Greetings from your Senate Officers:

Recently, there has been a great deal of discussion within the campus community about ongoing cuts to Instructor and full-time Lecturer positions.  This topic has dominated meetings between the Administration and Faculty Governance as we have sought clarification about the plans and their potential impact on our academic mission.  At the last Faculty Senate meeting on February 16, nearly an hour was spent in passionate exchanges with President Bradley as Senators extolled the virtues of our Instructors and pleaded for reconsideration of the cuts.  This debate continued at the subsequent informal Executive Committee meeting on February 21.  There, we were told the following:

* No Senior Instructor positions are being eliminated.
* Instructors in their second year or beyond will be given at least one-year notice if their position will be eliminated.  This means that they will be notified by July 1, 2017 if their position will be eliminated effective Fall 2018.
* Instructors in their first year will be given at least one-semester notice.  They will be informed by March 15 if their position will be eliminated effective Spring 2018.

These timelines have been put in place to mirror the notice timelines for tenure-track faculty, and the Handbook has been modified to explicitly apply these timelines to all regular faculty.  President Bradley assures us that this shift in policy will be retroactive and apply to all current Instructors.

We were also informed that any full-time Lecturers who have held their position for 3 years will not be renewed in that position.  If they are retained, it will either be as a part-time Lecturer or a possible transition to an Instructor or Assistant Professor position.  Full-time Lecturer positions are temporary placeholders for regular faculty lines.

Other FAC-proposed items passed at the February 16 meeting.  These included a modification of Handbook Section 305 clarifying the language regarding instructor appointments and a modification to the hiring process for regular faculty concerning prior experience credit.

Senate considered several curricular proposals as well.  A minor in Traffic Engineering Technology was approved 28-0-1 and four minors from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (Corrections, Forensic Investigations, Law and Administration, and Law Enforcement and Evidence) were all approved unanimously.   Also from CCJ, a new major in Intelligence Analysis was approved 28-1-0.  The Department of Communication had proposed a Health Communication Concentration in the BA in Communication, which was defeated 12-16-0 after vigorous discussion.

You can find information about the Faculty Senate, including standing committees, Executive Committee and Senate minutes, meeting schedules, etc. at the Faculty Senate website:  <https://www.indstate.edu/services/facsenate>.   There is also a University Faculty Blackboard Site that all faculty may access.  You will find it in your course list as COM-ISUFACULTY: University Faculty.  Your Senate officers for 2016-2017 and their contact information are:

**Chair:**  Timothy Hawkins, Professor of History, Timothy.Hawkins@indstate.edu

**Vice Chair:**  Christine MacDonald, Professor of Educational and School Psychology, Chris.MacDonald@indstate.edu

**Secretary:**  Liz Brown, Professor and Chairperson of Mathematics and Computer Science, Liz.Brown@indstate.edu

Please contact one of the officers or your Senate representative with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Liz Brown

Faculty Senate Secretary, 2017-2018