

Faculty Senate Agenda
Friday October 21st 2011
2-4pm in UC 2206

Meeting Secretary: Jennifer Williams

Minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on September 30th, 2011.

Update from Dr. Ron Rochon, Provost.

Update from Dr. Kent Scheller on Commission for Higher Education.

Report from Adrian Gentle, Faculty Senate Chair.

Unfinished Business

1. Committee Appointments
 - a) Student Academic Grievance Committee
 - b) Environmental Stewardship Committee
 - c) Tobacco-free USI Committee

New Business

1. Student Summer Course Loads
2. Tenure and Promotion Policy

Next Meeting: November 4th at 2pm in UC 2206.

Adjourn.

Faculty Senate meeting 10/21/2011
APPROVED

Present: Kent Scheller, Brian Posler, Adrian Gentle (Chair), Ethel Elkins, MT Hallock Morris, Maria Shirey, Steven Williams, Jennifer Williams (acting secretary), Daria Sevastianova

From Shield: Jessie Hellman

Call to order: 2:00 PM

Motion to approve amended minutes from 9/30/2011: Kent Scheller, seconded by Maria Shirey, Unanimously approved.

In Dr. Rochon's absence, Brian Posler offered to answer questions

Maria Shirey: Where are we with respect to student assistance during faculty senate meetings?

Posler: Approved in Provost's office;
Adrian Gentle will make final arrangements

M.T. Hallock Morris: Questioning the academic review calendar

Posler: It appears that the transition time may have been replicated making the transition time to the new calendar 1 year longer. No changes have been made to the adjusted calendar; Posler is checking to make certain the adjusted dates are reflected in the calendar.

Report from Kent Scheller on the Commission for Higher Education (CHE):

As a point of information Kent reminded the body of activity surrounding tuition increases that went above the percentage suggested by CHE. CHE set boundaries for tuition increases. All Indiana colleges, except Ivy Tech, raised tuition more than CHE limit. Subsequently, all presidents were required to defend these raises by attending a hearing in Indianapolis. Strong pressure is being felt by all administrators from budget committee and from legislators. ISU has already lowered their tuition to be in line with the limits set; a media campaign has publicized this move. USI's Board of Trustees (who sets the tuition) has not met to address this issue.

Report from Dr. Adrian Gentle, Faculty Senate Chair:

CORE Curriculum Task Force continues to work and to invite feedback. All senators are encouraged to remind colleagues. Task Force cannot feasibly implement all suggestions from faculty (as some are in conflict with others) but they are trying. Blackboard site is open to all faculty with all materials of the task force being displayed with the exception of any copyrighted materials the task force has used.

Met with Administrative Senate. Credit hours for employees taking courses being considered. Student travel policy also being considered. Administrative Senate is working on proposals for both.

Unfinished Business

Committee Appointments

Student Academic Grievance Committee – Cindy DeLoney-Marino, Associate Professor of Biology & Kyong-Hee (Melody) Lee, Associate Professor of Mathematics were elected upon motion by Kent Scheller with a second by Ethel Elkins. Student Emily Tenbarge was also elected by ballot.

Environmental Stewardship Committee – Stephen Zehr, Professor of Sociology & Student Katelyn Offerman were elected by ballot.

Adrian Gentle reminded senators to submit names for the Tobacco-free USI Committee by next week.

New Business

Student Summer Course Loads –

Adrian Gentle explains charge: Currently the university has effectively 2 summer sessions versus three summer sessions historically. Students historically were allowed to take a maximum of 2 classes (6 hours) during each summer session for a total of 18 credit hours across the three summer sessions. Current policy still allows students to take up to 18 credit hours – which is too many for two summer sessions. Also, there is nothing in place to stop students from taking the entire 18 hours in one summer session. The charge received by senate requests a review of this summer course load and requests a reduction in the maximum number of credit hours allowed in the summer to 12. The charge also requests regulation of number of hours taken in any one summer term. It appears that computer system constraints are enabling this student practice of taking excessive hours in the summer terms. Kent Scheller made a motion that this charge be sent to Student Affairs for consideration and that Student Affairs involve Sandy Frank's office (Registrar) in the solution. MT Hallock Morris seconded. Motion carried.

Tenure and Promotion Policy –

Kent Scheller: The office of Academic Affairs agreed to work with faculty senate to rewrite the promotion and tenure policy. Dr. Rochon has worked with Kent Scheller and Brian Posler to rework the structure of the policy. The reworked/proposed policy is very similar in content to the current policy with the exception of an explicit link between promotion and tenure that is reflected in the reworked/proposed policy. The proposed policy is thoughtful, thorough and a progressive document that defines terms, types of appointments, evaluation criteria and who is responsible for each evaluation. The proposed policy flows better. This policy is being circulated today for our information; senators should study the document well and prepare to discuss it in a November meeting. The Office of Academic Affairs is satisfied with the proposal.

Brian Posler: The proposed policy makes it explicit that Librarians are eligible for tenure (if they are hired in tenure track). Historically Librarians have sought promotion but not tenure.

Maria Shirey moved to adjourn. Kent Scheller seconded. Unanimously passed.

Adrian Gentle announced the meeting scheduled for November 4 might be cancelled if more business is not received.