

Faculty Senate Meeting

26 January 2024

Senators present: Susan Ely, Peter Whiting, Erin Reynolds, Jessica Mason, Ashley Carter, Nick Rhew, Shannon Pritchard, Rob Dickes, Sri Dandotkar (At-Large alternate), Guoyuan Huang, Todd Schroer, Kyle Mara



Additional attendees: Chuck Armstrong (Faculty Senate representative to University EDI Council), Dr. Amy Montz, Dr. Shelly Blunt, Dr. Jason Hardgrave

Held in BEC Boardroom

- Called to order: 2:30 pm
- Minutes from 12 January were accepted as submitted.
- Senate Chair Report:
 - Spring Town Hall will be held on February 27th from 2:00 -3:30pm in Forum 1. A Qualtrics form will go out via University Wide Communications for people to submit questions and Faculty Senators will group the questions into themes. This event is co-run with the Staff Council and Administrative Senate.
 - Athletics 4-week grade checks will be conducted via an online form coming out next week. It was noted that coaches and faculty should not be talking to each other. Faculty should work through the liaisons that have been established.
 - Any cases of academic dishonesty should be reported through the appropriate channels to ensure the process is being tracked appropriately.
 - A reminder was issued that USI employees should not use professional emails or positions for political activities.
- Provost Report from Shelly:
 - Toyota was on campus for the last 3 days looking at developing pre-service teachers to teach STEM at the elementary level and investigating how USI can help workforce development. Toyota is also looking at how to support communities and families. A grant in mid-March will be submitted in conjunction with other community organizations.
 - Work continues on the Lily proposal on meeting the mental health needs of adolescents in this region. Partnerships in the region are being created to support the community in this area.
 - Faculty are reminded that involvement with articles in The Shield are to be routed through University Media and Communications as all other media organizations would be handled.
 - The Solarpalooza committee has updated the website with activity descriptions and locations. The team is creating a FAQ for answering questions about campus activity that day.
 - The Ruth Opera is tonight and tomorrow night at the Performance Center and both nights are sold out.

- The Men's Basketball team was on ESPNU last night and well attended. The Women's Basketball team was on ESPN+ and the women won.
- Old Business:
 - The Ad-Hoc Concurrent Personnel committee has a report coming to the Senate for the meeting of February 9th to address their charge from last semester.
- New Business:
- Academic Calendar – There are no changes to the proposed Spring semesters, but there are issues in the Fall semester. The original calendar had a start day of 8/25/25 and the new proposal has the start day of 8/18/25. This makes summer break a week shorter but adds a week at the semester break at the end of December. The proposal removes a few days from Summer 1 and Summer 2 in Accelerated Classes to eliminate overlap with the Fall Semester. Overlapping with Fall or Spring semesters violates Federal law. A discussion of the calendar was held and concerns will be relayed to the Provost's office.
- Charge 2024_02_Bookstore_Archie's_Bundle_and_First_Day_Access:
 - A discussion of the charge was held. Senators reviewed the minutes from February 24, 2023, where a similar charge was discussed.
 - A motion was made to ask the bookstore for timely and better communication, work with the Provost and Deans to collect information about failures of the book bundle, which can be sent to Jeff Sickman, coordinate with the student body for a student perspective and invite Mr. Sickman to speak at a later Faculty Senate meeting in Spring of 2024. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The charge was amended to reflect this motion.
- The University EDI Council survey forms were brought to the Senate. The chair volunteered to distribute the forms from the University EDI Council to the senators for feedback.
- Next Meeting: February 9, 2024
- Meeting adjourned with no additional business to consider: 3:53pm

CHARGE TO THE USI FACULTY SENATE

Formal Request for USI Faculty Senate Action

Name: Amy Montz and Kelly Kaelin (Optional)

Date of Submission: 1/17/2024

Name of Faculty Senate Representative:

1. Todd Schroer
2. Shannon Pritchard
3. Rob Dickes

Complete the following items and submit this form to either your Faculty Senate Representative or to the Faculty Senate Chair for consideration by the Faculty Senate.

1. Charge Title:

Problems with Bookstore - Archie's Bundle and First Day Access

2. Background:

Provide an explanation of the background and context for the proposed charge. What problem, issue, or experience prompts the proposal of the charge?

Multiple professors this semester and in prior semesters have complaints about book backorders, insufficient numbers of book orders, and lack of communication to faculty about the status of their book orders for first day/week access.

Archie's bundle is supposed to be first-day access but multiple students are given reports of backordered books when they go to retrieve their books.

Professors are not notified about the backorders and are unable to plan for material shortages or incorrect editions. This has resulted in professors missing materials they need for the first week of classes. They are then left scrambling to scan in or find online editions of the text.

Reports from students indicate that the bookstore routinely underorders to the effect of 50% of enrolled students. For example, in one history class in Fall 23, the bookstore reported that they ordered 10 copies of the required first-day textbook, even though twenty students were registered for the course. This particularly affects students who are the last to register or pick up their books and who are often also the most at-risk students for retention.

In regards to ebooks, the bookstore has not provided accurate or timely information on ebook integration into Blackboard, resulting in student confusion during the first week of classes and delayed start to online courses.

3. Action Requested and Desired Result:

Specifically state what action you would like the Senate to take and the desired outcome that you would like to see.

Policies regarding clear communication with faculty regarding shortages so faculty can make alternative arrangements and/or orders.

Proper ordering to account for class registration numbers and first-day access. Given that book orders are due halfway through the previous semester, first-day access should not be an issue.

In the event that book orders will be delayed, the bookstore should be responsible for placing a copy of the required texts on reserve with the library to ensure student access.

4. Potential Resources:

Provide any information that can help Faculty Senate fully address the charge. Attach additional documents if necessary.

See Archie's Bundle Plan on the USI website. The first bullet point states that student will receive "all their course materials before the first day of class."

Testimonies from students and faculty can be provided upon request.

Items 5-7 are to be completed by Senate Chair or Secretary:

5. Senate Comments:

6. Action Taken by the Faculty Senate:

7. Action Taken by the Administration: