

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
2007-2008
MARCH 20, 2008 MINUTES

Time: 3:15 p.m.
Place: HMSU, Dede III
Officers: Chair V. Sheets, Vice Chair A. Halpern, Secretary Sr. A. Anderson
Parliamentarian T. Sawyer
Senators: T. Allen, S. Allen, E. Bermudez, K. Bolinger, S. Brake, E. Brown, J. Buffington, H. Chait, D. Collins, B. Corcoran, S. Ghosh, E. Hampton, P. Hightower, J. Hughes, N. McEntire, M. Miller, G. Minty, S. Phillips, T. Steiger, G. Stuart, K. Wilkinson, D. Worley, D. Yaw, T. Zaher
Absent: M. Brennan, N. Corey, S. Davis, K. Evans, J. Fine, P. Jones, M. McLean, S. Pontius, R. Schneirov V. Sheets, C. Stemmons, J. Wilson, G. Zhang
Ex-Officio: L. Benjamin, B.English
Visitors: J. Conant, R. Fitch, J. Gattrell, H. Hudson, E. Kinley, R. Lotspeich, R. Peters, L. Sperry J. Swez, G. Tukes

- I. Administrative Report – L. Benjamin
 - a. Budget hearings are being held.
 - b. Kudos to A. Chandra, who has been named a Fulbright Scholar.
 - c. International Relations: there is more coming and going of faculty and students.
 - d. He, B. Kilp and R. Green were in Thailand. Rajapat Universities want faculty to come and speak to their own disciplines to faculty and students. Dr. Benjamin cited the respect of the Thais for B. Kilp.
 - e. The Social Work program has been recertified. R. Lugar provided great leadership in international outreach.
 - f. Thanks to faculty who participated in calling program for new students, and for those who participated in interviews for Presidential Scholars.

- B. English
 - a. Search for Deana of Nursing and Health and Human Services is closing. An announcement is forthcoming.
 - b. 3rd, 4th and 5th year evaluations are in process in Academic Affairs.
 - c. NCA leadership meetings continue.
 - d. The Graduate School Dean search is progressing.(B. English turned mike over to T. Sauer, who read the following:)

Statement of Dean Sauer as part of the Administrative Report to the Faculty Senate, March 20, 2008:

After much deliberation, I concluded that biology at ISU was *in extremis* and required that we take immediate action to begin addressing the situation.

The division of the former Department of Life Sciences into two departments (Life Sciences [LIFS], and Ecology and Organismal Biology [EOB]) was a mistake. Constrained budgetary resources, the physical necessity for the two departments to share facilities, the division of the faculty by personal choice rather than subdisciplinary focus, and continuing personal animosities between and among the faculty in the two departments undermined the possibility of success of the agreement to create two biology departments. A semester of trying to negotiate a

future for biology at ISU shared by seventeen Ph.D.-prepared practicing biologists in two different departments yielded only stalemate.

Therefore, I recommended to Provost Maynard that the following actions be undertaken on March 4, 2008. Provost Maynard accepted my recommendation.

1. The Provost rescind the authorization for the EOB, Geology, and Anthropology to function provisionally as a new unit and halt the review process for the proposed new unit;
2. The Provost request that the Board of Trustees rescind its approval in 2004-05 of the creation of the LIFS and EOB departments and approve the establishment of a provisional Department of Biology to house the seventeen tenured and tenure-track faculty currently in LIFS and EOB; and the Provost take immediate administrative action to implement these changes pending formal approval by the Board at its next meeting;
3. The Provost appoint, on the recommendation of the Dean of the College, a provisional chairperson of the new provisional Department of Biology. I recommended Professor Arthur Halpern to serve as the provisional chairperson of Biology;
4. I would appoint a committee of three senior non-biology faculty in the College to ensure faculty monitoring of the work of the provisional chairperson and serve a faculty resource for the Biology faculty during the period of the provisional departmental status. Prof. Michael Murphy, Psychology and Director of Clinical Training is ISU's Doctor of Psychology program; Prof. Betty Phillips, LLL and outgoing member of the College's Promotion and Tenure Committee; and Prof. Rich Kjonaas, Chemistry and outgoing Chairperson of the College P&T Committee have agreed to serve as this committee.
5. Provisional bylaws for the Provisional Department of Biology will be developed by a group of three faculty consisting of one senior member of the former LIFS faculty, one senior member of the former EOB faculty, and Dr. Halpern;
6. Dr. Halpern will launch as soon as possible initiatives to begin healing the turmoil and animosity among the Biology faculty, and I will commit discretionary resources to support these endeavors. As soon these endeavors yield significant progress, the faculty will engage in the usual processes and procedures to establish a regular, ongoing academic department for biology as specified in Sections II and III of the *University Handbook*.

The need to address the situation in biology necessitated the cessation of university review of the proposal to create a new Dept. of Environmental and Ecological Sciences. The Geology and Anthropology faculty and their programs are currently without a departmental home, and I will be meeting with them to explore organizational options for us to consider.

We must recognize that until we work through our differences, biology will not thrive at ISU. But for the good of our students, our society, and our faculty, thrive biology must.

II. Chair Report – A.Halpern

Faculty participation in university affairs:

1. Ballots for the election of senators will be mailed out imminently. It is important for faculty to take part in this important part of faculty governance.
2. Request forms for service on university committees will be circulated soon. Here, also, faculty members are encouraged to respond. By serving on standing committees and other university committees, faculty have a direct and immediate opportunity to be part of governance.
3. The presidential search committee has completed its work. After the trustees select finalists, they will appear at campus forums. Faculty should make every attempt to take part in these forums and provide their input as requested. The selection of president is of utmost important at this critical time in the university's development.
4. As has been mentioned in this committee before, the faculty members want to participate, along with other campus constituencies, in the formulation of the campus master plan. We hope that the new president will play the lead role in this vital undertaking, and will use this opportunity to forge an initial, and it is hoped, enduring engagement with the university and the constituencies that make it what it is.

Faculty Senate Associate

Filling the vacancy created by Karen Buchholtz's departure has taken longer than expected. Fortunately, I can report that Ms. Patricia Kennedy has been offered and has accepted this position and she will join us on March 31.

III SGA Report

A. Borden encouraged standing committee chairpersons to contact Ryan Royer as soon as possible in order to get student representatives for their committees.

IV. Memorials

- a. The memorial for Gerald M. "Pat" Calvert was read by J. Buffington.
- b. J. Swez read the memorial for Lawrence Eugene Poorman.

V. Informational Items. GSA Report

Guinette Tukes, President of the Graduate Student Association, provided a schedule of events faculty are invited to:

- a. April 7: town hall meeting from 12–1:30 IN HMSU 407–there will be speakers.
- b. April 28: end of year celebration for graduating Graduate School students at 11:30–1:30 outside of Tirey Hall.
- c. August 18: 2008–2009 new graduate student orientation and barbeques from 9–12–place to be determined

VI. Approval of Minutes–minutes will be presented at the April Senate meeting.

VII. Fifteen Minute Open Discussion

- a. A statement was read (with recommendations) by R. Lotspeich

Re: Recommendation on Digital Measures

At its February 8 meeting the Senate's Administrative Affairs Committee discussed a variety of difficulties concerning the electronic process by which faculty annual reports are supposed to be submitted. In reply to our inquiry to the Office of the Provost about our concerns, a message was returned via Ed Kinley on 27 February. I quote the response directly:

Digital Measures is still relatively new for ISU. The expectation is that as faculty members have more time experience with the system, it will continue to be refined and improved. Digital Measures falls under OSPIRE and as such they have responsibility for its continued improvement and support. However, in order to provide a focal point to collect faculty thoughts and ideas on the system, all suggestions/questions/comments relative to Digital Measures should be directed to Bob English who will aggregate/summarize them and share them with OSPIRE. With the input from faculty, it is expected that Digital Measures will continue to evolve and become an increasingly useful tool to the faculty and the University.

I found this response to be completely inadequate, and it shows that the administration is seriously out of touch with the reality of this system of compiling annual reports. The notion that an engineering product needs time to evolve, and that faculty should take their energies away from teaching and research in order to make this system work is absurd and an example of bad administrative management.

The Digital Measures reporting system is deeply flawed and needs to be either discarded or thoroughly revamped. An adequate system must be easy to understand, user friendly, and generate appropriately formatted and correct annual reports. The current Digital Measures system fails on all three points. It continues to be a source of faculty frustration and engenders cynicism among the ISU professoriate. Moreover, I question its effectiveness in generating accurate and useful information about faculty activities.

I recommend that that ISU return to the previous paper-based system of reporting faculty activities until an adequate electronic system can be devised.

I further recommend that an audit of ISU expenditures on the Digital Measures system be conducted and reported to the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees. This audit should include expenditures on consultancy fees, an assessment of the ISU labor devoted to this system since its adoption three years ago and an evaluation of its effectiveness in generating the kind of information it is supposed to provide.

b. J. Conant read the following statement:

I protest the actions taken by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in unilaterally recommending rescinding the Departments of Life Sciences, Ecology and Organismal Biology and further consideration of the proposed Department of Environmental and Ecological Sciences along with its proposed curriculum. These actions were taken without any of the shared governance procedures that have been followed for all such departmental restructurings in the 26 years I have been on this campus. Moreover, it circumvents the process recently codified by the duly elected Arts and Sciences Faculty Council to deal with departmental restructurings.

The net result of these actions is to effectively eliminate faculty discussion of the recommendation and any opportunity for faculty government to insist on the process of shared governance before the recommendation goes to the Board. Why, even under “extremis” conditions, could the Dean not ask the College Faculty Council and the university Faculty Senate to approve the recommendation? Why not lay out the situation that leads to the declaration of extremism in the spirit of shared governance? I do not believe it is within the authority of an administrator to negate shared governance procedures simply by declaring “extremis” conditions. The precedent being set in these actions should be of the gravest concern to the members of this body.

Since this is the only Senate meeting prior to the Board meeting where it will receive the recommendation to rescind the division of Life Sciences, I ask the Senate to consider passing the actions of yesterday’s Arts & Sciences Faculty Council to the Board prior to its April meeting. Four motions were brought before the Council yesterday on this issue, two were passed (9-5-5 and 8-5-5), one was rejected (8-9-3) and one was tabled. I believe the Board should be aware of what the faculty in the College thinks of the Dean’s recommendations before they are asked to decide the matter.

- b. Faculty in learning communities would like to receive Senate agendas.
 - c. Additional comments on CAS action.
- VIII. New Business
- a. Curriculum Proposals
 - i. Human Resource Development Certificate (Hightower/Steiger—provides update courses for professional as well as of value to other majors. (25-0-1)
 - ii. Student Affairs and Higher Education Program Revision (Steiger/Wilkinson) 25-0-1.
 - iii. Curriculum & Instruction graduate program revision (Wilkinson/Worley) 26-0-0.
 - iv. Educational Technology graduate program revision (Collins/Hampton) 26-0-0
- IX. Old Business
- a. URC recommendations (Chait—remove from table) (Worley/Wilkinson) 24-1-1
 - b. Automotive Technology Management Minor (Yaw—remove from table) (Minty/Steiger) 24-1-1
 - c. FAC recommendation: Affiliate Faculty (Worley—to remove from table) (Brake/Steiger) 26-0-0
- X. Committee Reports
- a. AAC – will be meeting tomorrow
 - b. AEC - none
 - c. CAAC – The following were approved:
 - i. for elimination—Art History as a stand alone major; BS in Career & Technical Education non-teaching
 - ii. for suspension—BA Spanish major & minor; BA Classic Studies minor; BA Latin minor; BA German major & minor; BA French major & minor
 - iii. for revision—Art Studio adding Art History concentration; Liberal Studies; Language Specialist Honors Certificate; General Aviation Flight Technology A.S.; BS Computer Integrated Manufacturing; Cross Linguistics major & minor
 - iv. programs—new minor in Early Childhood Education; new minor in Civic Leadership
 - v. new course—ELED 425
 - vi. proposal to move Sociology faculty & minor into the Psychology Department.
 - d. FAC—approved document recommending plus and minus grades, including A+
 - e. FEBC—preparing proposal for bariatric surgery; involved in study of
 - f. GC—discussing plus/minus grading; curriculum proposals
 - g. SAC—working on charges; recommending no Faculty Senate Scholarship award until 2008-2009

Approved 4/17/08
26-0-0

FS #8

h. URC-looking at requests
Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.