31 March 2020

Greetings from your Senate Officers:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created disruption in the way we normally do business, however we must move forward. Thank you to all of the faculty for your continued dedication and support to our students as they adjust to their new reality. We ask that you continue to be kind to your students, yourselves, and those around you as we all collectively work through this unprecedented time. As we continue to move forward as an institution, the Faculty Senate Officers are committed to keeping the faculty of Indiana State abreast of the situation through timely communication using the Faculty Senate Blackboard page and all faculty emails.

As a mark of this unprecedented time, the Faculty Senate held its first virtual meeting on Thursday, March 19 on Collaborate. Thank you all for your patience and flexibility with that unexpected transition. From many accounts, the technology was acceptable and the Senate was able to have substantive conversation with minimal disruption. During the meeting we addressed three curricular items, the Tobacco, Vapor, and Smoke Free Campus Policy, the Biennial Review Replacement, and had our first reading of a Constitutional change from section 145 of the Policy Library.

The three curricular items included the approval of the Certificate in Emerging Energy Technology, the elimination of the Sociology for Social Studies Licensure, and the approval of language which prevents students from having a minor in the same major.

The Senate discussed recommended changes to section 955, the Tobacco, Vapor, and Smoke Free Campus Policy. These changes included not removing the current smoke shacks on campus out of concern for the safety of students, faculty, and staff as well as not to unduly burden members of the University community who are at an increased likelihood to engage in tobacco use. The conversation also noted that this specific policy is an issue that the Faculty Senate has advisory authority to provide our recommendation to the administration.

We also had a first reading for proposed amendments to section 145 of the Policy Library – Constitution of the Faculty of Indiana State. These proposed amendments relate to the improving the clarity on the nomination process for Faculty Senators, as well as language related to the regular meeting schedule of the Faculty Senate. The document, with proposed amendments, can be found on the Faculty Senate Blackboard page.

Finally, we discussed the biennial review replacement, now known as Faculty Performance Evaluation. The new model calls for annual, formative reviews of post-tenure faculty members, as well as a more substantial review of post-tenure faculty members every three years. The Faculty Affairs Committee and the Executive Committee worked to construct a model with the goal to decrease the extra work completed by faculty (as both evaluators and those being evaluated) while also maintaining some form of post-tenure review. The motion was tabled for further discussion during our April meeting. We encourage all faculty to discuss the document with their respective Senators.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be 16 April 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.