

Indiana University East – Faculty Senate 2011/12
Faculty Affairs Committee

Minutes

Date: September 13, 2011
Time: 11:00-11:30 am
Place: 200C Whitewater Hall
Present: Michele Curry, Greg Weber, Jean Harper, Frances Yates, TJ Rivard, Hitesh Kathuria,
Markus Pomper (chair)
Absent: none

1. The minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2011 were approved.
2. The committee discussed the Bylaws rules for membership on the Faculty Board of Review. It was decided to propose striking the rule on term-limits on the FBR. Item V.A.1.c now reads

Term of office. The members shall be elected at the October Senate meeting. The term of office will be two years with three members elected in one year and two members elected in the alternate year. Members will serve from the first day of January for two years. ~~At least two years shall elapse between terms of office.~~ Members and alternates shall complete the review of any case which they have begun to consider.

Rationale: The term-limit rule is not needed because faculty can decide, through elections, which of their peers can be trusted in handling cases for the FBR. The term-limit rule seems to imply distrust in the professional integrity of colleagues.

The committee discussed various proposals that allow for suspension of the bylaws in cases when elections cannot be held as specified. The committee recommends creating a new point IV.A.2.f as follows:

f. Exceptions The Faculty Senate may suspend the rules of the Bylaws IV.A.2 when an election cannot be reasonably and fairly accomplished as specified.

Rationale: There is no need to specify the process by which the rules are suspended, as the process is stated in Robert's Rules of Order (§25): Suspending a rule of the bylaws is possibly only when the rule allows for its own suspension. In this case a 2/3 majority is needed. Since a motion to suspend the rules is debatable, there is no need to specify that the Nominating

Committee must provide an explanation. The committee feels that the vague “reasonable and fair” is better than prescribing the exact cases in which the rule can be suspended.

The committee consented to propose the bylaws change to faculty senate.

3. The committee considered the review for the EVCAA. Since the last review of a VCAA was 15 years ago, it was decided to consider the EVCAA’s job description and the EVCAA review documents from other IU campuses.
4. The committee agreed to move the October 11 meeting to October 18.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.