

## Faculty Senate meeting

5 March 2021

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Adrian Gentle, Bartell Berg, Jamie Seitz, Kenny Purcell, Laura Bernhardt, Mary Doerner, Marilyn Ostendorf, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Sang woo Heo, Chuck Conaway, Steve Gruenewald.

Other Attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Amy Chan Hilton, Rashad Smith.

- Held via Zoom meeting. Called to order: 2:34 pm.
- Approval of minutes from Feb 5<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Attendees were not listed. From memory: the only senator missing was Brandon Field, Hayden Olberding was in attendance, the attendees were added to the minutes.
  - Minutes approved with one abstention.
- Enrollment update: Rashad Smith
  - Official Census Day: 12 Feb 2021.
  - Total headcount down 10.2%; Credit hours down 11.1% (compared to last year)
  - Looking to next Fall: Currently students intending to enroll: 1188. Goal was 1525 for incoming Freshmen for Fall.
  - There was a decrease in FAFSA applications across the nation, especially of lower-income people and minorities. It is believed that this is a result of the pandemic. All of the state institutions (except one) across the state have had lower applications, and we currently have a better number of applications compared to last year than all but two of the other institutions across the state.
- Chair's Report: Rex
  - Kent Scheller agreed to be our representative for Faculty Nominating Committee (Indiana Commission of Higher Education)
  - Charge 2021.02: Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures – was passed to FAAC. No deadline was passed on to the committee.
  - Elections – Presidential Committees:
    - Traffic Appeals Committee – Senate elected Caroline Jalain
    - The president's office will be getting a list of the other committee memberships for 2021-22 in the next few weeks and there could be a few more representatives needed for other committees
  - Two issues that Rex would like to point out with regard to Presidential Committees:
    - 1) There appears to be no direct communication between these committees and Senate. For example, the University Athletics Council includes faculty membership, but this does not necessarily imply

"shared governance" if they approve new programs or new policies without our endorsement? Note that the UAC just approved a new athletic program (Swimming and Diving) that will entail the hiring of three new coaches. A discussion about this should be on the agenda for a future meeting.

- 2) Who are the people that we elect? On more than one occasion we have been tasked with selecting/voting on candidates for whom we are unacquainted. Should we ask for more than just a name?
- Pott College faculty elected to Faculty Senate: Kim Delaney and Xavia Harrington-Chate
  - At large elections should be held in April; College elections should be finished by that time. CHP is finalizing their elections now. Liberal Arts is waiting on a report from Rex as to what positions need to be filled.
- Promotions Committee update:
  - Elected Michael Strezewski as chair and start their deliberations soon
  - After the Promotions Committee has finished this year, we need to discuss: How do we feel about the electronic portfolio? Does it work as well as the traditional hardcopy?
- From the Climate survey presentation regarding diversity and inclusion. We seem to be better off than their other comparable institutions.
- There is a Grievance Committee question, but it appears that the most recent charge that went to that committee was under Peter Whiting's year as Senate Chair.
- Provost's Report:
  - A lot of universities are making pronouncements about teaching modalities for fall classes. What are the things that cross our minds as we plan for fall semester?
  - A decision on Commencement modalities was made, there will be a much smaller audience, and will be ticketed. Maximum of 20 faculty from each College, if there is interest. Students will be limited to 2 guests.
  - The team of students from Purdue are in the process of making their interviews regarding programmatic priorities of different people throughout campus.
  - 83% of the Freshman students from fall came returned for the Spring semester. We are work to determine if they were identified in the Early Alerts, or GPA, or finances, or another way to figure out how to predict who whose would be.
    - 208 students did not come back. 130 of them were not performing well enough to come back in Spring. That left 78 students who decided not to come back.
    - They were interviewed to determine their and three reasons surfaced: Covid, closer to home, and finances.

- Closer to home is more significant than we might have thought: of the intent-to-enroll group currently, the average distance from USI is less than 70 miles.
- Of the students who applied to USI: 70% female. Of the intent-to-enroll, most are female.
- To what extent have we worked with local area schools to get some of the information from the schools with regard to student interest? Can we work with the local school districts to see why students are going other places?
- Old business: Charge 2020.34 Establishment of Priorities for Financial Exigency
  - Because of time, discussion of this charge will be delayed until next meeting.
- Adjourned: 4:32 pm

Minutes recorded by Brandon Field, secretary.