next week and present the winner at the next meeting.
  - d. Budget Transparency (Parrish) – No report.
  - e. Faculty Forum (Abebe) – Faculty Forum will be March 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the West Reading Room. There will also be a Zoom link available. The current plan is a dynamic speaker panel with Senator Abebe as moderator. The discussion will include faculty's role in student performance to improve retention and equity. Email reminders will be sent to all faculty starting this week.
  - f. Student and Staff Relations (Bruns) – No report.

**V. Provost's Report**

- a. The DWF Roundtable will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in CSI with a panel of faculty from across campus. All faculty are invited to attend.
- b. EIU will be making a visit to Springfield on April 18<sup>th</sup> to make the case for EIU and answer questions from legislators.

**VI. Guest Speaker Dr. Nora Heist, Chair of General Education Committee**

- a. Dr. Heist began by explaining that the General Education Committee is a standing subcommittee of CAA, whose bylaws define the purpose.
- b. The committee is beginning to review general education courses at EIU, starting in Spring 2024. Dr. Heist stressed that this is intended to be a collaborative process and is part of a suggested schedule for review similar to the HLC process recommendation. The review will be on a 5-year cycle, with years 1-4 focused on reviewing general education courses and programs and the last year used for reflection and further planning. As the committee gets started in year 1, they are in the information gathering process.
- c. Specific programs and courses were solicited for the first round of review by communication with department chairs in December, and the committee expects submissions prior to spring break. Departments and programs will have the opportunity to present and discuss the materials after spring break. The general education committee started with foundational courses in composition, intro to speech, math, and scientific awareness requirements. Materials requested included course proposals, course syllabi and general assessment materials from last year (e.g., departments may submit DFW rates, learning goals, sample assessments, etc.). All materials were requested to be submitted without instructor names, how many students enrolled, or rank of the instructor.
- d. Senator Stowell shared approval as this relates to the HLC report and then asked about what recommendations the committee will be making. Dr. Heist discussed that this is not about inclusion or removal of courses from general education. Instead, the committee plans to focus on congruity of syllabi and course proposals (and facilitating updated proposals), asking questions about differences across sections by learning goals (not content), and cleaning up and aligning courses and program. CAA bylaws technically allow that a course can be put on probation by this committee, but Dr. Heist confirms this is too early in the process to make that kind of recommendation.
- e. Senate Abebe shared concerns with considering DFW rates in the review, as this is a student outcome, not related to the course itself. Senator Abebe suggested focusing on the 5 core values of general education established by the university. Dr. Heist noted that the committee is asking about outcomes for general education courses because we are not currently doing so, and the committee hopes to learn how departments are using data to make decisions. She confirmed that the intended focus is on EIU's general education values and alignment.
- f. Senator Parrish brought up concerns for the workload of committee members and faculty involved without a clear plan or outcome. Dr. Heist clarified that the plan is to focus on conversations surrounding what "general education at EIU" looks like.
- g. Additional conversation encompassed discussion about how the university had worked to revise catalog wording last academic year to trim down the description of general education and make the values and description clearer to students. Dr. Heist added that these conversations can happen simultaneously, to determine what general education looks like now and what the values should be as general education continues to evolve to meet the

needs of EIU students.

- h. Additional questions evolved into discussion about connecting these reviews to IBHE requirements, IAI (articulation) requirements, and the general scope and long-term purpose of the review. It was noted that IAI agreements are at the course level with continuity between universities accepting core courses from each other and the review does not work to change that. Some concerns were noted that while the committee states collaboration, how departments will fit CAA requirements continues to be uncertain.
- i. Dr. Heist noted that there are 11 members of the committee, with representation from each college and representing each learning goal. The possible outcome is to determine if there are gaps/needs in general education at EIU.

**VII. Discussions Items/Upcoming Agenda**

- a. Reflections on AFSCME Tentative Agreement: No further discussion was held at this time given there is a tentative agreement. Senator Scher made the motion, with Senator Bruns make a second, to table this item until a final contract is released.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.