

Academic Senate Minutes

Friday, January 23, 2026, 1:30-3:00 PM DW1001

[2025-2026 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, A. Alwine, M. Ananth, E. Bennion, K. Borkholder, C. Borshuk, K. Bregu, K. Cunningham, D. Economakis, W. Feighery, J. Feighery, S. Gerencser, D. Heller, M. Holland, S. Jang, N. Karakatsanis, A. Lindinski, T. Liechty, C. Lisoni, J. Liu, B. Lucal, M. Mancino, T. Martinez, D. McMillen, S. Merken, S. Moore, J. Muniz, J. Muniz, O. Okanlami, R. Olivier, B. Ollen, S. Opasik, A. Pant, B. Pathak, J. Pearson, R. Reddy, J. Resler, M. Roberts, E. Roth, K. Sargent, C. Schult, K. Schwieterman, W. Shrader, S. Sigety, D. Surma, K. Takanashi, S. Thomas, D. Vrajitoru, B. White, M. Yadav

Premeeting Slides

See file: [1. Faculty Senate Pre-show Jan 2026.pptx](#)

1. Call to Order 1:31 pm (quorum not met 1:50 PM)

S. Gerencser called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM EST after reaching a quorum (50 members)

See file: [2. January 23 2026 Senate meeting slides.pptx](#)

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 November 2025 Minutes

Presenter: Steven Gerencser, Academic Senate President

See file: [Minutes 2025.11.21 Academic Senate.docx](#)

Discussion

Had to skip at first due to quorum. No corrections or additions.

Action Items & Follow up

Minutes stand approved.

No follow-up needed.

3. [10 min] Honors Program Report

Presenter: Neovi Karakatsanis, Director of Honors

See file:

Hand out provided that covers course conversion process

Presented information:

- Thanks all of the faculty for working with our honors students
- Here to talk about the Honors Program and encourage all of us to please work with them to convert their courses.
 - Students will be approaching faculty in the first 2-3 weeks of the semester
 - Program continues to grow approx.. 1 out of every 10 students are members of the honors program (10% of the study body)
 - 34% of the students are 1st generation
 - 35% are from underrepresented backgrounds
 - Benefits to being an honors student
 - Scholarship every semester in the program
 - Early registration privileges
 - Graduate with IU Honors diploma
 - To be admitted
 - Cumulative GPA 3.5 high school
 - If achieve that GPA on campus they can apply and be admitted too
 - If think they could be eligible reach out to Honors Program to invite students to apply
 - To stay in the program
 - Maintain 3.3 GPA
 - Must attend # honors and campus events throughout the semester
 - 10 hours of service every semester
 - Must take 18 credit hours of honors coursework with grade B+ or higher in that work
 - Courses
 - Several established courses W131 (W140), S121 (S130), accounting courses, economic courses, honors FYS 100 level courses
 - Course conversion process
 - 1st week ask to discuss with faculty to convert course
 - Enrichment project
 - Faculty determines what that project will be
 - Service project on campus or community
 - Extra sources and more extensive work
 - Reviews sheets and reviews
 - Honors Program does not micromanage what the additional work will be, but do ensure extra work will be completed
 - Sign the form and return to Honors Program
 - Honors Program will communicate with the Registrar to get the course notated on the transcript
 - Faculty just have to make sure the work is completed and done; if not notify the honors program and let know the work was not done

- **REQUEST:** When students approach you, please hear them out. We appreciate that you are willing to do that. We would not have an honors program without you.
- **April 17-19:** Hosting Regional Honors Conference on campus hundreds of faculties and students throughout Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio.
 - Accepting abstracts currently and would love to have IUSB students present at that conference.

Action Items & Follow up

- When students approach you, please hear them out.

4. [10 min] High Impact Practices Proposal

Presenter: Susan Thomas, Dean of Libraries

See file: [3. HIPS January 2026.Senate Presentation.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- The Faculty Senate is asked to 3 items:
 - Approve the work of the HIPs Team to expand High Impact Practices for IU South Bend.
 - **Endorse the inclusion of four additional High-Impact Practices (HIPs) for the IU South Bend Campus** (definitions can be found in the slides):
 - E-Portfolios (link to examples in slide 10)
 - Campus Student Employment (link to example in slide 11 Libraries linked employment competencies to NACE)
 - Meaningful employment where they will get something out of it.
 - Student Leadership and Involvement
 - Peer mentoring would be one of the ways to be involved in leadership on campus
 - Honors Program
 - Support the development of guidelines, assessment strategies, and campus-wide implementation for all HIPs.
- Currently, 14 HIPs are approved by IU, and tracked in the Student Information System (SIS). To further advance student engagement and achievement, the campus HIPs Task Force recommends the endorsement of four additional practices
- Background: IUSB strategic plan is to ensure students graduate having 2 high impact practices. Currently have 14 that are tracked in SIS that are IU Approved

Discussion:

- Q: Concerns about in class work versus outside; also compensated versus non-compensated
 - A: The spirit is to capture curricular and co-curricular experiences
- Q: Who should sign off on that experience?
 - A: SIS we can track curricular experiences
 - A: Co-curriculars need a way to track if we are going to give credit
- Q: In terms of HIPs I understand there will be an implementation process when we start to count, 1st generation students who participate in high impact practices persist.

- Q: E-portfolios, there are some concerns such as where are they housed? Who is reading E-Portfolios? There is nothing sadder than a collection of student work that is not read
 - A: We are going to follow IUI model which is Google Drive; They are also using Wix with templates; the review is something that we are trying to build into the assessment. If a student is doing it we need to evaluate it.

Action Items & Follow up

- Will bring HIPs back to the senate in February for a vote

5. [10 min] UFC Committee Report on Common Calendar Proposal Discussions

Presenter: Carolyn Schult and Staci Merken

See file: [4. ACADEMIC CALENDAR reform PRESENTATION.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- Background ACA 63 Common Calendar
 - Common Calendar “Academic Calendar Realignment”: Substantive revisions, December 2025.
 - Passed at UFC: December 2025
 - Link to revised policy: <https://policies.iu.edu/policies/aca-63-academic-calendar/index.html#history>
- New Committee (goal finalized in February with Bloomington start in fall 2026 and regionals 2027)
 - Review of proposal (developed by multiple groups)
 - Feedback provided (various UFC Chairs, groups across all campuses)
 - Main issues from all committees:
 - Fall break (change to one Monday in October)
 - Thanksgiving break (full week)
 - Early start in fall semesters by one week (proposed date start in FA 27: 8/16/27—end one week early at end of FA 12/4/27)
 - Spring/summer transition—grading, exams (not enough time)
 - Discussing summer starting earlier
 - Justifications for aligning calendars with IUI and IUB = not strong enough
- Need alignment
 - What are the guiding principles for the next meeting that we should be talking about?
 - What is important to have alignment versus not?
 - Overall picture- that we have the same number of days off in the fall and spring the same?
 - Impact of weather patterns on contact hours
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Discussion

- How close are we to not meeting the minimum contact hours?
 - We do not have that information.
- Fall break has not been in the calendar very long; used to start after MLK day;

- Since dealing with people on different campuses, did any other campus express the concern of not getting students back after a whole week off at Thanksgiving
 - When brought up today, I said I had not heard any good feedback about a full week at Thanksgiving. Bloomington and IUI are supportive. We remind them that we have a lot of students that commute to campus and they need to understand the differences of our campuses
- It is important to have the same number of sessions fall and spring and MW/TR. A number of faculty teach multiple sections and difficult across semesters. We need to have a discussion about contact hours and what those mean. I don't think we have done that as an academic senate, including synchronous versus asynchronous courses.
- Students make a lot of money with holiday employment. That extra week during winter break would support them in earning more funds.

Action Items & Follow up

- No action items or follow up.

6. [10 min] Spring Enrollment Report

Presenter: Raman Adaikkalavan, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Enrollment Management

See file: [5. Spring 2026 Enrollment Progress - Senate.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- Came in almost flat, which is a big accomplishment
 - 27 headcounts down, but credit hours we are up
 - Struggled with undergraduate beginners
 - Transfers have been challenging this year for all regions
 - Continuing students is where we struggle the most
 - Graduates struggled
- Highlights
 - Full-time equivalency we are up and hopefully this translates to retention
 - Main headwinds are bursar threshold changes (720+ students)
 - Slate implementation has been an issue
- Future
 - Fall 2026 applications are up, but have a long way to go

Discussion

- What was the background and rationale for the Bursar changes? Our students are assuming it was from the Chancellor's office. What is the professed logic and is there a way to offer students and professors agency to describe the effect?
 - Came from IU and it is across the board for all campuses. Before COVID we did not have thresholds. Our campus stopped at \$2k, but some went to \$5k. Last year those campuses were asked to go from \$5k-\$2k. In October, we were told it was a different amount of \$1k. Numerous questions but the decision has been made so we have to figure out how to make this work. The main intention was to have students not carry debt. Timing was the real killer for us. Ask for fall 2026, but it did not work. Main thing we heard if the default rates and write offs. Once we go beyond a threshold then

federal financial aid will be a challenge to get aid for our students. What is the time period do we have to make this work. We have October to January to make it work. It was extremely challenging.

- Instead of demanding that the SER be filled this week and move it to next week. The weather has made it hard.
 - The main thing we are looking for in the SER with attendance we are looking to see who is not attending classes.

Action Items & Follow up

- No action items or follow up.

7. [10 min] HLC Reaccreditation Timeline and Planning

Presenter: AVCAA Hope Davis and Faculty Co-Chairs Jorge Muniz and Rama Reddy

See file: [6. HLC Presentation to Senate 1-23-26.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- Reviewed why the institution is accredited
- Reviewed HLC Accreditation Criteria
 - 4 Major criteria and 18 minor
 - Mission-3 criteria
 - Integrity—Ethical and Responsible Conduct-5 criteria
 - Teaching and Learning for Student Success-7 criteria
 - Sustainability—Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning- 3 criteria
- Timeline Reviewed (Roadmap)
 - Spring & Summer 2026
 - Form committees
 - Begin research and evidence compilation
 - 2026-2027
 - Summarize findings
 - Develop primary draft
 - Share draft for stakeholder input
 - 2027-2028
 - Finalize self-study and submit (due January 2028)
 - Host external review team (February 2028)
- Reviewed Committee structure
 - Number of members will depend on the criteria
 - Designed to have inclusive representation on committees
 - Expert-led subcommittees
- Methodology
 - Our approach to this Self-Study is rooted in **collaborative governance** and **balanced representation**.

- **Expert-Led Subcommittees:** Each subcommittee is tasked with addressing a specific major criterion, led by members selected for their subject-matter expertise and institutional knowledge.
- **Inclusive Representation:** The committee structure ensures a comprehensive institutional voice, including faculty, staff, and students from across campus.

Discussion

- How does the committee/report address the well-known challenges with the issue of academic freedom? Where will accrediting agencies be aware of those numbers?
 - We are aware of the issue but have not come to a consensus on how we will frame our response. We will engage many stakeholders as we frame our response.

Action Items & Follow up

- No action items or follow up needed.

8. [15 min] EVCAA Report

Presenter: Jill Pearson, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Elizabeth Paice, Chief of Staff

See file: [7. Academic Affairs Senate presentation January 2026.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- Elizabeth Paice discussed 2024-2025 IUSB Diversity Committee Report
 - Reviewed legislation and IU Policy Requirements
 - Did identify a gap of evaluating part-time faculty with SEA 202
 - Reviewed faculty and administration personnel complaints concerning cultural and intellectual diversity issues
 - IUSB received 3 complaints for 2 situations
 - Reviewed recommendations made
 - Made a recommendation to provide overview of the process on the website
 - Made recommendation of something to explore which included discipline specific curricular content and expectations
 - Made recommendation for UCET to address this in new faculty orientation and include this in postings
 - Made recommendation to continue doing what we are doing with our strategic plan to address underrepresented groups
 - Reviewed the investigation process
 - This year only have 2 complaints as of right now. 3 were made last year.

- Discussed State Legislation & Program Impacts: Updates on Programs
 - ICHE required all campuses to submit a statement of *Civic Responsibility* for all under-threshold programs. Had to submit statements for all under-threshold programs.
 - How does the program cultivate civic responsibility and commitment to the core values of American society? For example, how does the curriculum include

components that emphasize civic engagement and the duties of citizenship in a free society?

- Deans worked with chairs to submit to ICHE in late December, delaying review of the previously submitted IU developed meta-program proposals.
- We have received no confirmed timeline for when these proposals will be considered/finalized.
- Similarly, we have received no confirmation about how online program enrollments are to be counted in relation to the statutory program thresholds.
- If ICHE approves IU's submission, proposals will still need to be through campus approvals before December 2026 so new programs could go live by fall 2027.
- Discussed Program Reviews
 - Program Review expectations were included in the [legislation](#) passed last spring.
 - Though many details of implementation are still TBD, IU has begun compiling a list of program review timelines (i.e., when each program is scheduled for its next review).
 - Every program is reviewed every 7 years.
 - Deans & AVCAA are vetting this list for our campus.

Action Items & Follow up

- No specific follow up or action items.

9. [10 min] Time for Questions for Jill Pearson, EVCAA

See #7 above

Q&A:

- Q: Is there any movement to align accreditation efforts with external accreditation?
 - My hope would not have to do a whole new process, but the timeline is not going to sync. We have to figure out how that will look.
- Q: My understanding is that the program review process was every 5 years.
 - Should be 5-7 years.
- Q: We also submit a 5-year interim report. I wonder if that will suffice.
 - We will have to look at it.
- Q: Campus closures for weather.
 - Understand that there are calls with safety when there are weather challenges to determine what will be done. Emphasize the welcome back message with the inclement weather. You have that autonomy to move remotely. There are choices you can make within policy. Speak the evening before. At that point must speak with Ken Iwama. There is resistance at IU level for closure. The message is that we should be open as much as possible, because we do have flexibility for some programs.
- Q: Troubles me post COVID we have decided because zoom exists we are never going to close.
 - Have history of not closing unless declared city emergency.
 - Likely we will continue to lean towards staying open
- Q: The flexibility piece is phenomenal. 75% of my schedule is clinic with geriatric patients and students feeling stress of requirements to complete. What type of flexibility do we have? We

have lab today. We do not have that kind of flexibility in all of our coursework. As someone with a new driver. Do we have a liability when we say it is a clinic or lab you have to be here.

- Q: I think it is wrong to leave this in the hands of individual faculty. The administration should make the decision because there will be, as there have been in past years, which will take the life of one of us or our students. I think that's going to be a real shock to many of us. It is unfair when I decide to hold my class when other faculty move it online. It puts students in a difficult situation as well. It is shirking responsibilities when our administration does not make the difficult decision and puts it in the hands of individual faculty.
- Q: We have students who we are preparing for clinical responsible health care positions. We do not demand that they show up that they get there. We have flexibility of clinicals and have the option to encourage students to show up if it is safe. We need to socialize them into nursing that if they do not show up, someone is left without care. We have to minimize it. If we have entire shifts of nursing not showing up, then we have an entire shift now covered by the previous shift. I cannot encourage that. I love flexibility.
- Q: Staff who must come in who are placed at risk. It is a difficult decision to make. I do hope that experts in the room will make that decision.
 - In many offices expectation of staff exists for units.
- Q: I did read your email and interpreted it to be that even if we have a snowy day you are still empowered to zoom. When we did not get a snow day on a 12 inch of snow day, half came and every other professor cancelled.

Action Items & Follow up

- No action items or follow up.

10. [5 min] President's Remarks

Presenter: Steven Gerenscer

See file: [2. January 23 2026 Senate meeting slides.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- November we elected the nominating committee
- Reviewed open positions (see slides)
- Discussed faculty governance and the integration of the work of faculty, administrators, and staff
- Encouraged all faculty to take up the work that is provided to us to uphold faculty governance
- All are in the file folder in the agenda. You can get access to files from the agenda from today in the Senate Blog.

Action Items & Follow up

- Review [upcoming policies under review](#) including [ACA-65 Program Reviews](#)

10. [5 min] Announcements

- Announcements were made about upcoming events and other important happenings.

11. Motion to Adjourn 3:08 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mallory Roberts (secretary)