Faculty Senate

October 11, 2024
Meeting Minutes
www.usi.edu/faculty-senate

I. CALL TO ORDER – Nicholas Rhew, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

II. ROLL CALL – Susan Ely, Secretary, called the roll.

a. Faculty Senators Present: Amie McKibban (At-Large), Peter Whiting (At-Large), Jiaying Liu (Romain College of Business), Nicholas Rhew (Romain College of Business), McManus Woodend (College of Liberal Arts), Brett Anderson (College of Liberal Arts), 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: Chad Tew (Alternate for Todd Schroer, College of Liberal Arts), Marilyn Ostendrof (Alternate for Jessica Mason, College of Nursing and Health Professions)

c. Faculty Senators Absent without Alternate: Nancy Kovanic (Romain College of Business), Jenna Thacker (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Kate Sherrill (Library)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from the September 13, 2024 meeting were approved with minor corrections by unanimous consent.

IV. PRESIDENT, PROVOST, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Interim President Bridges provided the following updates:

i. Interim President Bridges and Vice President Trump met with Indiana Senators to discuss the USI budget allotted to capital improvement projects on campus.
ii. On October 10 Mr. Bridges made a presentation to Indiana Commission of Higher Education (which currently includes a student representative from USI) about our budget proposal - $43 million dollars requested for improvements on campus. The next steps for budget approval at the State House include the State Senate Budget Committee, the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee. Requests in next year's budget include increasing the New Harmony budget allocations to the 2009 levels. The University has also requested funding to continue the Pathways Program and establishing it as a regular operating budget line item for USI. Capital improvement funds include projects providing for alterations to the

Applied Engineering Center, the Business and Engineering Center, and the Art Center.

iii. In response to a question, Mr. Bridges provided an update on the Provost position. He indicated he has sought feedback from the presidential search firm and other groups, but that he has not yet decided on how to proceed with a Provost search.

b. Interim Provost Blunt provided the following updates:

i. Rockin Registration takes place October 22 and over 600 students are already registered for the event.
ii. Living Learning Communities have been on campus for over 25 years, with the most recent version including themed living communities. Next fall the communities will be adjusted to "Learning Communities" by college and will not require on-campus residency for participation to include those living in off-campus housing. A themed learning community will be promoted for next fall that has a living community available but not required.
iii. SLATE training has continued for faculty and staff.
iv. During the last session of Indiana Senate, there was a new measure, Senate Enrolled Act 8, which includes a requirement for Indiana public universities to offer 3-year paths to bachelor degrees, while still requiring 120 credit hours. A report is due to the Senate on November 1 to determine a feasibility for a full-time student to complete a Baccalaureate degree in 3 years. The institution must have at least one degree available by July 1, 2025. The act also requires that we submit all Indiana College Core courses and their syllabus or course outline. Clarification is being requested to understand if this is only dual credit courses or all college core courses.

V. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR REPORT

a. Nichols Rhew reported the following:

i. The Presidential search committee is meeting next Thursday at 8am to review the information from the surveys and listening sessions.
ii. The Faculty Senate Chair met with the Interim Provost about the suggestion from last meeting regarding Incomplete grades. Additional clarity is going to be needed and the new verbiage will be brought to the next Faculty Senate Meeting.
iii. Engagement Award – Steven Stump is soliciting nominations for the M. Edward Jones Engagement Award. The award recipient will also win $1000. Nominations are due November 16. The handout is attached to the minutes.

The Provost encouraged the senators to spread the word on the other campus awards that are also open for nominations.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE

VII. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Nicholas Rhew moved to form an ad hoc committee about academic probation and suspension policies:

Nicholas Rhew, in collaboration with the Provost's Office, moves to establish an ad hoc committee to evaluate the current academic probation and suspension policy, research other institutions' probation and suspension policies, develop recommendations to improve the current policy and submit to Faculty Senate a report of their work with proposed actions by January 24, 2025. The committee will consist of one member from each of the colleges, appointed by the Faculty Senate, one appointee from the Registrar's Office, one appointee from Student Financial Assistance, and one appointee from the University Division.

Chad Tew seconded the motion. The floor was open for questions and discussion. Susan Ely moved, and Peter Whiting seconded, to amend the motion to read "University Division Advising", which passed unanimously.

The amended motion unanimously passed.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Nicholas Rhew encouraged the senate to solicit nominees for all institutional awards, including the M. Edwards Jones Engagement Award.

X. ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Nicholas Rhew adjourned the meeting at 3:51pm.