



February 21, 2025

Meeting Minutes

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- I. CALL TO ORDER – Nicholas Rhew, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL – Susan Ely, Secretary
 - a. *Faculty Senators Present: Amie McKibban (At-Large), Peter Whiting (At-Large), Jiaying Liu (Romain College of Business), 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), 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), and Kyle Mara (Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education)*
 - b. *Alternates: Tom Noland (for Nancy Kovanic, Romain College of Business), Chad Tew (for Brett Anderson, College of Liberal Arts), Ashley Carter (for Jenna Thacker, College of Nursing and Health Professions), and Kristen Williams (for Kate Sherrill, Library)*
 - c. *Faculty Senators Absent without Alternate: None*
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of January 17, 2025 were approved as distributed through unanimous consent.
- IV. PRESIDENT, PROVOST, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
 - a. Interim President Bridges announced that there were no increases for USI from the previous year's appropriations from the Ways and Means Committee. On March 4th, Mr. Bridges will be going over the requests with several state senators to discuss the additional items that were not funded by Ways and Means. Mr. Bridges went to the E-Rep Day at the State House and said that the day was helpful in understanding the restructuring of the government under the new Governor. The day include time with multiple constituents, as well as a meeting with the Governor. The Governor was positive about USI as a whole. Mr. Bridges would like to bring the new Secretary of Commerce to speak at USI. Mr. Bridges also met with the new sheriff and felt that the sheriff was an advocate for USI. USI will be accelerating the process to transition to Division 1, which includes being eligible for the tournament next year. Mr. Bridges met with the Foundation Board and updated the Foundation on personnel changes and announcements for USI.
 - b. Provost Blunt reiterated the name changes for name changes that were previously announced in the press release. The Career Center is also physically relocating to the Orr Center (where CAPS was previously housed). The Carnegie application will be



submitted by April 1st. Watermark was used for all annual reports for 2024. All reappointments will also use Watermark beginning in Fall 2025. Anyone submitting for tenure, promotion or reappointment will use Watermark for Fall 2025. UNIV 101 has officially been changed to USI 101 and is scheduled for the Fall as a 13-week course. Faculty representation is needed for each of the following Higher Learning Commission committees:

- i. Mission
- ii. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
- iii. Teaching and Learning for student success
- iv. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness Resources and Planning

Applications are open for the faculty position on the Indiana Commission of Higher Education. Applicants must reside in the state of Indiana. The application deadline is due April 25th. The Teaching and Learning Symposium was rescheduled to next Wednesday (February 26th) due to the snow day and will now be a virtual event. Rockin' Registration is scheduled for April 1 from 10am-2pm. TedX USI will be held on March 20, 2025.

- c. Ms. Sarah Will – Executive Director of Human Resources – There was an update sent out for administrators and 12-month faculty for the training for WebTime Entry. There will be Zoom and in-person training for those who are moving to WebTime Entry. There will also be financial workshops offered. Those who are 9- and 10-month faculty will not transition to WebTime Entry until August 2025, but there will be a Town Hall session in April to answer questions from faculty.

V. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR REPORT

- a. The Faculty Senate Chair noted that the ad hoc committee's work to update academic probation policy has continued and a report will be sent out at least 1 week before the next senate meeting. A substantial change has been made and the chair asked all senators to read the changes and ask questions prior to the senate meeting so action can be taken during the course of the meeting. The chair also met with the Provost and Interim President Bridges for ongoing discussions about employee morale and the climate on campus. Interim President Bridges inquired about a social committee for faculty and there is discussion about expanding the committee within the College of Liberal Arts. Kyle Mara and Nick Rhew will discuss the potential of collaboration and best practices with individuals from the Liberal Arts committee at their upcoming meeting.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.



VII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. A question was posed about coursework or activities that included DEI, due to confusion from the White House and the Department of Education. It was noted that there were also executive orders from the Indiana State House. At this point, faculty are being counseled to maintain their current course of action until the final outcomes of these announcements is determined.

X. ADJOURNMENT at 3:36pm.

XI. Next meeting: 3:00pm on March 21, 2025, BE 3024