

## USI Faculty Senate Minutes

13 November 2015

Senators present: Brandon Field, Chuck Conaway, Mary Doerner, Peggy Shields, Rex Strange, Cindy Deloney-Marino, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Nick LaRowe, Marilyn Ostendorf, Chad Milewicz, Jason Fertig, Jessica Jensen, Rob Millard-Mendez

Visitors present: Matt Hanka, Kevin Valadares (Strategic Plan Committee); Ron Rochon, Shelly Blunt (Provost Office); Amy Chan Hilton (Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning); Marna Hostetler (Library); John Farless (Univ. Communications); Kat Draughon (OSPRA); Gabrielle Wy (Shield)

- Called to order, 2:05pm
- Kevin and Matt: Strategic plan. Environmental scan has been conducted.
  - Three areas of strengths came out of environmental scan that will be focus areas for new Strategic Plan: Excellence in learning, Access by design, and Expansion. Looking for measurable goals in each of these areas.
  - Goal: March 2016 Board of Trustees meeting to present for approval. Want simple structure for the new plan.
  - Will present at January Faculty/Staff meeting. Between January to March, everyone will be involved.
  - Would like to be attending Faculty Senate regularly with information and feedback.
- RR Report:
  - Had previously reported about reaching out to Henderson Community College for transfer pipeline dialogs; this week went to Madisonville. They are interested in Business and Health Professions in particular. Looking at reciprocity, including in-state tuition for counties in KY.
  - Provost will be holding pre-tenure lunches for early tenure-track faculty (first three years) to have discussions this semester. Will work with clinical faculty next semester, and late-tenure track faculty (last three years) in future. Developing a Council for the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL).
  - Memo went out to all campus recently about credentialing requirements changes from HLC. Will have an impact on campus, but it's important that we are compliant.

- Academic Partnerships (marketing group for our online classes): another conversation with them this week. Contract is being reviewed by our legal people; things are progressing.
- Just recently, we had some African-American students from Chicago visiting campus; Dr. Scheller gave an awesome presentation to them this morning. Historically, USI has had bad rates of retention for African-American students. Provost is asking faculty to attempt outreach for students of color. Also, to be attentive to needs and concerns related to National current events of race on college campuses.
- Minutes from last meeting:
  - Amendment to minutes made regarding the details of the discussions of the Finals Week charge from last meeting.
  - Unanimously approved with two abstentions.
- Report from Rex:
  - Student Affairs committee has replied with their recommendations for the Drop/Withdraw policies. Rex circulated it to Senators, and Andy Wright will attend next Senate meeting.
  - Faculty Affairs: A policy from the Registrar has been developed in response to the charge that Senate had given to the Faculty Affairs committee that we will vote to endorse (or not) next week.
  - Attended Assessment Committee in response to Pott College chair concerns about the Assessment Committee's recent survey of department chairs regarding using the University's current strategic plan for program review across campus.
  - Curriculum Committee: an issue with Curriculog has come up: a department chair has difficulty getting everyone to sign on to electronically "sign-off" on the course petitions.
    - In discussion: why wouldn't we be able to get signatures on a piece of paper and then upload those to the software. In addition, the "old way" allowed for face-to-face discussion. New courses or programs could be discussed in a faculty meeting, and adjustments could be made.
  - HLC Faculty Qualifications: There will be something developed about this. The memo distributed to all faculty indicated that the Faculty Senate was part of the review process should be read to mean that Rex was consulted regarding the criteria and Faculty Senate will be asked to contribute at a future date.
  - Report from the Library (Marna)
    - A handout on Digital Commons, an institutional repository software that they are considering.

- USI is a new member of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, which has a lot of archives and programs for a variety of disciplines.
- Halloween Proposal:
  - Motion made by Peggy to strike proposal number 2 of the Halloween proposal, seconded by Peter. This proposal reads: *In principle, each college should offer the same number of reviews for any candidate that is applying for promotion/tenure.* Faculty from LA and RCoB seem to be unconcerned that other Colleges have different number of reviews. Motion was approved with one abstention.
  - Motion made to approve the first recommendation of the Halloween proposal in lieu of proposals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 from the original ad hoc committee's report. Made by Peter, seconded by Brandon. This proposal reads:
 

We recommend that at minimum two independent reviews should be held below the level of the dean's office: one from a committee consisting of tenured and/or promoted faculty members, and another from the department or program chair. Thus, at least one administrator and a committee of colleagues within the college independently evaluate the application packet. The dean receives each letter as an independent evaluation of the candidate.

    - Motion was unanimously approved
- New charge regarding University Promotions Committee: Investigate why the Promotions Committee does not disclose any information about the evaluation of the candidate.
  - Motion to table this charge in order to figure out how to best address this issue in light of the multiple related issues with the University Promotions Committee. Motion was unanimously approved.
- New charge: Review of Course Evaluations. Looking to review the end-of-semester student evaluations questionnaires. Want to get a committee together to review this. Kat's timeline: to have something rolling out by next Fall. This seems a little quick.
  - There should be a session at the Spring Faculty Workshops to get feedback, and Rex should make this announcement to the whole faculty.
  - This motion is tabled, along with the charge regarding the assessment of auxiliary support units.
- Meeting adjourned: 4:28pm.

Humbly submitted by Brandon Field, Faculty Senate Secretary.