

3-1-1993

Faculty Senate Minutes, Mar. 1, 1993

Eastern Kentucky University, Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Kentucky University, Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Minutes, Mar. 1, 1993" (1993). *Faculty Senate*. Paper 23.
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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

MARCH 1, 1993

CALL TO ORDER

The Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University met on Monday, March 1, 1993, in the Faculty Dining Room of the Powell Building. The Senate Chair, Joan McGill, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

The following members of the Senate were absent:

L. Belknap	P. Bland	*J. Culross
*W. Davis	*V. Falkenberg	*D. Gale
*D. Hart	*L. Hayes	*J. Joyner
*S. Kipp	*J. Renfro	*T. Ricks
*E. Roberts	J. Rowlett	*W. Schulz
J. Schwendeman	*P. Tudor	*V. Wright
*W. Wright		

*Indicates prior notification to Faculty Senate Secretary.

Visitors to the Senate were Mrs. Jill H. Allgier, Registrar; Mr. James R. Clark, Planning and Budget; Dr. Don E. Hagness, Special Education; Mrs. June Martin, Library Services; Dr. Roy S. Meckler, Special Education; Mrs. Rebecca M. Turner, Library Services; and Mr. Mark White, Eastern Progress.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair McGill called for corrections to the February 1, 1993 minutes. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT: DR. FUNDERBURK

The president reported on the possible reinstatement of the ombudsman. He stated that he hasn't done anything on it yet because of the budget situation. He stated that he was concerned about the new grading policy that the Senate recently passed by a very close vote. One of his concerns was that some of the Senators said that regardless of what was passed, they were going to follow what they had done in the past. He said that the president's office had received more grade complaints in the last twenty months than in the last twenty years. He mentioned that legal action is pending on a couple of the complaints. The president mentioned that he met with student leaders the week after last month's Faculty Senate meeting, and that the student leaders expressed some serious concern over the new grading policy. He stated that he

will hold onto the grading policy for a while until further information is received from students, faculty, and other interested parties.

Dr. Funderburk reported that the budgeting process for the 1993-94 budget has just started. He stated that guidelines for the process should be completed in three to four weeks.

Questions from the Senate pertained to the new grading policy. Dr. Funderburk replied that the major concerns he heard from students were cost and too much emphasis on the grade earned instead of what the student learned. The president responded to questions about the possible merging of several academic departments. He stated that merger proposals are at the vice presidential level, but he has yet to receive any recommendations. Senator Lee-Riffe raised a question about the school's smoking policy. Dr. Funderburk replied that the school's policy is close to the state's new policy and that the only holdup is the need for signs.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: CHAIR MCGILL

The Executive Committee met on February 8, 1993. Reports were received from four different Senate and University Committees.

Elections for new Senators should be completed and reported to the Senate Secretary before the March meeting of the Executive Committee (March 22) so that the names of those eligible for Chair can be circulated with the April agenda.

Along with the April agenda will be a request for senators to list the committees on which they would be willing to serve next year. Before the end of this year three members, who do not have to be Senators, will be appointed to the University Committee on Oversight of Student Evaluation of Instruction. Volunteers and/or nominations for this committee should be sent to Chair McGill.

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY REGENT: SENATOR FREED

Senator Freed reported that he and Dr. Funderburk recently met with the Council of Deans and discussed the issue of academic quality at Eastern. He mentioned that the meeting was helpful, creative, and positive. Senator Freed stated that the upshot of the meeting was the possibility that he might meet with the various colleges to discuss the issue of academic quality.

REPORT ON THE KENTUCKY PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS: MR. JIM CLARK

Mr. Jim Clark reported on the Kentucky Plan for Implementing the Higher Education Accountability Process, commonly referred to as S.B. 109, which was passed during the last legislative session.

He stated that the Council on Higher Education in consultation with the eight public state universities is currently developing plans to implement S.B. 109. A one hundred page procedures manual has just been written. Mr. Clark passed out a handout which highlighted the basic standards of the bill. Two of the standards will require the faculty to supply information such as contact hours, instruction, rank of faculty, and course level for fall of 1992.

Senator Freed raised a question about the cost and time involved in gathering initial data. Mr. Clark replied that such data gathering runs smoothly as time goes by.

Senator Robinette raised a question about needing more time to inform his faculty about the accountability process. Mr. Clark replied that the information to be gathered has nothing to do with promotion, tenure, or merit pay, and that accountability is a completely separate issue.

In reply to further questions about accountability, Mr. Clark stated that senators need to communicate to their colleagues the issues which are coming and that it is Eastern's responsibility to follow state law.

Senator Miller raised a question about the need to define terms before gathering data. Mr. Clark replied that a common set of definitions applicable to all colleges on campus will be developed. Mr. Clark stated that the collection of data to comply with S.B. 109 must be reported to appropriate state agencies each year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In a motion postponed from the February 1, 1993 meeting Senator Enzie moved an addition to Syllabus Policy in the Faculty/Staff Handbook (pp. 87-88) under section K to read "Student progress--the syllabus will describe a mechanism by which the instructor will provide students with written information on their progress in the course at least once prior to the mid-point of the course." After considerable discussion, which centered on the possible elimination of mid-term deficiency grade reports if the motion passed, the motion passed by voice vote.

After the motion was passed, questions were raised as to the full meaning of what had been passed. After some discussion for clarification, it was declared that the main motion only was passed, not the rationale.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

University Improvement of Instruction Committee: Dr. Creek

The University Improvement of Instruction Committee was asked by the Senate Executive Committee to investigate university policies that affect honors for Baccalaureate and Associate degree graduates. This concern came from some students who transferred to ECU and at graduation had a GPA high enough to qualify for honors, but because they did not take 64 hours at Eastern to complete their degree requirements they were not eligible for honors recognition.

Senator Creek stated that his committee reviewed the policy and agreed that the only way to prevent this potential problem was to reduce the number of hours required at Eastern. He moved that the Senate change the policy for Baccalaureate and Associate degree graduates receiving honors. After considerable discussion, which focused on the need for Eastern to maintain high academic standards and possible problems with accreditation in certain disciplines if hours were reduced, Senator Creek withdrew his motion.

Senator Freed suggested that a student could petition the Dean of the College from which he or she was graduating or the Vice President for Academic Affairs for an exception to the current number of hours required for honors graduation.

Senator Miller moved to ask the committee to take the Senate's concerns and feedback and draft a new motion for the next meeting. Senator Engle seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Ad Hoc Committee on Communications: Senator Fraas

Senator Fraas reported that the committee found the following modes of communication are inadequate: the FYI is useful for weekly announcements but cannot be used for fuller communications needs; the current Faculty Bulletin contains some less-than-critical information. She stated that the following could be improved: the Agenda of the Faculty Senate is too brief to elucidate the kind of debate or issues to be discussed and often comes out too close to the meeting date; the current minutes probably go unread because they are presented as minutes, not a summary of debates in order of importance. Other missives from the Faculty Senate, such as committee surveys or reports are often presented on the letterhead of the chairperson of that committee so that it is unclear that the information is from the Faculty Senate.

Senator Fraas stated the committee plans to recommend the following and would appreciate faculty input on the suggestions prior to formal motions: (1) create a logo/letterhead for Faculty Senate for all communication from Faculty Senate and its committees to faculty; (2) create a faculty newsletter to replace the Faculty Bulletin. The newsletter could be published monthly, include a summary of Faculty Senate meetings, an agenda for the next meeting,

and a report from the Faculty Senate Chair and the Faculty Regent and letters from the faculty; (3) the newsletter would need an editor, preferably someone familiar with Senate business and who attends the meetings, and be a faculty member. The editor would be granted one quarter released time to produce the newsletter. Please direct input to Senator Fraas at 1880 or Donovan Annex 102.

Report From Faculty Committee On Rules: Senator Duncan

Senator Duncan moved to amend a sentence of the Organization of the Faculty of Eastern Kentucky University that reads "the Chair may not serve consecutive terms" and substitute "the Chair may not serve more than two terms consecutively." Questions were raised concerning the possibility of a Chair serving more than two years in a row and the Chair's department losing a vote in the Senate. After some discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Senator Duncan discussed the membership of and representation on the Faculty Senate, especially in relation to the ex officio status of administrators versus faculty membership. He asked for a sense of the feeling of the Senate. Senator Laird mentioned that approximately fifteen years ago when the Senate was reorganized, a consensus was developed that the Senate was neither a classical faculty senate nor a true university senate since not all campus constituents were represented.

Report From The Council On Academic Affairs: Senator Rowlett

No report was presented by Senator Rowlett.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Senate, Senator Knight moved adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Charles C. Hay III
Faculty Senate Secretary