

Faculty Senate Minutes
Friday, September 6, 2013
3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | University Center 206
Meeting Secretary: Kristalyn Shefvland
Meeting Called to Order: 3:03pm
Meeting Adjourned: 5:05pm

PRESENT: *Faculty Senate Members:* Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Marilyn Ostendorf, Ethel Elkins, Cindy Deloney-Marino (Alternate for Tony Maria), Jennifer Williams, Thuy DaoJensen, Jason Fertig, Perry Burnett, MT Hallock Morris, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Peter Whiting, Kristalyn Shefvland, Garret Merriam, Frank Ward; *Ex-Officio Members:* Shelly Blunt (Assistant Provost); *Guests:* Dane Partridge, Steve Spencer, Kathy Rodgers, Glenna G. Bower, Marna Hostetler, Elizabeth Ivy, USI Shield Reporters

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FACULTY SENATE RETREAT: August 22, 2013
Motion to approve by Brandon Field, Seconded by Peter Whiting.

Brandon Field motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Rex Strange seconded.
Approved with 1 abstention.

UPDATE FROM RONALD ROCHON, PROVOST
No report.

REPORT FROM MT HALLOCK MORRIS, FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

- a. **President's Council:** I attended the President's Council meeting on August 27. During the meeting, Graduate Director Wes Durham did a run-through of his presentation to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Bennett gave an overview of her conversation with the Faculty Senate during our retreat. Dr. Bennett asked the Senate to prioritize its charges and recommendations. She also asked for the Senate to provide better supporting data with its recommendations.
- b. **Board of Trustees:** I attended the Board of Trustees meeting on September 5. During the meeting, Dr. Bennett discussed the enrollment figures for the University, Wes Durham gave his report on the successes and challenges facing Graduate Studies, and Jon Mark Hall gave the annual athletics report. The Trustees voted to raise the rates for housing and meal plans for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- c. **Senate Website:** I am working with Sheree Seib to update the Faculty Senate website. We are meeting again on Friday, September 13.
- d. **Charge List Update:** I had a meeting with Shelly Blunt at 1 p.m. today to work on updating the Charge Log list. I hope to present the Senate with the updated list at our next meeting.

- e. **Invited Guests for Future Senate meetings:** Marna Hostettler will be attending the October 25 meeting to discuss library issues. Kindra Strupp will be coming on either September 27 or October 11 to discuss issues related to marketing and USI identity. Mark Rozewski will be coming to a future meeting to discuss University budget issues (TBA) and Angela Batista has requested that we invite her to a future meeting to discuss the CARE team.

OLD BUSINESS

Assessment and Institutional Level Learning Outcomes – Dane Partridge

Dane Partridge brought forth a request that the Assessment Committee consider developing Institutional-level Learning Outcomes (campus wide). Asked to further clarify, Dane Partridge posited that these 6-8 outcomes would assess what USI graduates have learned and are capable of doing. This would be similar to tools of assessment adopted by other university and tied to the University Core and to individual degree programs. We are looking at whether we should adopt these types of assessment tools that are similar to other universities. Further discussion by the Senate posed questions of the utility of such tools given the existing assessment conducted by individual departments. Among the questions posed, concerns were brought forth about what evidence these outcomes would examine, whether this would lead to a “teach to the test or to an abstract goal” mentality, and how this would complement the existing assessment tools and how the outcomes would be measured. Dane Partridge argued that a learning outcome must be measurable and asked that the Assessment Committee consider having outcomes that are not just related to the core and general education. Broader discussion of the issue at hand posited that we have to make the core a broader integrative assessment and further discussion for and against the outcomes brought forth.

Perry Burnett made the motion for the assessment committee to draft University Level Outcomes for the Faculty Senate to consider, Jason Fertig seconded. Question posed by Peter Cashel-Cordo about whether we should as a Senate should give the Assessment Committee guidelines, perhaps having the New Core as a starting point. Dane Partridge agreed and that the committee should also look to other universities for guidance. 4 against, 7 for, no abstentions.

New University Core Curriculum Implementation Task Force – Kathy Rodgers & Stephen Spencer- Brought forth changes to the August 27 final report for the Senate to vote on, discussion and questions over clarity in the document and other versions of the document.

1. Policy 3 Recommended Change:

- a. Steve Spencer made the following recommended changes: Writing-Intensive courses must be a minimum of three credit hours. In order for a course with a lab to fulfill writing-intensive criteria, lab hours must be

connected to a specific course. Writing assignments should be integrated throughout the semester and used to enhance the learning and understanding of course content. Written assignments should constitute a significant portion of the course grade, counting for a minimum of 25-50% of total course evaluation.

b. Senate debated about the Intensive writing courses. After much discussion over course hour minimum, the percentage of the writing assignments towards grades, and the intent of the original committee, Rex Strange made the motion that written assignments should constitute a significant portion of the course grade at least 35% of a three course or its equivalent. Writing assignments should be integrated throughout the semester and used to enhance the learning of course content. Written assignments should constitute a significant portion of the course grade, counting for a minimum of 35% of total course evaluation in a three-hour course, or its equivalent (e.g., 53% of a two-hour course). Cindy Deloney-Marino seconded the motion. 9 voted in favor, 2 against, 3 abstentions.

2. Policy 12 Recommended Change: Students who were enrolled in the College Achievement Program (CAP) as juniors (2012-2013 academic year) or who are presently enrolled in the CAP program (2013-2014 academic year) and who enter USI during the fall 2014 semester will have the option to enroll under the fall 2013 bulletin with the former core instead of CORE 39.

a. Brandon Field moved to accept as written, Rex Strange seconded. Ayes have it, 2 abstentions.

3. Kathy Rodgers advised on a number of changes that the Committee has made to the final report. A change made in the discussion with the Senate was Policy 9- Students Transferring to USI with a Degree to reflect that Core 39 is satisfied for students entering USI with a Bachelors Degree. Brandon Field moved to accept changes, Peter Cashel-Cordo seconded. Ayes have it, 1 abstention.

Full Professor Promotion Task Force – Steve Spencer- MT Hallock Morris tabled discussion until a later meeting.

Final Report from the Curriculum Committee – Glenna Bower:

i. MT Hallock Morris advised that an issue is present on the due date (October 1) suggested that it be October 15 or November 1, Rex Strange and Glenna Bower agreed that a good compromise would be to use the third Friday of October and for the Spring, the Friday preceding Spring Break. Rex Strange made a motion to

accept the report as amended. Jennifer Williams seconded. Unanimous Vote by Senate. Change in the Faculty Handbook language will be required.

b. Library Seat on the Assessment Committee:

- i. Brandon Field made the motion, Peter Cashel Cordo seconded. Unanimous Vote by Senate. MT Hallock Morris will draft a memorandum to President Linda Bennett asking for a non-voting ExOfficio seat for the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Archiving Protocols – With feedback from Peter Whiting: MT Hallock Morris tabled discussion until a later meeting.