



Staff Senate Minutes

January 13, 2016 – 1:15 p.m.

7th Street Underground Loft, MLK Union

Quorum Present

Senators Present: Melissa Gordon, Derek Light, Shawn Peoples, Melissa Coleman, Michelle Wayne, Cindy Starwalt, Suzann Bennett, Tony Craven, Renee Kerz, Peggy Brown, and Lisa Walker

Guest: Paul McCann

Senators Absent: Angie Campbell, Jonathan Hunt, Joann Daugherty, Tina Jenkins

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Peoples at 1:16 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the December minutes was made by Senator Light. It was 2nd by Senator Kerz. The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$300.00. In the past these funds have been used for the Blue BBQ. If anyone has any other ideas on how to spend these funds, let the senate know.

Committee Reports: Skipped committee reports until new committees are discussed later. ts

Constituent Reports:

Senator Light gave an update on the AFSCME negotiations. Governor Rauner states that they are not at an impasse but no new meeting dates have been scheduled. The main concern is insurance premiums. The governor wants to increase the member payment by 2.5. He allows wants to include no raises for four years except merit and we don't get merit so this would mean no raise for four years.

Unfinished Business:

- A. The Senate executive team met and working on the committee roster. Suzann provided copies of the new committee roster. President Peoples is asking all the committees to meet and report back in February. We still need Chairpersons for the Budget and Planning Committee and the Staff Recognition Committee. Peggy Brown volunteered to

be Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee. She will also be one of the Staff Senate representatives of CUPB.

New Business:

The number of Staff Senate Vacant seats was discussed. Adam Due retired which means the UPD position is vacation. Lisa Walker has accepted a position at Ball State leaving us with two open A&P positions. An email will be sent out soliciting interest on filling the A&P openings. President Peoples will meet with Lt Hatfill and see if we can learn who will be the UPD representative. One of the appointed minority seats is also open. B. James Griffin was suggested and this has been approved by President Glassman.

Updates from President:

- A. Chris Dearth, Admissions Director, is leaving the university. He has been instrumental in moving EIU forward. We discussed the ramifications. There is a marketing plan being implemented which includes radio ads on WGN and newspaper ads in the Chicago area. Kara Hadley-Shakya has been involved with this and will continue.
- B. We asked the status of the Human Resources Director. Linda Holloway has been named as Interim Human Resources Director even though she is also the Interim Treasurer. Also, the benefits office is down to only one counselor so they are being allowed to interview and hire a new benefits counselor.
- C. We asked about the WEIU FCC Sale. Paul explained more about the process and what all this means for EIU. There is concern about the majors in the WEIU program and what losing the station would mean to them. Currently there are 58 majors in this program. They would still do the news and stream online and provide the news on a cable station. The community has indicated concern. At this point, there it is unknown who would get any funds received for the bandwidth, EIU or the State of Illinois? If we decide to remain in the television business, we could move to a lower bandwidth. There are expenses involved with this as well as time factors. President Glassman has made the decision that EIU will not announce whether or not EIU is involved in the reverse auction. All the university is prohibited from discussing any matters related now that notice had to be given, one way or the other, on participation in the auction. The process could take four to six months.
- D. We learned that 44 or 45 staff members retired as of December 31st and another five resigned and left the university.
- E. There is no budget update. The legislatures only have three or four sessions in January. EIU is committed to completing the spring semester but it might not be business as usual meaning no unnecessary purchases, no travel, and possible layoffs. President Glassman is in Springfield today.
- F. Chicago State announced they might not make it through the semester. They are mobilizing their staff, faculty, and students to contact Springfield.
- G. If we have additional layoffs, we are looking at March, April or May.

- H. We have made approximately \$13-\$14 million in cuts but at this point we don't have a full year of savings to truly give an indication of what we have saved thus far.
- I. We discussed what happens if we run out of money – will Springfield give us enough to stay open? We need to show we are trying to save money. If the appropriations are passed, how long will it take to get the money? This is unknown so we discussed if we can borrow against the appropriations and this is possible if the legislatures pass a billing allowing it.
- J. MAP grants have been given to students in anticipation that the state will refund universities. This is being reviewed in Springfield.
- K. We are still waiting on 10th day numbers to verify Spring enrollment. We have had an additional 100 international graduate students register. Graduate enrollment is definitely up. Enrollment for returning students is better than in the past so we are doing good things with retention.
- L. We discussed Carmen Hall. It is not a major focus right now. It must be used for the purpose it was built. The possibility of an "E" hotel was mentioned.
- M. Mr. Martin, Vice President, University Advancement has resigned. We now only have one still vice president. The other three are interim.

Questions for the President:

- A. Update on budget
- B. Staff in civil rights office
- C. Status of new police chief

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Senator Light and 2nd by Senator Walker. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Brown, Secretary

Next Meeting February 10, 2016, 7th Street Underground Loft, MLK Union, 1:15 p.m.