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Indiana State University

Faculty Senate, 2020-2021

**Executive Committee**

March 16, 2021

3:30 p.m. via Zoom

Members present: L. Brown, M. Chambers, L. Eberman, J. Gustafson, R. Guell, T. Hawkins, C. MacDonald, V. Sheets, K. Yousif

Absent Members:

EX-Officio Present: President D. Curtis, Interim Provost C. Olsen

Guest: B, Butwin, D. Selman, D. Israel

1) Administrative Reports

a) President D. Curtis

Greetings, everybody. Happy Tuesday. We are getting ready to step into the statehouse on Thursday and present to the Senate Ways and Means committee. As always, I am really proud to talk about the good work you're doing. We are confident that everything will remain as positive as seems to be right now. At the state level there is no clear evidence about whether we're likely to have any capital support this next biennium. However, hope remains strong, but it really is nothing more than hope right now. We're really pretty pleased that it looks like we're going to retain the kind of support Indiana provides to public higher education that isn't happening in a lot of other states. I'll be expressing my gratitude for that and high hopes for even further support as we go into this next biennium. I want to thank everybody for the last week or so of their participation in our conversations on curriculum. And particularly, Chris Olsen in this role of stepping in immediately into the interim provost role. He is engaging these really important conversations that matter a great deal to this institution and who we are and who we're going to be. With great appreciation, thank you for that and that concludes my remarks.

b) Interim Provost C. Olsen

Thank you to President Curtis for that. Thanks to everyone again for the good wishes and a lot of help here in Academic Affairs has been really terrific. Just two updates:

1. I want to again say thanks to Liz and the faculty who agreed to participate in the Academic Strategic Planning discussions for Academic Affairs.
2. A very brief budget update. I've been working with the deans and others, on both the instructional and staff budgets. We've talked about this before, that there were some budget targets in different areas in the staff area we feel like we're in pretty good shape. Through vacant positions and from moving some positions to grant funded and to and to other sources of funding, so we feel really good about the staff budget. We feel really good about the instructional budget but it is a little bit less clear and not set at the moment. We wanted to let any instructor we knew definitely wouldn't be back next year and do that by March 1. Obviously we're past that and we haven't made that decision, which is good, but I just want to say that. We're still getting retirements and resignations and we're still waiting on some enrollment numbers and so you know we don't want to make final-final decisions, particularly if it might mean that someone is not able to come back before we have to. We can't keep waiting forever but registration is coming up so again it's not been necessary yet.

2) Chair Report: L. Brown

Ugh.

That is what I had at the top of the page for several hours today as I tried to compose my Chair Report. It wasn’t until I took a break and began my Spanish lesson on Duolingo (my 210th straight day) that I was able to continue. In the lesson, I had to translate the sentence, “Los padres no eligen a sus hijos.” Parents do not choose their children. I immediately thought, “Pero a veces los hijos eligen a sus padres.” But sometimes children choose their parents. It struck me then that we don’t always choose our tasks, but sometimes they choose us and we are obligated, despite the deep feelings of inadequacy we may have, to see them through.

It is no secret that I sit on the leadership teams of both the Faculty Senate and the University College Council this year. I was a member of the committee who worked over the summer to prepare the Race in the United States proposal that UCC Chair Ann Rider presented to Exec last week. I feel, as do many, a sense of betrayal by the Administration, as we were given to believe all along the way that they supported the proposal. The ad hoc committee who prepared the proposal believed that, the 14 members of the University College Council who voted for the proposal believed that, and the 8 members of CAAC who voted for the proposal believed that.

After hours of discussions spanning multiple days, I believe we are in a place where all parties are committed to ensure that a meaningful and significant curricular proposal from Foundational Studies is supported and enacted. Provost Olsen, Dean Maule, UCC Chair Ann Rider, and I will meet over the next several days to find that common ground. I hope that we can take something back to the University College Council this semester, so a revised proposal will make it through faculty governance early next year so we will be ready to ensure that all of our undergraduate students, starting with those entering in Fall 2022, will engage deeply with these important ideas.

3) Fifteen Minute Open Discussion

Chris MacDonald

Our pretenure faculty were discussing course evaluations and particularly the item that says something along the lines of “instructor provided feedback in a timely way.” The handbook defines timely in a specific way we understand…two weeks. Students don't read the handbook. Can we alter that item in the course evaluations to more reflect what the faculty understanding of timely way is since it appears that often our students don't share that understanding?

Virgil Sheets

I've got a couple questions of for the Provost.

1. Conference submission deadlines for next year are beginning to come right now, so I've got possibility of submitting for conferences. Will travel be permitted next year?

Christopher Olsen: Yes, we can we've talked about this actually last week and we came to the conclusion that if we're back to pre-pandemic normal then that's what we're doing you know things might change but.

1. Are faculty who are fully vaccinated and meet together unmasked, are they in violation of policy?

Christopher Olsen: No

Deborah Curtis:So I would suggest this: if there are very small numbers and they agree to meet without masks, they are not in violation.

Lindsey Eberman

I just wanted to support what Chris MacDonald suggested and potentially consider referring something to back to CAAC and GC.

Robert Guell

Can we get an update from the President and or Katie on the status of Faculty-Student Relationships, Outside Work, and Discipline and Dismissal.

Katie Butwin

I have sent drafts to the Provost and President.

4) Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2021 M. Chambers, C. MacDonald 9-0-0

5) CAAC Revisions to the CAPS Manual C. MacDonald, M. Chambers 6-1-0

Robert Noll

There were two sections in the CAPS manual which were substantially changed.

First, was under Section C, Programs, and was the subsection called “Certificates”, which was basically completely deleted and we put in a new section called “Micro credentials” and we were given a preliminary texts to consider, I believe it was the Taskforce that suggested these. We worked alongside Grad Council. We made some additional changes and mostly we were concerned with having flexible language, allowing faculty to develop certificates and badges. We also allowed for these to be stackable.

The other section which was substantially changed was under Section D, (Policies for program approvals) and we added a new number five called Expedited Review Process for curricular for Curricula of Strategic Importance.

Robert Guell

Were Tim London and Jason Trainer brought into the discussion regarding the alterations that were made, for instance, introducing the College committee?

Robert Noll: I don’t know who those people are.

Susan Powers: They were not brought in because they are not familiar with the curriculum review process. The timing of the Board and Commission are the real timeliness hurdles.

Mike Chambers

Could you clarify the definitions of the micro credentials?

Chris MacDonald: These are Lumina Foundation definitions.

6) Standing Committee Reports

AAC (M. Chambers) Subcommittee on annual report met.

AEC (R. Guell) They are preparing to review documents.

CAAC (C. MacDonald) Working on Pass/Fail.

FAC (V. Sheets) Discussed Subcommittee structure.

FEBC (L. Eberman) Took up more ideas regarding summer teaching compensation.

GC (T. Hawkins) Approved a number of courses and certificates

SAC (K. Yousif) No Report

URC (J. Gustafson) Opening up for another round of applications.

10) Adjournment 5:13