

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Friday, September 19, 2014**  
**UC206**

**Meeting called to order: 3:00**

**Present:** Peggy Shields, Cindy DeLoney-Marino, Jessica Garcés Jensen, Rex Strange, Tony Maria, Ethel Elkins, Jason Fertig, Rob Millard-Mendez, Marilyn Ostendorf, Gabriela Mustata Wilson, Ron Rochon, Shelly Blunt, Jennifer Williams, Peter Whiting, Stephen Spencer, Matthew Hanka, Pam Stevens (graduate student in nursing)

- 1. Approval of minutes (with spelling correction) from September 5, 2014:** Rex Strange made the motion; Marilyn seconded. Eight approvals and four abstentions.
- 2. Report from Peter Whiting:** The USI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Signature Event will be on Saturday, September 19, 2015, in the PAC. The program will include food stations, cash bar, live band, and dancing. The ticket price is \$65.
- 3. Report from Jason Fertig, Faculty Senate Chair:** Jason briefly described a retreat to look out for, focusing on enrollment and retention issues.
- 4. Search for Vice President for Enrollment Management:** Ron Rochon reported that the final candidates to be considered for the position will be arriving next week, and that he appreciates the faculty involvement in the selection process. He hopes to get a recommendation to President Bennett by the end of next week, so that we can have a person in place by the beginning of next semester.
  - Jason mentioned that as senators, we can meet with the candidates before their presentations, and to let him know if interested.
  - Stephen Spencer reported on activities within the Enrollment Management Council. The Council has created many subgroups focusing on issues such as marketing and recruitment, programs, technology, student success, career exploration, diversity, student experience, and a research group tasked with tracking down data for the other groups. Stephen expects a draft of strategies by January.
- 5. Three-week early alert mandate:**
  - Gabriela suggested that the early alert might be helpful for all USI course. Shelly Blunt indicated that new students, just learning how to deal with college, were most at risk.
  - Tony expressed concern about assigning F's to students who have missed a couple of quizzes, but in reality aren't failing. A satisfactory/non-satisfactory system might be less susceptible to misinterpretation.
  - Jessica mentioned that some of the poor grades early in the semester are related to unavailability of textbooks at the bookstore.
  - Cindy explained that many students will immediately drop a class if they believe that they are not going to get A's.
  - Dr. Rochon stated that students will receive directions on how to interpret their early grade reports.
  - Rob mentioned that detailed instructions on early alert reporting would be helpful, especially for adjuncts.

- Marilyn suggested that students should be taught how to calculate grades for themselves in the First Year Experience course.
- Rex pointed out that our charge to the Student Affairs Committee should help resolve some of these issues.

#### **6. Promotion and Tenure task force:**

- Jason has drafted some language for the charge and will share it by email.
- The members of the P&T task force, selected by their respective colleges, are:
  - Ernest Hall and Peter Cashel Cordo (College of Business)
  - Bobbie Hoebeke and Emily Holt (Health Professions)
  - Betty Hart and Amy Mark (Liberal Arts)
  - Zane Mitchell and Rex Strange (Pott College)
- Jennifer reminds us that the recommendations of the Full Professor task force should be taken into consideration by the new P&T committee.
- Jason points out that one of the goals of the new committee should be to determine the role of the University Promotions Committee, should it be kept.

#### **7. Closing comments:**

- Jason indicated that three names were still needed to fill vacancies in the EEO Appeal and Hearing Board, Environmental Stewardship Committee, the Student Publications Committee, and the University Athletics Council
- Rex suggested that we add a deadline to the charge made at the last meeting (ask Student Affairs Committee to assess best way to implement the early reporting initiative). Shelly suggested that this committee should communicate with the Enrollment Management Council's student success group. Dr. Rochon expressed reservations about the need for two committees focused on the same topic. Tony explained that the charge was directed toward how to best implement the early advising, while it seemed that the Enrollment Council Committee may be more focused on the collected data. Dr. Rochon requested a little time to resolve some of these issues. Rex made a motion to postpone the charge by two weeks; Rob seconded, and all approved.
- Gabriela made a motion to close; Rob seconded; unanimous approval.

**Meeting was adjourned: 4:32.**

Respectfully submitted by: T. Maria