

Council of Chairs and Program Directors

Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2019

Present: Oana Armeanu, Mary Kay Arvin, Shelly Blunt, Jeri Burger, Andy Buck, Amy Chan-Hilton, Cindy Deloney-Marino, Wes Durham, William Elliott, Abbas Foroughi, Renee Frimming, Julia Galbus, Steve Gruenewald, Jason Hardgrave, Rick Hudson, Jessica Garces Jensen, Paul Kuban, Julie McCullough, Sudesh Mujumdar, Kimberly Parsons, Kenneth Purcell, Jill Raisor, Silvia Rode, Gina Schaar, Todd Schroer, Jeffery Seyler, Jack Smothers, Sarah Stevens, Sally Vogl-Bauer, Ken Walsh, and Gabriela Mustata Wilson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Elliot. Chair Elliot thanked Interim Chair Parsons for her service while he was on sabbatical. He stated that the next Chairs' Community of Practice meeting will take place on March 13. He announced that the Academic Leadership Retreat will take place on August 12 from 8am to 3pm.

Approval of minutes from November 28, 2018: Approved without objection.

Inauguration week: Foundation President Bower updated the council on planning for the upcoming inauguration of President Rochon. The ceremony will be held in the new arena and is entirely funded through private donations. The planning committee aims to include a wide array of people including university presidents, school principals with select students, religious leaders and local judges. The event is also open to the public and the Governor of Indiana, Eric Holcomb, will be present at the ceremony. The Tuskegee Golden Voice Choir along with the USI Chamber Choir will be performing at the ceremony. Alumni from every year will be represented and current students who attend will receive free t-shirts. After the event, participants are welcome to a free luncheon. Foundation President Bower fielded questions from committee members. Questions included whether the event is mandatory, faculty are required to wear regalia, members of underserved communities are being invited, and students' attendance is being tracked.

Announcements: Provost Khayum requested committee members fill out a questionnaire to generate insights on STEM at USI. The Provost's office is looking for ways to improve data systems on campus. Some aspects are not as integrated as they could be including, for instance, important information about applicants' status as USI legacies. Provost Khayum asked committee members to generate and collect data that is not just for compliance, but also for end users. Provost Khayum discussed the upcoming inauguration and its role in the educational experiences of students. He mentioned the inauguration's importance to students' immersion and experience in the history and spirit of the institution. Finally, Provost Khayum discussed a recruitment task force to include faculty.

Honors Program: Director Stevens proposed the idea of honors students completing at least one honors course in their major. If a student is graduating in, say, psychology with honors, it would

advantageous for the student to complete honors in their specialization. Currently, many honors contracts and stand-alone courses are completed in lower-division, core courses. There was some concern that the proposed idea would shift the burden to majors with many honors students. Committee members also voiced concern about faculty compensation. In terms of honors contracts, the idea was raised that, like independent studies and internships, faculty could accrue a certain number of them and then receive a course release. As another option, Director Stevens discussed having general and major honors courses.

“Explore & Share Event” focusing on student retention and success: Director Chan Hilton announced two times for this event scheduled for Thursday, April 11 at 11am-1pm and Monday, April 15 at 11am-1pm. The aim of these meetings is to become more aware of issues surrounding student retention and success and to learn from one another’s experiences.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Buck, Secretary