

Faculty Senate meeting

5 November 2021

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Kimberly Delaney, Brandon Field, Alisa Holen, Curt Gilstrap, Stephanie Young, Chuck Conaway, Michael Strezewski, Jessica Mason, Marilyn Ostendorf, Laura Bernhardt, Jennifer Evans.

Other Attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Shelby Clark, Shelly Blunt, Becca Neel, Marna Hostetler, Rich Bennett, Shannon Pritchard.

- Held via Zoom meeting, called to order 2:01 pm.
- Approval of old minutes:
 - 22 October 2021: Approved unanimously with one abstention.
- Chair's Report: Rex
 - Had emails from Student Government to get people to sit on the Student Affairs Committee, which met today and have elected a chair. There are awards that they need to look at, so this is a little late. We should think about appointing some sort of *Ex Officio*, non-voting member to that committee so that an institutional knowledge can be carried. According to the bylaws, the President can appoint *Ex Officio* members, so Rex is going to meet with some people to develop a plan.
 - In the past we have had interim reports from each of the subcommittees, and we have ensured that a new chair is elected in the Spring term and we should probably try to do that again.
 - The Assessment Committee does not yet have a Chair.
 - The Division I committee has met, and they do want to have transparency, because they are trying to figure out how to get the information out. They are sending out a survey that asks for feedback about concerns and to see if people are in favor. They will presumably analyzed and report back with a summary of what the replies were.
- Provost's Report: Dr. Khayum
 - The programs that were put forward at the Trustees meeting, include the Doctorate in OT and Education Specialist (EdD program), were all approved by the board.
 - Trying to get indicators for the Strategic Plan for the end of year 1. First Year retention is slightly lower than the target; in addition to reporting the indicators, we will need to report on what was done and what was learned as we go into the second year. This will let us get to the analysis part.
 - Quarantine numbers are going down – between 15 and 20 for the last few weeks; questions have arisen about continuing the mask policy and that is being discussed but currently the policy will continue. The indications are that the mask policy has helped us.
- New Business: Charge 2021_14: Creative Commons Licensing Policy

- Rex did send a copy of the charge to the University lawyer, but has not heard anything back. Approving the charge will send it to the Provost's Office and they will look at it there.
- The question was asked about ownership of course materials, which are still owned by the faculty members.
- The charge was approved unanimously.
- Next meeting: 19 November 2021
- Adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Minutes recorded by Faculty Senate secretary Brandon Field.

CHARGE TO THE USI FACULTY SENATE
Formal Request for USI Faculty Senate Action

Date Addressed by Senate:
11/05/2021

Name: Becca Neel, Crystal Steltenpohl, Peter Whitin (Optional)

Date of Submission: 10/19/2021

Name of Faculty Senate Representative:

1. Charles Conaway
2. Michale Strezewski
3. Stephanie Young

Complete the following items and submit this form to either your Faculty Senate Representative or to the Faculty Senate Chair for consideration by the Faculty Senate.

1. Charge Title:

Allow faculty to publish all course materials under Creative Commons licenses

2. Background:

Provide an explanation of the background and context for the proposed charge. What problem, issue, or experience prompts the proposal of the charge?

As faculty we often author course materials, from syllabi and lecture slides to course assignments and exams. Despite this, universities often limit who we are allowed to share our materials with by imposing restrictive or unclear intellectual property policies. Currently, the University of Southern Indiana maintains full ownership of course descriptions and syllabi, and retains access to all course materials for three years after their creation under a "non-transferable, non-exclusive rights" license (see <https://handbook.usi.edu/intellectual-property-policy>). University ownership of syllabi prohibits faculty from sharing them with the scholarly community as open educational resources. Moreover, the IP policy's definition of what constitutes a "syllabus" (see below, under section 3) is problematic in that it could be interpreted as including virtually any course material linked from or attached to the syllabus.

Creative Commons (CC) Licenses are a set of statements that authors can apply to their work to indicate how other may use it (see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>). A CC license indicates whether you as an author would like your work to be cited, adapted, redistributed, and/or used for commercial purposes. There are six CC licenses available that accommodate creators' diverse preferences on how their works may be used. Regardless of CC license that the author selects, the author will retain the copyright for their work unless they choose to transfer or relinquish these rights.

3. Action Requested and Desired Result:

Specifically state what action you would like the Senate to take and the desired outcome that you would like to see.

In line with the university's recent commitment to increasing adoption of open educational resources (as evidenced by our joining of the Open Education Network and the Association of American

Colleges & Universities Institute on Open Educational Resources), we request the handbook to be modified such that faculty have a clear and transparent license to share all course materials, including syllabi, as the original copyright owners.

This charge proposes to alter campus Intellectual Property Policy to allow for faculty to openly share syllabi and all course materials. We propose

- 1) That the following course materials should be considered owned by the faculty-creator :
 - Course syllabi
 - Lecture notes
 - Digital presentations
 - Class assignments, exams, and supplemental materials
 - Open Educational Resources that follow the Creative Commons license (freely available)
 - Digital course materials
- 2) A revised definition of “syllabus”

As such, we propose the following language amendments to USI’s Intellectual Property Policy:

Section B. Ownership of Intellectual Property, subsection a. Original works by faculty

Original text:

Faculty members own their original teaching and course materials. The University owns the course descriptions and syllabi for its programs and courses, to be used as needed for course catalogs, accreditation, decisions on student course transfers, and so on. For purposes of instructional continuity, creator(s) shall assign non-transferable, non-exclusive rights for teaching and course materials to the University for three years.

New Text [alterations in brackets]:

Faculty members own their original teaching and course materials. The University owns the course descriptions and syllabi for its programs and courses, to be used as needed for course catalogs, accreditation, decisions on student course transfers, and so on. [The university will make syllabi available under a CC-BY 4.0 or CC-BY-SA 4.0 license. For purposes of instructional continuity, faculty creator(s) shall assign Creative Commons licenses to all teaching and course materials, or shall otherwise assign non-exclusive rights for these materials to the University for three years for instructional continuity.]

Section F (definition of syllabus) [alterations in brackets]

A syllabus is the descriptive overview of an official University course. Syllabi usually include, but are not limited to, the following: a course description, course objectives, required text(s), method of evaluation and grading and an outline of course topics, reading assignments including assignment and exam due dates. Faculty may include additional information that is not required, such as Web links [or lists of suggested readings. Study guides for tests, lecture notes, handouts etc., even when they are attached or linked to a syllabus, are considered original teaching or course materials and not syllabus content.]

4. Potential Resources:

Provide any information that can help Faculty Senate fully address the charge. Attach additional documents if necessary.

USI intellectual property policy: <https://handbook.usi.edu/intellectual-property-policy>

Other open source licenses (primarily for software): <https://choosealicense.com/licenses>

American Association of University Professors Statement on Copyright:

<https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-copyright>

Association of American Colleges & Universities <https://www.aacu.org/events/2021-2022-institute-open-educational-resources>

Open Education Network: <https://open.umn.edu/otn/about>

Creative Commons: <https://creativecommons.org/>

Boston University Intellectual Property Policy that has Creative Commons:

<https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/intellectual-property-policy/>

Items 5-7 are to be completed by Senate Chair or Secretary:

5. Senate Comments:

6. Action Taken by the Faculty Senate:

7. Action Taken by the Administration:

Actions taken by Senate:

Charge was unanimously approved. Faculty Senate Chair will work with the University's lawyer and the Provost's office to initiate handbook changes.