

USI Faculty Senate

Agenda

Friday, March 2, 2018

UCE 2207

2:30 p.m.

- Animal Care and Use Committee – Dr. Rex Strange
- Report from Provost Dr. Rochon
- Report from Faculty Senate Chair Peter Whiting
- Approval of minutes –
 - February 16, 2018
- Old Business
- *New Business*
 - *Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee membership and Promotions*
 - Committee membership in the Handbook*
 - *Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations*
- *Adjournment*

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

16 February 2018

Senators present: Wes Durham, Chuck Conaway, Brett Long, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Peter Whiting, Rich Bennett, Kenny Purcell, Brandon Field, Erin Reynolds, Charlotte Connerton, Ken Shemroske, Ethel Elkins, Nick LaRowe.

Other attendees: Shelly Blunt, Ron Rochon, Riley Guerzini, Sarah Stevens, Amy Chan-Hilton, Ben Luttrell, Belle Cowden.

- Meeting called to order: 2:30 pm
- The secretary expressed displeasure with the bimodal nature of the UC2207 meeting room, because he was unable to see all the people in the other side.
- Sarah Stevens: Changes that have been made to the Honors Program:
 - GPA changes up to 3.5, SAT down to 1220, ACT 25 (without superscoring).
Wanted to make the test scores and GPA more in line with one another, and also wanted to be able to use the Honors Program as a recruitment help.
 - Minimum GPA to continue in Honors program moved to 3.4 (from 3.25). Only 5% of the graduates since 2000 have had below a 3.4, so no significant change would make, but this ups the prestige of membership in the Honors Program.
 - Activity points are required to remain within the Honors Program, the available options of things that are allowed to count as Activity Points has increased to events on campus beyond just the Honors Assemblies. We can let her know about events that we are hosting that she can invite honors students to. These events are currently sent out weekly via the honors student listserv.
 - Honors Capstone: previously one of their Honors classes needs to be within their major at the junior or senior level. They are reworking the capstone requirement to require something more significant, which will be suggested to be presented at the Endeavor Symposium.
 - Also distributed by email the demographic of the Honors Students. Currently 481 students. 100 of those came since Fall Semester.
- Mark Bernhard:
 - Credit hour HLC Policy change. Looking for an endorsement from Faculty Senate. When HLC was here, they wanted us to have in place by Fall of 2018 a revised credit hour policy that discussed out-of-class time. Proposed language was distributed to us. It was basically the same thing that the Dept. of Education has as their policy, and is the same thing that we all expect.
 - Endorsement of the policy was moved and approved unanimously.
 - Summary from Provost's Retreat: What changes do we expect if we are to reach the 15,000 student enrollment goal by 2025?

- Went over data from Master Plan about enrollment and program growth. 9024 enrollments in Fall of 2017. Projection of new students expected for different majors based on a crystal ball and existing models.
 - Including dual credit high school students, 10,701 is the current enrollment.
 - The 15,000 number was identified by the President's Office. This would include online students.
 - Looked at future scenarios, based on a trends article, looking for market for jobs that do not exist. It was pointed out that the role of a four year University is to prepare the people who create the non-existent jobs, not to train them for the jobs. So our role is less reactive and more fundamental.
- Provost's report:
 - Budget hearings are going on right now. Dr. Bennett made a presentation that is on the web.
 - Richard Toeniskoetter provided a heat map of where hacking attacks are coming from. There are a lot of things that he's requesting in this budget hearing, with a steep price ticket.
 - It was suggested by one senator that the current tactics of the computer center to prevent phishing attempts with the email warning were useless and futile, which brings into question any other budget items being requested. Dr. Rochon suggested that the senator talk directly to Richard Toeniskoetter. The senator replied that Mr. Toeniskoetter's disdain for the senator in question is well known, and any communication would be unfruitful.
 - Update on Student Evaluations of Teaching committee from Rich Bennett: met a couple of times this semester. On track to submit a report to Faculty Senate around Spring Break. Recommendation will include pre-written, validated questions to replace the current questions and recommendation for how to deal with uncivil comments from students. Requested that Rich bring someone from the committee who understands validation of questions to field questions when he brings the recommendation to Faculty Senate.
 - Been working with the librarians on tenure and promotion opportunities for the librarians.
 - New degree program updates:
 - Ed.D. degree is now with the HLC for a final approval. Several people in the community have been identified as wanting to be part of the first cohort. Two tracks: Leadership and Superintendancy.
 - Electrical Engineering degree will go before the ICHE subcommittee on Monday. Engineering program is doing well.
 - Proposed Statistics major will be in front of the Board of Trustees in March for approval.

- Held discussion with the SGA about safety on campus. Outcome: our campus needs more lerts. Be a lert.
- Faculty Senate Chair Report:
 - Community budget hearing is with Staff Council and Administrative Senate. Next Friday, Peter will be asking for: Salary increase 1% merit, 2% cost of living; Increase sick payout at retirement (support staff only); change the per diem from the state rate to the Federal Rate, incrementally over four years instead of all at once. Dr. Bennett's priorities: progress with salary, fund the Downtown Medical Center, hire a legal council position, operating costs for new PAC and Welcome center.
- Approval of February 2, 2018 minutes motion made and unanimously approved, with three abstentions from Senators not present that day.
- Academic Partnership Charge: Charge requests a moratorium on new contracts until a new president is selected, which is already going to be the case. Tone of the charge did not set grounds for productive discussion; NHP and RCoB felt like they had to be defensive about the topic because of the tone of the language in the original charge.
 - Motion was made to approve this charge. Unanimously rejected with one abstention.
- New business: Kenny Purcell
 - Communication between senate and sub-committees. A charge got passed to the Faculty Affairs committee without any comments from the Faculty Senate with regard to our discussion.
 - Something happened in the Grievance Committee that was not according to bylaws. In previous years, the Faculty Senate chair has visited the meetings of the subcommittees, or faculty senators have been assigned as liaisons to different committees to communicate with them.
 - Having the subcommittee chairs attend the fall retreat might help.
- Report from Faculty Affairs committee about adding Clinical Track faculty to the University Promotions Committee:
 - Within the Faculty Affairs Committee, the discussion lead to a suggestion to change the requirements of membership to rank and not tenure.
 - Motion to approve the charge from Kenny Purcell to change the bylaws to remove the "tenure" requirement for membership to an "associate or full" professor.
 - This does allow for a tenure-track associate professor who is not tenured to serve on the Promotions Committee, if the rest of their college elects them.
 - Vote was 12-0 in favor. Provost assured us of his support, and the language change needs to be given to his office, probably through Dr. Blunt.
- Meeting adjourned: 4:29 pm

- C. To select the recipients of University-wide awards, including the President's Medal.

Section 4. The Economic Benefits Committee

The committee is composed of two faculty representatives from each academic college. The president may appoint ex-officio members to the committee. Functions of the committee are:

- A. To make a continuing study of the faculty salary and benefit patterns in American universities and relate these data to the University.
- B. To review the structure of the faculty salary and benefit recommendations for the previous year and to recommend the ranges of increments for the following year.

Section 5. The Promotions Committee

The committee is composed of one elected tenured faculty representative from each academic college.

Functions of the committee are:

- A. To receive applications for academic promotions from the deans of the various colleges.
- B. To acknowledge in writing to the individual under consideration the receipt of the promotion application.
- C. To review pertinent information concerning any applicant's qualifications.
- D. To inform each applicant in writing of the committee's recommendation.
- E. To forward the recommendations in D (above) to the provost.

From: Cordo, Peter S
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 10:14 AM
To: Whiting, Peter C <pwhiting@usi.edu>
Subject: FAAC representation

Peter,

I was going through the by-laws reading the descriptions of standing committees and came across a potential problem. The Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee is specified as:

Section 2. The Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee. The committee is composed of two faculty representatives from each academic college. The provost and the director of the Library shall be ex-officio members of the committee. Other ex-officio members may be appointed by the president. Functions of the committee are:

- A. To provide liaison between the David L. Rice Library and the faculty and to formulate and propose policies regarding the operation of the David L. Rice Library.
- B. To formulate and propose policies and procedures with regard to the appointment, retention, tenure, and promotion of University faculty.
- C. To formulate and propose policies and procedures on faculty conduct and academic freedom.
- D. To formulate and propose policies and procedures with regard to professional growth, teaching loads, and the facilitation of teaching and research.
- E. To formulate and propose policies and procedures on all faculty and academic affairs not within the province of other standing committees of the faculty.

The problem is that it specifies two representatives per college. We have been electing only one per college since I have been on this committee starting in 2015. Do we direct colleges to elect two members to FAAC starting in Fall 2018? We should discuss our alternatives for correcting this.

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