

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR October 4, 2005 (Vol. XXXIV, No. 5)

The 2005 – 2006 Faculty Senate minutes and other information are available on the Web at <http://www.eiu.edu/~FacSen> The Faculty Senate agenda is posted weekly on the Web, at Physical Sciences Building 1450, and on the third-level bulletin board in Booth Library. Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

I. Call to order by Chair Assege HaileMariam at 2:00 p.m. (Library Conference Room, Booth Library)

Present: J. Ashley, A. Brownson, L. Curry, M. Dao, P. Fewell, R. Fischer, A. HaileMariam, J. Kilgore, R. Marshall, M. Monippallil, J. Pommier, T. Sinclair, J. Stimac, D. Van Gunten, and B. Wilson.

Guests: Lord (Provost and VPAA), J. Johnson (Dean, CAH), B. Major (Director of Admissions), C. Delman, C. Frederick (Student VPAA), C. Rogers (Student Government), H. Jencks and S. Whitney (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*)

II. Approval of Minutes of 20 September 2005.

Motion (Brownson / Wilson) to approve the Minutes of 20 September 2005 with correction. Yes: Ashley, Brownson, Curry, Fewell, Fischer, HaileMariam, Marshall, Sinclair, Stimac, Van Gunten, and Wilson. Abstain: Dao, Kilgore, and Pommier.

III. Announcements

- A. Senator Fischer reminded the Senate that Faculty Development will be offering several seminars, or workshops, in the coming weeks: From Research to Practice: Teaching to Engage Students, 5 October, 12 – 1 PM in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the MLK Student Union; Veteran Faculty: Secrets to Success, 17 October, 12 – 1 PM in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the MLK Student Union; and Introduction to Writing Proposals for External Grants; 20 October, 12 – 1 PM in the Paris Room of the MLK Student Union.

IV. Communications

- A. Minutes of 8 September meeting of the Intercollegiate Athletics Board
- B. Minutes of 14 September meeting of the Council of Chairs
- C. Letter of 19 September from Provost Lord, re: faculty development advisory committee
- D. Letter of 27 September from Provost Lord, re: the University Mission

V. Old Business

- A. Committee Reports
 1. Executive Committee: no report.
 2. Nominations Committee: Senator Pommier stated that the committee appointed (Pommier, Brownson, and Curry) to discuss the Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service Award should begin shortly owing to the approaching deadlines.
 3. Elections Committee: Senator Ashley reported that he has spoken with C. Chatterji concerning electronic voting during elections. Chatterji was receptive of the ideas, but does want to avoid any potential problems during initiation of the BANNER system.
 4. Faculty – Student Relations: Senator Fischer reported that the committee would meet on 11 October.
 5. Faculty – Staff Relations: Senator Kilgore reported that he would attend the Staff Senate meeting scheduled for 12 October.
 6. Other Reports
 - a) Budget Transparency Committee: Senator Ashley reported that a meeting with J. Cooley is scheduled for 25 October to discuss budget transparency.
 - b) Bylaws Committee: Senator Wilson reported that the committee has suggested changes to the bylaws and that they have been forwarded to the Senators for discussion next meeting.
 - c) Provost's Report: Provost Lord informed the Senate that Dean Charles Rohn will be retiring effective 30 June 2006. The Provost will keep the Senate informed of the search. The Provost also mentioned the discussions that will begin around campus on the University Mission (handed out by the President on 6 September and re-attached below). Provost Lord stated that the NCA review mentioned that it has been over 10 years since the University's mission had last been discussed. All of the various constituencies on campus will be addressing the mission and reporting back for a synthesis later this academic year. The Provost encouraged that Faculty

Senate have a series of meetings to discuss the talking points. Provost Lord also asked the Faculty Senate to consider the possibility of making the Faculty Development Advisory Committee, currently an *ad hoc* committee, a standing committee. Suggested membership would be two (2) faculty from each college with a couple of appointed positions. Membership would rotate. Senator Ashley suggested that member should be elected. The Provost also provided the feasibility study that had been commissioned for the Nursing Program. There are discussions currently going on addressing sources of additional funding for the program.

- d) Other reports: Senator Fischer reported that he had been appointed to a Greening Campus committee whose charge is to solicit ideas for saving money and energy on campus.
- e) Senator Fischer also stated that the One Book / One Campus project should have been publicized more. Senator Fischer stated that it is unacceptable that there hasn't been more publicity for the program even though the *Frankenstein* exhibit is coming to campus. He stated that it appeared that very little effort was made to incorporate *Frankenstein*, the book, into curricular matters even though Booth Library knew of the impending exhibit. Owing to the lateness of the hour, Senator Fischer stated that he would bring a motion to Faculty Senate addressing his concerns.

VI. New Business

- A. Brenda Major, Director of Admissions. Senator Wilson opened the discussions with a question concerning enrollment management procedures that have been put in place since Major's arrival. Major replied that Eastern Illinois University has always had criteria in place and that there is an understanding that applicants who meet the minimum criteria are not automatically accepted. Such students are pooled and pooled applicants are reviewed. Major added that we are trying to make Eastern Illinois University a First Choice school for the applicants, rather than a safe choice school. Pooled applicants are reviewed by a committee that includes faculty, counselors, and admissions staff and that only after a careful review would a pooled applicant be offered admission. Items that are reviewed include the college-preparatory coursework the student has taken, letters of recommendation, and essays the student has written. All of which give some idea of how the student may do if admitted. Preferential deadlines now begin to fill the pool in November. For example, this time of year, the Admissions Office may receive 50 to 100 applications per day. Since there is no hard deadline, applicants are reviewed until the class goals are achieved. Since Eastern Illinois University was the first school in Illinois to have open deadlines, we are driving the application process at other schools to do the same. This open deadline allows Eastern Illinois University to be more selective. Letters of recommendation, not required of regular students, do allow reviewers to call up an applicant's guidance counselor if they are on the bubble. Senator Fewell asked about the yield rate. Major replied that Eastern Illinois University's yield rate (~31 percent) is still below what she would like it to be (~35 percent), but that we are improving. Roughly 75 percent of the applicants are admitted, but only about 31 percent actually enroll. Applicants are asked where Eastern Illinois University ranked among their schools of choice and Major informed the Senate that an applicant's school of choice did change with successive contact with that school. In trying to get better contact with the students, and their parents, the overall admissions package does include a letter addressed to the parents as well as financial aid information. Senator Ashley asked if class size numbers have been set for the future. Provost Lord replied that numbers have not yet been fixed, but that the freshman class has been decreasing over the last few years, even while total enrollments have been increasing. That is due to increasing numbers of transfer students. Provost Lord added that we are now close to our theoretical maximum enrollment limits. Senator Pommier thanked Major for the exceptional job she has done in such a short time at Eastern Illinois University. Senator Pommier asked Major what the number one reason students said they came and what the number one surprising reason students said they came. Major replied that the primary reason students chose Eastern Illinois University is that it is a good fit for them. Many current students tell others of their positive experiences and that Eastern Illinois University gives them what they want. Major added that we deliver a quality education and she is very proud of the fact we are the smallest school outside of the Chicago area – that has appeal to students. The most surprising thing Major has found is that parents are lingering during Open Houses. Her experiences elsewhere shows parents, even after driving four to five hours for an Open House, have in the past been eager to return home. At Eastern Illinois University, and lately, parents have been lingering for a while. Senator Fewell asked how do the articulation agreements with community colleges influence our dealings with transfer students. Major replied that the yield rate for transfer students is approximately 70.8 percent, with most other state schools at close to 50 percent. One reason for such high yield rates is that we work with students at the community colleges how to transfer their courses and that counselors at the colleges also

work with the students so that very few of their classes do not transfer. Students who apply directly from high school are also told that if they go to community college, they may transfer into Eastern Illinois University if they follow certain paths. Senator Fewell followed up her question as to how the junior class is built. Provost Lord replied that this year was a “Perfect Storm” with respect to the junior class in so much as the number of transfer students was one of the largest on top of one of the largest home-grown junior and senior classes. Major replied that this is in some way a good thing since it is forcing Admissions to take a close look at transfer issues. Senator Brownson asked if Admissions is doing anything trying to address more students starting at community colleges. Major replied that it appears more transfer students (~80 percent) are looking at online orientation. Senator Kilgore asked if the success of the transfer students is hurting the number of incoming freshman. Major replied that it hasn’t. Admission’s goal is to get the students as incoming freshman, but since we keep in touch with students at the community colleges, we help them transfer when they are ready. Major added that the local District Superintendent of Schools has asked Admissions to help them change the philosophy found at Charleston High School in which 1/3 of the students go to Lake Land, 1/3 go to Eastern Illinois University, and the remaining 1/3 go to the University of Illinois. Senator Fischer stated that Eastern Illinois University being a First Choice school is a change in mindset for us as well as potential students. How are we changing this mindset? Major replied that the pooling process would help. For example, an 18 on the ACT may not get you into Eastern Illinois University even though that is our minimum. Senator Fischer asked if putting a 22 ACT on the application gets you in and below that gets you into the pool would help the process. Major replied that the variety of ACTs found in students on campus is a good thing. If we raise the ACT standard, then there is some perception that we are excluding certain groups. Major added that there is no data to support such perceptions, but the perceptions persist. Provost Lord stated we do want to become a First Choice school and we are making small steps to become one. Senator Wilson asked if during the discussions with counselors we tell them about documentation needed if the students have disabilities. Major replied that we do, but that the counselors need to reinforce the documentation requirements with the students, e.g., a IEP or other documented disabilities. Senator Sinclair added that students moving from the high school setting to college often don’t want to be identified as having special needs. Senator Kilgore asked how inequalities in the feeder schools are addressed by Admissions. Major replied that there are state-mandated requirements that all students must satisfy. Other courses are taken into account if they are not offered at the high school. For example, the Gateway Program looks at students from many schools that have deficiencies. Major added that she is on a committee, with people from Western Illinois and Illinois State, talking with Chicago public schools that have these deficiencies. Chair HaileMariam thanked Major for her hard work as the Director of Admissions and for taking the time to answer questions from the Faculty Senate.

VII. Adjournment at 4:05 p.m.

Future Agenda Items:

Future Agenda Items: Study Abroad; Admissions and enrollment; Childcare follow-up; Faculty representation on BOT; Campus atmosphere.

Respectfully submitted,

John Paul Stimac

Handout from President Hencken to Faculty Senate, 6 September 2005

Questions to frame the discussion of

“Institutional Mission”

What elements of the EIU educational experience are distinctive (max. of 5)?

What are the elements of the EIU educational experience of which we are most proud (max. of 5)?

For what are we known by our prospective and current students? For what would we like to be known?

For what are we known by our alums? For what would we like to be known?

For what are we known by the general citizenry? For what would we like to be known?

For what are we known by our governmental leaders? For what would we like to be known?

What are the five key elements that should/must be in our statement of Institutional Mission?