

Academic Senate Minutes

Friday, March 28, 2025, 1:30-3:00 DW1001

[2024-2025 Meeting Materials](#)

Agenda and Blog: <https://blogs.iu.edu/senate/>

Constitution and Committees: <https://academics.iusb.edu/academic-senate/index.html>

Recent Senate Documents: [LINK](#)

Senate Archives: <http://institutionalmemory.iu.edu/aim/handle/10333/3376>

Members Present:

R. Adaikkalavan, E. Bennion, V. Bindroo, D. Blouin, D. Bryant, J. Burch, Busenbark, S., J. Deranek, D. Economakis, J. Essig, J. Feighery, W. Feighery, H. Froyland, P. Geels, S. Gerencser, S. Haithcox, D. Hales-Teat, C. He, M. Holland, S. Hottois, S. Jang, L. Kahan, V. Kwong, A. Lindinski, T. Liechty, C. Lisoni, B. Lucal, J. McLister, S. Merken, S. Moore, A. Muhlstadt, S. Nichols-Boyle, O. Okanlami, R. Olivier, S. Opasik, A. Pant, S. Pape, J. Pearson, J. Resler, C. Robinson, E. Roth, C. Schult, W. Shrader, S. Sigety, J. Smith, M. Snaidecki, C. Sofhauser, N. Somerville, B. Spinda, A. Springler, D. Surma, M. Swintz, J. Thompson, B. Tourtilotte, J. VanderVeen, J. Wells

Premeeting Slides

See file: [1. March 28 2025 Senate meeting slides.pptx](#)

1. Call to Order 1:33 pm

S. Gerencser called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm EST after reaching a quorum

IU South Bend acknowledges and honors the Indigenous communities native to this region and recognizes that the campus was built on the homelands and resources of the Potawatomi, Peoria, Myaamia, Kickapoo, Kaskaskia, Mascouten and Meskwaki people: the past, present, and future caretakers of this land.

2. [2 min] Approval of February 2025 Minutes

Presenter: Steven Gerencser

See file: [2. Minutes-2025-2-21 Academic Senate.pdf](#)

Presented information:

No discussion

Discussion

No corrections or additions.

Action Items & Follow up

Minutes stand approved.

No follow-up needed.

3. [10 min] Appointed Committees, call for volunteers and details on those needs

Presenter: Stacie Merken, Senate Vice President

See file: [3, VP SLIDES FOR 3-28-25 ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEE-DR SM-FINAL.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- See slides for vacancies and preferences to meet committee's charge
 - Appointments are written in terms of (which year beginning)/(how many years are in the appointment) --> 1/3
 - Minimum vacancies listed for each committee to meet the charge of the committee; the total number of individuals who can be new on the committee also included.
- Faculty Welfare Committee needs 2-3 tenured faculty this year
- Student Publications Committee needs to add members to meet the expectations of individuals
- Request from VP Merken
 - Please read any committee charge of interest (see Academic Senate Website under "Constitution" and the committee).
 - TT/not yet promoted: Speak with Chair/Director
- Form: Monday, March 31/due by Monday, April 14 (from academic senate email)
- Committee numbers indicate where you are willing to serve; keep in mind current committees and include those in your numbers if you are willing to stay on that committee
- Emails of new committees/assigned conveners (end of April/beginning of May)/new conveners—separate email with timelines

Discussion

- Can the senate Executive Committee address the new associate deans and other administrative line to be available for inclusion on committees?
 - Any type of dean or vice chancellor cannot be on committees
- If you are going to be on sabbatical, on Fulbright leave, etc., please indicate such in the survey.
- For committees with preferences, not requirements, if a school cannot commit will the preference stay within the College?
 - That will be looked at to make representation equal as possible.
- When Faculty Welfare Committee merged with Personnel Committee, did the name change?
 - No
- If you are on leave for next year and it will impact your current service, let Stacie know.

Action Items & Follow up

Please read any committee charge of interest before committing!

If you have any questions about any of the standing committees, email Stacie Merken, VP Academic Senate at smerken@iu.edu

4. [15 min] Policy Committee SEA 202 campus responses: revisions and continued discussion

Presenter: Jamie Smith

See file: **no file submitted**

Presented information:

Reviews for SEA 202 discussed in February. Comments taken and the committee has received feedback from IU Legal. We need to get something on the books to avoid random practices developed.

Who Evaluates?

- At the Dean level or their designee
- Dean completes this component of the annual review unless department/school elects to act as Dean designee.

How to evaluate compliance?

The faculty members are:

1. In compliance with IC 21-39.5,
2. Is not in compliance IC 21-39.5,
3. Did not teach during the academic year at issue

Discussion

- Annual review is based on calendar year, not academic year.
- Should it say “during the time period under review” to account for calendar years and 5-year reviews?
- Can the Policy Committee speak on the review process for 5th year review? When does the 5-year clock start?
 - The post tenure 5-year review is new, and we need to come up with policies/procedures. The yearly review is more important at this time.
- It would be useful to hear from the Deans on how they will determine compliance.

Action Items & Follow up

Policy Committee will review and bring back for April meeting.

5. [20 min] Academic Affairs Presentation of GPA proposal

Special Associate Vice Chancellor Lee Kahan

See file: **No file submitted.**

Presented information:

- First time beginners with high school GPA <2.5
- Success coach supports students for first 2 semesters – Becky Lindstrom
- 9 credit block schedule: FYS, Gen Ed, EDUC-U 100
- Embedded peer mentors in FYS and U 100
- Must complete 24 credits with ≥ 2.0 CGPA or dismissed (can appeal)
- “graduates” transition to major at the end of 2nd semester

- Have seen a growth in GPA program from 2021 (45, 7.6%) to 2024 (131, 16.9%)
- GPA students transitioning into majors across all schools
- Retention rates of students with GPA ≤ 2.59 before GPA program existed (72% retention) compared to GPA program student retention rates (77% retention) = 5% greater retention rate from fall to spring and 17% greater retention rate from fall to fall
- DFW rates compared for GPA and non-GPA students
- Current cost of GPA program = \$107,198

- Assuming \$60,000 salary for director
- Peer mentors not included

Structure includes AVC, GPA Director, Assistant Program Director, Titan Team Leaders, FYS Director, Admissions, Advising & Student Affairs Committee

Proposed: Create GPA Faculty Fellow

- Will replace GPA Director
- Specialized in pedagogy and faculty development – annual orientation and monthly workshops
- Housed in UCET
- Reports to AVC w/ dotted line to UCET Director
- Responsible for GPA faculty orientation, development, observation, support

Rationale for changes:

1. Previous challenge of recruiting GPA Director
2. Increase stability of program
3. Align duties with current practice
4. Match roles with expertise
5. Provide day-to-day operational guidance to Assistant Program Director

Discussion

- See next agenda item for discussion.

Action Items & Follow up

No action items or follow-up needed.

6. [10 min] Discussion of GPA Proposal

Presented information:

See above for presenter, topic, and presented information.

Discussion

- Request for clarification of student numbers for time period vs. how many transitioned into majors
 - Difference is that some students stayed in for a third year and retention rates
- What does it mean to stay in GPA for a third semester?
 - Students take additional gen ed courses and success coach support. They may need to repeat courses, but there are none specific to third semester.
- Is growth showing identification and support for those students or that we are admitting more students who need help?
 - Admissions of students at lower end of GPA has not changed, but GPA program is being advertised better by admissions
- Like the addition of Faculty Fellow with support from UCET, but will the new model have an assistant director with no director?
 - Retention specialist changed to assistant program director to account for responsibilities
- Data for 4-year and 6-year graduation rates not provided. That data should be looked at.

- Just now getting to 4-year graduation rates because it started in 2021.
- Approximately 61% of GAP students each fall achieve a 2.0 GPA and some who get very high GPAs.

Action Items & Follow up

No follow-up needed.

7. [10 min] Belonginess Survey results Dean of Students search update

Presenter: Kory Vitangeli , Vice Chancellor for Student Engagement

See file: No file submitted

Presented information:

- Agenda item adjusted and removed at the start of the meeting due to not being ready for discussion.

Discussion

- No discussion.

Action Items & Follow up

No follow-up.

8. [5 min] Curriculum Committee proposal

Presenter: Barbara Spinda, Chair Curriculum Committee

See file: [6. Senate CC slide 3.28.25 meeting.pptx](#)

See file: [3.1 Graduate Policies and Procedures IU South Bend --original with proposed change 2025.pdf](#)

Presented information:

- **Proposal**
 - Academic Policies - #11 A student may not apply a course credit toward two different master's degrees, nor apply a course credit toward both an undergraduate and master's degree, ***unless it is part of an approved accelerated or dual-degree program on campus.***
- **Rationale**
 - Academic Master Planning includes the creation of 3+2 and 4+1 programs... we have received proposals already.
 - Justification for credit hours is part of degree proposal → School/College Curriculum Committee, Dean, Senate Curriculum Committee, Academic Affairs

Discussion

- No discussion. Motion to close discussion moved and seconded.

Vote

- As a result of the policy coming from the committee, the proposal has already been moved and seconded.
- The proposal will come back for vote at the April meeting.

Action Items & Follow up

- The curriculum committee will follow up to ensure that this is entered into the bulletin and appropriate places.

9. [5 min] President's Report

Presenter: Steven Gerencser, Faculty Senate President

See file: [1.March 28 2025 Senate meeting slides.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- REM Policy
 - Reminder that the policy was passed in April 2022
 - Policy intended to ensure that faculty have input when changes are made; protects from unilateral changes
 - Faculty may provide input but might not be happy with decisions made
 - Has also been beneficial by providing insight to the impact of changes happening, which prevented some changes from occurring
- <https://vpur.iu.edu/news-archive/index.html>
- Gov@iu.edu

Discussion

- No discussion or questions.

Action Items & Follow up

Contact UFC or co-chairs to ask questions

14. [5 min] Announcements

Presented information:

- Request for reassurance by Academic Affairs for faculty doing research in DEI
- April 17 – National Day of Action 1-3, attacks on higher ed
- Read Daily Titan – WGS – Women's Leadership Forum Monday 4pm – Gloria Kaufman lecture – Friday – Trish Geels noon
- Friday April 4 – Celebration for Asian Festival
- FACET – nominations due April 1, contact Cyndi Sofhauser
- April 17 – Lang Lab – Dr. Stacie Merken 7pm
- Selected as Fair Elections Voters as voter friendly campus
- Open enrollment started today – encourage students to set up appointments for advising
- Honors student orientation today
- ICHE has a faculty appointment position open
- International Food Festival – Saturday April 5

15. Motion to Adjourn 2:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mallory Roberts (secretary) with the in-person support of Barbar Spinda (member-at-large and acting secretary)