Faculty Affairs Committee

Minutes

February 20, 2020

Attendees: R. Bonifas, L. Brown (Chair), J. Gustafson, J. Inlow (Secretary), S. Powers (Ex-Officio), D. Selman (Vice Chair), V. Sheets (Ex-Officio), C. Spicer (Ex-Officio), J. Weust

Absent: H. Gallatin

1. L. Brown called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.
2. Approval of minutes from 1-30-2020 (J. Gustafson/R. Bonifas; 5-0-0)
3. Academic Affairs Liaison report (S. Powers)
   1. All sabbatical requests have been processed at this point. There were about 19 requests this year, which is a typical number.
   2. There may be interest in having faculty present brief talks upon returning from sabbatical. This would serve to showcase their work, inform colleagues of the research/scholarship they were engaged in, and provide examples of the expected outcomes of sabbaticals. FAC members were supportive of the idea.
4. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison report (V. Sheets)
   1. At the most recent meeting, the Exec Committee worked on a draft of the new mission, vision, and values statement which will soon be presented to the Senate.
   2. Exec discussed the proposed changes to the campus tobacco policy and the faculty constitution, which are both on the FAC agenda today.
5. Chair report (L. Brown)
6. L. Brown and C. Spicer will meet next Monday with Rob Perrin and Malea Crosby to begin developing an orientation manual for part-time temporary faculty. R. Perrin already has such documents that he has developed for his department, and these can provide a starting point. M. Crosby will provide input based on surveys of temporary faculty that she has done as part of a project for a higher education leadership course.
7. Revision of Biennial Review (BR) procedure: A subcommittee (J. Gustafson, L. Brown, D. Selman, and R. Bonifas) met several times since previous FAC meeting and is finalizing a draft document which will be ready for discussion at the next FAC meeting.
8. New charge from Senate to revise Policy Library Section 145.1 - 145.4: Constitution of the Faculty of Indiana State University
   1. L. Brown had distributed a draft containing changes proposed by Chris MacDonald. V. Sheets explained that several statements in this section are out of date or have not been followed consistently (e.g., 145.1.4.1 with regard to a regular meeting of the University Faculty held in May), so the language should be updated to reflect actual practices.
   2. Section 145.3: Structure of the University Faculty Senate. There was discussion concerning the stipulation of 34 elected faculty members in the Senate (145.3.1.1). S. Powers said that there are currently 512 Regular Faculty. FAC members agreed that in terms of a percentage, 34 senators provides reasonable representation and voice for the faculty, while not contributing to burdensome service loads for a large number of faculty, and not making it too difficult to recruit enough faculty willing to serve. FAC agreed that if the size of the Regular Faculty decreases or increases substantially, then the requirement for 34 Senators should be revisited and the number adjusted accordingly.
   3. Section 145.4: Operation of the University Faculty Senate. There was discussion of the schedule of monthly Senate meetings (145.4.1.1). It was noted that with regard to the academic calendar, the timing of meetings in August, December, January, and May is not optimal, so these meetings are often not as productive as they could be. J. Gustafson suggested a new schedule in which Senate meetings would occur on the 3rd, 7th, and 11th weeks of each 16-week semester.
   4. L. Brown will make revisions to Section 145.1 - 145.4 based on the above discussion and bring a draft to the next FAC meeting for consideration.
9. New charge from Senate to consider revisions to Policy Library Section 955: Campus Tobacco
   1. Motion to approve the revised version of Section 955 received from Senate (J. Weust/J. Inlow).
   2. Discussion:
      1. L. Brown questioned the need for an outright ban on tobacco products and electronic smoking.
      2. D. Selman participated on the tobacco task force and feels that concerns or challenges to the ban that were raised by the task force were not taken seriously or were suppressed when this policy was developed.
      3. D. Selman expressed her view that campus police officers take their jobs seriously and will not appreciate being tasked with policing a tobacco/vaping ban. She also believes the proposed peer ambassadors will not be an effective means to discourage violation of the policy.
      4. C. Spicer, J. Weust, and D. Selman raised concerns about the safety of students who will be forced to go off campus in the dark, in the winter, or at late hours to find a legal place to smoke/vape, or who will smoke/vape in secluded and potentially unsafe locations on campus. They also noted that there is likely to be an increased incidence of smoke alarms going off in the dorms due to students smoking/vaping in the building to avoid having to go off campus.
      5. D. Selman and R. Bonifas expressed views that the policy is discriminatory and exclusionary, and it will have the largest impact on staff who have the least power and voice on campus and are the lowest paid.
      6. FAC members agreed that L. Brown should write a statement summarizing FAC’s reasons for opposing the policy changes. The summary statement will be circulated and voted on via e-mail, and will be sent to Senate along with the results of the vote on the revised tobacco policy itself.
   3. Vote on motion to approve the revised version of Section 955 received from Senate (0-6-0).
10. New charge from Senate to consider proposed changes to Article IV (Operation of the Library Faculty Assembly) of the Library Constitution
    1. The proposed changes are being reviewed by FAC to ensure that there are no conflicts with the Faculty Handbook. FAC did not find any conflicts.
    2. The proposed changes describe procedures by which the Library Faculty will elect representatives to external committees in specific situations, rather than relying on appointment of the representatives, as had been done in the past. FAC cautions that in these cases the elections will need to be conducted quickly in order to ensure a representative is elected in time to participate on the committee.
    3. L. Brown will communicate the above information to the Library.
11. Next meeting: Thursday, Mar. 5, 9:30 AM, Root Hall A-186
12. Adjourned at 10:49 AM