

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR March 9, 2004 (Vol. XXXII, No. 24)

The 2003-2004 Faculty Senate minutes and other information are available on the Web at www.eiu.edu/~FacSen. The Faculty Senate agenda is posted weekly on the Web, at Coleman Hall 3556, and on the third-level bulletin board in Booth Library. Note: These Minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

PETITIONS AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FOR FACULTY ELECTIONS MUST REACH BARBARA LAWRENCE (4420 PHYSICAL SCIENCE) BY 5:00 P.M. MONDAY, MARCH 22. Postings of open positions and other information can be found on and downloaded from the Faculty Senate's web site.

I. Call to order by Chair David Carpenter at 2:00 p.m. (Booth Library Conference Room):

Present: J. Allison, R. Benedict, A. Brownson, D. Carpenter, D. Carwell, Comerford, B. Lawrence, A. Haile Mariam, M. Monipallil, W. Ogbomo, J. Pommier, S. Scher, J. Stimac,

Excused: B. Fischer, J. Wolski. Guests: Blair Lord, Jon Blitz, Keile Lacy, Kevin Sampier, Dana Peterson, Brent Smith.

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 2, 2004: Motion (Brownson/Monipallil) to approve, with a correction from Allison that Senator Carwell was present. Yes: Benedict, Brownson, Carwell, Monipallil, Ogbomo, Pommier, Scher, Stimac, Haile Mariam, Allison, Carpenter. Abstain: Comerford.

III. Communications:

- A. Robin Murray (3/3): E-mail regarding the Radio/TV Advisory Board. Murray expressed "disappointment" about the infrequent number of meetings and the minimal "input" that Board members have been accorded this year. Senator Allison, who served on the Board last year and the year before, expressed his regret about the news, especially since the Board had become more active in recent years. He hoped there would not be a reversion to earlier practices of ignoring the Board. At the request of the Senate, Carpenter will ask Murray to forward her e-mail to Rick Sailors.
- B. Jonathan Blitz (3/4): E-mail regarding Athletics Funding. To amplify his e-mail communication, Blitz provided senators with a handout and an oral communication highlighting Eastern's expenditures for Athletics relative to expenditures at other Illinois universities and members of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC). Before the oral communication, Senator Scher recommended postponing it and any discussion so that the Senate could expeditiously pursue previously scheduled business. At Allison's suggestion, Senators agreed to hear the communication so long as it did not exceed a limit of 15-20 minutes. Among the points Blitz stressed are these: "The level of funding in the EIU Athletic Department, in absolute \$, is quite high relative to the university's overall budget; The level of funding in the EIU Athletic Department, in \$ per sport, is at best fair; The Task Force recommendation implies that it is advisable to fund the Athletic Department at a level to achieve parity or better [with OVC schools] in per sport \$. This requires significant fee increases." Blitz stressed that EIU has committed to support a great many sports [more than the number at other OVC schools] and to devote considerable resources to do so. He expressed concern that an overall increase of 93% (\$127 to \$245) in student fees for Athletics over the next five years will mean that fewer total dollars from students and families will be available for students' academic activities. He questioned the wisdom of directing so many future resources to one area.
- C. Davia Markelis (3/4): E-mail to Senator Allison (forwarded to Chair Carpenter by Allison) requesting that any discussions about the Electronic Writing Portfolio process and outcomes include her, as well as other members of WAC, CASL, and CASA. Allison said that he, too, wants all interested parties to be represented. Since this is the year samples are to be assessed, he believes it is sensible to confer with people involved with the process. Senator Carwell noted that students can't fail the EWP and that the process seems to be a "pretend exercise." Allison expressed that, if the EWP proponents cannot justify EWP in relation to the time and effort demanded of students and faculty, the process probably should not be continued. However, he acknowledged that a lot might have changed during the past year. At the request of Senate members, Chair Carpenter will invite guests to attend the Senate to discuss the EWP process and outcomes.

- D. David Radavich (3/8): E-mail questioning an entry in the previous Minutes that "all faculty members have been publicly invited to apply for membership' in the Honors Council." He recommended "clearer procedures" for membership on the Council. A number of Senate members confirmed the nature of the current procedure: the *Newsletter* had requested interested faculty to apply, the CAA recommended interested faculty to the Provost for appointment, and the Provost finalized appointments. This was the procedure outlined by Senator Fischer in the previous Minutes. Allison underscored the improvements in procedures and policies related to Honors as the program has developed over time and looked forward to the continuing development of the program and related procedures. Senator Stimac stated that, in the national search for a new Honors Dean, more than 45 applications have already been received -- "wonderful applicants."
- E. Charles Eberly (2/26): Memorandum with an attached article, *Student Teaching Evaluations: Inaccurate, Demeaning, Misused* [from *Academe*, 89 (5)]. Eberly warns about the risks of placing "undue emphasis" on student evaluations.

IV. Business:

- A. Distinguished Faculty Awards Committee
 Senator Scher announced that the committee has named Professor John Best (Psychology) as the Distinguished Faculty Award recipient. Scher thanked the many fine applicants and the hard work of committee members. **Motion (Scher/Benedict) to approve Professor Best (Psychology) for the Distinguished Faculty Award: Motion Passed Unanimously.** Scher stated that current applications will remain active until next year and can be updated. There was talk about the advisability of encouraging but not requiring nominees to include a student letter, a subject that will be further discussed. Chair Carpenter thanked members of the committee for their hard work.
- B. Team-Grant Council
 Pommier recommended that the Council's members serve for staggered two-year terms rather than just one-year terms. Such an arrangement would assure greater continuity while assuring a changeover in representation each year. Carwell said he could see no "down side" to the motion. **The motion (Pommier/Allison) passed unanimously.** Carpenter asked Pommier to nominate the members of the council willing to continue service for the next year. **A motion (Pommier/Allison) was made to continue the following people to serve: John Pommier (CEPS), Richard Palmer (Business and Applied Science), Melanie Burns (CGS), Mark Borsi (CAA), Karen Wisler (Booth Library). Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Elections
 Senator Lawrence indicated a need for a replacement on CGS, a position that will likely be filled by an alternate. After Lawrence noted a low number of faculty willing to run for faculty positions, **a motion (Ogbomo/Carwell) was made to extend faculty nominations until March 22.** There was some discussion about penalizing faculty who were timely with their nomination forms. Carwell stressed the desirability of opening elections to as many people as possible. There was also some discussion about the effectiveness of Minutes as a means to transmit information. Brownson noted that members of Booth Library faculty will be attending a conference during faculty elections; Lawrence stated that there is a procedure for absentee ballots. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- D. Outcomes from Faculty Forum
Motion (Allison/Pommier) that External Relations and/or Public Relations publish weekly announcements of campus events in local newspapers to encourage community participation in campus events.
The motion passed unanimously. Allison suggested a weekly announcement in "Viewer's Choice" section of the local papers. Benedict wondered about the cost of such advertising. Allison noted that President liked the idea and did not think it would be prohibitively expensive. A number of senators recommended more prominent display of an "Events" link on Eastern's web page.
- E. Administrative Evaluation Process: After brief discussion, senators decided to defer conversation until the next meeting.
- F. Publication and Scholarly Work: Senator Brownson followed up earlier discussion about faculty publication and publishers' profits and control. **Brownson circulated a statement, which she moved as a resolution (seconded by Stimac). The language of the resolution is attached to these Minutes.** Discussion will continue at the next meeting. Lawrence noted her need to have access to top journals. Senator Stimac spoke about "impact factors." Allison noted that public information about journal rankings and impact factors can be had from the University of Illinois, which is a state-funded

university. Senator Comerford stated that professional organizations are addressing the issue and are the most appropriate groups to do so. Stimac and others stressed the institutional impact some universities have had. Chair Carpenter suggested carrying the issue forward to the Council of Senates for wider consideration and cooperation. Senators were enthusiastic about the suggestion. In addition, Provost Lord advised carrying the issue to Illinet, which connects the whole state. Senator Haile Mariam urged careful consideration of the language of the resolution, some of which she believed might disadvantage junior faculty.

- G. Update on Enrollment Management: Senator Scher stated that the Enrollment Management Committee met on February 26. He mentioned a "dual admissions pilot project" whereby community-college graduates (associates degree earned) are offered guaranteed admission at Eastern. While applications were at approximately last-year's level, housing applications were down 23%. Lord said that currently there is not much activity in admissions since "most students who are going to apply have applied." Now the "trick is to figure out where we are going to land." The goal is to admit 1,900 freshmen, somewhat fewer freshmen than in the years before (the number was about 2000 last year, nearly 2,100 the year before last). Last year Eastern admitted 1043 transfer students; Eastern is well ahead on transfer applications at the moment.

Adjournment: 3:45 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

Activities of Enrollment Management, Academic/Faculty Advising, Evaluation of Administrators, Shared Governance for Academic Technologies, Community Service Programs and Opportunities, Faculty Forum Committee, Scholarly Publication, Recommendations Based on Faculty Forum, Electronic Writing Portfolio.

Respectfully submitted,

John Allison