

Minutes of ECU Faculty Senate Meeting for September 12, 2007

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 & Social Sciences

Brian Bentel

Paige Cummins

Robert Greenstreet

Mara Sukholutskaya

Library

Angie Brunk

College of Mathematics and Sciences

Nick Cheper

Rob Newcomer

Guy Sewell

Jean Thompson

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Senate President Charlie Jones at 3:30 p.m.

2. Dr. Rafes' Comments and Q&A

Dr. Rafes began with a discussion of various topics:

- A reflection of what transpired prior to Ardmore voting to be a branch campus of ECU.
- KGOU's programming including National Public Radio (NPR) is now on campus (98.1 FM). ECU will be allocated slots for local programming.
- Arrangements are being made for sister institutions, one in Russia and one in Kiev, to join with ECU. Both institutions seem to compliment ECU and hopefully will be the

beginning for working with other institutions in other parts of the world to possibly exchange students and faculty.

- The inauguration events of September 28th were discussed and faculty participation was encouraged.
- Department restructuring was discussed. It is intended for departments that are very small to alleviate problems, like those that occur in the evaluation process, and to conserve resources. This is not a “top down” decision, but will be reviewed with the faculty to find a plan that is amenable. It is the desire for the individual departments to keep their identity, regardless of the structure. This will hopefully streamline the institution and make things work more efficiently. There has been no decision made; Dr. Anderson is in charge and it is still in the working phase.
- Enrollment numbers are down, but the semester credit hours are slightly down which is phenomenally good news from what was anticipated. The budget was estimated to be 2% down, but was probably 0.2% down (full time equivalent) which will provide more raises than previously estimated.
- Dr. Rafes discussed the disbursement of state funds. It was noted that Senator Paddack, who has been working very closely with ECU, has set in early October a hearing on the allocation of funds from the State Regents. It is ECU’s contention that it is not getting an equitable share of the funds and Senator Paddack is going to address the issue.

Q&A:

1. Would the additional dollars for raises be dispersed as cost of living among all? There is an inclination to do it that way, but there has not been a decision reached. ECU needs to make a concerted effort to raise salaries and meeting what is the regional average. There have been some course corrections due to some areas that were lacking for education purposes, or the athletic budgets, etc. There should be gradual improvement in fundraising and partnerships seem to be going quite well. Since July 1st, ECU has received over \$10 million in new grants which is phenomenal, and most were acquired by faculty. This money brings in indirect cost money that helps significantly. So to answer the question, the president’s preference is to distribute it equally among the faculty and staff because it helps raise the entire base which is way too low for everyone.
2. Will faculty at the instructor rank be included in the faculty equity? It was suggested to e-mail the question to Dr. Anderson and he would answer.
3. Is the Ardmore branch going to be a major expense for the university? It will be a future increase for enrollment at ECU; it is not the intent to use ECU-Ada money for Ardmore; as for support of the branch it will be the legislature. There is a possibility that the main campus in Ada will lose students to the Ardmore campus, but the publicity of ECU in Ardmore will be beneficial in the long run. Shawnee is also a possible site for a branch campus.
4. When the merit pay plan is issued, will the faculty be able to respond to it? A committee has been giving input to the plan, it has been reviewed and is moving forward. The concern has been that there was no clear cut understanding of what it took to get different levels of merit – it was not conveyed clearly. The new document

remedies the situation, it explains the various areas and the specifics that must be met to obtain the different levels of merit. The three areas of merit, teaching, scholarship and service, are included and clarified (the original information can be found in the previous minutes). The evaluation will take place in February or March for 2007 and will be incorporated into tenure, promotion and three-year tenure review (one document for everything).

5. How does the D-F-W-WF apply to merit (in teaching)? Is this addressed on the form? This is applicable to exceptional merit because it deals with student retention and is addressed on the merit form if above 25%. Faculty will be able to respond to the document which should be available within next two weeks.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the August 15th Faculty Association meeting and August 29th Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

4. Senate Committee Reports:

Constitution and Bylaws Committee:
Nothing to report.

Elections Committee:

Elections for the Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Committee are underway.

Emerging Technologies Committee:

Nothing to report

Student Relations Committee:

Nothing to report.

(Note: Ad hoc committee reports were removed from this section since they now report to the Committee on Committees.)

5. Faculty Senate Goals for 2007-2008

- Charlie Jones explained the different areas of the Senate Goals and asked for revisions or changes be sent to him before the next meeting of the AAC (see Senate Goals on the website).
- Mara Sukholutskaya will be the Senate liaison to facilitate communication between the Centennial Celebration Committee and the Senate.

6. Old Business

Tabled until the next Senate meeting.

7. Items Submitted by the Faculty

Tabled until the next Senate meeting.

8. New Business

Tabled until the next Senate meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.