

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 15 September 2009 (Vol. XXXVIII, No. 3)

The 2009 – 2010 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 McAfee Gymnasium 1102, 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 John Pommier at 2:00pm. (Booth Library Conference Room)

Present: J. Best, A. Brownson, J. Coit, M. Fero, M.-L. Li, A. Methven, M. Mulvaney, R. Murray, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, D. Van Gunten, D. Viertel, A. White, M. Worthington, S. Lambert. Excused: J. Russell

Guests: Jerry Donna (Financial Aid); Brenda Major (Admissions); Courtney Bruner (DEN); Diane Jackman (CEPS Dean); Blair Lord (VPAA); Grant Sterling (CAA); Les Hyder (IBHE FAC representative)

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 1, 2009

Approval of the minutes of September 1 (Murray/Best): Yes: A. Brownson, J. Coit, M. Fero, A. Methven, M. Mulvaney, R. Murray, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, D. Van Gunten, D. Viertel, A. White, M. Worthington. Abstain: J. Best, M.-L. Li.

III. Announcements

- a. New Faculty Reception, 15 September, 5:00 p.m., Tarble Arts Center
- b. Faculty Appreciation Day, 18 September, 6:00 p.m., Student Recreation Fields

IV. Communications

- a. Memorandum of 1 September, from Marjorie Hanft-Martone & Mildred Pearson, re: Faculty Appreciation Day / Diversity
- b. Report of 3 September, from Gail Richard, re: Intercollegiate Athletic Board
- c. Email of 8 September, from Brian Poulter, re: Faculty Senate Nominations
- d. Email of 8 September, from John Allison, re: Cell Phone
- e. Email of 8 September, from Henry Owen, re: Cell Phone
- f. Email of 8 September, from Renee King, re: Cell Phone
- g. Email of 9 September, from Keith Wilson, re: Cell Phone
- h. Email of 9 September, from Sace Elder, re: Cell Phone
- i. Email of 9 September, from Janice Coons, re: Cell Phone

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: no report
2. Nominations Committee: Six faculty member volunteered to serve on the EIU Classical Music Artist Series committee. Their names were placed on a hat and selected at random. Senator White (Van Gunten) moved to accept the nominations of Karen Eisenhour (1-year term), Rosemary Buck (2-year term), Noel Brodsky (3-year term) to the EIU Classical Music Artist Series committee. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Elections Committee: Vice Chair Van Gunten reported that, since no nominations had been submitted for 6 of the 8 open positions, the election call was extended. The new deadline for nominations is September 23, 4pm, and the election will take place October 13-14. Van Gunten reported that Jake Emmett, previously elected to CGS, was forced to resign due to his service on another major committee. There being no list of alternates from that election, the Constitution allows the Senate to appoint a faculty member to serve the remainder of the term. Dean Augustine recommended Heidi Larson for the position. Van Gunten (Brownson) moved the Senate appoint Heidi Larson to serve the last two years of Emmett's term. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: Senator Fero reported that the Student Senate discussed the H1N1 virus, and also heard presentations regarding a proposed sales tax increase to fund Coles County primary and secondary education.

5. Faculty—Staff Relations Committee: no report

6. Faculty Forum Committee: no report

7. Other Reports

a. Provost's Report: Provost Lord reported that the search for the new VP of University Advancement is meeting, the search committee has received a large number of applications and has begun to review them.

Lord distributed a draft email regarding a new notification procedure to be used in suspected case of flu. Lord noted that the number of cases on EIU's campus has been very small, but continues to grow. He noted that Washington State University has already reported over 2000 cases. The email stipulated, consistent with CDC and Health Services guidelines encouraging self-isolation, that students who believe they have either flu virus should report their condition to Health Services, and the Vice President for Student Affairs office will contact their professors. Senator Best stated that this policy might allow students to play a Machiavellian game, since they do not have to receive a diagnosis before reporting illness. Lord stated that the policy does put more of a card in the students' hand, but by requiring students to go on record with Health Services it prevents students from selectively informing professors based on assignments or exams. He noted that it also encourages self-isolation. Senator Brownson asked whether a student could face disciplinary action if they were found to have lied. Best noted that the policy allows students to say, "Let me err on the side of caution," and that it would be difficult to prove they had intentionally deceived a faculty member. Lord suggested he could tease out some way to indicate the students were on their honor to make truthful reports. Senator Methven questioned what would happen if a student faked an illness to evade assignments or exams, and then came down with the flu later. Chair Pommier noted that students could get both the seasonal flu and H1N1. Courtney Bruner asked if professors could report sick students who did not want to miss class. Lord suggested faculty tell these students to leave class and report their illness to Health Services.

b. Budget Transparency Committee: no report

c. Bylaws Committee:

d. Awards Committee: no report

VI. New Business

A. Enrollment management and Monetary Award Program grants:

Brenda Major stated EIU's enrollment is near the target of 12,000, although numbers are slightly down from the previous year. The rate of acceptances to enrollments (yield rate) is also slightly down, at 33.2% roughly 2% lower than last year. Typically around 7500 students apply to EIU, and around 5200 are admitted; to get a third of admits to enroll this year look a lot of effort. The yield rate on transfer students increased slightly, from 75% last year to 78% this year.

Major stated the main competitors EIU faces for students are private colleges and community colleges, not other state schools. She stated that EIU admissions has a look, feel, and delivery of services similar to private colleges.

Major noted that, after Governor Quinn suggested the MAP program might be defunded, admissions expected increased interest in on the part of potential EIU students in community colleges. Major stated that admissions aims to ensure students admitted to EIU, but who enroll on community colleges, are best served by that experience. Admissions has a web page which compares costs, and Major noted that community colleges are not as financially competitive as is often assumed. A large percentage of students, she noted, that attend community college to save money, don't complete and AA and stay longer than two years. Some students have left EIU after the first week, because of the uncertainty over spring semester funding. This can take students out of the guaranteed tuition program, which makes their eventual return to EIU more difficult. Major noted that students are also not aware of the potential problems at community colleges with enrollments increasing 20-25%; to meet student demand they will likely add online sections and evening courses, rather than additional courses during the day. The result is a good number of students who could be here at EIU have elected to go to community colleges. Major stated that admissions intends to retain these students' housing and financial aid priorities.

Major stated that admissions has a contract to develop software which will allow prospective EIU students to create their own personal portal to the EIU website. It will build a personal webpage based on what students have requested, allow admissions to communicate with students, create a personalized calendar, link to students' PAWS accounts, and be accessible to parents as well. The goal is to encourage

students to commit to EIU both academically and emotionally, so that other schools' information will have less effect. Major noted that Jerry Donna has given admissions counselors additional access to financial aid information, and that one of the reasons Donna was selected was his interest in developing a stronger working relationship between admissions and financial aid.

Pommier asked if the recession is affecting the demographics of admissions. Major replied that numbers of traditionally underrepresented groups are going to be increasing, and that the percentage of transfer students have increased this year. Major noted that the percentage of students of color has increased slightly, from 13.75% last year to 14.9% this year, that the average ACT scores (from 21 to 22) and GPA (from 3.08 to 3.22) have also slightly increased. Major emphasized that admissions assesses student motivation at admissions.

Best asked if community college becomes more competitive financially if students live at home, and noted the web page Major referenced assumes students are living in apartments. Major suggested students who attend community colleges and live at home may not succeed academically, when at EIU, which encourages students to take greater responsibility for their academic work.

Senator Coit asked about enrollment at competing institutions. Major stated only SIU Edwardsville claims to have increased enrollments over last year, while Carbondale and Western Illinois University appear to be much lower. The other state universities are, like EIU, slightly down in enrollment. Major noted that no schools close enrollment before the deadline to add courses, which is a big change. UIUC, for example, typically closes enrollment in March.

Pommier asked if this represented a trend. Major replied that it was unclear, but admissions is taking steps to generate a stronger emotional connection from the student. In addition, Major said admissions would like to make the enrollment deposit nonrefundable. Currently the half of the \$150 deposit, due May 1, may be refunded before June 1. Major noted that admissions had many students, who had planned to go to private institutions, change their mind about EIU after the first week.

Jerry Donna stated that the financial aid office has processed 14182 Federal Application for Student Aid forms this year, up from 12289 last year, and has created 8860 financial aid packages for students, up from 8419 last year. Donna stated that if faculty hear students have not received financial aid money, it is most likely because they have not submitted verification information, and they should be sent to the Financial Aid office.

Donna noted that 2431 currently enrolled students are scheduled to receive a MAP grant in the Spring, but those grants have no funding currently. This is slightly less than one-quarter of EIU's student population of 10,225. Their grants amount to about \$4.6 million.

Donna stated that it is unclear whether there will be MAP grants in the spring. A committee has been coordinating a lobbying effort for legislators, composed of: Eric Wilber (student), Dan Nadler (VPSA), Blair Lord (VPAA), President Perry, Derek Markley (President's Office), Steve Rich (Alumni Services), Stacia Lynch (External Affairs), Mona Davenport (Minority Affairs Director), and Jill Nielsen (VPER). Wilber has collected about 300 letters from students, and plans to get 2000. Additional plans include a student-run phone bank. Donna stated he has sent a letter to parents of students due spring MAP grants explaining the defunding of the MAP grants, and suggesting that they contact their legislators as well. All parents of EIU students received a similar letter from the parents club. Information will be distributed during parents weekend, and social networking sites are being used. October 15 has been set as a lobby day in Springfield. The JGTC and DEN have also been contacted. A new website, saveillinoismapgrants.org, enables users to find their legislators, and provides a sample letter.

Donna noted that if the MAP grants are not funded, there is roughly \$800,000 in federal stimulus money that the administration can use to offer additional work-study opportunities. Financial aid is also working to educate parents and students on resources they can use, including search engines for scholarships. Major expressed confidence that many students will find ways to stay at EIU. Donna noted that other universities throughout the state are working just as hard as EIU to lobby the legislature.

Brownson asked how much the average MAP grant provides. Donna stated that most grants are for \$4884, with an expected family contribution of 0. Major noted that this has not fully covered student tuition for some time. Donna noted that MAP grant students are typically eligible for Pell Grants.

Les Hyder asked if the EIU committee has been coordinating efforts with the Illinois Higher Education Legislative Coalition, UPI, or the Illinois Student Assistance Commission? Donna stated that the committee's initiative is at the school level. Lord stated that Nielsen does stay connected with the Coalition, and the issue is being worked together, but not necessarily coordinated.

Hyder stated that Nielsen is an unsung hero for the work she does in her position. He noted that some are under the impression that if MAP grants are not funded, Pell grants will make up the difference. Donna replied this is not true, the programs are separate, and MAP grant funding does not effect the funding calculation for Pell grants.

Hyder asked whether federal funding for veterans' education would be affected. Major replied that the Illinois veterans' grant gives more assistance than the federal grants, and that most students choose the Illinois grant. Lord noted that the state program is an unfunded mandate for educational institutions, and that prior to this year they received \$.20 per dollar expenditure. The State requires tuition be waived which means as a practical matter that the paying students are funding the program.

Hyder asked regarding the UIUC admissions scandal. Major noted that requests to review applications which have been denied are relatively common. In some cases, state legislatures will contact Nielsen, and she will ask admissions to review the file. Major stated that she will review a file for any reason, and that the standard denial letter states that students should contact EIU if anything changes, and their file will be reviewed. In most cases where a state legislator requests a review the legislator does not know the student. Major also noted that the denial letter asks students to make EIU their plan B if they chose to enroll at a Community College.

Hyder asked if EIU has focused on building alliances with community colleges, and if this has caused a shift in institutions from which students transfer? Major said admissions sends counselors to Lakeland and Parkland Community Colleges once a month to review those students' transcripts for transferable credits. Major stated that EIU will see more community college transfer students because of the recession. Right now EIU has a ratio of freshmen to transfers of about 60-40. Major said it should return to near the target of 70-30 once the state rights itself. Major reiterated that if students are academically ready for college they should start at EIU rather than at community college.

Hyder asked if there has been an increase in non-traditional students. Major stated that EIU has seen an increase in adult students. She stated that off-campus and online students will grow, but not exponentially. Hyder asked if this was because of lack of demand or because of EIU's fit for these kind of students. Major stated that many non-traditional students acclimate well to EIU, but many of them go in and out of school. If they are determined to get the degree they will. Major noted that EIU competes with online degree programs, and that if a student has the discipline to follow such a program, it is less expensive. She stated that admissions' main focus is that one can't get the EIU experience online.

Hyder asked regarding EIU's policy regarding dual credit high school/community college courses. Major stated that, to receive credit at EIU, a dual-credit course must be taught at a community college, by a community college instructor, and transcribed at the community college. Hyder asked how this is verified, noting that community colleges have been creative in offering these courses so they appear to be community college courses but are actually high school courses. Major stated that if courses are not taught at community college they are not typically transcribed at community colleges. Lord stated that those types of courses have been taught in the past, and there is legislation pending to eliminate that loophole. He noted that even UIUC accepts such courses, but because they don't accept many transfers it happens less frequently.

Donna stated that before the last academic year, the federal government changed rules about how veterans get their student benefits. Now the benefit checks are delivered to students directly rather than appearing in their EIU aid packages. This allows them to pay for living expenses, child care, etc.

Bruner asked if MAP grants would be funded in fall 2010? Lord stated that nobody knows what will occur with the next fiscal year's budget.

Coit asked if this was the first attempt by the administration to help coordinate student lobbying efforts. Lord stated that Wilber had been involved with a similar effort to lobby for the Renewable Energy Center, and the current committee is building from that success.

VII. Adjournment at 3:58.

Future Agenda items:
President's Council

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coit

September 27, 2009