

Making Excellence Inclusive Bylaws

Article I – Name: Making Excellence Inclusive

Article II – Mission

EIU's [Making Excellence Inclusive](#) (MEI) Committee advocates for and supports transformational learning and achievement through collaborative diversity initiatives across the university.

MEI understands diversity is fundamental to all student learning. MEI defines diversity as more than demographic compositions and explorations of difference. Diversity also includes:

- 1) Advocating for and supporting opportunities for historically underrepresented populations to have equal access and equitable outcomes through educational programs that are capable of transforming learning for all students.
- 2) Promoting practices that engage and include all students, staff, faculty and administrators, and the valuable contributions that they bring to both campus and community to enhance teaching and learning.
- 3) Identifying and addressing prejudice and discrimination on campus.
- 4) Challenging any unjust exercise of power or exclusion.

Article III – Membership

- 1) MEI is open to any staff/student/faculty on campus of Eastern Illinois University and the larger community.
- 2) To insure a broad spectrum of the university population in MEI the following constituencies should be represented:
 - a) Academic Advisement
 - b) Each Academic College
 - c) Faculty Development and Innovation Center
 - d) Faculty Senate
 - e) Office of Inclusion and Academic Engagement
 - f) Staff Senate
 - g) Student Affairs
 - h) Student Senate
- 3) Members serve on a volunteer basis

Article IV – Executive Committee

- 1) Executive Committee officers include:
 - a) Chairperson
 - b) Vice chairperson
 - c) Recorder
- 2) Executive Committee officers must be selected from EIU faculty or staff representatives.
- 3) Executive Committee officers are elected by a simple majority of MEI members voting.
- 4) Executive Committee roles may be shared due to need or interest, with a vote of approval from the members present.
- 5) Executive Committee officers serve a two-year term (after initial election) and may be re-elected.

- 6) Elections occur at the first meeting of each academic year.
- 7) There should be, if possible, a rolling leadership for consistency. The election schedule should be staggered as follows:
 - a) Vice Chairperson elected to serve a two-year term, then transitioning into the role of Chairperson for a two-year term.
 - b) Recorder elected to serve a two-year term.
- 8) The chairperson presides at meetings of MEI. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson presides. The recorder prepares minutes (motions and votes) for each meeting, disseminates minutes to members, and maintains MEI documentation.
- 9) The Executive Committee is empowered to meet with administration as needed/invited.

Article V – Subcommittees

- 1) Standing subcommittees will be established for the following:
 - a) Reaching Inclusivity for Student Excellence (RISE) Conference Committee
 - b) Reaching Inclusivity for Student Excellence (RISE) Chats Committee
 - c) Other Ad hoc committees as needed
- 2) Subcommittee membership is on a volunteer basis.
- 3) Subcommittees may be of any size, but will usually have a minimum of three members.
- 4) Subcommittee updates are shared during monthly meetings.

Article VI – Meeting Schedule

- 1) Meetings are held at least monthly during Fall and Spring semesters.
- 2) Days/times are determined on a semester basis based on membership needs.
- 3) Electronic meetings may be held as warranted by circumstances, or as needed.

Article VII – Amendments

- 1) Bylaw changes require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members voting.

Bylaws approved July 1, 2015

Revisions submitted to Membership in February 2021

Revisions approved by Membership March 23, 2021