

**Faculty Senate Agenda**  
**Friday, April 12, 2013**  
University Center 206

**PRESENT:** Peter Cashel-Cordo, Ethel Elkins, Brandon Field, Adrian Gentle, Mary Hallock Morris, Garret Merriam, Paul Parkison (Chair), Daria Sevastianova, Rex Strange, Marilyn Ostendorf, Frank Ward, Jennifer Williams, and Steven Williams; *Ex Officio members*, Ronald Rochon (Provost).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Brandon Field made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the March 22, 2013, meeting. Adrian Gentle seconded. The minutes were approved with two abstentions.

**UPDATE FROM THE PROVOST'S OFFICE:**

- President's Council: Dr. Ronald Rochon gave an update on the state budget process. He stated that the university is taking a cautious approach to the process given the highly political climate in Indianapolis. The president will continue to work in Indianapolis over the next few weeks. The budget will be a high priority item at the Senate's fall retreat.
- Enrollment Management: Rochon reported that an enrollment management consultant has been on campus. He stated that the university has received feedback about new strategies that can be used for recruitment. He added that some of our practices are dated; he noted that social media may be used in the future.
- Positions in Academic Affairs: The Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs search should be completed by the end of the month. In addition, Rochon asked the senate to encourage people to apply for the Faculty Assistant to the Provost Fellowship. This fellowship is for 10 months and carries a 1/1 teaching load. He noted that the department should receive adjunct support to cover the faculty member's other courses.
- Other Updates:
  - The new program approval process is receiving its final vetting by the Provost's office.
  - The evaluation of Dr. Mohammed Khayum, Dean of the Romain College of Business, has been completed.
  - The Provost will provide a lunch for the Senate prior to its April 26 meeting.

**REPORT FROM THE FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:**

- Faculty Senate Website: The senate website continues to be developed. We are currently working on transferring the archive agenda, minutes, charges, actions, and committee reports to the new site. This work should be completed by next week.
- President's Council: Items of interest from the President's Council include:
  - Outreach with Kentucky junior college network to provide consistent articulation agreements and to consider the tuition for Kentucky residents. Efforts are being made to clarify the transfer of general studies required coursework from Kentucky 2-year institutions to help facilitate easier articulation.

- State budget negotiations continue and Dr. Bennett and Cindy Brinker are working closely with the Board of Trustees and our legislative delegation. The politics of the budget process have intensified recently making lobbying efforts more challenging and essential.
- Dr. Bennett has formed a group to prepare a presentation of the new Core 39 curriculum for the Board of Trustees at the May 3 meeting.
- Kindra Strupp and News and Information Services are developing processes for monitoring and responding to social media events that related to the university. Faculty will be consulted as these processes related to Bias Incident Reporting are developed and training on protocols will be provided once this work is completed.
- The university is moving to providing electronic transcripts for students and alumni. There will be a charge for transcripts: \$8 eTranscript, \$10 paper, and \$12 for express. This will bring USI in line with our peer institutions.
- The President's Council is considering the Nepotism Policy recommendation forwarded to them by the Senate. Action is anticipated at the next council meeting.
- Dr. Bennett has requested time at the fall Senate retreat to discuss issues of student and faculty recruitment and retention. She indicated a desire to gather faculty input on needed initiatives as well as response to administrative initiatives.
- Senate Elections: At-large and college elections have been held and results will be confirmed later in this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Economic Benefits Committee Report: Joy Cook, chair of the Economic Benefits Committee, presented the committee's report to the Faculty Senate. The report included an overview of USI faculty salaries as compared to our peer institutions and recommended that a special adjustment increase should be considered for the assistant professor classification. In addition, the report recommended that the university consider an increment increase for full professors in order to bring that rank more in line with peer institutions and to prevent further decline. The report also made recommendations pertaining to two charges submitted this year: a cost of living adjustment and faculty travel funding. The committee was not able to examine the issue of gender equity in salaries as it has not received any data relevant to this charge. Brandon Field made a motion to accept the report. Garret Merriam seconded it. The senate voted unanimously to accept the report.
- Salary Inequity Charge: A new charge regarding salary inequities was forwarded to the Senate on February 26, 2013. Adrian Gentle made a motion to forward the issues raised in this charge to the provost's office for consideration in the budget process. Brandon Field seconded. The senate approved the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- New Program Review Process: Shelly Blunt and Paul Parkison will meet next week to discuss language to be included in the University Handbook. The language will be presented to the senate at its next meeting.
- College Election Confirmations: Paul Parkison presented the results of the at-large, College of Liberal Arts, and Pott College elections. Parkison noted that committee appointments will be finalized at the April 26 meeting. During that meeting, the senate will also elect its chair for the 2013-2014 academic year.
- Promotion of Department Chairs Policy: The discussion was tabled. Parkison noted that this

was a noteworthy issue, but that it was a tremendous task to determine how the role of chair should be considered in the promotions process. It was noted that the issue had been brought to the attention of the Full Professor Task Force. This issue may be an agenda item for the senate's fall retreat.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:** Adrian Gentle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Field seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 26, 2013, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. in University Center 206.