

**Faculty Senate Agenda
Friday, March 2, 2012
2:00-4:00 pm UC 2206**

Meeting secretary: Dr. Ethel Elkins

Minutes from Faculty Senate meeting February 10, 2012.

Update from Dr. Ron Rochon, Provost.

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

Report from Dr. Steven Williams, Acting Faculty Senate Chair

Report from Core Curriculum Task Force

Unfinished Business

1. Faculty Senate governance structure discussion and vote
2. Recommendations from Standing Committees on governance structure, discussion and votes.

New Business

TBD

Faculty Senate Meeting March 2, 2012

Present:

Cindy DeLoney-Marino, Ethel Elkins (acting secretary), Brandon Field, Brian Posler, Wayne Rinks, Marilyn Ostendorf, Stephen Zehr, Kent Scheller, Jane Johansen, and Steve Williams (interim chair).

Dane Partridge and Michael Dixon were present for a part of the meeting to present an update on the CORE Curriculum.

Call to Order:

Interim Chair Steve Williams called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

Approval of the Minutes:

Cindy Deloney-Marino made a motion to approve the Faculty Senate minutes from the January 20, 2012 meeting. Wayne Rinks seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Update from Provost Rochon:

1. Provost Rochon asked Brian Posler to update the group on current legislation:
 - HP 1220 will require all Bachelor's programs in Indiana to have no more than 120 hours and Associate degrees to have no more than 60 hours. There will be some very limited exceptions for programs who are bound by external accreditation requirements. The ICHE will review and it is clear that any exceptions should be a "rare event." Timeline will be that by May, universities will provide an inventory of programs that exceed the maximum numbers and by May 2013, universities will be in compliance or justification for exception or the exception approved by ICHE. Brian noted that individual students will be governed by the which they enrolled.

It was noted that Dr. Bennett and Cindy Brinker are being very active in this process. Dr. Rochon added that this idea is not a new concept, but nationwide discussions are being held in regard to length of time to degree. Brian noted that USI will need to cooperate with other universities to develop core competencies, and to determine how non-credit courses (GENS) will fit into the overall picture.

 - Senate Bill 182 addresses the concept of a statewide transferable common CORE with a common numbering system. Brian noted that there are some issues with a common numbering system since Purdue, for example, uses a four-digit system but that there will probably be a common digit system. It is anticipated that by the end of the next Academic year, this 30-hour common core will be in place.

Brian stated that it is expected that both these bills will become law.

2. Dr. Rochon described the evaluation process for Dean Scott Gordon which is set for later this semester.

3. It was announced that Brian Posler will be leaving USI effective July 1 to take a position as the provost of Baker University in Kansas.

Report from Kent Scheller on ICHE:

1. Reaching Higher, Achieving More – strategic plan will set course for higher education.
2. The commission is looking at setting fees for distance ed. courses – Kent is opposed to this and is preparing a position statement.

Report from Faculty Senate Chair:

Interim Chair Steve Williams reminded the group that the CORE Task Force will present their official report to the Senate immediately after Spring Break. It was decided that the Senate will meet on Monday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m. with a single agenda item: that of receiving the Task Force's final report.

Update from the CORE Curriculum Task Force, representatives Michael Dixon and Dane Partridge:

The Task Force will have their final report to the Senate before the March 12 meeting. There was some discussion on the next step and it was clarified that this will be the final report and the next steps will be up to the Senate.

Michael and Dane noted that the Task Force has looked at the Ivy Tech model and compared the two and will offer comments on the comparison as well. They noted that they are aware of the legislation in progress and do not feel that there is a fundamental difference in what they are presenting. It was noted that the competencies match up.

A lengthy discussion/question period followed with the senators attempting to clarify exactly what the Task Force document will include, whether we are bound to a vote by the end of the semester, and what the Senate duties are in regard to the Task Force.

Dr. Rochon noted that we will NOT allow Indianapolis to hamper our progress in regard to the adoption of a new CORE.

Steve suggested that we need a "healthy discussion" in regard to the document the Task Force will present and Kent remarked that once the framework is set, we need to consider that implementation will be a difficult next step.

April 20 was suggested as a date for an all faculty meeting with the Senate.

Unfinished Business:

1. Make-up of the Senate: The continuity of the chairmanship remains an issue. After discussion on a proposed structure, it was clarified that per Roberts Rules, the chair can vote. After much discussion on the rationale of 2 or 3 at-large members, and what the colleges would consider as a sense of fairness, Wayne made a motion, seconded by Brandon that the Senate be composed of a 4 x 3 + 2 plan (three senators to be elected from each college plus 2 elected at-large members) with the Chair and Chair-Elect to be selected by the Senate with staggered terms.

A vote was taken with 9 for and 1 opposed. The motion carried and will need to be presented to the full faculty for a vote. A 2/3 majority of the full faculty will be needed to make the change.

2. Make up of Standing Committees: The committees have reported back on what they feel they need in terms of members to do their jobs. All have reported with the exception of the Promotions Committee which is dealing with the issue of full professorship under the direction of Dr. Rochon. We will hear their report at a later date.

Kent moved and Brandon seconded that we allow the committees to determine their own needs as follows: Faculty Affairs – 8 members; Student Affairs – 5 members; Assessment – 5 members; Economic Benefits – 8 members; Faculty Awards – 8 members and Faculty Grievance – 5 members.

After some discussion, a vote was called with 8 in favor and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

Steve asked for a volunteer to draft the new language for the Senate by-laws. ?????? agreed to do this.

Next Meeting:

- March 12th at 3:00 p.m. in UC 2205.

Adjournment:

Wayne moved to adjourn the meeting and Kent seconded. With unanimous agreement, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.