

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

16 November 2018

Senators present: Chuck Conaway, Kenny Purcell, Brandon Field, Charlotte Connerton, Rex Strange, Al Holen, Ethel Elkins, Mary Doerner, Rich Bennett, Wes Durham, Oana Popescu-Sandu, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Perry Burnett, Ken Shemroske.

Other attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Michael Dixon, Peter Whiting, Andrea Wright.

- Meeting called to order: 2:33 pm.
- Previous minutes approved unanimously.
- Chair's Report from Chuck:
  - Chuck received word from two members of the FASTRC Committee who will not be able to participate in the committee's selections this semester. Chuck will contact the faculty members to see if they need to resign from the committee and we need replacements, or if they have another suggestion.
  - Breakout sessions for the Spring meeting are set:
    - Mellisa Hall (New Program Development Committee) 30 minutes
    - Michael Dixon / Shelly Blunt (Reporting Academic Integrity Violations) 30 minutes
    - Kat Draughon / Stacy Draper (Data Governance)
    - Nick LaRowe / Tom Longwell (Dealing with Stressed Students)
    - Greg Johnson / Stephanie Diekmann (USI Factbook).
    - Jeanne McAlister (SETs)
    - Peter Whiting (Library)
    - The Administrative Senate will have a breakout session featuring Dr. Rochon
  - Names of interested faculty members in the Dean of Students search have been forwarded to Marcia Kiessling. Chuck had requested that Faculty Senate be allowed to elect the members to the committee, and that was turned down. There was a charge requesting a faculty-driven process of selection for faculty members on University-wide search committees. The draft of the report is complete and has included research from what is being done at peer institutions, and will be presented to Senate at a later date.
  - Chuck attended the ICHE meeting that was hosted here on campus:
    - Dr Khayum arranged for three current/former student presentations to members of the ICHE Committee. The students spoke about how their experiences at USI set them up for success.
    - The ICHE committee members were impressed by the presentation. A couple of members said that they had never seen or heard such presentations before. And at least one commission member explicitly stated that his understanding of the presentations was that what enables student success and what seems to make USI unique are the mentoring relationships that students are able to forge with faculty members. Chuck was happy to hear that one member of the commission, at least, not only got the message, but clearly articulated it for everyone else in the room.
    - Generally speaking, the faculty at USI are necessarily committed to teaching to a greater extent than faculty at other universities. Faculty who come to USI and stay at USI do so because they discover a love for teaching, for engaging students in the classroom. It makes our university different, and the ICHE presentation demonstrates why our faculty merit so much more than a \$500 annual raise or a process of determining faculty raises that appears,

at least, to come as something of an afterthought in the university's budgetary decision-making process.

- Provost's report:
  - In the past few months, Dr. Khayum and Dr. Dixon have been going to the ICHE meetings. The host institution gets one hour to talk about student success. They have noticed that the other institutions talk about student success in terms of opportunities: co-ops, etc; how the alumni are connected with the current students; how financial aid was being applied. None of the institutions framed what they were doing from a higher education perspective, from an academic perspective.
  - Meeting of the Assessment Committee and the Chairs Council about the Academic Program Review. They are looking to streamline the process, and clarify the requirements to reduce frustration and ambiguity for the programs preparing their reviews.
  - Sarah Stevens presented her LLC compensation proposal to the Provost's council (this was the one she shared with Faculty Senate at the previous meeting, and she had the suggestions that Senate made for her). There was discussion about making the compensation more flexible, to allow, for example release time. However, they are moving forward with the proposal as presented.
  - Dr. Rochon is presenting his budget request to the State Budget Committee on Monday. Everything we requested from the Commission has been approved except one line item request.
  - Budget hearings on campus will continue. We should identify strategic things that we should be thinking about for the future.
- Open Access Publication charge: (Peter and Andrea). In response to the Provost's questions from the last time the charge came up for discussion, they have put together a process document to formalize the approval process of open access journals.
  - Suggestion was made to include the dean in the process.
  - Question was raised about having a teaching faculty committee to examine the journals, but that was agreed to not be a good idea.
  - Request was made to include a 7-10 business day timeline for a response from the Library.
  - Motion was made to endorse the process with the addition of the dean in the approval process. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Student Evaluations of Teaching:
  - A suggestion was made that clarification should be made on the SET instructions that the students are required to abide by the Student Code of Conduct, and if they violate that they will be held accountable for their comments, even if they still remain anonymous to the faculty member.
  - Kenny and/or Chuck will meet with the Title IX Coordinator to draft some language to put at the front of the SETs.
- Meeting adjourned: 4:13 pm.