17 January 2020

Greetings from your Senate Officers:

Welcome back to campus! The Senate Officers want to extend our gratitude to each of the Faculty for the effort, energy, and focus you all put in to create a positive environment for our students. As we kick off the semester, there is much work to be done. The Faculty Senate held the sixth meeting of the year on January 16th. We had initial discussions on a new sports wagering policy as well as had a discussion on the process and potential revision of the biennial review process. These topics will continue to be discussed and developed throughout the semester.

As we all know, enrollment management and the changing demographics of higher education have been a consistent topic of discussion on campus. The Senate Officers and the Provost recently gathered a small group of faculty leaders to begin the conversation about planning for the future of ISU, given the related challenges of demographics, enrollment, and budget. The group was designed to be relatively small, yet also broadly representative of the Faculty. The Faculty and Administration agree that we need to be more nimble and agile do that we are able to take advantage of opportunities as they come along. A number of ideas were generated, including adding the flexibility to offer 8-week courses as a standard format and to offer them year-round. We realize the complexities of such possibilities. We also reinforced our non-negotiables, including faculty control over the curriculum and the maintenance of tenure and promotion. The next step is a campus-wide open forum on the topic on **Thursday, February 6th at 3:30 in Dede III**. We believe that the ideas that are generated will lead to the creation of a taskforce co-chaired by the Provost and a Faculty Representative that will work through the next 18 months to create a more specific plan of where we want to be and how we get there. We encourage all faculty members who are interested to attend and contribute to this important opportunity.

The Officers have also heard about some challenges with the bookstore and availability of textbooks for students starting the semester. We understand this is a challenging issue and have continued to express our concerns with the bookstore. If you are having challenges with textbook availability or the students enrolled in your classes are having challenges obtaining their textbooks, we encourage faculty members to directly reach out to the manager of the bookstore. The e-mail for the bookstore is bksindianast@bncollege.com. Additionally, when you communicate to the bookstore about textbook availability problems, please copy AVP Susan Powers (Susan.Powers@indstate.edu) and AVP Domenic (Dom) Nepote (Domenic.Nepote@indstate.edu).

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be 20 February 2020

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 Faculty Senate Blackboard Site that all faculty may access. You will find it in your course list as COM-ISUFACULTY: University Faculty.

Your Senate Officers for 2019-2020 and their contact information are:

Chair: Chris MacDonald, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Applied Clinical and Educational Sciences, Chris.MacDonald@indstate.edu

 Vice Chair: Robert Guell, Professor of Economics, Robert.Guell@indstate.edu

Secretary: Kent Games, Associate Professor of Applied Medicine and Rehabilitation, Kenneth.Games@indstate.edu

Please contact one of the Officers or your Senate representative(s) with any questions or concerns.