

Minutes of the Academic Senate  
January 18, 2008  
Submitted by Lyle Zynda

Present: M. Basolo-Kunzer, J. Blodgett, P. Bushnell, J. Bushong, X. Cheng, T. Clark, N. Colborn, S. Cress, H. David, R. Ducoffe, W. Feighery, L. Fisher, L. Fritschner, S. Gerencser, A. Grens, A. Guillaume, H. Hakimzadeh, P. Henry, J. Hernando, M. Horvath, J. Hurst, R. Isaacson, S. Jones, L. Kahan, N. Karakatsanis, J. Klein, M. Lee, E. Lucal, M. Makielski, M. Marmorino, J. McIntosh, D. McMillin, G. Mettetal, M. Mooney, S. Moore, M. Nilsen, I. O'Connor, K. Okrah, S. Opasik, A. Ramis, M. Reck, M. Regan-Kubinski, M. Russo, P. Saksena, M. Scanlan, F. Shan, W. Shrader, C. Sofhauser, B. Spitzer, C. Sprague, A. Stankrauff, D. Surma, S. Thomas, R. Torstrick, J. VanderVeen, D. Vollrath, D. Vrajitoru, L. Walker, L. Williams, L. Zynda

The meeting convened at 10:06 a.m.

Senate President Cordell asked for a motion to change the order of the agenda, to begin with the announcements, and to conduct new business before committee reports. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cyndy Searfoss announced the Alumni Association's Legacy Award winner, given by alumni to faculty who have had "significant positive impact on the lives of their students." The award was given to R. Isaacson. It includes a \$500 scholarship in the winner's name.

The minutes from the November 16 meeting were approved.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **Chancellor Reck**

Sexual Assault. The Chancellor first reported on the sexual assault that occurred the previous week. The South Bend Police are conducting an investigation. M. Gersey gave an update, noting that the Family Violence and Special Victims Unit will be given the case after the preliminary investigation is conducted. The criminal investigation takes precedence over any administrative (campus) investigations.

The Chancellor noted that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Safety Committee were followed in quickly notifying the campus community. The Chancellor read several emails from students who appreciated the prompt release of information.

Student Housing. The new Director of Student Housing, Paula Smith, was introduced. Her previous experience includes work with housing at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Nebraska. There are 45 applications (with paid deposits) already; applications have been available on the web since January 2. Applications for Resident Assistants and a Senior Resident Assistant position are also available there. Student housing is still ahead of schedule.

Administration Building Renovations. The second floor construction is proceeding; faculty and staff from the School of Business and Economics, along with Alumni Affairs and the Special Events Office, have moved to the Associates Building. Construction on the first floor and second floor landing areas will begin soon. This includes the first floor entrance lobby, the boardroom, the hallway, the Alumni Room and the Chancellor's Dining Room.

Education and Arts Building. The Architect Design Group (ADG) has been chosen as the architect. We are on the "projects to be discussed" at the Board of Trustees meeting. Work can start only upon approval of the project from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the State Budget Committee.

Director of Student Life. Sam Centellas is our new Director of Student Life; his previous experience is at Albion College, Grand Valley College and Western Michigan University. He will begin February 1.

The Search for a Director of Affirmative Action is proceeding.

IT Meetings. Next Tuesday, a series of IT meetings will be conducted on our campus; people have been invited from many campus constituencies. Garland Elmore, AVP and Deputy Chief Information Officer, will be conducting these. The issue is IT security. Other topics include policies, practices, and budgets.

### **VCAA Guillaume**

Self Study. The Vice Chancellor acknowledged E. Bender and R. Torstrick's work as co-chairs of the Steering Committee for Reaccreditation, and announced that our Self Study will be on display in the Resource Center of the HLC's April meeting, as an exemplary example. He thanked all those involved in the reaccreditation process for their work.

SeaChange was an extraordinary success. The VCAA thanked D. Marr and S. Sernau, noting it was a "moving experience."

Dean of the Arts Search. Lynn Williams is chairing the search for the new Dean of the Arts. Four candidates will be on campus in mid-February. People are encouraged to attend the open sessions.

Academic Cabinet. The VCAA noted the Academic Cabinet is discussing the budget. Instead of budget hearings, they thought it more important to discuss campus priorities, especially with respect to the five-year plan, based on themes and ideas that have come up in the various meetings on that topic. The idea is to concentrate on 3-4 central ideas that will get budget priority. The Cabinet is also looking at the priorities set by President McRobbie, particularly with respect to retention. The role of the first year in retention is the most important; thus, it is being considered whether there should be an increase in the number of sections offered of our college skills course (U100). R. Isaacson and J. Novak are working to collect data to determine if this course in fact increases student success.

Diversity Committee. There were many responses to the call to serve on the Diversity Committee; members of the committee will study diversity issues as they apply to leadership, curriculum, campus climate, and representation of diversity.

PTR. The VCAA noted the extraordinary quality of the faculty up for promotion and/or tenure.

Natorium. We are now working on finding funds for interior design and development of the Natorium. Progress is being made with community involvement and support.

Academic Learning Services. A significant concern is whether enough sections of key courses, e.g., U100, W130, W131, and introductory math classes, are being made available for students' first semesters at IU South Bend. A commitment is being made to provide a sufficient number of such courses for beginning students. The VCAA met with Chancellor Reck, B. O'Donnell, and L. Williams about the adjunct budget and how this can be modified to ensure this. Also, assessment of our advising strategy is being planned.

Library Advisory Committee. The VCAA expressed concern about the dwindling budget for material acquisitions. For example, 11,694 titles were purchased in 2000, but only 815 new titles were purchased in 2006. The various Senate committees need to look at this and provide advice to administrators on how best to address this issue.

Deans' Seminars. The VCAA noted that because the second-floor meeting rooms in the Administration Building are closed for the semester, Deans' Seminars will be held in NS245, UCET's meeting room. Jorge Muniz's Deans' seminar, the first of the Spring semester, will take place on February 15.

The Midwest Black Man's Think Tank will begin the same day (February 15). Charles Pittman (Schurz Communications) will speak on Saturday, February 16. A panel discussion Friday evening will center on the Natorium and the Civil Rights Heritage Center, and there will be a post-Kwanzaa celebration, too.

Finally, the VCAA encouraged people to read the VCAA Newsletter.

A question was asked of the VCAA how we can expand capacity (sections) of our introductory first-semester courses with no increase in the budget. The VCAA responded that more sections mean more tuition. The main problem is securing instructors for these courses. The VCAA noted that we have only a 26% six-year graduation rate, so retention is the key to our success in expanding budgetary resources.

### **Senate President Cordell**

Senate Meetings. The Senate President noted that the change in meeting location to NS 113 was due to a need for students to have access to NS 158 before the noon termination time. NS 113 has no scheduled meetings, so it seemed appropriate in case a meeting needs to be extended on occasion. Also, the March 21 meeting has been changed to March 28, to accommodate an environmental scanning workshop for strategic planning scheduled for March 21.

Athletics Committee Amendment. The amendment was ratified by a vote of 50-0 in favor.

PTR Issue. The Executive Committee, PTR Committee and the Ad Hoc PTR Committee were invited to meet with David Malik on December 18. The attendees were not convinced that the PTR directive issued by Malik's office should define policy. The attendees prepared a document requesting that these policies be set aside and put before the UFC in a way that would address the issues university-wide. Also, the Academic Leadership Council met last Friday, and this was one of the issues they discussed. VCAA Guillaume reported that he and L. Fritschner had voiced this campus' concerns with Malik's document. Some of the regional campuses' representatives have written a resolution to be discussed at the UFC next Tuesday. Discussion ensued whether our campus should make a resolution as IU Southeast has done. It was agreed that a draft of such a resolution will be considered (and written) at the next Executive Committee meeting.

UFC Report. Senate President Cordell presented the report.

- *Same-Sex Marriage Amendment.* A decision was made to send the UFC's resolution against the proposed same-sex marriage amendment to the appropriate legislators before they began this session. It was agreed this should be communicated by IU's legislative liaison.
- *Instructor Census.* It was suggested that IU needs a census on how many courses are being taught by full-and part-time faculty on the various campuses.
- *Family Leave Policy.* This policy was discussed at length, and changes were sent out. Twelve weeks with full pay are covered rather than 15 weeks at 2/3 pay, and the new policy covers all full-time academic appointments (e.g., 12-month employees weren't covered before). Domestic partners are covered, but not siblings. It was also approved

that leave be allowed twice in five years rather than once every three years. The whole process this time has been marked by significant cooperation between the UFC and the IU President's office.

- *Intellectual Property Policy*. IU Council rewrote this policy as passed by the UFC "in plain language" at their own initiative; there was concern whether the changes were substantive, and not merely stylistic. Consequently, all campuses have readers for these two revised documents, who are to send their comments to the UFC. J. McIntosh and B. Knowles are doing this for our campus.
- *Credit Transfer Limits*. Concern was expressed about the relationship between the new 64-hour limit on transfer credits from two-year colleges and existing articulation agreements, particularly with Ivy Tech. To be investigated is whether the limit is consistent with current articulation agreements, and when these end.
- *IU Bloomington Faculty Concerns*. The IU Bloomington faculty passed a resolution to divest from Sudan (which amounts to around \$800 million). IUB's faculty is also discussing guidelines for authorship on articles.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Committee Replacement Position. An election of a new Executive Committee member to replace N. Yokum was conducted, with M. Basolo-Kunzer nominated for the position. Further nominations from the floor were invited. None was made. A motion to close nominations and hold the election by voice vote was made, seconded and approved. A voice vote was conducted and M. Basolo-Kunzer was elected.

Senate PTR Committee Position. D. Parker's resignation from the Senate PTR Committee requires election of a new member. M. Lee was nominated to serve in Parker's place for the remainder of his term, which continues through June 2009. Further nominations from the floor were invited. None was made. A motion was made and seconded to do this by voice vote. A voice vote was conducted and M. Lee was elected to the position.

Teaching Committee Report. The Teaching Committee made public the results of its Faculty Survey on Academic Integrity among Students. W. (JR) Shrader made the presentation. (A PDF version of the PowerPoint slides he presented is available on the Academic Senate's web page beneath the link to these minutes.)

The main concern of the report was with faculty awareness, concerns, etc. There were 17 reported incidents of plagiarism on our campus in 2005-2006. Plagiarism is a growing concern nationwide. According to plagiarism.org, about 70% of students reported cheating on tests, 84% on papers. Most said cheating was "necessary to get ahead."

The goal of our survey was to determine how best to help faculty educate students on these issues, and deal with violations. The survey focuses on the following issues: What are faculty members currently doing about plagiarism, how do faculty evaluate themselves on this issue, and what campus/IU resources are faculty aware of?

It was noted that there were 32 respondents to the survey. Thus, conclusions and recommendations should be tempered. The results of the survey were then presented and discussed in detail.

The Teaching Committee concludes based on this survey that faculty awareness of resources for dealing with plagiarism should be increased, and that faculty members need to know more about how students have been educated about plagiarism before entering their classes. Specific suggestions discussed for accomplishing this included things such as UCET giving presentations to departments about plagiarism and the resources available for preventing and dealing with it, or placing a video of such a presentation on the web.

Questions and comments from the floor were then raised. It was asked if the process for dealing with a confirmed instance of plagiarism was discussed. It was noted that C. Pfiefer has a video outlining the process on the web. It was brought up that the disparity between global trends and rates of actual enforcement is of great concern, since students will not take seriously policies that are not enforced. Someone raised the issue of whether the Enlightenment emphasis on individual authorship in fact needs to be reconsidered in the light of current technologies. It was also discussed whether turnitin.com could be used as a teaching tool in addition to a policing tool. It was pointed out that UCET has many relevant resources on their web site, and UCET also allows students to run their papers through turnitin.com on their own. The need to address the more general “culture of copying” with which many students come to college was discussed (specifically, the need both to recognize it openly and to talk to them about it in a way they perceive as relevant). It was also suggested that we move beyond focus on individual professors’ initiatives, and instead make it a university or division priority that there be uniformity in training (of both faculty and students), resources used, and enforcement.

Finally, J. Chaney announced that “Revolutions in Thought” will be next year’s campus theme.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.