

Faculty development wants permanent status

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The faculty development committee has requested to become a permanent committee. The committee is now an ad-hoc committee, meaning that it is temporary.

"It will become a standing committee as soon as I approve the suggested bylaws," said Blair Lord, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

He said he has asked the ad-hoc committee to suggest a rotational scheme for committee

member replacement.

"Once I have that, we will proceed," Lord said.

The suggested plan outlines the committee's new structure and how its members would be selected on a rolling basis.

However, the structure is not all that different than the current structure, Lord said.

The Faculty Senate passed a recommendation March 19, 2002, to create the faculty development committee. Its purpose is to create opportunities for faculty to further develop their skills in teaching, research and service.

"We have made great strides to institution programming to enrich faculty members' professional lives at Eastern," Lord said about the committee's progress since its formation.

The committee also has helped to survey faculty about their needs on campus, to develop and promote faculty events and to bring in external speakers, said Bill Weber, associate vice president for academic affairs.

"We need to establish the faculty development advisory committee as a standing committee and expand its membership to bring in some fresh voices and new ideas," Weber said

regarding building on the progress that the faculty development has made.

"I pledged to be a voice for the improvement of teaching and learning and to increase the participation of faculty across disciplines," said Mildred Pearson, director of faculty development.

She said the committee will include various voices and balance the representation across colleges when it becomes a stronger group.

"We will strive to make an impact, one faculty, one staff and one student at a time, for we are all EIU," she said.