

USI Faculty Senate Minutes

16 September 2016

Senators present: Nick LaRowe, Peter Whiting, Brett J. Long, Wes Durham, Sheri Keenan, Chuck Conaway, Charlotte Connerton, Erin Reynolds, Sang Woo Heo, Mary Kay Arvin.

Visitors present: Shelly Blunt (Provost's Office), Bryan Rush (DOSO), Amy Chan-Hilton (CETL), Nita Musich (Staff Council).

- Chuck Conaway moved to postpone approval of minutes to next meeting to allow revisions when secretary Brandon Field is present. Charlotte Connerton seconded. Motion passed.
- Chair's Report, Nick LaRowe:
- HLC on-site visit has concluded. A formal report is expected in approximately 3 months. HLC - asked a lot of questions regarding assessment.
- N. LaRowe provided background of Title IX policy revisions and updates. Chuck Conaway recommended Faculty Senate endorse the new policies. Senators were encouraged to request feedback from faculty in their prospective colleges. Shelly Blunt reported that the policy is reviewed annually. The current phone number for reporting of violations is that of the Title IX Officer. A 24-7 number is preferred to allow prompt reporting.
- Wes Durham raised a concern regarding off-contract, uncompensated faculty senate service particularly for untenured faculty during the summer months. Shelly Blunt reported that usually summer meetings are needed for minor policy edits, etc. Charlotte Connerton stated that she viewed Faculty Senate participation as unpaid service. Nick LaRowe reminded the Senate that it is important to stay “in the loop” regarding policy changes, etc. The possibility of summer meeting requirements should be added to the election invitations. Nick LaRowe will develop language by next meeting.
- Nick LaRowe reported that the EEO is being phased out and replaced by OCR.
- Report from the Provost - Dr. Rochon is traveling. Shelly Blunt reported that attorneys will be on campus Monday, September 19 to present to faculty and administration on legal issues in higher education. President Bennett presented USI's budget proposal to Indiana Commission on Higher Education. The proposal will be presented to the state legislature in spring. A meeting for clinical and tenure track faculty who are in years 1-5 of the promotion cycle will be held in the near future.
- The following faculty members were elected to serve on the Student Publications Committee: Erin Gilles (Communications), Chad Tew (Communications), Yu-Li Alice Shen (English).
- Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures were reviewed by Bryan Rush and Shelly Blunt. Dr. Blunt has been the point person using Maxient software as a central reporting

location. The goal is to have more consistency across colleges regarding implementation of the policies. Academic integrity policies did not change. However, changes in procedures were made in that associate deans will manage most violation reports through Maxient, and more serious violations will be referred to Shelly Blunt. Dr. Blunt reported that most cases are resolved by the faculty and student. The review board will include student peers and all members will complete training. Brett J. Long asked how faculty should proceed if a dean prefers not to pursue a charge? Also, should other students serve as witnesses? Bryan Rush states there is no amnesty policy at this time for students who report suspected violations. Other grammar and spelling edits were suggested with regard to the Academic Integrity Policy. Chuck Conaway moved to table the decision until next meeting. Charlotte Connerton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Sang Woo Heo proposed that USI consider increasing tuition waiver for family members of faculty. He recommended faculty senate charge the Economic Benefits Committee with review of this proposal as soon as possible, with a deadline of semester end (December, 2016). The report will be shared with staff and administrative councils. An existing age limit of 24 years is likely related to IRS guidelines. Typing and grammar edits are recommended on the original document. Peter Whiting moved to accept the motion, Charlotte Connerton seconded it. The motion carried.
- A charge from Wes Phy, Chair of Respiratory Therapy Program, will be forth coming regarding malicious language and accusations on student evaluations of teaching (SET). Wes Durham reported a similar charge in the College of Liberal Arts. Extremely negative feedback may cause faculty to experience a hostile work environment. A committee exists for review of the course evaluation process, language, etc. They will be asked to report findings to Faculty Senate.
- Peter Whiting will attend the Master Plan presentation in N. LaRowe's place on September 22nd, 12:30-4:30 pm.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.