

Faculty Senate Minutes
Friday, March 20, 2015
UC206

Meeting called to order: 3:00

Present: Jason Fertig, Joanne Artz, Rex Strange, Alisa Holen, Marilyn Ostendorf, Ethel Elkins, Matthew Hanka, Julie Evey, Jessica Garces-Jensen, Jennifer Williams, Peggy Shields, Gabriela Mustata-Wilson, President Linda Bennett, Scott Gordon, Steven Woodall, Kathy Rogers, Vincent Frazier

1. Approval of minutes from February 20, 2014: Approved with no corrections; one abstention

2. Report from President Linda Bennett

- The recent firearm incident in Kathy Rogers class did not contain “threatening behavior.”
- The student involved was a distance education student taking an exam on campus; she did not think about university policy when she brought her legally owned firearm into the classroom (in a pouch on her side). Dr. Rogers asked about the pouch because it could have contained material to use to cheat on the exam.
- The student was cooperative when asked to turn over the weapon and to comply with law enforcement. Dr. Rogers called public safety – both public safety and the Vanderburgh Country Sheriff’s office were on campus quickly
- The student did not break any laws, but was in violation of USI policy.
- Research shows that internal gun violence occurs when “many people were not listening” to the signs that a person may be a threat.
- Students, Faculty, and Staff all need to use social media responsibly in order to avoid creating panic.
- President Bennett was not supportive of policies that increase the amount of weapons on campus
- Steve Woodall:
 - i. Proper procedures were followed, but he also understands that some people on campus did have concerns over the incident.
 - ii. Public Safety is available for each college to have training sessions on threatening situations
 - iii. If law enforcement is needed, call Public Safety, not just 911. When 911 is called, the address is 8600 University BLVD., not the exact location on campus
- Jessica suggested having key contact information posted (or available) near the main computer in each classroom

3. Vincent Frazier from Staff Council

- Staff Council formed a task force to look into the current weapons policy in the University Handbook.
- Julie, Rex, and Jason expressed interest in making the effort a joint effort between Faculty Senate and Staff Council. Meetings will be arranged at a later date.

4. Report from Jason Fertig, Faculty Senate Chair:

- Election time – he handed out a document that contained open positions for Faculty Senate and Senate Subcommittees (attached to this document)
- Faculty Senate will present the faculty budget requests as part of the Campus Community presentation on 4/20

5. Report from Provost's Office – Scott Gordon

- Nothing to report. Dr. Rochon and Dr. Blunt were returning from an overseas trip.

6. P&T Task Force Update – Rex Strange

- Currently, there is not much support for disbanding the University Promotions Committee
- All policies discussed are “process-related,” not content-focused.

7. Old Business: Senate strategic planning charge

- Jason expressed interest in advancing a plan for chair succession, but there was no majority support for any action. The charge was tabled for possible discussions at a later date.

Meeting was adjourned: 4:55.

Respectfully submitted by: J. Fertig with help from J. Williams

FACULTY SENATE ELECTIONS 2015-2016

| | RCoB | Liberal Arts | CNHP | Pott | At-Large |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Faculty Senate | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Assessment | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Curriculum | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Economic Benefits | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Faculty Affairs | | 1 | 1 | | |
| FASTRC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Grievance* | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| Promotions* | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Student Affairs | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| *Tenured | | | | | |