

FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA

Friday, November 14, 2003

3:00 P.M.

UC214

Announcements and Introductions

Report from Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, John Deem, & Director of Counseling Services, James Browning,

Report from Provost and Vice President Dr. Linda Bennett

Report from C. Christy Baker

Approval of Minutes for October 3, 2003 & October 10, 2003

Old Business

- Senate Sub-Committee Report on School Policies on Contract Faculty and Survey of Deans on School Policies Concerning Instructors – S. Sullivan & K. Rodgers.
- Timeline and Strategy for Completion of Charges Assigned to the Senate

New Business

University of Southern Indiana
Faculty Senate Minutes
Session #6
Room: UC214
Date: November 14, 2003

Approved

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

Members Absent: H. Ray Hoops, ex-officio; L. Bennett, ex-officio; M. Graham, K. Valadares

Guests: John Deem, James Browning, Tony Schmidt

1. Call to order at 3:00 P.M.

2. Introductions

Tony Schmidt from Respiratory Care was introduced. He is observing the meeting for a class assignment.

3. John Deem, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and James Browning, Director of Counseling Services discussed the resources that the Counseling Center provides. The Counseling Center's brochure was distributed, as well as a copy of the Higher Education Obligation under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. In addition, the yearly statistics of students with disabilities were distributed. For the fall 2003 semester, 269 students registered with the Counseling Center.

Mr. Deem and Mr. Browning discussed the problems with the lack of testing rooms (from four down to two). However, this will change when the Center moves to the new location. Senators asked a number of pertinent questions concerning the applicability of the regulations, the process for proctoring students, the possible creation of a separate testing center and most importantly, the role that faculty play as instructors and advisors in counseling students with disabilities. A number of issues were discussed. In summary, 1) inadequate resources in the counseling center for the accommodation of testing students with disabilities can, in some circumstances, place an undue burden on individual faculty who must meet the needs of large numbers of students from single courses requiring accommodations; 2) faculty should be provided with information on the responsibility of faculty for providing reasonable accommodations based on the ADA requirements. There were a number of questions that required additional data or information. Mr. Deem and Mr. Browning will provide more information and answers to some of the posed questions at the January Senate meeting. The Senate will examine this information to make a decision to support the needs of the Counseling Center as a Senate recommendation during the University budget process. Further specific questions or comments concerning the Counseling Center should be directed to Mr. Deem and Mr. Browning.

4. Report from Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett
In Dr. Bennett's absence, Dr. Jones presented the following report:

a) Update on the changes in the administrative software from SIS-Plus to Banner: The shift will take almost two years to implement fully. Implementation groups, largely of staff and administrators are being put together to begin the process of changing to Banner. USI's Finance and Human Resources systems will probably be the first to go through the shift. Academic Affairs is most involved in the component of the program dealing with student information. Dr. Bennett will provide periodic updates.

b) At the November 10, 2003 Board of Trustees meeting, Human Resources forwarded a proposal that was approved concerning shortening the TIAA-CREF retirement benefit participation period for new faculty and administrators from two years to one year.

5. C. Baker, Senate Chair reported that the Code of Ethics is now being reviewed by University Legal Counsel. When this review is complete a copy of the Code will be provided to all faculty members. The Board of Trustees will review and vote on the final code when the legal review is complete. Christy Baker will provide the Senate with a timeline of the development and distribution of the USI Creed to further clarify concerns raised by faculty members.

6. Minutes from October 3, 2003 (Session #4) were approved pending corrections. (Brezette/Doss/1 abstention). Minutes from October 10, 2003 (Session #5) were approved pending corrections. (Sullivan/Doss/3 abstentions)

7. Old Business

a) S. Sullivan and K. Rodgers presented the results of the Survey of Deans on School Policies concerning Instructors. The Provost is reviewing concerns raised about the differences in role expectations and assignments in each School. Senate representatives will explore the data provided on the School of Business before the survey results are published.

b) C. Christy Baker asked the Senate to review what the next steps would be in dealing with the charge made to the Senate "to clarify promotion requirements". Discussion ensued around the process and procedures as determined across schools. The Faculty Handbook outlines the general requirements but individual schools have created their own systems derived from the handbook. The debate may focus on whether schools have the determination of promotion/tenure rather than the University. The Senate chair suggested a meeting between the full Senate and the Promotion Committee might be a good first step in clarifying issues and concerns. J. Bandoli suggested that the Senate consider meeting with the previous six Chairpersons of the Promotions Committee. This would provide a context, historical perspective and the wisdom of groups who have gone through the entire promotions process over time. C. Baker agreed to get input from the Provost and report back at the next Senate meeting. Other ideas discussed included whether the designation of a special Senate meeting focused on this topic is warranted in the spring with the possibility of also conducting public hearings to provide an opportunity for faculty input and to gather more facts from constituents.

c) A question was raised concerning admission standards and whether the University should be in the business of teaching remediation. What is the faculty role in the development of entrance standards for the University? It was agreed upon that a cross-disciplinary time-limited work group be established to investigate this issue (Dr. Jones, Dr. Parrent, Mr. Deem, K. Rodgers, C. Ehlen, C. Baker, and a representative from the School of Liberal Arts). They will report back to the Senate.

8. The meeting adjourned at 4:50pm. (Johnson/Sullivan)

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Valadares, Senate Secretary
(Minutes were recorded by Eileen Morrison)