

## Faculty Senate Special Meeting

22 December 2020

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Adrian Gentle, Bartell Berg, Jamie Seitz, Kenny Purcell, Mary Doerner, Marilyn Ostendorf, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Sang woo Heo, Mike Strezewski, Jinsuk Yang, Shane White, Chuck Conaway.

Other Attendees: Denise Lynn, Brent Summers, Amy Chan-Hilton.

- Held via Zoom meeting. Called to order: 1:02 pm.
- Charge 2020\_37: Statement in Support of UE Faculty.
  - Introduced by Denise Lynn: The UE faculty were not given input to the draft plan. The eliminations of departments has already begun, so the draft plan was less of a draft plan than it is being put forward as. This statement should be regarding our concerns about the fact that there was no shared governance being used in the development of this draft plan.
  - The overall impact on the community does not appear to have been taken into account by their administration.
  - The predictions that these changes will cause U of E to fail are unsupported, however the effects of losing the music program will seriously negatively impact the community.
  - From people who have worked there, one of the problems that has been consistently pointed out by external consultants is that they don't have a sense of identity. This draft plan still seems like they still have not envisioned an actual identity.
  - A careful consideration of audience should be made. This statement is not likely to change the minds of their trustees.
  - We are not trying to tell them how to run their university, but we are opposed to faculty voice being neglected.
  - Edited statement:

The faculty of the University of Southern Indiana stand in solidarity with their colleagues at the University of Evansville. While we acknowledge the financial difficulties prevalent in higher education, we are deeply troubled that deep cuts in both majors and faculty at the University of Evansville were proposed without faculty input. This demonstrates a profound lack of commitment to shared governance, a foundational principle to include the campus community in important decision making at universities.

As our UE colleagues wrote in a recent editorial in the Courier and Press, these cuts will limit the University's ability to carry out its core mission "to promote the general interests of education and to qualify men and women to engage in the employments and professions of society" and reduce the ability of students to "explore new realms of knowledge and to encounter life-changing ideas." The draft plan cuts programs and capabilities that are at the

very foundation of a well-rounded liberal arts education, including those in History, English, World Languages, Mathematics, Music, and the sciences.

The faculty of the University of Southern Indiana appreciates the complementary efforts of the faculty at the historic University of Evansville in offering quality education to our region. We believe that unilateral decision making that ignores shared governance in institutions of higher education seriously risks compromising the ability of universities to provide quality higher education for the betterment of everyone in the community and the region.

- Statement, as edited, was approved with a unanimous vote, and will be sent to the Faculty Senate of U of E and to be posted on the USI Faculty Senate website.
- Adjourned: 2:36 pm

Minutes recorded by Brandon Field, secretary.