

USI Faculty Senate

Agenda

Friday, April 20, 2018

HP 1079

2:30 p.m.

- SET update
- Student awards concerns – Dr. Brent Summers
- Faculty Senate subcommittee reports
- Report from Provost Dr. Rochon
- Report from Faculty Senate Chair Peter Whiting
- Approval of minutes –
 - April 6, 2018
- *Adjournment*

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

6 April 2018

Senators present: Chuck Conaway, Brett Long, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Peter Whiting, Rich Bennett, Kenny Purcell, Brandon Field, Charlotte Connerton, Ken Shemroske, Nick LaRowe, Matt Hanka.

Other attendees: Shelly Blunt, Amy Chan-Hilton, Michael "Brody" Broshears, Katie Ehlman, Kristalyn Shefveld, Jeanne McAlister, Belle Cowden, John Mark Hall

- Meeting called to order: 2:30 pm
- UAC Absence Policy: Katie Ehlman
 - UAC came to Senate in December with a proposed absence policy that was an attempt to clarify some points that were unclear in the present policy. The Senate approved a modified version of the proposed policy. The UAC felt that the modification (which appears to define "good and proper" absences) changed the meaning of the policy and reduced the freedom of the faculty to approve different reasons for missing classes.
 - Various concerns about all of the policies were expressed. The current policy was put forth as ambiguous-enough to allow faculty freedom in their own classrooms.
 - The notion of what is an excused absence under current University Athletics policy is something that might be clarified without changing the current University policy.
 - Voted to table the change.
- Provost's report: Shelly Blunt.
 - University Division Advising feels that "advising" doesn't sufficiently express the work that is done there. The proposed name change would be either "Center for Exploring Majors" or "Center for Major Exploration". Faculty Senate provided at least three different opinions about which of those two options sound better.
 - Preliminary meetings with a Commission Staff and subcommittee are being held next week to discuss the BA/BS in Statistics degree. Hope to get the degree approved at the June Commission meeting.
 - Working with the Library to formalize the promotion and tenure guidelines for librarians. Hope to come to the next Senate meeting with draft guidelines, or at least by the Fall retreat.
 - University Curriculum Committee is working on how to define the approval process of certificate programs. Draft versions for the graduate certificates have been sent to Graduate Studies, and is on the agenda for their next meeting.
 - Search waiver for the expedited search charge from HR from last Senate meeting. The Senate had modified the language of the proposed waiver from "should" be initiated by the department chair to "must" be initiated by the department chair. Dr. Rochon wanted us to change it back to "should". The concerns expressed by Senate

were that hiring decisions should originate from the department level and that the reasons to request the waiver would be best addressed by the chairs of departments, and that changing the phrase to "should" could possibly allow for imposition. This was tabled until Dr. Rochon could be present.

- Endeavour! Showcase is on Thursday, April 12th from 8-12.
- Chair's report: Peter Whiting
 - Library Master Plan meeting is scheduled for 2-3:30pm on April 10th in the Reading Room on the Second Floor.
 - Peter and Chuck met with Dr. Bennett about the change in leadership positions of Cindy Brinker and Kendra Strupp. Brandon met with her later the same day. Dr. Bennett provided reasoning behind the realignment.
 - Economic Benefits Committee has only just got the necessary information from HR with regard to their standing charge, so they might not have their report completed by the end of the year.
 - At-large elections: two nominees for senators, 1 for Assessment, 3 for Curriculum, Promotions committee: 3 nominees, Student Publications: 6 nominations for 3 slots, and no one yet nominated for CETL committee, but that can be handled next fall. We were in good shape for nominations.
- Minutes from March 16th meeting:
 - Modifications to first bullet under Andrew Lenhardt: "Existing *searches* should not be *affected* by expedited search."
 - There was an observed contradiction in the second bullet of that same section: "Not likely" and "Dean level and above would be a national search" would seem to contradict each other. Intent of the minutes was that a search for a dean was not likely to be *subject* to the expedited search, because it would be a national search.
 - Modified minutes approved with three abstentions.
- Basic Needs syllabus statement, Kristalyn Shefveland
 - Our students are facing challenges, especially with regard to food on campus.
 - Would like to have a faculty breakout session at the Fall meeting to familiarize the faculty (especially new faculty) with the needs of our student body. She has been working with the Dean of Students office on this.
 - She is working to compile a comprehensive list of community resources.
 - Concern for the most appropriate way to get the information to students; whether the syllabus would be the right place?
 - A [short] syllabus statement is being developed, that could provide a link to the compiled list. It could be encouraged, even if it is not required.
 - Charge to develop a breakout session was unanimously approved.
- Wellness Incentives for Employees:
 - Some health insurance covers monetary incentives for wellness initiatives, maybe ours should.

- Senate made the motion that the Provost's Office discuss this with HR. Seconded and unanimously approved.
- Bias in Student Awards
 - The crux of the complaint: different majors are viewed differently in the awards process. Student Affairs should examine the criteria that are being used for the awards, and try to eliminate any bias.
 - Concern was expressed that any efforts to conclusively demonstrate a bias would be futile.
 - The motion was made to charge the Student Affairs to review the process of selection and criteria and identify any potential biases that exist and establish review guidelines. We would also like them to add to the report at the end of the semester to report the statistics of the applicants for each award, in an effort to keep records with regard to the demographics of the applicants. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee Report:
 - Peter met with Dr. Rochon, Shelly, and Rich this week. According to Peter, the Provost would like to sequester a committee in May to work on the SET recommendations, in a like manner that the CORE 39 was developed. This would be a week-long meeting to finish the SET questions and would need two members from each College. This would then be presented at the Fall faculty meeting.
 - From further conversation, it may be that the Provost was *offering* to provide the SET ad hoc committee time in May to complete their report, which had not been approved by all the members of the committee before it was circulated to Senate.
 - An amended version of the final recommendations from the report were distributed, to add input from dissenting committee members. It was not clear that the other committee members had sufficient time to discuss or approve these amendments.
 - In the interest of time, the chair of the committee was not given five minutes to describe the report.
 - Senate requested that the SET committee provide a final report that had input from the entire committee and we will discuss it in our meeting on the 20th. It was requested that the version that we are to discuss should be circulated by April 16th.
- Meeting adjourned: 4:36 pm
- Next meeting: April 20th, location: HP 1079