

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 13 September 2011 (Vol. XXXV, No. 2)

The 2011 – 2012 Faculty Senate agendas, minutes, and other information are available on the Web at:  
<http://castle.eiu.edu/facsen/>

Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

### **I. Call to order by Chair Andrew Methven at 2:00pm.** (Booth Library Conference Room)

Present: A. Adom, J. Coit, S. Knight-Davis, T. Leonce, A. Methven, M. Mulvaney, K. Padmaraju, A. Rosenstein, G. Sterling, J. Stowell, L. Taylor, D. Viertel, A. White, J. Waller. Student Member: A. Gonzalez.

Guests: Olivia Sloss (Daily Eastern News); Dagni Bredesen (Faculty Development); Blair Lord (Vice President for Academic Affairs); Jeanne Snyder (Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences); Bonnie Irwin (Dean of College of Arts and Humanities)

### **II. Approval of the Minutes of 30 August 2011**

Senator Viertel (Leonce) moved to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Abstain: Padmaraju, Rosenstein, Taylor.

### **III. Announcements**

#### **IV. Communications**

- a. Email of 6 September, from Dean Diane Jackman re: COTE appointments
- b. Email of 9 September, from Dagni Bredesen re: Faculty Development Activities
- c. letter of September, from VPBA William Weber, re: Director of Human Resources screening committee  
The letter requested two volunteers from Senate to serve on this committee. Senators Rosenstein and Leonce volunteered.

#### **V. Old Business**

##### **A. Committee Reports**

1. Executive Committee: no report
2. Nominations Committee: Chair Methven presented the list of nominations submitted by September 9. Senator Stowell asked if more than the needed number of faculty requested nomination, was random selection used? Methven stated it was used, and also that if a member appointed via random selection was the only one person requesting a different position, the member was awarded the second position only. Senator Padmaraju (Rosenstein) moved to accept the nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Methven asked for final appointments on Senate's Awards Committee. Senator Taylor volunteered to supervise the Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service Award, and Senator Sterling volunteered for the Distinguished Faculty Award. Senator Rosenstein volunteered for Faculty Senate's position on the Enroll Management Advisory Committee. Senator Viertel volunteered for the Senate's position on the Philanthropy Communications Committee.

3. Elections Committee: Vice-Chair Mulvaney stated that the deadline for nominations for fall elections was Friday at 4pm. We received 3 nominations for 7 positions open, one candidate each for the open positions on the Council on Graduate Studies, Enrollment Management Advisory Committee, and the Academic Program Elimination Review Committee. We did not receive for Faculty Senate, the Council on Academic Affairs, Sanctions and Terminations Review Board, and for the University Personnel Committee. In the past we've extended deadlines to encourage people to submit nominations, but I recognize the need to move on this, and elections will be ready for next week unless I tell ITS otherwise. We can also encourage write-ins, the one stipulation is they need at least 10 votes. At this point my initial thoughts were to move forward with elections.

Senator Viertel asked what's the fallback position if we don't get write-ins, would we look at appointing someone? Mulvaney stated that we do have that ability in the bylaws, and we've done it in certain situations on a temporary basis. With CGS we approved a temporary replacement. The positions on Senate and CAA are one-year replacements. Senator Rosenstein, noted that Mei-ling Li was on Senate for only one year, and had to return to China because of visa issues. Rosenstein suggested Li might be

interested in filling the one-year position place. Mulvaney stated that we had write-in candidates last spring, and had some success getting these candidates to receive the 10 votes required.

Viertel (Rosenstein) moved to proceed with elections as planned. The motion passed unanimously.

Mulvaney stated that Senate received a communication from Dean Jackman, suggesting one-semester sabbatical replacements for two individuals on the Council on Teacher Education. The year they were elected, did not have any second-place vote-getters. Kavanaugh with Hussey, Renaud with Eydt-Beebe. Mulvaney (Sterling) moved to appoint Christiane Eydt-Beebe and Kevin Hussey to serve in place of Sally Renaud and Richard Cavanaugh on COTE. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Faculty—Student Relations Committee: Mulvaney stated that members of the committee went to two Student Senate meetings, on August 21 and September 7, introduced themselves and requested the Senate send them their minutes.

Senator Leonce stated that a member of Senate proposed to have something similar to the strategic planning committee for students, showing that they are following the path set by the institution.

5. Faculty—Staff Relations Committee: no report.

6. Awards Committee: Senator Stowell stated that Senator Taylor has prepared an announcement for the Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service Award. The deadline for nominations is 4pm Friday, October 14.

7. Faculty Forum Committee: no report

8. Other Reports

a. Provost's Report:

Provost Lord stated that the College of Sciences Dean search is underway, and applications are being reviewed.

President Perry has announced a new round of Departmental visits, and I will be joining him.

Dean Irwin described the schedule of events for the joint commemoration of September 11, 2001, and Constitution Day. Events include a panel tomorrow focusing on the US and the world post-9/11. She stated that the library had themed displays, a free speech microphone would be in the quad Friday, and a flag display was installed on the lawn north of Old Main. We are capping this all off with a visit from the Iraqi ambassador to the US, speaking on the future of Iraq in Dvorak Concert hall next Monday, preceded by two panel discussions in the Charleston Mattoon room. It is a great honor to have him here.

Provost Lord stated that as we do departmental visits, enrollment is topic of some interest there, and that he shares the concern about enrollment levels. EIU is down 450 students this year from last year. We knew it was likely during the spring and summer. Enrollments are down pretty much everywhere. EIU is down about 150 at the graduate level, about 300 at the undergraduate level. It's down across the board, not concentrated in specific majors or undergraduate classes. We will be talking to every degree program about this.

A couple of points of good news are that minority enrollment has increased to 19.03%, up from 16.5% last year. That's been an objective for the institution for a while. The School of Continuing Education has again increased both their head count, and credit hour count, but these increases were not enough to offset other losses. As I've been joining the President, increasing retention and recruitment are two themes this year, while maintaining high expectations and rigor, we can't talk about one without the other.

Admissions staff focus on translate the admitted student to an enrolled student. After you've done that there's another period of five months of interaction to get them in the seat, and that is not always a totally transparent process, involving financial aid, housing, there are lots of steps along the way. There were declines in students applications, and a decline of yield (proportion of students admitted who enroll), by about 4%. At the transfer level, the head count has gone up by 2 this year, but the yield for admitted transfers has dropped 6% in the last four years. Admissions has done a lot of revamping their thinking, some in response to the President's directives. Department offices are going to begin making direct contacts with students. We will also be hiring an outside consultant to come in and point out what we're missing. The budget was built knowing enrollment was going to be down.

Lord distributed to Senate a handout from Brenda Major, Director of Admissions. He stated he had a conversation with John Allison and Jon Blitz, and in response Brenda put in writing the recruitment initiatives her office has undertaken in the past, and future changes they are making.

Stowell asked how has the total number of faculty changed over the last couple of years. Lord stated that the faculty complement has been pulled down, I don't have numbers on top of my head, but they've largely mirrored the reduction in enrollment.

Senator Adom asked what are expectations for enrollment for the next two years. Lord one of the objectives in the request for proposal for a consultant, is to return enrollment to a target of 1800-1900 new freshmen as opposed to 1356 this year; transfers are roughly 1100 this year, and we want that to be 100 higher. We want this to be the bottom of the curve. We looked at the optimal enrollment number about 10 years ago, and came up with between 11500-11800, and we keep having that as the brackets. When we were 12,350 we were a little tight. Adom stated that enrollment at Western and other Illinois institutions is up, what things they are doing that we are not. Lord stated that UIS, NIU, WIU, Illinois State, and SIU Edwardsville are up, and have all hired enrollment consultants recently. Lord stated that this year 31% of students who applied for aid had \$0 Expected Family Contribution, and 85% of our students apply for aid, I don't know if other schools had similar numbers.

Rosenstein stated that the College of Education and Professional Studies is turning students away because they can't pass the Basic Skills test, and asked are we going into schools saying, here are programs that can help improve basic reading and writing skills. Are we doing anything to help those students? Lord stated that the changes in the Basic Skills test are of recent origin, but are having big effects on the student body, and we have begun talking about doing something. I know from conversations with Dean Jackman there are statewide discussions going on about this. Rosenstein noted it's not just that EIU is admitting students who can't pass basic skills, some students are taking calculus here but haven't seen sine and cosine since 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and need to go back and master content to pass the test. Lord stated that most of them take their senior year off. Irwin stated that during Prowl CAH and COS Deans both told their new students about the test, and told them to take it as freshmen.

Stowell thanked the Provost for the document on Online Education he provided last meeting. He asked about the status of the Tuition Recover Model for the School of Continuing Education. Lord stated that the short answer is that we have limited the places where TRM can be used. It can no longer be used not on campus during the regular semester. We are going to go through SCE to get administrative control of TRM, because the way the state finances it and we have to budget it, it looks like the summer session, but we have limited overall funding and when Dean Hine runs out of money he will accept no more proposals. Stowell stated that as it has been faculty teaching TRM had recovered any tuition over a minimum per-student cost and now, that's only offered during the summer. Lord stated that because of the contract we couldn't do it any place else.

Senator Waller asked Lord explain what distinguishes us from our peer institutions, then state why you think these things, and make a pitch to me as if I were a high school students. Lord stated Eastern's focus has been about the quality of personal relationships between students and faculty, with relatively small class sizes and student-faculty ratios, and integrative learning experiences, were we take the expository skills, the creatively designed course material, and have them consciously participate in high-impact experiences, such as study abroad and internships, and then reflect on how this makes them a better person. This may happen elsewhere, but I know our faculty are damn good at it. Waller stated that this sounds boring, and asked Lord to give me the cool things I can do, what are the cool activities. Lord stated that there is a higher participation rate at Eastern for these activities, and more opportunities to have faculty-mentored experiences. There isn't one activity that's integrative, every institution has some things that can form part of an integrative experience, but the role of faculty is to pull things together, and Eastern has been intentional in ways students experience integrative learning. Lord stated that part of my pitch is going to dad or mom.

Recorder Coit noted that other state universities that have had increasing enrollments have also had increased vacancies in dorms, and wondered if these increases were due to online courses. Lord stated that he is not sure what's driving residence hall usage, and noted that at our high water mark for enrollment we had two floors in Lawson occupied by faculty. Residence Hall usage at Eastern is down because we are down enrollment.

Senator Knight-Davis asked Lord to for more specific information comparing the drop in enrollment to the drop in full-time-equivalent students. Lord stated that head count was down over 3% and FTEs were down 4.8%.

Rosenstein asked, if I were new faculty, where would I find info on TRM. Lord stated you should start by looking at the FAQ I handed out. Other places you could go, to the Department Chair, SCE and Dean Hine. You can also call my office.

- b. Budget Transparency Committee: no report
- c. Other

**B. Other Old Business**-Online Learning Committee: Methven stated that Senate needs to nominate a representative to the Provost's online education committee, and noted that there were two people from Senate who submitted their names. Kiran is one from two nominees from CEPS, by default you will end up on the committee. Senator Leonce (Viertel) moved to nominate Stowell as Senate's representative, motion was approved unanimously. Abstain: Stowell.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Dr. Dagni Bredesen, Interim Director, Faculty Development**

Bredesen stated that Faculty Development's annual report for 2010-2011 is on the website. We did continue meeting all through the spring on our listening tours, met with every dean and every academic college. Our goal is to find out what the different units are doing to support the faculty and to partner with them in a variety of ways.

Bredesen state that there is more traffic in the office, and we are meeting with any faculty that come to us, to talk to us about service opportunities, grants, and other support. Of course money is an issue, people want more funding for travel. We are not the only unit responsible for funding travel, but we gave out 18 faculty support grants, and created a new grant to support interdisciplinary and community partnerships, but because we were in transition we didn't get them out soon enough. The Fall semester grant is due October 3, and partnership grant applications are due on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The members of the Faculty Advisory subcommittee deals with grants. One goal was to tighten our budget as much as possible so as much money as possible can go to the faculty and roughly \$8000 in our budget was distributed to the four college to support travel last year.

Another thought that came up was a kind of directory of faculty similar to craigslist for mentoring, teaching development, and the like, and we are meeting with cats web office and trying to decide categories for that. We haven't quite worked out the mechanics for that, in a lot of departments there are informal relationships, and we trying to figure out if there's a need for a clearinghouse for requests and pairing. The office made two matches last year, faculty came in requesting mentors, and we are working with Thomas Hawkins to see how formal we want to make it, and what new faculty want. There was a request for just-in-time teaching, and we are working to enable faculty to get what they want from the website in a couple of clicks. CATS has made handy-dandy flip chart we keep in the cupboard listing the teaching videos on the Web that we have access to.

The desire for a faculty commons or lounge came up again and again. Jim Painter in Family and Consumer Sciences has been pressing the issue of making a space for a faculty café, and we ask that the Senate invite Painter to talk about this café, one thing we'd like to do is develop a petition to show the admin the support for this. The space might be open to start with from 10-2 weekdays, in Klehm Hall, which is centrally located for many but not everybody.

Another project was streamlining New Faculty Orientation to one day. One goal was to impress upon faculty our identity as a student-oriented institution, but also show the resources that are available to them. Each of the units presented focused on what they can do to support teachers in the classroom, and gave presentations on what resources are there for the faculty. We'd like to thank the Doudna for the use of the facilities. Dwight gave tickets to new faculty, lunch was in the reference room of library. We held panels on integrative learning and on technology (with CATS); we also had ice cream in Stevenson hall, and asked for interest in the faculty fellows program. Thirteen new faculty signed onto to be faculty fellows, Reed Benedict said he had never seen such a great response. Director of Housing Mark Hudson gave them a pass with dining dollars, and staff at Lantz took us on a tour of facilities, and gave faculty a semester pass. We had lots of feedback about how productive the orientation was. One new faculty member had been in the adjunct world for many years, and noted how well run this one was compared to the several others she had attended. We are also planning to have a lunch for 2010 incoming faculty who maybe didn't get as much attention last fall.

The office also sponsors write on site, which provides a designated space and time for faculty to write. Overall we had 30 people come through last year, and we now have branched out, with Wednesday 9-11am as well as 1-3 in the afternoon. One of our goals has been to get faculty into this wonderful faculty reading room at the library which no one is using. Coit stated that he is a regular attendee of write-on-site, and finds the two hours at WOS more productive than time spent writing in the office. Bredesen stated the office will do some follow-up with number of publications that have come out of the program, and noted that it is a great way to build community, and we have really been happy about how something that costs so little can have such a big impact.

Bredsen noted that the office sent four faculty to the Wakonse Conference for College Teachers Michigan. The office will also host two workshops with *Publish and Flourish* author Dr. Tara Gray on September 23, from 10-noon, and 1:30-3:30pm, with lunch provided. Having laid the ground on write on site, which came from Gene Deerman women's writing partnerships in Women's Studies, now seemed a good time to bring in someone who's known for getting people galvanized about their work.

Rosenstein asked for location of Write on Site. Bredesen stated the morning session is in the Faculty Development office, 9-11, and 1-3 in faculty reading room in the library. We are also looking for people to host expanded times, there has been one request for a Thursday afternoon meeting.

**B. Nominations Committee charge:**

Methven asked the nominations committee to begin assembling an online resource that will describe the function and meeting times for campus committees for which the Senate nominates faculty members. The information will be posted on the Senate website when completed.

**C. Future Agenda – September 27, 2011 – John Henderson, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs for Technology – The future of WebCT**

**D. Pledge of Allegiance** Senator White stated that Student Senate meetings start with a Pledge of Allegiance and asked if anyone knew why Faculty Senate meetings did not start with the Pledge? Knight-Davis noted that Faculty Senate doesn't have a flag. Rosenstein stated that as the daughter of a veteran, if Senate were to acquire a flag, we must adhere to standard practices, including lighting the flag at night if it were not taken down, and the like. She stated that we have a great many students on campus from other nations who don't pledge to our flag. Senator Waller asked White what benefits would he expect to follow from this. White stated that we're elected, we're in the United States, in a free country. White stated that he gets goosebumps when I hear the national anthem. I think that government agencies have a responsibility to Pledge the flay, because we're here because of the country we live in. Rosenstein stated the flag pledge grounds us and keeps us thinking about freedom and responsibility, about accepting different peoples way of life, gives us a sense of overall community. Even for those people who don't salute our flag the Pledge gives us a common grounding. Stowell asked if at graduation, the national anthem or pledge was included. Coit stated he agreed with Rosenstein's concerns about how this would be received by international students. He stated that the University's mission was to pursue knowledge and seek truth, and that these aims might be in conflict with a Pledge of Allegiance to a government.

**VII. Adjournment at 3:45pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coit  
September 26, 2011