

Minutes  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
May 19, 2009

Present:

Rosemary Powers  
Stephen Jenkins  
Peter Johnson  
Leandro Espinosa  
Dan Meilke  
Ken Watson  
Allen Evans  
Jeff Vermeer  
Steve Tanner  
Ted Atkinson  
Jodi Varon  
Deanna T  
Ruthi Davenport  
Jeff Johnson  
Greg Monahan  
Provost  
Richard Croft  
Keri Wenger

Others:

John Thurber  
Doug Kailgeler  
Les Mueller  
Kathleen Dahl  
Kerry Loewen  
Donald Wolfe  
Neil Gus  
Jessica Platner  
Rebecca Hartman  
Doug Brinney

I. [3:15pm] Call to Order

ACTION ITEMS:

II. [3:15pm – 3:20pm] Approval of Minutes for the [May 05, 2009](#) meeting.  
Move to approve seconded  
Unanimous 1 abstention

- III. [3:20pm – 3:40pm] Academic Standards [proposed policy changes](#) (Doug Briney)
- a. Dean's List

Co enrolled changed to just EOU credits min of 6 moved to min of 8

- b. Withdrawal

Request a withdrawal up to week 7 after that time they can not withdraw and the instructor assigns the appropriate grade. The new policy now requires an A-F grade or an Incomplete after 7 weeks have passed.

- c. Graduation with Distinction

Moved and seconded to accept changes. Motion withdrawn

Fac. Student could have a low GPA from the first institution and still graduate Cum Laude from EOU why strike out an average of the two.

Comm. The new policy would be in line with other OUS universities an average would include the averaging of apples a GPA from a CC and oranges a GPA from EOU.

Provost - The short cut did transfer have 3.0 coming in what if you come in as a 2.9. the student should be measured by the totality of their work. The intent was to help in coming students.

Fac. The faculty is concerned about the extra work for the registrar in calculating students GPA. The students could bring in high grades through transfers and this might not be accurate

Moved and seconded to approve item 1 "The deans list"

Passes unanimously

Moved and seconded to accept item number 2

Fac. Students can seek a W at the 7th week. How do we let students know about this change, of withdrawing at the 7th week instead of the 10th week.

Comm. The committee agrees that there is a need to tell students of the change. This will be done in the catalog

Fac. We should roll this out in winter term and allow us time to get the word out to the students about the change. Move implementation to winter term

Fac. Put the withdrawal policy on the syllabus. And we can let the students know at the earliest time. Bring it to students attention

Fac. This disadvantages students if we move to the 7 week. From the 10 week. They can wait until the end and the W is on the transcript and the cost of retaking the class is enough of a penalty for them.

Fac. Help to guide the students to make good decisions. Take the decision of an F or W out of the instructors hands.

Fac. A lot of professors are on the spot having to assign a W at the 7 week only if passing.

Fac. I do not give feedback to students at the 7 week because of how the class is structured.

Fac. In line with other institutions.

Fac. The current policy is not fair to students. Some students can currently get F and others in the same situation W

10 favor  
1 abstention  
6 opposed

Graduation item withdrawn

IV. [3:40pm – 4:00pm] [Faculty Senate Response](#) to PEBB's Self-Insurer Decision (Dan Mielke)

Send this to Denise Younker

Talked with Peter Collero and received assures that we could use the same providers. Think there will be small disruptions. Sending a message to PEBB can not hurt. The belief is that self insurance will save a lot of money.

Fac. In the past when they make major changes people have been seriously disadvantaged. For us to assume otherwise could be a big mistake, that things will not be disrupted. This is all about access and we should not be disadvantaged in any way. They need to come out and visit us before the changes are made final. The problem is not with PEBB it is with Providence healthcare they can not be trusted.

Fac. Someone from PEBB and Providence should come out and talk with us about the changes.

Moved and seconded to approve the letter

Motion to send the letter to the Governor and the PEBB Board passes unanimously.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:

V. [4:00pm – 4:15pm] Discussion of General Education Transfer Policies  
(Rosemary Powers)

Fac. This question about transfer credits speaks to who we are as an institution. The process of dialog needs to be considered. What are the important things that we bring, that help us serve eastern Oregon?

Fac. We do need exceptions.

Provost There is currently no way to trigger prerequisites in banner. On campus courses all have a foot note. A student can still register because banner will not restrict based on prerequisites.

Level restrictions have never been a problem. Advisors prevent problems from occurring. They tried to turn on the level restrictions. There were 50 problems when the banner level restrictions were turned on banner can not use human intuition this create more staff time in order to lift level restrictions then human mediation is required.

Fac. Faculty makes assumptions about level and prerequisites.

Provost. How do we enforce without using banner?

Fac. If the level restriction is a problem you can survey your students to ensure that the students are well cared for.

Fac. If we change enforced to honor. To figure out how best to make I work.

Fac. ask students from a list of course they have taken.

Fac. Levels and prereq have been a problem for a long time. Regardless if students signed a statement of satisfactory prerequisite solution is role forward the can we administratively withdraw students.

Dean you can admin withdraw.

Fac. We are not asking for protection from provost or registrar how do ensure student preparation

Dean There are programs that do a degree audit through the number of credits. There are tech systems that do the checking for you we do not currently have his technical capability

Provost we have started the math placement to force the students to take the right course. With all of the transfers there all these exceptions of courses not in banner that may or may not meet the prereq. We have encouraged student to take courses that were not ready for.

Fac. worried that we are looking for a solution in the future. What is the balance between online and on campus.

Provost What can we do with the money available?

Fac. What is the plan for replacing the registrar?

Prov. There currently is no plan, we are looking at merging the registrar into other open positions. We need to know what Pres. Davies ideas are. We will fill as an interim position.

Fac. When you put in an interim at Eastern the tendency is to keep them and forgo a formal search.

Now consider item 2

Fac. I do a couple of dozen exceptions a term and this is not very efficient

Fac. There might be 50 two sentence emails that can be handled easily don't see this as an efficiency issue.

Dean We are now going by learning outcomes and need to be consistent in our efforts. We have more difficult assessments because of the numbers of transfers. Sometimes there was such a backload, in getting the transcript evaluated, it could take months. Have a transfer evaluation process with the new curriculum initiatives. Need to trust that we will come forward with the additional needed oversight.

Fac. Bureaucratizing by using these ambiguous outcomes measures has allowed us to do weird and goofy things. We can no longer torture the outcomes to fit something else.

Dean we live in an age of litigation. Students will take us on.

Fac. Number 6 when we have a registrar to review all of the changes someone who will understand the number of exception be made. The number of grades being changed and what the emerging issues are if we have some policies not being followed then we will have someone watching.

Fac. We need to thinking about discipline silos and looking at the outcomes. I would be shocked if my Division Chair made a decision without first considering my opinion.

Fac. Most of the problems are not that difficult. Gen. Ed is work in process. What we have is a mixture. We need to look at the practical way to solve this problem not take a sledge hammer to it.

Fac. We need to keep these decisions within the disciplines. The policy needs to be clarified and anchored to the disciplines.

Provost What is the acceptable error rate on either the omission or commission side. The registrar office makes errors themselves. We need an academic as the registrar not a clerk. Previously it took weeks when the faculty said the registrar made a mistake. The process went from the advisor to the faculty to the advisor to the registrar and back to the faculty. How do we short circuit this process to the advantage of the student. Whatever solution you push forward there are pros and cons

Fac. In the past the questions were asked by the instructor about the exceptions, we no longer have those conversations within the discipline. The division rep has been making a lot of those decisions. That person changes and requires us to change our practices.

Fac. We don't have the data we need so we need to think of a plan that puts those with the knowledge in control. The current policy is problematic.

Provost. We can not jettison both issues. If it is gen ed. there it is gen ed. here.

Dean We do not have the time in each discipline to understand what the best learning outcomes are. Discipline reps taking on some of this work. The college will have more oversight in the process. A chair of a multi disciplines they must understand all of the other disciplines involved.

Fac. If a course is not automatically given gen. ed. that decision should be run by the faculty. If the gen. ed. category is aesthetics and humanity I think that is a call to be made by the discipline.

Provost. A core of faculty needs to be found that could join the provost and Dean in forming this policy. There are many advisors who are currently making these decisions. We came up with this process because the work was not getting done. There are some faculty already willing to work with the admin on this policy.

Fac. We need to move past the college versus college antagonism and move forward choose not to be divisive. What bothers some about the process is the lack of discretion.

- VI. [4:15pm – 4:30pm] Athletics Committee Report (Jeff Dense)
  - a. [GPA](#)
  - b. [Dean's List](#)
  - c. [Academic Warning](#)
  - d. [Benchmarks](#)

- VII. [4:30pm – 4:45pm] Discussion of Other Recent Issues (Jeff Johnson)
  - a. Pre-requisites and Level Restrictions for Online Classes
  - b. Replacement of Retiring Registrar

Next Meeting will be June 2

- VIII. [4:45pm – 5:00pm] Good of the Order