

## Faculty Senate meeting

9 April 2021

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Steve Gruenewald, Adrian Gentle, Bartell Berg, Kenny Purcell, Laura Bernhardt, Mary Doerner, Marilyn Ostendorf, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Sang woo Heo, Charles Conaway, Michael Strezewski, Jinsuk Yang, Jamie Seitz.

Other Attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Shelly Blunt, Amy Chan Hilton, Ann White, Wes Durham, Amie McKibban, Shelby Clark, Hayden Olberding.

- Held via Zoom meeting. Called to order: 2:32 pm.
- Approval of previous minutes:
  - One amendment was requested by email: "RCoB Dean's *Office*" was contacted to request elections, not just the Dean.
  - Approved unanimously, with one abstention.
- Update on Adult Learner Project: Dr. White, along with Wes Durham and Shelly Blunt
  - Adult learner project pre-dates the Lilly grant that we recently received, but the grant is an opportunity to work in parallel to what we have been doing.
  - We have received a \$250,000 planning grant, followed up with a \$2.5M Phase 2 grant.
  - Intent is to increase the number of adult learners at USI. (Definition of adult learner is someone older than 25 years old.)
  - Developing a Center for Adult Learning Success (CALS) that will work with programs, Colleges, Outreach&Engagement, and companies interested in working with USI. This is not seen as an online-only effort; this center will support existing programs as well.
  - Positions have been posted, and we are looking for people to work. These positions are all funded by the grant.
  - Numbers of adult learners at USI have been going down over the past 5 years. (With the exception of the MBA students.)
  - Looking at infrastructure: Admissions, Registrar, Bursar's Office. Working with an external company (which was identified by Jeff Sickman) to identify ways to streamline the processes. These changes will help all the students.
  - On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was an event with Talent 2025 with a nationally known expert on life-long learning as the keynote. 33 businesses, and 5 institutes of higher ed in the region attended and participated in the breakout groups. Interested in working with Advanced Manufacturing and Health care. (Talent 2025 is a consortium of approx. 40 different businesses that are working to make the Southern Indiana into a showcase region, to attract businesses to the region. One of those areas is education. More information on Talent 2025 can

be found: <https://www.growthallianceevv.com/blog/talent-2025-greater-evansville-talent-initiative>)

- Want to start a council of adult learners to help inform the project.
- Chair's Report:
  - Vaccine Clinic – update from A. White:
    - As of 1:30 this afternoon 1404 individuals vaccinated. Mostly students, but also faculty, staff, and family members.
    - Dr. White offers a 'Thank you' to all the faculty and staff and students: registrations, greeters, data entry, etc. Nursing students were the ones administering the vaccine injections (under the supervision of nursing faculty). It was a large logistical undertaking, and it went smoothly.
    - Second round will be April 28-30. Vaccine is stored in the low temperature cooler in the Biology department until then. Left-overs will be returned to Deaconess, and therefore not wasted. (People would be able to start the series at the second round and then take their card to Deaconess for a second shot after the minimum of 21 days, up to 2-3 weeks after their first.)
    - Faculty Senate Chair would like to commend all involved for the job well done.
  - Mask mandate and social distancing are still in place for USI through the rest of the semester at least.
  - At large elections: looking for a deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> April for the nominations to be submitted, and then start the elections the week after. Rex would like anyone who is nominating anyone (or self-nominating) to email not only Rex and another Senator as well so there can be redundancy in the receiving of nominations. Rex will send out the list to all of us to check that no one was left off before making the ballot.
  - Rex sent reminder to committee chairs about annual report. (He also suggested that each chair write a 'thank you' letter acknowledging the service of the faculty members. Two committee chairs have replied thinking this is a good idea.)
  - Economic Benefits committee final report will be delayed because the chair has been involved in the vaccine clinic.
  - Book orders for fall: due May 1st via Campus Store on myUSI (pretty user friendly)
  - EdReserve: Automated enrollment software messed up the enrollment caps for some classes. They say they're working on it.
  - Travel – new information at the end of the month from Steve Bridges, after we know what the appropriations will be. Also, sabbaticals might come back next year?

- Endorsement of development of digital submissions for the promotions dossiers.  
Motion was made that Senate support this development.
  - Overall, everyone talked to was supportive, but the point was made that perhaps some people might be able to opt out if converting all their past work was onerous. An amendment was made that our endorsement be made with the request to opt out of digital dossier submission.
  - The motion, with the amendment, was unanimously approved.
- Provost's Report:
  - As an organization, we should be proud that we carried out the vaccine clinic; it was a late notification, with changing numbers of numbers of doses that we were to get; we were given 5850 doses in total.
  - We will know by late April (27<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>) about the appropriations that we will be given for the budget from the State. The uncertainties with regard to travel funding and sabbaticals are dependent in part on that.
- Old business: Charge regarding Establishment of Priorities during Financial Exigency
  - The study by the Purdue seniors was completely with regard to future planning of programs, nothing looking at prioritization of current programs.
  - Motion was made to table this charge again.
  - The opinion was stated that a lack of imminent financial exigency is not a reason to keep kicking this charge down the road and that everyone's best interest would be served to agree on the priority of our programs before any decisions need to be made.
  - Senate had agreed previously to handle this charge ourselves, rather than appoint an ad-hoc committee.
  - Motion to table charge passed with one objection.
- New Business:
  - Charge 2021.03: Search Committee Training
    - HR has implemented a required training for any faculty member who is on a search committee. The training was not anything that we shouldn't have figured out by being on search committees in the past, and it adds an additional burden to an already time-consuming commitment. The primary concern is that that HR took it upon themselves to make requirements upon faculty without including faculty in the process.
    - A friendly amendment was made that the Chair of Faculty Senate query HR with regard to how the legal requirements can be done in a more efficient manner and report back to Faculty Senate next meeting.
    - Charge, with amendment, was passed with one abstention.
  - Charge 2021.04: Request for Explicit Timeline
    - Since scholarly endeavors take time, it would be helpful for planning purposes to know a timeline of when things like travel and sabbaticals

might return to normal. Also, a request to remove the threat of financial exigency.

- We still have colleagues that are operating at an extremely high level of anxiety with regard to University budgets. It appears that administration, who are aware of the enrollment and budget numbers are not operating with that level of anxiety.
- It was noted that it would be nice to have the appropriation numbers. Dr. Khayum said that they are thinking of holding a Town Hall once the budget numbers are determined to discuss how things stand.
- The charge should be forwarded to Steve Bridges and Dr. Rochon.
- The charge was unanimously approved.
- Charge 2021.05: Optional Tenure Clock Delay
  - Because of the circumstances surrounding the pandemic, the option should be given to tenure-track faculty to add an additional year to their tenure clock.
  - The friendly amendment was made to extend this to Clinical Track Faculty as well.
  - The charge passed unanimously.
- Charge 2021.06: COVID19 Instructions to Promotions Committee
  - Asking the Promotions Committee to take into account the effects of the pandemic on considerations.
  - The statement on the charge should be sent to the Promotions Committee: "The Faculty Senate instructs the Promotions Committee that if an applicant for promotion chooses to reflect on the impact COVID-19 has had on the applicant's scholarly works then the Committee must take this information into consideration and therefore not hold faculty whose work was drastically impacted to pre-pandemic standards."
  - The charge was passed unanimously.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>: William Shakespeare's birthday. This may be our last meeting for the year, but there may be more business generated by the Committee reports that an additional meeting may be necessary.
- Adjourned at 4:23 pm.

Minutes recorded by Brandon Field, secretary.