

USI Faculty Senate Minutes
September 22, 2017
Traditions Lounge, University Center

Senators Present: Rich Bennett, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Chuck Conaway, Ron Diersing, Wes Durham, Jennifer Evans, Brett Long, Dane Partridge, Ken Purcell, Peter Whiting, Angie Wooton.

Visitors: President Bennett, Joey Barnett, Shelly Blunt (Provost Office), Amy Chan Hilton (CETL), Susanna Hoeness-Krupsaw (FASTRC chair)

USI Signature Initiative

Dr. Joey Barnett, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

- President Bennett introduced Dr. Barnett and the USI Signature Initiative, mentioning that it has the potential to lift the visibility of the work done on campus and will be a priority this year.
- Dr. Barnett said that Dr. Bennett approached him in connection to the USI 50th and they began a conversation about what the university might look like in another 50 years.
- Looked at other universities and how they combat challenges and create multidisciplinary scholarship.
- Decided upon social impact of health as a focus for the initiative. Drives for this include USI's standing as a Carnegie engaged institution, millennials being more interested in community impact and engagement, big problems benefit from multidisciplinary approaches, and USI's existing community health centers.
- Projects meant to be very broad in sense of public health.
- Deployment needs physical space and to provide funding opportunities. The funding opportunities will be accomplished through the Academic Venture Capital Fund, beginning with proposals to get a grant.
- Signature Initiative was done in parallel with Strategic Plan, but aligns in many paths.
- Next week, website will be up and will have a survey that will ask interested faculty how they might engage in this project. This is meant as a way to get multidisciplinary teams together to then explore a proposal. Goal to fund 1 or 2 projects in the next year, with a maximum possible budget of \$150,000.

Report from Provost Office

- Dr. Shelly Blunt mentioned that we need to remind and encourage everyone to attend the faculty convocation.

Report from Faculty Senate Chair

- Core39 committee may need an at large member due to meeting time scheduling difficulties.
- Breakout sessions for Spring Meeting: Question over whether or not Senate should come up with the topics or if it is better off with CETL deciding the session topics.

Approval of Minutes-September 8, 2017

Minutes of the last meeting were approved with some modifications.

New Business

- FASTRC Charge with revisions: Try to have any changes in the process by late October to the present to Faculty Senate.
- USI Presidential Search Committee:
 - Nominees to Peter Whiting by Wednesday at 4:30pm with a CV.
 - Nominees are to represent the faculty in the search and need 3 nominees open to all colleges.
 - Open session for faculty in Forum II on Friday September 29th with the election of the candidates following the meeting.
 - Will have feedback from faculty displayed during the meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned: 4:38pm.