

Faculty Senate Retreat

17 August 2017

Senators present: Wes Durham, Chuck Conaway, Brett Long, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Peter Whiting, Rich Bennett, Kenny Purcell, Brandon Field, Ron Diersing, Sang Woo Heo, Erin Reynolds, Charlotte Connerton, Ethel Elkins, Angie Wooton.

- Dr. Bennett stopped in.
 - On her way to explain our tuition increases to the Indiana Commission.
 - Enrollment is up overall (as of last Monday) by 105 students: up by 67 new freshmen, 3 transfer students, and 67 new graduate students. Down slightly in continuing students.
 - Full time faculty is the key to student persistence at higher education institutions. The Board of Trustees has been keeping an eye on our percentage split (roughly 50/50), and has been pushing for more full time faculty. There are programs on campus where students can graduate without ever taking a class from a full time faculty member. There are also Core courses that are taught exclusively by adjunct faculty members.
- Elected Chuck Conaway as Vice-Chair and Brandon Field as Secretary. Ron Diersing will act as alternate secretary during the fall semester.
- Interdisciplinary Faculty Learning Community presentation: Oana Popescu-Sandu
 - Faculty group interested in interdisciplinary collaboration met all last year (once per month) and through the summer.
 - Want to propose a framework for encouraging interdisciplinary teaching
 - (Signature Initiative will cover interdisciplinary research)
 - Faculty Learning Community model proposed
 - Interdisciplinary Team Teaching policy changes are proposed, many of the basic questions that people would have (like how does the load get divided) are addressed in the literature.
 - It seems that the preparatory group's work should be presented to Faculty Senate in the form of a charge so that all of the various policy changes that might have to come through the different subcommittees can be coordinated. A couple of senators who were involved in the interdisciplinary committee can help with that formalization of the charge.

- Meeting schedule that was distributed and approved by vote. Unanimously approved.
- Catherine Champagne from the RFWC presented the result from the National College Health Assessment data collected last year. Things that the students are experiencing outside of the classroom.
 - Survey administered in fall of 2016 for the first time at USI. All freshmen received an email invitation, and received a munch money incentive for participating. 359 responses (21% response rate). Primarily female (84%) responses, mostly living on campus.
 - General results:
 - Most self-report being in good health.
 - Academic impact factors were topped by stress and anxiety (~20% responses)
 - Feeling of perceived safety is high at day, decreases at night.
 - 40% say that they never use alcohol. Perception of other students as drinking is much higher.
 - 74% say they have never used marijuana; they think that only 13% of other students have never used marijuana.
 - Most are getting moderate intensive exercise.
 - Mental health: 85% are overwhelmed; 9% have seriously considered suicide.
 - Academics were the top things that were cited as overwhelming
 - Most are not getting enough sleep, and they recognize that.
 - Looking to establish a baseline, and continue collecting these data, and formulating solutions.
 - If there is interest in working with the survey data (e.g. faculty involved with the student health center), contact Catherine.
- Nancy Lumley and Ingrid Lindy presented on additional payroll procedural changes: In the past, overload pay was a second paycheck but in the future, they will be combined on a single paycheck. This will streamline some of the accounting because having them as a separate payroll was causing conflicts because of deduction limits (FICA and TIAA) between them not being a part of the same cycle.
- At-Large Committee members needed for the Promotions Committee and for the Student Affairs Committee. Faculty senate members should contact our colleges looking for volunteers. Peter will also send out a message to the whole University.

- We want to hear from the ad-hoc committee on the student evaluation of teaching about what they have found. On October 6th, Rich will make a presentation on what they have developed. However, Rich has not received the formal charge from last year about this topic. Someone from LA needs to be put forth to replace Sherri, so Nick will get a name from Dr. Beeby.
- Lunch
- RR update:
 - The newly developed Ed.D. program was approved by the Commission. It still needs to be presented to the HLC and the Indiana Department of Education for their approval.
 - There was a question pertaining to the future of doctoral degrees at various institutions; some of the commissioners are not in favor of having comprehensive institutions moving toward granting doctoral degrees.
 - New scholarship was recently formed, Harolyn Torain Scholarship for students of color. Some 20 students are currently on campus under this scholarship.
- Faculty Senate can hire a student worker. Peter would like to have a student worker work through the archives from Faculty Senate that are in the library and have them available online, and indexed. This seemed like a good idea to everyone.
- Minutes from the final Faculty Senate meeting of the Spring semester were sent out last year but were not circulated prior to this meeting so no voting for approval could happen today; they will be circulated via email, with email voting by those who were present so they can be approved before the next meeting
- Meeting adjourned 12:50pm.