

## USI Faculty Senate Minutes

2 December 2016

Senators present: Nick LaRowe, Peter Whiting, Brett Long, Jason Fertig, Chad Milewicz, Chuck Conaway, Jennifer Evans, Erin Reynolds, Heather Schmuck, Sang Woo Heo, Brandon Field, Rex Strange

Visitors present: Ron Rochon and Shelly Blunt (Provost's Office), Amy Chan Hilton (CETL), Riley Guerzini (The Shield)

- Called to order: 2:33pm
- Workshop: Chad will contact the Assessment Committee regarding the workshops for the
- Motion to approve the minutes from last time was unanimously approved with no modifications or corrections of misspellings [sic].
- No report from Senate Chair.
- Provost's report:
  - Syllabus template was distributed through the Department Chairs. Certain items need to have consistent language throughout the entire University, according to HLC. We *are* allowed to use a hyperlink in our syllabus for universal phrases, but Dr. Rochon would like the students to have the language in the syllabus.
  - Promotion and Tenure document is approved through the Council of Chairs, and will be distributed to Faculty Senate for our reading over break. If we have questions, please get them to Amy. Representatives from every College and faculty from every rank have been involved in the development of the document. The intent is to alleviate concerns for non-tenured ones. No one who is already in the queue will be forced to go on the document. We want to have a discussion in Faculty Senate at the first meeting next year.
  - Still working on retention issues across campus, and issues continue to arise with students of color, in particular African-American and Latino. Dr. Rochon visited IU and has invited a team of recruitment personnel to speak about the efforts that are being done there, and are being successful. They will be coming next semester to present, and a group from Senate will be invited.
  - Convocation: will have a celebration next fall. Want to identify a good day to have it. 75 minutes (or less) to celebrate our colleagues. Procession across campus, possibly at the PAC.
  - Because of donors, the stipend associated with the Cooper Award is now \$10,000, and that for the Distinguished Professor Award is \$15,000. Will have to review the process of the selection of these awards, to respond to the donors. Rob Millard-Mendez is the winner of the Cooper Award this year.
- Motion was made to approve the proposal to move the University Core Council (UCC) under the Faculty Senate and renaming it the Core 39 Committee.

- This represents a change to the Bylaws, to create a new committee, and the proposal was presented at the last meeting, in accordance with the requirements of the Faculty Constitution.
- The current composition of the UCC was retained in the new Senate subcommittee.
- Concern was expressed about how this relates to shared governance, discussion occurred.
- Proposal was carried unanimously and will be forwarded to the Provost's Office for implementation.
- Election of a Data Governance Committee representative from the three people who were nominated: Todd Schroer was elected as representative, with Martin Koen elected as the alternate.
- University-wide Syllabus Template endorsement:
  - The only thing that is being enforced is the content; formatting is still free however.
  - Any difference between in the Bulletin and Degree Works for course descriptions need to use the Bulletin version.
  - This needs also to be communicated to instructors and adjuncts.
  - Document template will be posted at the CETL website. It could also be linked from each of the College websites.
  - Approved unanimously; Deans and Department chairs will communicate to faculty that the template should be used starting with Spring 2017 classes.
- Open letter to Campus Community about Election 2016:
  - Chuck composed such a statement regarding the 2016 Election.
  - Some of the other campuses that had similar statements listed things that they are doing to encourage civility on campus; since we have civility activities on campus, should they be enumerated as part of the statement?
    - Examples: Ad hoc group of faculty putting together things on civility. Civility lunch went well. Debate watch party for the students: 75 students showed up with local party representatives. Post-election panel was held.
  - Mild modifications were made. Final version is attached to the next page of the minutes.
  - Unanimously approved. Will be distributed to the Dean of Students and to the Senate website. A copy was also promised to the Shield.
- Meeting adjourned: 3:33pm.

## Open Letter to the University from Faculty Senate

The faculty at the University of Southern Indiana wholeheartedly embraces the university's mission to prepare individuals to live wisely in a diverse and global community, and condemns all racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, and other bigoted forms of hate speech and actions.

The intense and sometimes incendiary invective that led up to the 2016 election is still with us. The election is over, but the problematic issues that divide our nation, our families, and our campus remain. Despite recent calls that we might simply and easily put all of our differences behind us, we recognize that it is our right and responsibility as members of our various communities to continue to debate and discuss these issues. But our conversations must not descend from well-reasoned arguments about the problems that face us to intolerable attacks against each other.

We affirm and uphold the constitutional right to the freedom of speech, and we recognize that the U. S. Supreme Court has supported that right on numerous occasions, including cases that have involved the use of hate speech. But we also understand that such speech is never effective in debate. Hate speech never helps us solve our problems. It only creates additional problems, fostering a climate of prejudice, harassment, and fear—a climate that is antithetical and detrimental to a free and democratic society.

We believe that USI can and should serve as a leader in our region, our state, and our communities, demonstrating the ways in which a free and open dialogue that is mindful and tolerant of our differences can foster critical thinking and lead to creative solutions to the problems that we face. We actively seek opportunities to partner with a range of diverse people and have been encouraging civility in a number of programs that will continue across campus to help ensure that our campus and our communities remain free of discrimination and harassment in any of their forms.