

USI Faculty Senate Minutes
December 1, 2017
UC 2207

Senators Present: Peter Cashel-Cordo, Chuck Conaway, Ron Diersing, Wes Durham, Ethel Elkins, Jennifer Evans, Matt Hanka, Nick LaRowe, Ken Purcell, Erin Reynolds, Peter Whiting, Angie Wooton, Brett Long, Rich Bennett.

Visitors: Dr. Rochon, Dr. Katie Ehlman, Mr. Jon Mark Hall, Mr. Brody Broshears, Shelly Blunt, Susanna Hoeness-Krupshaw, Wendy Summers, Connie Schnarre.

1. Report on UAC Endorsed Absence Policy

- Policy reviewed for providing clarity to students and faculty. Couple years in the making. Previous policy viewed as a bit vague. Reviewed other GLVC and Division I schools to help guide.
- Endorsed revisions:
 - Included other university sponsored activities, beyond athletics.
 - Added language to help resolve in case disagreements occur.
 - Next step: look toward senate to endorse and then office of provost.
 - Main goal is to address known absences from university sponsored activities.
 - Motion to endorse amended proposal by senate. Passed with no abstentions.

2. Family Leave

Wendy Summers, Connie Schnarre

- Mother or father can take 12 weeks unpaid leave FMLA due to birth.
- If we know ahead of time, provost office and deans can come up with way to support the faculty member.
- No particular policy, but done on a case-by-case basis with faculty member and department.
- 6-8 weeks for short-term disability for maternity leave. First 10 days comes from parental leave, then 6 weeks sick time after delivery.
- Short-term disability insurance can help to build up sick time bank, in case of emergency, especially for new faculty.
- KP: Having a maternity policy can help with recruiting.
- Will send out link to video to help faculty see policy.
- CC: When is newly hired person entitled? First of the month after hiring date.

3. Report from Provost Office

- Susanna Hoeness-Krupshaw-Awards committee for Berger and Distinguished Professor Guidelines: Revised guidelines have been examined. After approved by committee, will be presented to senate. Berger: Had to improve flow with deadlines to be due by Jan, with whole package by March to help with committee. Distinguished Professor: Tweaked rational, left rank open,

had some discussion of breaking award down based upon rank (dismissed it, but may revisit), left requirement of 5 years at USI, specified more required documents such as more letters of recommendation, added some more responsibilities such as Distinguished Professor Lecture and maybe seminar. Provost wants senate to eventually endorse the changes.

- Met with Council of chairs and will have town hall meeting with Academic Partnerships for faculty to attend. On-line instruction demand is being driven by student expectations.
- PW: invited Dr. White and Dr. Khayum for Jan. faculty senate meeting.
- At USI, faculty own curriculum and AP is there for marketing.
- When death occurs, university doesn't make announcements and works with family first.

4. Approval of Minutes - November 17, 2017

Minutes from the last meeting were approved, w/ 1 abstentions.

5. Report from Faculty Senate Chair

- President Council: Amy Chan Hilton gave presentation on participation
- Honors: Possibly raising standards for honors program.

6. Ad Hoc Student Evaluation Task Force

- Definitely have something for fall semester.
- For spring meeting: have faculty fill out a survey and finish research, with recommendations for report by Spring Break.
- Let faculty know that a survey will be done at the spring meeting. Will also make them aware at the meeting.

7. Statement on Passing of Dane

Motion to pass as resolution. Passes with no amendments.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned: 3:58pm.