

# **Faculty Senate Statement on Faculty Governance Following University Restructure**

**Endorsed by Faculty Senate on April 1st 2011**

## **Preamble**

The University of Southern Indiana announced on March 14, 2011 that an organizational restructure would take place on July 1, 2011 which will effectively reduce the number of academic colleges. The three departments previously housed in the College of Education and Human Services would be relocated on July 1. The Departments of Teacher Education and Physical Education will be housed in the Pott College of Science and Engineering, and the Department of Social Work will move to the College of Liberal Arts.

## **Guiding Principles**

As a result of the changes we have a crisis in faculty governance, and we need to move cautiously. The primary goal of the current Faculty Senate is to maintain the effectiveness of faculty governance through 2011-12, within the framework of the Faculty Constitution and By-Laws.

The 2011-12 Faculty Senate will be charged with undertaking a thorough review of governance with broad faculty input. This may include a review of the representative structure of the Senate and its subcommittees, together with the issue of continuity of leadership.

## **Recommendation**

With these guiding principles, Faculty Senate has adopted the following framework for the transition year 2011-12:

- The representative structure of Faculty Senate – and the Constitution of the Faculty – will remain unchanged. The 2011-12 Senate will consist of ten Senators, plus ex-officio members.
- The By-Laws of the Faculty are amended to incorporate a single at-large representative in each of the eight sub-committees. Each committee currently consists of "a faculty member from each academic college". The proposed amendment to the By-Laws would read "a faculty member from each academic college *and, in the 2011-12 academic year only, a member elected from the faculty at large for a one-year term*".
- The 2011-12 Faculty Senate is charged with a broad review of faculty governance, including the representative structure of the Senate and its subcommittees and continuity of leadership in governance. The temporary change to the By-Laws proposed above should be removed and replaced with a permanent solution after broad consultation.

Faculty Senate has the authority to amend the By-Laws of the Faculty, as described in Item II, Article VI (p. 14) of the Faculty Handbook, with the support of two-thirds of Senators at a regular meeting.

The changes to the By-Laws were adopted by Faculty Senate on April 1st 2011.