

FACULTY SENATE

MEETING #8

To: All Faculty  
From: Marlene Shaw *MS*  
Date: 27 January 1994  
Subject: Faculty Senate Meeting #8

4 February 1994

Room UC 308

3:00-4:30pm

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from Meetings 6 and 7
2. Report from President Rice
3. Report from Vice President Reid
4. Presidential Welcoming Letter
5. Policy on Class Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Announcements
9. Adjournment

**Approved**

University of Southern Indiana  
Faculty Senate Minutes  
Session 8  
February 4, 1994, UC308

**Members Present:** Shaw, Chairperson; Divine, Hankins, Hartl, King, Koob, Schibik, Serbus, Sinn, Valentine, Waters, S. Wolfe

**Guests Present:** B. Hart, C. Brinker, S. Helfrich, S. Standley

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Dr. Shaw.
2. Minutes of Senate Meeting #6 were approved as amended; minutes of Senate Meeting #7 approved as distributed.
3. **Report from Cindy Brinker:**

The Indiana Commission for Higher education met yesterday. Ms. Brinker reported the following:

- a. ICHE agreed to transfer ownership of USI housing units from SIHE to USI by July 1 if the State Budget Committee approves. The Commission wants USI to continue its focus on the needs of Southwestern Indiana students.
- b. The Commission and the State Board of Education held a joint meeting to adopt a Statewide Plan for Improving the Fit Between Secondary and Post-Secondary Education. The goal is to strengthen the high school curriculum by preparing students for admission in good standing to Indiana colleges and universities. The plan's logo is CORE 40 with 40 Credit Hours needed to complete the planned curriculum.
- c. The Commission approved a \$113,000 Eisenhower grant to USI for a 4-county demonstration project to prepare high school teachers to teach applied math and technical science.
- d. An amended House bill was passed for bonding authority for the University Center addition and a new classroom building.
- e. The House passed a bill to increase the term of the faculty representative on ICHE from one to two years effective July 1, 1994. It is unknown whether the current or the next member would serve the first 2-year term.

4. **Policy on Class Cancellations in Inclement Weather:**

Barry Hart, Director of Safety and Security, reviewed the policy from the Handbook and the established procedure that is followed regarding class cancellations when inclement weather occurs. B. Hart receives information from the security officer (condition of campus roads and walkways, Clarke Lane, Schutte Road, Hwy 62), stationary engineer (monitors WIKY, WGBF, NOA Weather Radio) and ground supervisor (checks city arterial roads, evaluates snow-removal problem). As safety director he calls EVSC to check bus route conditions, UE VPAA, and the city dispatcher for accident reports. He evaluates information and makes a recommendation to the Vice President for Academic Affairs who makes the decision. The Vice President for University Relations notifies radio and TV stations (17 on the call list) preferably by 5:00 a.m. to close morning classes and 3:00 p.m. to close evening classes. Late-morning and late-afternoon decisions are made by consultation among the VPAA, VPUR, Director of Safety, and Director of Physical Plant.

Several Senate members expressed distress over the decisions made during snow and ice on 17-20 January. The following concerns and suggestions were expressed by either faculty or administration:

- a. questioned the safety and necessity of student and faculty travel on such icy roads,
- b. found class time unproductive with high student absences
- c. suggested reading days be added to Spring Semester before finals to use as make-up snow days,
- d. suggested telephone access be set up for faculty to leave instructions for students calling-in for makeup assignments,
- e. suggested faculty syllabi include instructions for students to follow when classes are canceled,
- f. class cancellation decisions hinging on safety be made by the safety director,
- g. student alarm expressed for grade penalty for absences due to hazardous travel conditions,
- h. faculty alarm expressed for being docked hours of pay for safety-related class absence and the same reflected on annual appraisals.

5. **Letter to Incoming President:**

Discussion was deferred.

6. **Old Business:**

- a. An ad hoc subcommittee was formed to review the policy and issue regarding faculty eligibility for membership on Faculty Senate and its Standing Committees. Sub-committee members are K. Waters, C. Serbus, and T. Schibik.
- b. T. Schibik volunteered to prepare a short document stating the responsibilities of the ICHE faculty representative to answer inquiries from faculty interested in applying for the position.

7. **New Business:**

The Annual Spring Faculty Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 22, 1994 at 2:00 p.m.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pam B. Koob, Secretary