



January 17, 2025

Meeting Minutes

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- I. CALL TO ORDER – Nicholas Rhew, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- II. ROLL CALL – Susan Ely, Secretary
 - a. *Faculty Senators Present: Amie McKibban (At-Large), Peter Whiting (At-Large), Nicholas Rhew (Romain College of Business), Todd Schroer (College of Liberal Arts), McManus Woodend (College of Liberal Arts), Jessica Mason (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Jenna Thacker (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Zachary Ward (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Susan Ely (Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education), Guoyuan Huang (Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education), Kyle Mara (Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education), and Kate Sherrill (Library)*
 - b. *Alternates: Prasenjit Gosh (for Jiaying Liu, Romain College of Business), Alissa Holen (for Brett Anderson, College of Liberal Arts)*
 - c. *Faculty Senators Absent without Alternate: Nancy Kovanic (Romain College of Business)*
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 6, 2024 were approved as distributed through unanimous consent.
- IV. PRESIDENT, PROVOST, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
 - a. Interim President Bridges attended the Governor's Inauguration and did the USI budget presentation at the Indiana House Ways and Means committee. The committee seemed pleased with the presentation from USI. President Bridges attended the business meeting of the NCAA convention in Nashville. USI is investigating to see if we can forgo the final year required before transitioning into D1, but there are several goals that must be investigated prior to deciding. The final approval for the posting associated with the Vice President for Student Affairs position was completed and that search will begin. Holly Sullivan was at the Ways and Means meeting on behalf of USI instead of Aaron Trump, due to his departure on January 15. USI will be attending a convening of the collegiate presidents to learn from the Lily Endowment about the lack of enrollment and credentials generated in Indiana colleges. Approximately 53% of high school graduates continue into higher education in the State of Indiana.
 - b. Provost Blunt attended Pott College Spring meeting this morning and announced a national search for the Dean's position with the aim for a candidate to begin in July. A new software named DynamicForms has been purchased to aid moving forms online. Decisions need to be made about which types of forms (like add/drop) will



be digitized with which software. The application to be considered a Community Engaged Campus by the Carnegie Foundation needs to be submitted by April 1st. An update about this process will be provided to the faculty senate. Regional principals were invited to campus next week to help foster new partnerships with regional schools. A search for a new student trustee for the Board of Trustees will be occurring. Provost Blunt told senators to encourage students to apply – students must have 2 years left at USI, be an Indiana resident and a US citizen to be considered for the position. Faculty senate needs to supply a name for the Indiana Higher Learning Commission Faculty Nomination Committee by February 7th. The Provost and President are continuing to work with the Faculty Senate Chair to increase engagement within the campus community.

- c. Ms. Jenn Horn – UNIV 101/FYE Revisions/Update – Ms. Horn provided a presentation to the senate about revisions to the UNIV 101 First Year Experience course. Senators were invited to ask questions and to provide feedback. Ms. Horn noted that the proposal is not yet in its final form. Some questions were posed and answered.
- d. Dr. Jason Hardgrave, Assistant Provost – Dr. Hardgrave reminded us that Watermark exists.

V. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR REPORT

- a. The Faculty Senate Chair welcomed the senators back for the semester. The chair completed a report at the January Board of Trustees meeting. The chair continues to discuss ideas to “bring back the fun” with the President and Provost. A charge was entered that will be routed to the Economic Benefits Committee. The Presidential Search committee will begin ramping up next week.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The senate selected a Faculty Senate representative for the Portal Governance Group. This individual will represent faculty for the MyUSI Portal Governance Group: the group focuses on oversight of the MyUSI portal, including additions, deletions and changes, as well as address concerns or problems regarding the portal, but not in a technical support role. The group meets for an hour on the 4th Friday of every other month. Todd Schroer nominated himself and was approved by unanimous vote.
- b. The senate selected a faculty member to serve on the nominating committee for the faculty representative of the Higher Learning Commission. The committee will put



out a call for individuals to apply for the vacancy on the Higher Learning Commission and then review applications once received. Amie McKibban self-nominated and was approved by unanimous consent.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. Kyle Mara posed an idea of establishing a Social Committee by the Faculty Senate to help plan and coordinate social engagements on campus. The senate was told to think about the idea for discussion later.

X. ADJOURNMENT at 4:08pm.