

Approved:  
April 13, 2011

SAC 10/11-07

Indiana State University  
Faculty Senate  
Student Affairs Committee

3/16/2011  
Scott College of Business, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room

**Present:** Cheryl Blevens, James Buffington, Bassou El Mansour, Jim Hughes, Valentine Muyumba, Robyn Osborn, Mehran Shahossejani.

**Student representatives:** Kristen Baldwin, Raeanne Florek, Derek Lex, Sara Phillips.

**Ex-Officios:** Judy Conner, Kim Donat, April Hay, Charles Hoffman, Rex Kendall, John Lentz, David Wright.

I. Call to Order

J. Buffington called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Adopted as distributed.

III. Approval of Minutes (SAC 10/11-06, 2/16/2011)

Correction: VI.D. paragraph to read, "M. Shahosseini will investigate the issue, draft a recommendation and submit it for the March agenda." **Move approval as corrected: J. Hughes/D. Lex, 7-0-0. PASSED.**

IV. Report Progress on Charges for 2010-2011

A. Faculty member to serve as rep at SGA meetings—Robyn Osborn.

SGA are reviewing their election process. A new chair was elected.

B. Administer the Faculty Scholarship—Bassou El-Mansour, M. Shahhosseini, R. Osborn.

The Chair reported that Megan McAndrews, Indiana State Foundation, had reported to him that the June 30, 2010 market value of the Faculty Scholarship fund was \$27,702.61. The donor count in 2010 was 30, and \$3549 was received in gifts in calendar year 2010 from 281 gifts. The December 31, 2010 market value was \$32,362.05. R. Osborn reported that the committee will meet soon to review the 60 student applications. They will rank order the top three candidates and forward their names to the SAC members for an electronic vote. **Motion: to award one Faculty Scholarship in the amount of \$1500 to a deserving applicant: Osborn/EI-Mansour.** The Chair called for discussion. The consensus was that the proposed scholarship amount was inadequate. **Motion to amend: increase the designated amount to \$2500 for no more than two scholarships. Hughes/EI-Mansour. 7-0-0. Motion to accept amended motion: that after reviewing the applications, the Faculty Scholarship subcommittee will determine whether one or two scholarships with a total of \$2500 be awarded and then communicate their recommendation of candidates to the Chair who will forward it to SAC members for an electronic vote. Osborn/EI-Mansour, 7-0-0.** When the electronic vote results are declared, the Chair will report the results to the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The Chair will propose to the ISU Foundation that the option of "Faculty Scholarship" be added to the pull down menu of possible donation recipients on the Foundation's webpage. It is hoped that this modification will clarify an otherwise confusing issue that was brought to SAC's attention by R. Osborn who'd had a problem with assuring that her donation would be properly credited to the Faculty Scholarship fund and not to other scholarship funds already listed in that menu.

C. Investigate making change of grade form available to faculty (as accessible as the incomplete form)—J. Hughes and April Hay.

A. Hay updated the progress that has been made on the implementation of new eForm software that addresses this charge.

- D. Examine the Summer School policy for tuition & fee requirements for students courses. Determine whether a single “bracketed fee” structure is feasible in summer as it is in the fall and winter—April Hay, Raeanne Florek, Kim Donat, Valentine Muyumba.

April Hay reviewed opinions students shared at a recent meeting held with SGA. Among them: summer school fees are too high; many students return home and take summer classes at more affordable institutions like Ivy Tech; and students would probably be more willing to take summer classes if a bracketed fee structure for summer was offered. Conclusion: more data is needed before the committee is prepared to make a recommendation.

R. Osborn asked again about the possibility of implementing a bracketed fee structure for graduate students that she had brought up in an earlier SAC meeting. She will speak with Dean Jay Gatrell.

- E. Investigate the differences in GPA before and after implementation of the new plus/minus policy—Jim Buffington, April Hay.

The Chair distributed a written report. The report concluded that it appeared that the change to a plus/minus grading system had, in most cases, a noticeable effect in reversing the trend of grade inflation. **Motion to accept SAC recommendation that the monitoring of the effect of the plus/minus grading system be continued into the next academic year. Although unlikely, the lower GPAs in 2009-2010 could be anomalous. Further, SAC recommends that these data be shared with the deans of the academic units and with the Faculty Senate, as an FYI item. C. Blevens/R. Osborn. 7-0-0. Passed.**

- F. Investigate the desirability of faculty support for the African-American study tables and other activities. —Jim Buffington.

No report.

- G. SAT Scores—Balance between fiscal health and academic standards—Jim Buffington, Rich Toomey, April Hay, Jennifer Schriver.

No report.

- H. Dean’s List Standards—ISU/other Indiana Universities—Derek Lex

D. Lex reported he is continuing to work with the Registrar’s office and that there is no recommendation at this time.

## V. Reports

- A. Chairperson

The chair reported that although personally unable to attend today’s presentation by one of the three candidates for the Director of International Programs and Services, he expects to get a summary of the event from a colleague who did attend.

- B. Administrative Representatives

- a. HMSU: J. Conner reported upcoming HMSU events: a ceramics exhibition, “Beginning the Narrative Journey in Clay,” featuring works by students in Ray Chen’s class, runs from March 21 through April 5 with the opening reception on Thursday, March 24 from 4-6 pm in the Gallery Lounge in HMSU. “Supporting Our Sycamores: NCAA Tournament Basketball Viewing Party,” a rally for the Sycamores, will be hosted by RHA, SGA, the Union Board, and HMSU, Friday, March 18, 9:30 p.m., in Dede I. March 21-26, HMSU is conducting a customer satisfaction survey to determine if their clientele feels that their needs are being met and that HMSU is fulfilling its mission. New ideas or suggestions are actively sought. Participants are eligible to win nice grand prizes.
- b. SA&O: J. Lentz reported that Sunday’s Selection Rally, held in the Student Recreation Center, was a rousing success.

- c. Res Life: R. Kendall stated that his department is closely monitoring student registrations and housing space. Occupancy for Spring 2011 is holding and the department is pleased with the on-going occupancy rate.
- d. Financial Aid: K. Donat reported the number of students seeking help with completing the FAFSA forms was down. He attributes this to the ease of completing the forms on line. Financial awards for new students will be out soon.
- e. Registrar: A. Hay reviewed the priority scheduling schedule, fall registration, and other issues. Although the fall schedule is posted, students can't yet register.

C. Student Representatives

D. Lex noted upcoming SGA elections to be held in late March/early April. The Inaugural Banquet will be held May 1, and officers will assume office May 15.

VI. Old Business

A. OIPS Awards Committee Update—Cheryl Blevens

C. Blevens will attend the International Programs & Services Awards Banquet, Thursday, March 24, Dede I & II.

B. Blackboard and Distance Education Student Accessibility, obtaining input from faculty and others-  
- Mehran Shahhosseini.

M. Shahhosseini distributed copies of recent emails regarding Blackboard. An email he received from Ed Kinley, dated March 15, at 10:46 a.m., stated that "OIT had met with them [Blackboard] last week to express concerns about the current state of their software and they are clearly aware of the problems both as a result of our direct meetings with them as well as the various user forums that are posted on line." M. Shahhosseini will continue to monitor the situation and this will remain on the April agenda as an "Old Business" item.

VII. New Business

No report.

VIII. Open Forum

- A. V. Muyumba reported that the library is planning a fundraiser for the Japanese disaster.
- B. J. Conner noted that HMSU will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey next week.

IX. Setting date for April 2011 meeting

The **next SAC meeting has been scheduled for April 13, at 4:00 p.m.**, in the Board Room on the 11<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Scott School of Business.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.