#18

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE, 2019-2020

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**March 31, 2020**

3:30pm, Via Collaborate

Members present: M. Chambers, K. Games, R. Guell, S. Kopaczewski, C. MacDonald, R. Peters, S. Phillips, V. Sheets,

Absent Members: E. Wittenmyer

EX-Officio Present: President D. Curtis; Provost M. Licari

Guest: A. Mohammed

1. Administrative Reports:
   1. President D. Curtis

No report

* 1. Provost M. Licari
     1. The world has almost completely changed since the last time we met. When we meet last we were going to only have online classes through the end of last week and all of that has been blown out of the water. I want to say thank you to the faculty of Indiana State for their flexibility, ability to adapt, and care they have given to our students. This shift in the way we operate as not only been sudden to faculty but to the students as well, some of which went home to completely different circumstances then they would have while on campus. I am truly appreciative of the Faculty Senate’s swift action to endorse S/U grading. This will certainly lower the anxiety of students as we move through this time.
     2. We are trying to shift gears and build up contingency plans for possible future events. We are hoping to have in person student orientation this summer along with summer honors, but will move to a later date or online if necessary. Commencement will occur virtually.
     3. Right now the situation is unclear, however there is growing evidence that the situation will peak in Indiana in the coming weeks which means we may be shifting these changes into the summer, specifically for those courses starting in May.
     4. We have had great communication with the Faculty Senate Officers and I would like to thank you once again.

1. Chair Report: C. MacDonald
   1. I hope you all found some time to relax over Spring Break. I can assure you that the officers and the administration have been extremely busy, with a focus on making sure we are compassionate and humane to our students during this time of stress and upheaval. I appreciate all of our flexibility, as well as your patience and understanding with us, as we do the best we can under the circumstances. We benefit from having a Provost who recognizes the areas of primary authority of the faculty. When it came to the issue of the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option, it was brought to us in recognition of that authority. Other administrations in other times and places might have chosen to ignore faculty governance, but that did not happen here.
   2. We have worked to ensure that when we need to take exigent action that we stick as closely to Handbook policy as possible. Yet we know that these times will often require us to be more nimble than we thought we could be, so we will continue to figure out and regularize processes for us to do so. I particularly want to thank Bob and Kent for enabling our nimbleness, as well as Mike Chambers, our parliamentarian, who has been having a more active role than I ever remember a parliamentarian having to.
   3. In light of all the changes we are dealing with currently, it looks like the earliest the Taskforce on Institutional Transformation is likely to meet will be this summer. We have not given up on this, but the institution is already adapting in ways that we were only beginning to consider at the start of this semester. More on that as we know it.
   4. Given the economic impact of the pandemic on the state of Indiana, it is likely that higher education may feel the impact, which is not good news. While the last enrollment projections for new students in the Fall I heard were relatively healthy, there are still much that could happen to change the minds of both incoming and returning students. If the budget projections turn grim, I would ask that we focus on our core mission, which is instruction. While we could make cuts in instruction, and save a few thousand here or there, we would likely be doing damage to both faculty morale and the quality of instruction. We cannot risk that. I would ask us to examine areas outside our core mission first if it comes to that.
   5. Today’s agenda consists of just two items – the elimination of another licensure program which no longer leads to licensure, and the presentation of a report from AAC.
2. Approval of March 187, 2020 Minutes -- File #1

Motion to approve M. Chambers, S. Kopaczewski: 8-0-0

1. Fifteen Minute Open Discussion
   1. Fall 2020 Plans
      1. R. Guell- I have read a quite disquieting analyses of where the epidemic goes even if we succeed at minimizing the effect for this spring and summer we will still not be creating any immunity among the population because we are not getting it. This is a very good thing but we could be pushing it into fall, which is still before vaccinations will be available. Are there any plans as to what we will do if this does makes a comeback next year?
      2. M. Licari- No. There has not been time to look into this yet. We have been consumed operationally to finish the spring semester. We have also been focusing on get the freshman class through the door. There just hasn’t been any time to spend on long term contingency planning.
   2. Coming Back to Campus
      1. V. Sheets- With the Governors stay at home order currently lifting on April 6th are any plans to move back to campus next week?
      2. M. Licari- That is going to have to be a topic that we will follow State instructions on. I know with order lifted it will be hard to keep people from moving back to campus. Given the statements that have come out from the National Government and from what other states have done I don’t see the order being lifted next week. Dr. Curtis and I will be having a meeting with VP’s and the Dean tomorrow.
   3. Student Challenges
      1. V. Sheets- We have students that are challenged by this such things as having no internet or computer issues. The students with computer issues that would regularly go to the library to use the one there. These students would normally go to OIT to have them work on their computer. Do we have any plans to help them?
      2. M. Licari- I would have them contact OIT or the standard department they would normally contact.
      3. R. Guell- I am asking about guidance regarding incompletes on circumstances like what Virgil was talking about or if a student should have an extended illness.
      4. M. Licari- So far the guidance has been for faculty to meet students where they at. What I don’t want to happen is for the institution to fall into a situation where everyone gives incompletes for courses. That would put large portions of the student body a semester behind. There is not a precise way of giving guidance on this. I think we can use our best judgement and we can trust our faculty to do the right thing.
      5. R. Guell- I would encourage that last sentence to be the operative point. I have one student that have just came off a six day twelve hour shift as a nurse and has been recently been moved to the COVID-19 ward. I am cutting her slack like I have never to given another student before.
      6. M. Licari-That is good. That is the spirit of meeting your students where they are at. It comes down to am I going to stick this out and get an incomplete which is preferable to dropping a class. So this summer when things hopefully calm down they can come back and finish the class. The main goal is to keep students engaged and moving them towards degree completion the best we can.
      7. C. MacDonald- We need to be kind and compassionate when they have a real need.
   4. Hulman center
      1. M. Chamber- How is this affecting the renovations of the Hulman Center renovations?
      2. M. Licari- To be honest, I don’t know. I haven’t been by the Hulman Center recently. I know that they can start ripping the seats out sooner than the originality planned, since we won’t be holding commencement in May. This may allow them to make up time so that we can keep our scheduled opening date.
2. CAAC item: Psychology for Social Studies Licensure (elimination) <https://indstate.curriculog.com/proposal:4160/form>

Motion to eliminate V. Sheets, S. Phillips: 8-0-0

1. AAC item: Annual Report -- File #2

Motion to accept report S. Phillips, S. Kopaczewski: 8-0-0

* 1. A. Mohamed: The committee has investigated based on the recommendation of the Executive Officers the organization and the reorganization of the overall ratio between staff (exempt), staff (non-exempt) and faculty. We also studied ISU average student credit hour by faculty rank. Then we went a little above and studied student credit hour by faculty rank for each college.
  2. A. Mohamed- With the first item we found that there is no significant difference between 2018 and 2019 staff to faculty ratio which is at 2:1.
  3. A. Mohamed- The second item covered student credit hours (SCH) by faculty rank. The committee observed that 20% of the SCH are taught by temporary faculty and that 10% are taught by graduate assistants and administrative staff.
  4. A. Mohamed- We went through each College. For example the College of Arts and Sciences SCH was almost the same as the ISU average. Scott’s College of Business is almost the same as well. The College of Education if you look at professors and associate professors is about 10% higher than the ISU average for SCH. The College of Health and Human Services assistant professors the average of SCH over the years is about 15% more than the University average. The rest of the college are very close to the ISU average.
  5. A. Mohamed- One of the charges for the committee was to review the calendar. We reviewed and had some questions so we spoke with Susan Powers. We found that since the calendar has been accepted we cannot make changes. We also found that school districts don’t want to work with us on aligning spring break.
  6. C. MacDonald- Thank you we appreciated your report. The calendar is an ongoing issue and we have tried to get the school district to play nicely with us in the past and have not had tremendous success. I am not surprised that you have found this to be the case.
  7. A. Mohamed- Do you want me to present this at the next Senate meeting?
  8. C. MacDonald- Yes, the meeting will be April 16.
  9. R. Guell- I was looking calendar in regards to Christmas and New Years to see if we were going to have the same issue as this year but it looks as if it would be a two day work week as opposed to a one work day work week. I don’t see an issue with having a two day work week.

1. Liaison Reports
   1. AAC – No report
   2. CAAC – They worked on career readiness at the last meeting. There were microphone issues so I am going to wait on the minutes to give a full report.
   3. FAC – We are scheduled to meet tomorrow. I received an invitation for a meeting then it was cancelled a few minutes later so I am not sure what the issue is.
   4. FEBC – There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow but haven’t had follow up.
   5. GC – They met before the week of spring break. They passed several measures including the review of the communications programs. We have another meeting scheduled this week.
   6. SAC – There is a meeting scheduled for April.
   7. URC – Done
2. Adjournment 4:09 pm