

FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA

Friday, December 12, 2003

3:00 P. M.

UC 214

Announcements and Introductions

Report from Dr. Charley Harrington, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
The Status of Placement Testing at USI

Report from Provost and Vice President Dr. Linda Bennett

Report from C. Christy Baker, Senate Chair

Old Business

Items for Spring Budget Hearings
Completion of Charges Assigned to the Senate

New Business

Development of Faculty Senate Spring Calendar including Annual Spring Faculty Meeting

University of Southern Indiana
Faculty Senate Minutes
Session #7
Room: UC214
Date: December 12, 2003

Approved

Members Present: C. Baker, J. Bandoli, L. Bennett, ex-officio, P. Cashel-Cordo, J. Davis-Brezette, P. Doss, C. Ehlen, M. Graham, R. Hoebeke (in lieu of B. Johnson), G. May, K. Rodgers, S. Sullivan, K. Valadares.

M. McCullough, Sr. Administrative Associate for Academic Affairs

Members Absent: H. Ray Hoops, ex-officio; B. Johnson

Guests: Charley Harrington

1. Call to order at 3:05 P.M.
2. Charley Harrington discussed the upcoming changes to subject placement testing in Mathematics, English, Reading, and Foreign Languages. Due to recent changes in the student orientation schedule (changing from a program of 1 ½ days to ¾ of a day), there is insufficient time to test students, score exams, and then create course placement recommendations to accommodate academic advising. Furthermore, the English department has determined that there are validity and reliability issues with the current RCPE testing and course placement practice. In lieu of placement testing, high school grade point average and SAT Verbal scores will be used to place students in English and Reading. This approach for English may be changed in future years as the SAT exam will include a writing artifact beginning Fall 2005.

Placement testing will continue for incoming students in mathematics and foreign languages. The Department of Mathematics has mandatory placement for all entry-level mathematics courses. Placement into an appropriate course is determined by a mathematics placement test. Some students may be exempt from taking the math placement test, based on the following:

- Math SAT score of at least 640 or Math ACT score of at least 29,
- High school GPA of at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and Math SAT score of at least 600 or Math ACT score of at least 26.

In the future, a more automated option for foreign language testing may be available in the foreign language lab.

There was discussion about the need to make certain that all faculty members are fully informed of the changes in order to provide effective academic advising.

The estimated annual costs savings from these changes is \$6000.

3. Report from Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett

Dr. Bennett revisited some previous agenda items:

a. The varying length of spring semester compared to fall semester.

- Equalization could occur by lengthening fall semester, or shortening spring semester.
- Could begin fall and/or spring on a day other than Monday, though that might present problems as well.
- Is this an issue that, while presenting some inconveniences, is not of the magnitude to need action? Any action is likely to have a ripple of "unintended consequences."
- Dr. Bennett agreed to convene a group to look into this issue further.

b. Cost of summer school class. Update:

- Currently, tuition for in-state students is \$127.50/credit hour (\$382.50 for 3 semester hour course). If starting with pay scale for faculty of 2.5% of base salary/credit hour, an enrollment cap of 10 students provides \$3,825.00 in revenue to cover faculty salary and other costs. An almost "break even" for that enrollment cap, considering only covering salary cost, would be a faculty member earning \$50,000/year who would earn \$3,750 to teach a 3 semester hour course.
- P. Cashel-Cordo agreed to assist in creating a cost/benefit analysis of summer school classes.

There was a lengthy discussion about pro-rating faculty salaries during summer sessions. Apparently, this practice exists in the schools of Liberal Arts and Education. The following motion was adopted with the intention of conveying it to the Deans. Motion: That the practice of pro-rating faculty salaries based on minimal student enrollment be discouraged during the summer sessions. (May/Doss) Dr. Bennett will bring up this issue with the Deans.

c. Summary of Space Committee items. Update:

- Renovations in Orr Center (main level) could be done by March 2004. This includes additional testing rooms for the Counseling Center.
- Renovations in the Forum Wing – where HR has been located, and to Forum 2 auditorium. Forum 2 is scheduled for renovation next summer. HR will likely return to its renovated offices around February 2005.
- Expanded food service in the Link – Sub Connection will be offering prepared sandwiches and Starbucks Coffee sometime next fall. Some renovation needed to make serving space possible.
- The planning continues for a parking garage to be located somewhere between the round water tower and UC). Will house Security Office, have around 200 parking spaces. Planned completion: Spring 2005.

4. Report from Senate Chair, C. Baker:

- a) The Code of Ethics is now being reviewed by University Legal Counsel.
- b) Senators should come prepared to the next meeting to submit items for the budget.

5. Minutes from November 14, 2003 (Session #6) were approved pending corrections.
(Doss/Bandoli)

6. Old Business

a) C. Ehlen discussed the expectations and assignments of full-time instructors in the Accounting and Business Law department of the School of Business. Due to specific accreditation requirements, instructors are required to publish. Accordingly, S. Sullivan will resubmit results of the Survey of Deans on School Policies concerning Instructors at the next meeting.

b) Information on Student, Faculty awards has been sent out. A reminder was issued to submit names to the appropriate School Committees and the Chairs of the Student Affairs and Faculty Affairs committee concerning student/faculty awards.

c) The following item was postponed until the next meeting: Scheduling completion of charges assigned to the Senate.

7. New Business

a) Development of Faculty Senate Spring Calendar. It was decided that meetings will be conducted at 3:00pm on the following dates:

Jan 16th, 30th

Feb 20th

Mar 19th, 26th

Apr 16th, 23rd, 30th

May 7th

b) G. May reminded the Senate that on Thurs. March 16th, Mary Johnson will be conducting a presentation on Disability Issues (UC206 @ 12pm). It could be incorporated as a learning opportunity in classes.

8. The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm. (Bandoli/Ehlen)

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Valadares, Senate Secretary