

## USI Faculty Senate Minutes

28 October 2016

Senators present: Nick LaRowe, Peter Whiting, Brett Long, Jason Fertig, Chad Milewicz, Wes Durham, Sheri Keenan, Chuck Conaway, Charlotte Connerton, Erin Reynolds, Heather Schmuck, Sang Woo Heo, Brandon Field, Rex Strange

Visitors present: Ron Rochon and Shelly Blunt (Provost's Office), MT Hallock-Morris (Core Director), Amy Chan-Hilton (CETL)

- Called to order 2:30pm
- Faculty Senate Chair update:
  - Chair's Council report, by Peter:
    - Andrew Lenhardt came to talk about Fair Labor Standards Act. Also mentioned the Title IX Coordinator: bringing in candidates November 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Hoping that search will be completed and coordinator will start in January.
    - Shelly talked about the new procedures for the Academic Integrity and also opportunities for Chair professional development.
    - Religious and cultural calendar was discussed.
  - Provost's Council report, by Rex:
    - Timeline for tenure review process was discussed; Zane and Provost's office are working on the timelines. Especially for people who have come in with years of credit from other institutions.
  - President's Council report, by Nick:
    - Preliminary report from the HLC accreditation looks good so far. Everyone has been asked not to speak about the draft report, however, the interpretation is extremely optimistic. We need to respond with an assurance report, and will do that quickly.
- Report from Provost:
  - Indiana Commission for Higher Education will be on our campus on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Have asked Shelly and Marcia Kiessling to give a presentation about the success we have had in the merging of student affairs and academics. Have Heather Bauer present her work with students from under-served and under-represented communities, and the work we have done with veterans. Also, Zane will be presenting our engineering programs.
  - Religious Holidays memo was presented to Council of Chairs: from them, the question was asked about what is expected from the faculty members about things that may conflict. This is not intended as a mandate: the faculty members are responsible to make the decision based on a conversation with the students who might be affected.
- Old business:
  - Religious Holiday memo

- Chuck had prepared a cover memo which had been previously circulated.
- Sang Woo had previously added two dates of the Chinese calendar by email.
- Additions to the list of Holy Days of Obligation of the Latin Rite Catholic Church were suggested by Chad and will be sent directly to the Dean of Students.
- The Dean of Students will be responsible for responding to requests of additional additions to the list.
- Mention was made of accommodations that have been made in the past by faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Professions for students' religious observances, in particular changing the timing of online quizzes so they wouldn't fall after sundown.
- A motion was made to endorse the list of Religious Holidays and the tentative wording of Chuck's memo. The motion was unanimously approved. The memo and list (and Brandon's email of comments) will be forwarded to Dean of Students.
- Review of course evaluations:
  - Who do we have on the committee? Do we send it to a standing subcommittee (Faculty Affairs/Assessment), or make an ad-hoc committee?
  - We should also probably include input from students on this topic; especially from the more invested students.
  - We should have a plan for what we do with a new survey; perhaps we field-test it for a few semesters with only tenured faculty members?
  - Chad will write the language of an initial charge, and then will email to everyone for feedback and editing prior to the next meeting.
- UCC reporting lines: The question arose that the Curriculum Committee has oversight over the curriculum, but how does this relate to the University Core Curriculum committee? More specifically: why isn't the UCC a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate?
  - We should keep in mind the efficiency of things happening.
  - Wes, Chuck, Brandon, and MT will meet to discuss the possible structure of the UCC under Faculty Senate.
- Suggestions for workshops for Spring meetings: Titles, descriptions, and facilitators:
  - "Beyond the Course Evaluations": an opportunity for faculty feedback for the imminent charge about the course evaluations
  - Library can give one
  - IRB sessions
  - Administrative Senate (Larry Back) should be solicited for some suggestions.
  - Faculty Senate members will ask our colleagues what they'd like to see, and we will send those suggestions to Sheri.
- Data Governance Committee has been created; needs a faculty member. Get suggestions of people to Nick by Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Self-nominations allowed.
- New Program Development Committee needs a faculty senate member. Rex was nominated.

- Faculty Senate sponsorship for Civility Lunches: Planned for a meeting on the end of November on the topic of the election. There will be a moderator. The concept was endorsed with one vote of opposition.
- Adjourned: 4:09pm.