21 October 2019

Greetings from your Senate Officers:

We hope the semester is still going strong as we reach our stretch before Thanksgiving Break in a little over 4 short weeks. The Faculty Senate held its third meeting of the semester on October 17th. We had a relatively light agenda this month, with a primary focus on curricular program approvals, Faculty Award Committee nomination confirmation, and clarification/alignment of sections 305 and 310 of the handbook to consistently recognize what constitutes a full course load for Instructors and Senior Instructors vs. tenured/tenure-track faculty.

Earlier this month, the University held its annual weeklong Homecoming Celebration. By most accounts, the weekend was safe and successful with minimal disturbances. The move of Tent City into Memorial Stadium was a change from previous year and the University is in the process of reviewing the event to identify areas of improvement for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the community who either attended or volunteered at any of the tents at Tent City.

The Faculty Senate Officers received multiple questions and concerns regarding the status of sabbatical applications for the 2020-2021 academic year. To dispel any rumors, sabbaticals are not being suspended nor cancelled and members who are in the process of applying should continue the application process. We have been assured multiple times from Provost Licari, including at the October Faculty Senate meeting, that the sabbatical application, review, and granting process will proceed per usual. It is important to note that, as has been the case for much of Indiana State’s history, any faculty member wishing to apply for sabbatical leave have a conversation with their chairperson regarding how their regularly scheduled teaching load will be covered using existing department resources or prudent external resources.

As we move through the process of another biennial review cycle, the Senate Officers are beginning to gather a list of challenges and areas for improvement for the next biennial review cycle. If you have questions or areas for improvement for the *process* of biennial review, please reach out to the Faculty Affairs Committee Chairperson, Dr. Liz Brown.

As the University begins a review of its Mission, Vision, and Values, we would like to ask for your participation in the process. You may have seen recently in the ISU Today e-mail a notification to participate in one of the two small-group talking sessions taking place on October 24. The link to sign up for one of these sessions can be found here:

[attend.com/mvvsessions](https://events.attend.com/f/1383790469)

Additionally, there is an opportunity to complete an online survey to provide your input regarding the University’s Mission, Vision, and Values. The link to participate can be found here:

<https://indstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjyUorTVwml46Al>

Finally, as noted in last month’s Officers Musings’ the University is in the process of developing an RFP for a new or updated learning management system (LMS). Faculty and staff received an e-mail from the Office of Information Technology on October 21st asking for participation to develop “LMS Evaluation Requirements.” Faculty input is critical to the success of developing an accurate RFP to address the instructional and course management needs of faculty at Indiana State. The survey is open until Monday, November 4th. Please take a moment to provide your input. The link can be found here:

[https://indstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_eznYCok6UQ1iXsx](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Findstate.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_eznYCok6UQ1iXsx&data=02%7C01%7CKenneth.Games%40indstate.edu%7Cf8218e1f73ea439cfb5508d756617cf3%7C3eeabe396b1c4f95ae682fab18085f8d%7C0%7C0%7C637072849022490381&sdata=x%2B%2BHkCtvU3nzNSldni4H9aegp%2BHbY%2B%2FgBmyO0vz3FL4%3D&reserved=0)

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be 21 November 2019.

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.