

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Friday, November 16, 2012

ED 3148

PRESENT: Adrian Gentle, Guoyuan Huang, Jane Johansen, Garret Merriam, Mary Hallock Morris, Paul Parkison (Chair), Daria Sevastianova, Maria Shirey, Steven Williams; *Ex Officio members*, Ronald Rochon (USI Provost) and Shelly Blunt (Interim Assistant Provost).

GUESTS: Megan Linos (Assistant Provost of Distance Learning); Ernest Hall (Professor of Management).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the October 12, 2012 meeting were approved (with three abstentions). The minutes from the October 19, 2012 meeting were approved (with two abstentions).

UPDATE FROM PROVOST: Provost Ronald Rochon updated the Senate on the following issues:

- President's Presentation: The Provost updated the Senate on the President's recent presentation in Indianapolis. He stated that Dr. Bennett has asked for an additional \$15 million in permanent appropriations; her first priority was for full-time faculty.
- Student Death on Campus: The Provost discussed the recent death of a student on campus. He noted that an emergency response meeting was held this afternoon. Senate members provided feedback about the response, indicating that some of the initial emails were frightening, but that the email from Dean of Students Angela Batista regarding support services was appropriate as was *The Shield's* story about the student's life.
- Honorary Degree Committee: The deadline for nominations is December 14, 2012. The criteria for nominations can be found on the Academic Affairs website.
- Summer School: 526 sections will be offered during Summer 2012 [Summer I, 344 sections; Summer II, 128 sections; Summer III, 37 sections]. Of these sections, 229 will be offered via distance education.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE CHAIR: Dr. Paul Parkison, Faculty Senate Chair, submitted the following report to the Senate:

- Gender Inequity Charge: The Provost will be working with Human Resources to develop a Gender Inequity Task Force.
- New Members for Faculty Senate and Senate Committees: The USI Board of Trustees recently approved the changes to the Senate's Constitution and to its bylaws. Due to these changes, we need to hold elections to add new members to the Senate and to several Senate committees. A representation plan has been developed and the deans of the colleges were emailed. There will be one more Senator from each college. Additional representatives will be added to the following Committees: Faculty Affairs, Economic Benefits, Promotions, and FASTRC. New members should be elected by the November 30 meeting and will be invited to the Senate's January retreat.

UPDATES:

- Spring 2013 Faculty and Staff Workshop: The spring workshops will be held on January 9, 2013. Proposals were due by Monday, November 19. Sheree Seib will organize the rooms and the publicity. There will a variety of sessions; faculty should be able to attend two-50 minute sessions.
- Standing Committee Liaisons: Parkison reminded the standing committee liaisons to contact the chair of their assigned committees and ask them to submit an interim report for the November 30 Senate meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approval of the Environmental Science Major: Parkison noted that he had received an application for a new major in Environmental Science. The major has already been vetted by the University Curriculum Committee. The application required the Faculty Senate Chair's signature.
- Distance Education Course Approval Process Proposal: Megan Linos, Assistant Provost of Distance Learning, and Ernest Hall, a member of the Distance Education Task Force, made a presentation regarding a proposal for updating the Distance Learning Course Approval Process. This process includes four stages: (1) Initial Request; (2) Curriculum Conversion; (3) Virtual Classroom Development; and (4) Peer Review Process. This plan is designed for existing USI courses that have never been offered online. The process includes workshops at two of the stages, but experienced distance learning faculty can choose to waive the workshop requirement by participating in the Quality Matters Course Review process.
- Summer Faculty Teaching Load Policy: The Senate has received two charges that pertain to the faculty's summer teaching load. It was noted that the Faculty Affairs committee has already considered the issue and will report on it during the November 30 meeting. Adrian Gentle made a motion to table the charges and respond to the committee's report. Steven Williams seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.
- Transfer and Academic Progress Policy: Due to the changes in hours required to graduate (from 124 to 120) for Fall 2013, additional changes have been proposed to certain policies dealing with transfer students and academic progress. These include: allowing students to change catalogs/bulletins at any time in their academic careers; modifying classification rules; updating standards of academic progress; reducing the maximum number of transfer hours accepted from junior/community colleges from 64 to 60; keeping the university graduation requirement for the number of hours in residence at 30; keeping the university graduation requirement for the number of hours for honors eligibility at 60; and keeping the required number of upper level courses required to graduate with a baccalaureate degree at 39. Adrian Gentle made a motion to accept the new policies; Steven Williams seconded. The senate approved the motion with two abstentions. It was noted that the Senate may need to discuss the change of bulletin/catalog issue at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Promotion of Department Chairs Recommendation: The Senate continued its ongoing discussion pertaining to the promotion of Department Chairs. Six options have been outlined for dealing with the charge:

- *Option 1*: Do nothing. This was not recommended as this is a legitimate charge that the Senate should take responsibility for.
- *Option 2*: Refine the language of promotion guidelines to better reflect Chair work in terms of service and scholarship.
- *Option 3*: Add incentives for chairing a department such as more release time or increased pay.
- *Option 4*: Add a “fourth” category to promotion for administrative work.
- *Option 5*: Empower candidates for promotion to emphasize their own work in a document to guide the promotions committee.
- *Option 6*: Some combination of Options 2-5.

In its discussion, Senate members noted that: Option 5 may be a viable option; that institutional inertia could be problematic; that there may be some problems pertaining to written guidelines vs. institutional traditions; that Option 4 could be problematic in that faculty members could become “immobile” (re: would have difficulty moving to another institution); that Option 4 may give administrators more control over the promotions process; that chair work could be viewed as significant service (re: a combination of Options 2 and 5); and that faculty need to be able to define scholarship at the college/unit level. The Provost stated that this was a healthy discussion and was a byproduct of cultural change.

The discussion was tabled until the January 2013 meeting.

TABLED:

- Consensual Relations Policy: The discussion of the Consensual Relations Policy was tabled until the next meeting when Adrian Gentle and Shelly Blunt will propose new language pertaining to the issue.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 30, 2012, at 3 p.m. in FC 206.

Submitted:
Mary Hallock Morris
Secretary, Faculty Senate