

Faculty Senate Meeting November 14, 2008 Call to order 3:00 pm.

Attendance: Todd Schroer, Chad Tew, Marie Opatrny , Kent Scheller, Sudesh Mujumdar, Dr. Linda Bennett (University Provost), Lesa Cagle (Faculty Senate Chair), Vella Goebel, Peggy Shields, Mellisa Hall (recording secretary), Sid Hall (alternate for P. Cashel-Cordo).

Announcements:

1. Approval to offer BS in Criminal Justice from Commission of Higher Education!!
2. Lilly Endowment: 1 million dollars to be awarded for College of Science and Engineering. College of Science and Engineering has matched the Lilly gift.

Report by Dr. Bennett on Recent University Changes: Please see attached report.

Old Business:

Minutes October 24, 2008: Motion to Accept with corrections as suggested: K. Scheller; Seconded: R. Hooper. Motion Carried.

Addition to Article III Section 4 of the Faculty Bylaws: In instances wherein information is needed, the chair of Faculty Senate should consult with the Provost and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. (K. Scheller motioned; C. Tew seconded; motioned carried.)

Library Representation: Postpone discussion until P. Cashel-Cordo reports conversations with individual librarians.

Faculty List Serve: plan to make optional to faculty. L. Cagle preparing document to invite faculty to join list serve.

Motion by Chad Tew: request the Board of Trustees put the issue back on agenda and vote on Same Sex Partner Benefits. Request as follows: "We urge the Board of Trustees at the University of Southern Indiana to follow the recommendation of the President, the University Benefits Committee, the Faculty Senate, and the Staff Council, to place the Domestic Partner Benefit package back on their agenda, *and* vote in favor of it." Action would be implemented through L. Cagle's regular report to the Board of Trustees (scheduled first week of January). T. Schroer seconded. Motioned carried.

New Business:

Topic	Discussion	Decision
Responsiveness to Shared Governance	Emphasized acknowledgement of appropriate process for policy changes. Dr. Bennett (Provost) reassured Faculty Senate that their voice would be heard regarding changes.	Report provided by Dr. Bennett.
Changing Dates of Spring Commencement	Anticipate change May, 2010. Weekend before finals week. (Similar to December graduation.)	Goal to avoid Mother's Day. Update provided by Dr. Bennett.
Travel Policy	-Policy change was from recommendation of USI's council. -Felt prior policy placed university at risk. -University cannot compel faculty to share a room due to budgetary reasons.	Current USI policy will be disseminated to all faculty next week through Dr. Bennett's office.
Calendar Committee	-topic: Assessment Day date – impact on College of Sciences lab schedules. -goal to have committee in progress spring 2009.	Report pending.
Sustainable Campus	Dr. Bennett received request only this year.	Dr. Bennett and President Hoops to meet. Report deferred until next meeting.
Development of Interview Questions for University Presidential position.	Suggestions regarding format of interview and questions.	Potential questions to be forwarded to senators for their review. Senators are to continue to develop questions for final vote in December meeting.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2008 Adjourned 4:39 p.m.