

USI Faculty Senate Minutes

2 October 2015

Senators present: Brandon Field, Chuck Conaway, Jessica Jensen, Peggy Shields, Cindy Deloney Marino, Peter Cashel Cordo, Nick LaRowe, Gabriela Mustata Wilson, Rob Millard-Mendez, Chad Milewicz, Marilyn Ostendorf, Jason Fertig.

Visitors present: Ron Rochon (Provost), Marna Hostetler (Library), Amy Chan Hilton (Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning), Gabi Wy (Shield)

- Called to order, five minutes past two.
- Minutes from last time amended for clarity regarding the Faculty and Academic Affairs committee. Previous minutes approved unanimously.
- Faculty Senate Chair report:
 - No meetings of the President's Council
 - Closing policy: The Provost is looking for a recommendation for what would happen in the event of school closings during finals week. Need a solution quickly (before the end of the semester). Sandy Frank has been looking into options and best practices from other institutions. Jason, Rex, Chuck, and Marilyn will meet with Sandy to discuss the options.
 - Higher Learning Commission: "Latest from HLC on Faculty Qualifications". Faculty Senate might be needed for involvement regarding establishment of criteria for qualifying faculty members on the basis of tested experience.
 - Guidelines from HLC are being updated with regard to certification. Rex will forward on the email that he got about it.
 - Board of Trustees meeting: 5 Nov 2015, 2pm. If anyone has anything they want Rex to communicate to the Trustees, let him know.
- RR Report:
 - A USI committee with representatives from each college went to Indianapolis to meet with representatives from many other colleges to discuss competency-based education. The Commission has approved it as a program, but the HLC is still trying to work out how to account for it in terms of transcripts. Our committee brought back some lessons learned, but also some concerns for different programs. They will generate a report and will at some future date, make a presentation to Senate. This is an upcoming trend in higher ed.

- Wants Senate to work on the breakout sessions for the spring meeting soon.
- Recommendations from the Promotion and Tenure Ad hoc Committee:
 - In the midst of a complex discussion regarding the issues swirling around the review process, Peggy Shields and Ron Rochon came to multiple points of agreement.
 - We will discuss points 1 through 6 next agenda, and we should solicit input from our Colleges.
- The Senate considered the charge on opening the Rec and Fitness Center to spouses of faculty. Due to legal constraints and fee structure (funding from student fees), this is not possible. No motion was made on this charge.
- Jason made the motion to send the charge about long term care to Economic Benefits. Seconded by Marilyn. Jessica requested that the records of what happened last time a similar charge came before Senate could be passed onto Economic Benefits; this may or may not be easy: the records are either in the electronic archive or the University archives at the Library. Passed unanimously.
- Motion adjourn made and passed: ten after four.

Minutes humbly submitted by Brandon Field, Senate Secretary.