

Indiana University East  
Faculty Affairs Committee 2011/12

Minutes  
April 10, 2012  
11:00-12:30 pm  
Whitewater Hall 265

Present: Greg Weber, Hitesh Kathuria, Jean Harper, Markus Pomper (chair)  
Guests: Ross Alexander, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre (GAC C-Chairs); Laverne Nishihara  
Absent: Michele Curry, Frances Yates.

1. Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2012

The minutes of March 27 were approved.

2. Discussion of Faculty Board of Review description from Bylaws.

The Committee offered minor corrections to the FBR policy. Frances Yates will research the exact title of the policy governing sexual harassment and discrimination. This change will be made in the policy before March 29. The proposed policy will then be distributed to Schools for discussion.

3. Discussion of Graduate Affairs Committee

The committee discussed possibilities for integrating the Graduate Affairs Committee into the faculty governance structure. Issues of contention:

- a) Membership on the GAC. The membership on the GAC, as outlined in the GAC operating principles consists of faculty, the majority of them are defined ex-officio through faculty-administrator positions, the remaining members are representatives from Schools. GAC will include rules that specify terms and mode of selection for these school representatives. It is unclear whether senate will need to affirm the selection. Alisa agreed that GAC would need to amend its operating principles as to define the election process for school members.
- b) Mode of operation. The functions of the committee involve largely around faculty-legislative business (approval and modification of degree graduate programs, courses, admission and conduct of graduate students.) GAC argues that these functions are different enough from the undergraduate degrees and warrant examination of a separate committee. These points appear to be undisputed. The question is whether the GAC should function as a standing committee of the senate, or as an ad-hoc committee, or whether it should function completely outside of the jurisdiction of faculty senate. Ross pointed out that it is difficult to predict the dynamic of graduate programs at IU East, and

that it would be too constraining for the GAC to operate within the existing structure of faculty governance. Three options were discussed:

- i. The GAC becomes a standing committee of the faculty senate and its functions are described in the bylaws. It was noted that the designation of “standing committee” is for a committee formed to perform assigned work on an ongoing basis.

The creation of such a standing committee can accommodate the proposed composition of the committee and its proposed role with respect to curriculum development, review of graduate courses or proposing admissions criteria for graduate programs. The committee would follow established processes in determining which aspects of these legislative functions of the faculty would need approval of the whole senate (major revisions of programs, and new proposals), and which ones the committee can handle independently. Revisions of the functions of the committee, would require a 2/3 majority of the senate and would require prior notice.

- ii. The GAC continues to operate as an ad-hoc committee. It was noted that the work of the GAC appears to be of an ongoing basis, which contradicts the definition of an ad-hoc committee, whose purpose is to complete a specific task and be dissolved after this task is completed.

While unprecedented, the co-chairs of an ad-hoc committee may be given a seat on the faculty senate agenda committee. Nevertheless, a bylaws change would be needed in order to remove the responsibility for graduate programs from the current description of the Curriculum and AAA committees. It is unclear how these functions of faculty governance could be reasonably described in the bylaws without describing the functions of the GAC (as would be done in the option under i). It was noted that the ad-hoc committee could be dissolved with an absolute majority and without prior notice.

- iii. GAC operates completely outside of the governance structure of the faculty senate, acting on its own to approve all issues related graduate degrees. This would require a change of the constitution, in which those aspects of legislative authority of faculty senate that relate to graduate education are summarily discharged to the GAC, which would otherwise not be referenced in either the constitution or the bylaws. Compared to options (i) and (ii), this option would offer flexibility to the GAC to create or modify programs without the oversight of the faculty as a whole. It was noted that this model is appropriate for major campuses (IUPUI and Bloomington), but appears to be contradictory to the ICHE-defined mission of the regional campuses. It was also noted that the Graduate Affairs Committees at other regional campuses serve merely an advisory

function, and that matters regarding graduate programs are routed through the same channels of faculty governance as corresponding matters for undergraduates.

The committee decided to have GAC revise its proposed operating principles. FAC will consider which bylaws revisions may be needed for either scenario, and then ask faculty to express their preference in a 3-way electronic vote.

4. Discussion of the Board of Review.

The only remaining issue with the FBR is the questions as to where and for how long records of the committee should be kept. The Library has done some research on practices on other institutions. Markus will contact the IU Counsels office and ask for guidance, inform the committee of the outcome. The final committee decision on the FBR policy will be made electronically.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15