

Minutes of ECU Faculty Senate Meeting for November 14, 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

Jeff Williams

College of Liberal Arts and Social Science

Brian Bentel

Paige Cummins

Robert Greenstreet

Kathleen Rivers

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 3:30 pm.

2. Dr. Rafes' Comments and Q&A

Dr. Rafes began the meeting with a discussion of various topics:

- The open forum with the faculty on November 13th was a time to discuss some concerns that the faculty had about different issues. The forum is a follow up to the Presidential Updates through e-mails sent and this informs all of what is being done on the campus. There was also an open forum with students on the same day.

- ECU officials met again with an Ardmore contingent about establishing a branch campus in Ardmore. There was also a meeting with Murray State College representatives. Murray State will continue to teach lower-level classes at the Ardmore branch campus if it is established by legislation.
- The East Main Cultural project is progressing well. Four committees have been established to address different areas.
- Plans to expand the University Center are still underway. However, because of tax bond issues and other funding issues, the expansion may have to be done in phases.
- Dr. Rafes announced that he has approved the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Ratings of Faculty. He will send an e-mail to Charlie Jones confirming his approval as soon as time permits. If the Ad Hoc Committee is able to develop a better rating instrument and a better system for collection of data, he would welcome any such improvements.
- East Central donor involvement has a promising outlook. Different projects are showing promise – Bill Chapman has been able to secure a professorship and a commitment for a second professorship from a donor. Donors seem to be receptive to different opportunities to contribute to the university.

Q&A:

- Q: What is the expected time it will take for the city to complete the main street renovation; will it be completed before the spring semester begins? A: The completion time will be longer than anticipated by the city. The student body and faculty will have to work around the construction. It will be a much nicer area when completed.
- Q: Why does the Ardmore campus seem to be so difficult to complete? A: Another institution seems determined to change the outcome of the decision. If for some reason there is no legislative funding this year it is possible to lose the campus connection. There are several people working toward the goal of achieving the completion of the agreement.
- Q: Are OU. and Cameron purchasing land in this area? A: There is not an acquisition of land, but a NPR licensing for airspace. Neither institutions have addressed ECU about the issue, but this will be done. East Central will still be able to do the programming it has instituted. Recruitment is the issue that East Central is most concerned with.
- Q: At the last meeting of the Faculty Senate, incentives for summer session class sizes were discussed. Instead of having one incentive for large classes (e.g., \$750 per credit hour for classes with 48 or more students in the regular summer term), the Senate believes that some form of graduated incentive would be a better motivator of faculty to increase summer class size (e.g., \$100 per credit hour for classes with 20-25 students; \$200 per credit hour for classes with 26-30 students; etc.). Is it possible that such a system could be reviewed? A: (Dr. Rafes indicated that he would check on the situation with Dr. Anderson.) There was a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of incentive pay for the summer session classes.

- Q: Will longevity raises be lost when the Merit System goes into effect? A: Various pay raises are built into the budget for faculty and will remain.

Dr. Rafes ended the session by thanking the Faculty for all the hard work being done.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from the October 10th meeting were accepted. Minutes from the October 31st meeting were accepted as amended.

4. Senate Committee Reports

Committee on Committees

Nothing to report.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

The committee members have started gathering other institutions' constitution and bylaws for comparison purposes and new ideas.

Elections Committee

Nothing to report.

Emerging Technologies Committee

All members of the Emerging Technologies Committee are members of the IT Committee. The IT Committee's first task is to create a strategic plan.

Student Relations Committee

Nothing to report. There was a discussion of the need for the committee continuing to exist and it was agreed that there should be an avenue for the Student Senate to approach when necessary. A question was proposed for the committee – how do the students feel the living learning communities are working out since it involves faculty cooperation / visits? Also, would it be advisable to have a Faculty Senate liaison attend the Student Senate meetings?

Faculty Fellowship Committee

Nothing to report.

5. Old Business

- As mentioned above in item 2, changes in summer session incentives have been discussed with Dr. Rafes and is pending.
- The Nurse/PA privilege has been discussed; the counselor will not be available to faculty but the nurse/PA privilege will continue. A payment similar to that of the student fee will be considered for faculty in the future. Nick Cheper has talked to alumni (physician /PA) who are willing to volunteer time on campus to see/treat faculty.

- The Health Department will be on campus to administer the flu shot for everyone on November 14th.
- As mentioned above in item 2, Dr. Rafes has approved the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Ratings of Faculty submitted to the President by a vote of the Faculty Senate on October 31, 2007.

7. Items Submitted by the Faculty

- A question was raised concerning the parking area around the Arts Building – it is very difficult to load and unload materials needed for class and there is no available loading/unloading zone near the entrance. Would it be possible to make a loading/unloading zone south of the disabled parking space?
- There was a public access channel and East Central was considering classes on television. Is the air time still available? The university once had a public access channel when it was still KTEN broadcasting, but that ceased to exist when KTEN left Ada. East Central University negotiated with the city of Ada about another channel but that fell through.
- A question was discussed concerning the arrest of students who were parked in Norris Field parking lot. What are the procedures for student detainment by the Ada Police Department?

8. New Business

Tabled until the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.