

University of Southern Indiana
Faculty Senate Minutes
Session: 8
Room: UC 206
Date: February 16, 2007

Members Present: C. Baker (Chair), B. Boostrom, P. Cashel-Cordo, M. Dixon, P. Doss, M. Hamington, R. Hoebeke, B. Hooper, B. Long, J. Kempf deJong, M. Shaw, L. Bennett, ex-officio.

Members Absent: B. Wilding

1. Call to order at 3:04 P.M.

2. Announcements from the Chair:

- A) ADA Position Hiring: The ADA coordinator candidate has been hired and will start later this month. The second candidate withdrew due to a personal emergency.

3. Report from Dr. Linda Bennett, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs:

- A) The new sections of the Faculty Handbook are now up on the Senate website.
B) Two candidates for the Dean of the Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services have been to campus. No decision has been reached yet.
C) Peter Cashel-Cordo asked Dr. Bennett about:
a. Having a representative from her office come to Faculty Senate meetings if she is unable to come.
b. The USI operating budget proposal from August 2006: please address the issue of closing the compensation gap. Dr. Bennett discussed that this cannot be addressed until it is known what budget we have to work with. For this biennium Dr. Bennett's #1 concern is more new faculty lines/positions. Addressing compensation will take the legislature to decide.
D) Brett Long raised the question and much discussion occurred re: are we keeping track of the reasons faculty leave USI? Do we know what the reasons are? C. Baker asked about obtaining a summary of basic data on hires and departures. It was agreed that we need these basic data to determine if it is a problem of recruiting faculty candidates or a retention problem.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting were reviewed and approved (B. Boostrom/M. Dixon) with corrections. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention due to absence (J. Kempf deJong).

5. Old Business:

A) Faculty Senate Budget Presentation

Will take place on Monday February 26th at 8:15.

B) Added Item: Use of space in the old Rice Library

C. Baker asks permission to add to the agenda re: use of the old Rice Library space for a testing site where students can take tests if they are unable to do so in their normal test setting. This request was supported by Faculty Senate.

C) Breakfast with the President

C. Baker requests 5 Senators (one from each College) to serve on the panel who will articulate faculty questions to President Hoops at the breakfast meeting on Wednesday February 21st. Those Senators who volunteered for the panel are: Brett Long, Roberta Hoebeke, Maurice Hamington, Marlene Shaw, and Joan Kempf deJong. Senators are asked to please submit questions they receive from faculty to C. Baker by Tuesday so that she may compile them by themes for the breakfast.

D) Faculty Senate Charges Final Reports

1. Faculty Senate charge #4: "Review the status (temporary policy versus permanent) of compensation for developing a course for the first time to be delivered online for distance education – see page 77 of the Faculty Handbook" – J. Kempf deJong volunteered to do this.

2. Faculty Senate charge #11: "Examine the number of offers refused over the past several years for tenure-eligible and department chair positions, determine if there is a common core of reasons for refusals, and recommend actions to increase the successful future hires of excellent candidates" – Brett Long will chair this group of volunteers which will also include Joan Kempf deJong, Marlene Shaw, and Bill Wilding.

E) Spring Faculty Meeting

C. Baker requests that the April 27, 2007 3:00 PM Faculty Senate meeting be the Spring meeting. At this meeting we will hold nominations from the floor for at-large and election of members and summarize committee reports.

6. New Business:

A) Promotions Committee Final Report

Motion to accept the Promotions Committee report as presented (P. Doss/B. Hooper). Motion carried.

B) Faculty Senate charge for Committee on Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability, Paul Doss Ad Hoc Faculty Committee Chair

Paul Doss summarized the charge and the report of the ad hoc committee members who met on Friday February 9th (P. Doss, B. Boostrom, R. Hoebeke, B. Hooper, and M. Dixon). He recommended that the Faculty Senate endorse a new permanent University committee for Environmental Stewardship. Motion was made to accept the report (P. Doss/B. Boostrom). Motion carried. The action item is to create a University-wide permanent committee that will arise out of the President's office. C. Baker as Faculty Senate Chair will submit this to Dr. Linda Bennett; it will go to the President's office, and Dr. Linda Bennett will report back to the

Senate. Brett Long posed questions and raised concerns about the minimalist wording and discussion ensued. Vote: one nay (B. Long), no abstentions, all others in favor. The action item will move forward.

C) Faculty Senate charge on Communication Process, C. Christy Baker

- a. Develop annualized calendar on when committee reports will be due. Charges to be submitted in Spring of the year.
- b. Faculty Handbook – getting changes and time framing of decisions and Senate recommendations on a cycle completed no later than August 1st to be put into the Handbook by October 1st. D. Evinger in Human Resources states that the online PDF file version of the Handbook is searchable and there is no need to have a Word document for search-ability. She will place online instructions for faculty for searching the document.
- c. FAC query about splitting of charges into two committees (where the library and some wording got dropped) – the original wording will go back in.

The meeting adjourned 4:42 PM. The next meeting will be on March 16th at 3:00 PM. in UC 206.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta Hoebeke, Senate Secretary