

## Faculty Senate meeting

18 March 2022

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Kimberly Delaney, Brandon Field, Stephanie Young, Charles Conaway, Michael Strezewski, Jessica Mason, Marilyn Ostendorf, Mary Doerner, Laura Bernhardt, Matthew Hanka, Jason Fertig, Shannon Pritchard.



Other Attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Shelly Blunt, Shelby Clark, Alisa Holen, Kent Scheller, Peter Whiting.

- Held via Zoom meeting, called to order 2:34 pm.
- Approval of old minutes, 25 February 2022:
  - Minutes approved unanimously. Chair noted they were recorded perfectly.
- Chair's Report: Rex
  - Rex got a message from Rhonda Woosley: she wants to know if we are interested in having a Communication Table on the Quad for the Unsung Eagle Day. It wasn't immediately clear what that would entail; he will inquire.
  - Senate had asked Rex to speak with the University Administration about having a Town Hall meeting. The Chair noted that Faculty Senate has developed a reputation for not being nice to people visiting, whether that be administrators or consultants, so instead of being able to speak openly, we are being asked to submit questions for their consideration, and that the interaction would be moderated. Rex suggested that we not ask questions like the D-1 decision and instead focus on things related to, e.g., the Strategic Plan. We should collect the questions from our constituents and email the questions to Rex and Kim. The meeting will probably not be on Zoom; Rex feels that faculty act immature in the comments and in conversation when on Zoom. The forum will probably be mid-to late April.
- Provost's Report from Dr. Khayum
  - Dr. Khayum pointed out that Rex has been serving as Faculty Senate Chair for longer than usual, and when the opportunity came for someone else to take on that responsibility, none of the Senators took on that challenge.
  - In all his time here (since the 1990s), the only opportunities for open interaction with the administration was the budget hearings. The Strategic Plan meetings under Dr. Bennett were some of the earliest opportunities in his experience for faculty to voice their thoughts.
  - There is a Lily Grant that we have been participating in with the University of Indianapolis; some consultants visited campus to investigate student retention on

campus. There are three different topics that came out to move forward related to advising, support for first generation students, and disbursement of scholarship funds. Each of these topics has a champion on campus that will be sent for two weeks to Indianapolis for training on developing efforts following the Six Sigma format related to each of these topics.

- Report from Dr. Blunt:
  - Current COVID numbers are low; a number of students are currently in quarantine because of a singular incident.
  - Bookstore will be starting a program, “First Day Complete”, that allows students to get their textbooks at a per-credit-hour cost instead of a per-book cost: \$24/credit hour for all the courses that are required for the course they are enrolled in. Students will have the ability to opt-out for a particular semester, if they want to buy their books from a separate source. We will be getting more information from the Campus Store when we are asked for textbook adoptions, and faculty will need to select a particular type of required textbook (hard cover, soft cover, e-book) for the course.
- New Business: Charge ~~2022.06~~<sup>2022.07</sup>-Eclipse Charge, presented by Kent Scheller.
  - There is a committee planning events for the total solar eclipse that will pass over Evansville on April 8, 2024. The planning committee thinks that USI campus should be center of eclipse events for the entire Tri-State. They anticipate over 10,000 visitors could come to campus for the event. They are requesting that day (which is a Monday) be a non-instructional day so students, faculty, and other members of the USI campus can be available to help with all the various events of the day. SIU-Edwardsville had over 20,000 people on their campus at the last eclipse, which passed directly over Edwardsville.
  - It was suggested that instead of making this a non-instructional day, it be made a virtual learning day. In particular, the Monday-only classes might be problematic. However, with this much advance warning, faculty should be able to plan around the planned day.
  - It was also noted that the current academic calendar already has more instructional days than the previous, so it should be possible to accommodate without much problem by using an older syllabus plan, or by putting avoiding Mondays for courses that are only one night a week. Also, events of nature in the form of snowfall are often accommodated for by cancelling classes, so the eclipse as an event of nature could also be accommodated for in a similar way.
  - It was asked that the committee develop a mass email to inform the rest of campus about the plans and to ask them to help by incorporating lesson plans into their classes or for the greater event.
  - Motion to approve the charge was passed unanimously.

- Next meeting: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:30 pm.
- Adjourned at 3:44 pm.

Minutes recorded by Faculty Senate secretary Brandon Field.

Formal Request for USI Faculty Senate Action

Name: Kent Scheller (Optional)

Date of Submission: 2/22/22

Name of Faculty Senate Representative:

1. Kim Delaney
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Non Instructional Day for USI Eclipse Observation 2024

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?

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the Tri-State area will be in the path of a total solar eclipse. USI will be holding a solar eclipse observation event for K-12 students and the general public. Our steering committee is planning for a noted speaker the night before, as well as providing an opportunity for scientists from outside institutions to come to USI for their research.

In 2017 USI held an eclipse observation event bringing over 2000 students to the campus for a partial eclipse event. The steering committee is planning for a much larger event with attendees totalling over 10,000. April 8<sup>th</sup> is a Monday and an instructional day. We foresee needing a great number of departments campus-wide assisting in this event.

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.

We would like the senate to welcome and approve a non-instructional day for this event.

4. Potential Resources:

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

<https://www.usi.edu/science/geology-and-physics/physics/eclipse-2024/>

**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:**

Action Taken by Senate:

Senate voted overwhelmingly in support of the charge. This will be passed on to the Provost, President, and Registrar's office. It was suggested that a campus-wide email be sent to help explain the intended scope of the event to the rest of campus.