

Minutes of ECU Faculty Senate Meeting for January 10, 2008

Officers:

President: Charlie Jones

Vice President: Guy Sewell

Secretary: Jean Thompson

Members Present:

School of Business

Pat Fountain

Charlie Jones

College of Education and Psychology

John Burke

Ben Harper

Bill Heitland

Jeff Williams

College of Liberal Arts and Social Science

Robert Greenstreet

Mara Sukholutskaya

Paige Williams

Library

Angie Brunk

College of Health and Sciences

Nick Cheper

Guy Sewell

Rob Newcomer

Jean Thompson

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Senate President Charlie Jones at 1:30 p.m..

2. Acceptance of Minutes of December 5, 2007

Minutes from the December 5th meeting were accepted as amended.

3. Senate Committee Reports

Committee on Committees

Nothing to report.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

The members have reviewed constitutions from other facilities as well as East Central's and have determined what areas need to be addressed.

Elections Committee

Nothing to report.

Emerging Technologies Committee

A new ad hoc committee will be created to review environmental issues in various areas including computer power usage. A draft of a course syllabus template was reviewed by the Senate members.

Student Relations Committee

Nothing to report.

Faculty Fellowship Committee

Nothing to report.

4. Academic Affairs Council (AAC) Report

- Information Technology discussed the need for scheduled down times campus-wide for preventative maintenance and upgrades of the computer system.
- Administrative evaluations for Department Chairs will not be done this year due to the pending department re-organization; however, Deans will be evaluated.
- Dr. Anderson has asked all academic affairs units to review the goals set at the beginning of the year to determine what has been addressed or accomplished or if new goals need to be added. The Faculty Senate will review its goals during February's meeting.
- Dr. Anderson reminded members that the Faculty/Staff Recognition and Retirement Program will be May 1st starting at 5:30 p.m. No other events should be scheduled at this time.
- RUSO Board meeting will be January 17th and 18th at East Central University.
- The Part-Time Faculty Handbook has been updated and will be posted on the Internet.

- Travel reimbursement for mileage has increased to 50.5 cents beginning January 1, 2008. There will be no travel budget increase to compensate for the increase in mileage.
- Spring enrollment numbers are close to that of last year's numbers at this time.

5. Old Business

- Recommendations on Peer Review of Faculty Report – The Senate reviewed the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Peer Review of Faculty. Since the Senate cannot establish academic policy, the Senate unanimously voted to make available the recommendations of the Peer Review of Faculty Committee and encourage faculty and departments to use this evaluation tool as another avenue for supporting excellence in teaching. The recommendations and peer evaluation form will be e-mailed to all faculty in early February and posted on the Senate's website. The Senate wants to acknowledge the excellent work done by this committee.
- Recommendations on Summer School Incentives – The Senate discussed the proposed summer school incentives for summer 2008. After a lengthy discussion, a consensus of opinion was reached in two areas: 1) The Senate unanimously felt that the current summer school initiatives are not in the best interest of faculty; and 2) Unable to come up with a counter proposal in the short-term, an Ad Hoc Committee on Summer School Compensation was created. This committee will attempt to develop a comprehensive summer school compensation plan that will meet both administration and faculty needs. The committee will consist of the following Faculty Senate members: Guy Sewell, Bill Heitland, Rob Newcomer, Brian Bentel and Jeff Williams.
- It is now possible for any person to send anonymous e-mails to the Faculty Senate for review. The link for sending anonymous e-mails can be found on the Faculty Senate Homepage.

6. Items Submitted by the Faculty

- A faculty member asked if classes could meet an extra 25 minutes on Monday and Wednesday, and the Friday class time be dropped when all students in the class agree to the time change. With the increasing cost of gasoline as a factor, the faculty member felt schedules should be more flexible to accommodate commuter students. Charlie Jones will discuss this issue with Dr. Anderson.
- The issue of an adjunct pay increase was discussed. Some departments are unable to hire adjunct faculty at the current pay rates. Charlie Jones reported that a pay increase for adjunct faculty was discussed in last year's Budget Committee meeting. The Budget Committee rejected an increase last year in order to increase full-time faculty pay. This issue will be discussed in February's Senate meeting when Senate Goals for 2007-2008 are reviewed.

- A faculty member wanted to know how adding a “divisional” layer to ECU’s structure promotes efficiency (reportedly one of the proposed reasons for department restructuring). Since ECU’s restructuring plan has not been formally announced at the time of this meeting, this question will be addressed at the Senate’s meeting with Dr. Rafes on January 24th.

7. New Business

- Additional Senate Meeting Dates – Due to the inability to meet with the Faculty Senate on its January 10 and May 1 scheduled meeting dates, Dr. Rafes has asked to meet with the Senate on January 24 and April 24 at 1:30 p.m. The Senate approved adding those dates. (Note: Senate regularly scheduled meeting dates for spring 2008 are January 10, February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1. All meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Governors Room unless notified otherwise.)
- The Calendar Committee met and reviewed the dates for the next academic year. Guy Sewell reported that no significant changes in scheduling occurred.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m..