

Faculty Senate Minutes

Friday, December 13, 2013

3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | Carter Hall A/B/C

Meeting Secretary: Kristalyn Shefvland

Meeting Called to Order: 3:03pm

PRESENT: MT Hallock Morris; Peter Cashel-Cordo; Peter Whiting; Brandon Field; Jason Fertig; Marilyn Ostendorf; Ethel Elkins; Perry Burnett; Tony Maria; Rex Strange; Garret Merriam; Kristalyn Shefvland; Frank Ward; Shelly Blunt; Ron Rochon; Kathy Rodgers

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 22, 2013:** Rex Strange motioned to accept, Garret Merriam seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **REPORT FROM THE PROVOST'S OFFICE :** Dr. Ron Rochon- Spring Meeting for the Faculty/Staff has one session for administrators and search committees, a couple of sessions for Degree Works, one on Org Sync, and a session on Ebooks. Update on the Search for a New Director for the Core: Dr. Blunt and Dr. Krahling have been working on a job description for that new director, and the search should begin in early Spring 2014. Also in the works, Senators and Faculty are to be identified for a disaster plan for final exams (in response to the University closing due to Weather last week). Finally, the University has received a new Lilly Grant in the amount of \$3 million. Commenting on HJR-6, Dr. Rochon noted that he reported to President's Council that the civil discourse and collegiality of the Senators should be commended.
3. **REPORT FROM MT HALLOCK MORRIS, FACULTY SENATE CHAIR :** No Report.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. CORE 39 [Kathy Rodgers]: Page 3/7- 4 BA Language Courses. Summer 2014 are under the New Core.
 - i. **Policy 2:** Courses satisfying diversity and global embedded experiences should be a minimum of three credit hours. Kristalyn Shefvland motioned to approve, Brandon Field seconded. Policy 2 unanimously approved.
 - ii. **Policy 15:** Students are strongly encouraged to complete all foundational courses early in their course of study, although Foundational Courses might not be prerequisites for other courses in other core categories. ENG201 is a prerequisite for writing-embedded experiences Brandon Field motioned to approve, Kristalyn Shefvland seconded. Brandon Field amended the language of the policy, Garret Merriam seconded. Rex Strange further amended the language, Brandon Field seconded. Motion for Policy 15 with amendments unanimously approved.
 - iii. **Policy 16:** Course descriptions do not include references to Core 39. The appropriate Core 39 tags will be inserted by the Registrar's Office once the course is approved by the University Core Council. Rex Strange motioned to approve, Peter Whiting seconded. Policy 16 unanimously approved.
 - iv. **Policy 17:** All first-time, degree seeking students are expected to complete the First Year Experience during their first semester at USI. This applies to both full-time and part-time students. Kristalyn Shefvland motioned to approve, Jason Fertig seconded. Discussion

begun by Brandon Field ensued over the confusing nature of the policy. What if the students drop the course right before finals? They have still enrolled in the course but there is no language in the policy that requires them to complete the course. Another concern posed was about the language of “must enroll” rather than “strongly encouraged.” Amended by Rex Strange, seconded by Brandon Field. Tony Maria mentioned that it might be a course that would be a prerequisite for other courses in order to force students to complete. Policy 17 with amendments unanimously approved.

- b. House Joint Resolution 6: Jason Fertig and Garret Merriam met to prepare statements for the Faculty Senate to vote on as follows:
 - i. Statement A:

The Faculty Senate at the University of Southern Indiana recognizes the controversial nature of House Joint Resolution 6. While we respect the differing opinions surrounding it, we believe this bill is not consistent with the best interests of the faculty, staff and students of USI. To attract and retain the most talented personnel, as well as to promote our expressly stated values of diversity, inclusion and understanding, USI needs to foster an environment that welcomes everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or marital status. These values are already reflected in our policy towards same-sex domestic partners. Both the policy and the underlying values are threatened by HJR-6. Accordingly, the Faculty Senate opposes the adoption of House Joint Resolution 6, and we encourage both the administration at USI and the Indiana General Assembly to do the same.

Statement B:

The USI Faculty Senate takes pride in calling USI a place where people holding divergent views on complicated issues such as HJR-6 can come together to engage in thoughtful dialogue. Thus, because we represent a diverse group of colleagues who hold no clear consensus on HJR-6, we believe that not taking a formal Senate position is the proper response to the request for a formal statement on the joint resolution. However, many faculty members, including those on the Senate, do individually hold strong opinions on HJR-6; we wholeheartedly encourage them to passionately express those views and to continue to exercise their freedoms by joining organizations like Freedom Indiana or by contacting their state legislators.

Do not mistake our lack of a formal Senate position as insensitivity towards those individuals who would be directly affected by the policies contained in HJR-6. The USI Faculty Senate actively embraces and promotes the diversity of its faculty and student body and does not in any way condone discrimination based on characteristics such as ability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, or sexual identity.

At this point Faculty Senators read prepared statements that indicated where they stood in response to their respective constituents. In brief, the statements were as follows, Peter Whiting: USI should take a stand against HJR-6, will vote for Statement A; Tony Maria: Statement A is representative of the Pott College; Rex Strange:

Strong Majority opposed to HJR-6, Statement A; Peter Cashel Cordo: Made it clear that there are diverse points of view, however, will be voting for Statement A; Brandon Field: Faculty Senate should not be making a statement at all. Everybody seems to be using our statement as a proxy for something else. No-one agrees what the statements are about, ambiguous and mean different things for different people. Voting against both statements; MT Hallock Morris: Vote for Statement A. Reasons include faculty, faculty rights, benefits; Kristalyn Shefveland: An opposition to HJR-6 spoken by USI's Faculty Senate is in keeping with our campus community, our strategic plan, and supporting the voice of the faculty; Garret Merriam: The college of liberal arts is overwhelmingly in favor of condemning HJR-6; our academic expertise informs this opinion, as does our experiences with LGBT students; the threat to recruitment and retention of faculty make this issue relevant to the work of the faculty senate; we hope our actions in concert with those of our peer institutions will have an effect on the State Assembly's deliberations. Statement A; Jason Fertig: Believes our actions are clearly political (per the University Handbook) and not in the purview of the Senate. Does not believe that lawsuits would ensue. Believes that Senators are merely afraid and thus voting to avoid bad publicity. Believes that individuals should voice opposition, if they chose to, not the Faculty Senate. Suggested a motion that we pass the statement around for signatures; Perry Burnett: No formal statement; Marilyn Ostendorf: Sees voting for the statements as misrepresenting someone in the CNHP in one way or another. Any formal statement should come from the Office of the President. Any vote should be a ballot vote; Ethel Elkins: Comments from CNHP were very mixed. Seconded Jason's motions. No vote for either statement; Frank Ward: Agreed with other CNHP comments.

Call to vote on Jason Fertig's motion to have signatures for the HJR-6 motion: 3 for, 8 against, 2 abstentions.

Marilyn Ostendorf made the motion that the vote be by ballot, Rex Strange seconded. 3 for, 8 against, 2 abstentions.

Kristalyn Shefveland made a motion to approve Statement A, Garret Merriam seconded.

Vote: 8 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:10pm