

## USI Faculty Senate Minutes

10 February 2017

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

Visitors present: Ron Rochon and Shelly Blunt (Provost's Office), Amy Chan Hilton (CETL), Riley Guerzini (The Shield), Eric Greenwood, Marna Hostetler (Library), Ben Luttrull (University Communications), Stephen Zehr.

- Called to order: 2:31pm
- Minutes from last meeting approved unanimously with one abstention from a senator not in attendance last time.
- Chair's report:
  - Chairs Council had a meeting in January; HR reported about acceptable and unacceptable interview questions.
  - Assessment committee will have their first meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the student classroom evaluations.
- Provost's report:
  - Went to Dallas to meet with Academic Partnerships (the people who market our online MBA program) to discuss the online RN/BSN program that will be launched soon. Took three deans to explore options for other programs. At the meeting, there were other universities there also that presented about what programs they have been doing and what students are looking for that relates to the flexibility available in online learning.
  - Looking for an executive director for the Online Learning program.
  - Council of Chairs retreat is scheduled for 29 March. Speaker will be talking about mentoring, to discuss the mentoring of non-tenured faculty across campus.
- Strategic Plan for Rice Library: Marna presented the three goals and accompanying strategies of the new Library Strategic plan and answered questions.
- Eric Greenwood: In discussion with international faculty and the Internal Programs Office, Eric Greenwood is interested in setting up a series of interfaith events to discuss culture and promote welcomeness among faculty, staff, and students. Amy said that CETL would like to be kept in the loop. Faculty Senate encouraged Eric in his efforts and invited him to bring a proposal for endorsement.
- Faculty Senate response to EO 13769:
  - Chuck Conaway drafted a proposed response to the executive order restricting immigration from certain countries. The motion was made to endorse the statement.
  - Discussion of wording of the resolution and the role of Faculty Senate in the political realm. The distinction made between political and partisan statements and actions. Faculty Senate is non-partisan, but is not able to avoid political actions.
  - Chuck will edit resolution to address the concerns expressed and redistribute via email with the hope to be able to approve it within the week. Motion tabled.
- Adjourned: 4:05pm