

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

15 Feb 2019

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

Other attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Amy Chan Hilton, Marna Hostetler, Andrea Wright, Ben Luttrull

- Meeting called to order: 2:30 pm.
- Motion made to approve last meetings minutes.
 - Modification made to attendance list: a senate alternate was accidentally listed in "other attendees".
 - Unanimously approved with one abstention.
- Chair's Report:
 - Would like to cancel the March 1st meeting. There were no objections from the floor.
 - The May 3rd meeting, which is on the schedule, will only be to receive reports from subcommittees, but there is a real possibility that the subcommittees will complete their reports before that date and that meeting will not be needed.
 - March 15 meeting will include a budget presentation.
 - There is a Facebook group, created and moderated by USI staff from Marketing and Communications, for parents of current USI students. In the last week several comments have been posted to the parents' group that denigrated faculty members by name. The current policy for Facebook groups run by USI Communications, according to Kenny's conversation with Kindra, is that no post gets removed, although it appeared to Kenny from reading back through the group that this policy wasn't universally implemented either. It appears that this policy might be developing; it was clear from what Kenny reported to Senate that the Communications Department had not considered the realm of possibilities that might come up because they were not able to reply to several of Kenny's hypothetical questions. Ben was asked to keep Kenny updated on the policy as it developed. Ben was also exhorted to keep in mind that the overall mission of the University is to produce educated graduates and policies that are developed should keep that in the forefront above and beyond the goal of being recognized as a free-speech University.
- Provost's Report:
 - Received FASTRC recommendations for names of people who have won awards.
 - Several chairs have volunteered to run their program reviews now; we are behind in the program reviews.
 - Shelly made a report to the Commission yesterday about what USI is doing to address at-risk students, and student debt.
 - Our graduates on average have \$21,000 in student debt. Nationally, and state-wide the average debt is \$28,000-\$29,000.

- About 25% -30% of our billed amounts are not paid by the due date each semester. First semester freshmen account for the largest portion of unpaid bills by the due date in recent fall semester. Second semester seniors account for the next highest portion of unpaid bills by the due date in recent fall semesters.
- The Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) policy that we discussed here has had other discussion at the Provost's Council, so there may be other changes that come back from those bodies. Language is being developed from one of the colleges that would address their concerns.
- Jill Kinkade has been elected from LA to fill the FASTRC committee for this semester.
- Motion made to table the endorsement of the PLA policy because the language does not satisfy the requirements of all the Colleges. The FAA subcommittee should be able to draft an acceptable amended policy before our next Senate meeting. Motion was approved with one objection.
- Fee Waiver for dependent children charge:
 - The current policy only gives fee waiver for dependent children only until they are 23. Motion was made to send this charge to the Provost's office for implementation. Unanimously approved.
- Representation on Faculty Senate for Library Faculty charge:
 - Library faculty do not have any direct representation on Faculty Senate
 - This discussion was had within Senate in 2008-09 and it was decided then that the Library could only vote for the At Large Senate seats.
 - The suggestion was made that the At Large Senators should specifically reach out to the Library.
 - Motion was made to table this charge. Unanimously approved.
- Revision of the FASTRC Process charge. Motion to not accept this charge. Unanimously approved.
- Senate Subcommittee Audit Request. Motion was made to not accept this charge. Unanimously approved.
- Meeting adjourned: 4:33 pm.