

Indiana State University  
Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee  
November 12, 2013  
3:30 p.m., Federal Hall, Room 222, Scott School of Business

Present: Committee: Alina Waite, Azizi Arrington-Bey, Cheryl Blevens, James Buffington, Lisa Decker, Jeffrey Hauser, John Liu. Students: Arias Brown, Audrey Nichols, Caleb Thomas, Ross Griffin. Ex-Officios: Amanda Knerr (Executive Director of Residential Life), April Hay (University Registrar), Craig Enyeart (Director of Student Conduct & Integrity), Nolan Davis (Associate Vice President for Student Affairs), Rich Toomey (Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, Admissions and High School Relations). Guests: Logan Valentine (SGA President), Sarah Wurtz (Scholarships Director, Admissions and High School Relations).

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. SGA has assigned their full allotment of four student representatives, and all four were in attendance. The chair welcomed Arias Brown, Audrey Nichols, Caleb Thomas, and Ross Griffin. Logan Valentine (SGA President) was also in attendance.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as distributed.

III. Approval of Minutes (SAC 13/14:2, 10/15/2013)

Move approval as distributed: Decker/Enyeart. **Motion passed: 7-0-0.**

IV. Charges for 2013-2014

1. Faculty representative to SGA Senate meetings. J. Hauser.

Mr. Hauser reported that the main issue being addressed in recent by SGA meetings seemed to be the grading policy criteria. He congratulated Mr. Valentine on his leadership of SGA and encouraged SAC members to attend a SGA meeting whenever possible to experience for themselves, the quality of the students' work.

2. Monitor international student enrollment. J. Buffington.

No report.

3. Monitor student quality measures that go beyond HSGPA, consider making recommendations regarding adjustments to admission and/or retention standards. L. Decker/R. Toomey/J. Powers/L. Maule.

This charge was prompted, at least in part, by a concern of some faculty that average SAT/ACT scores have declined in the past few years. The charge implies that HS GPA is the only criterion used as an admission standard. Such is not the case: in addition to HSGPA, core 40 status, SAT/ACT scores, and class rank are also considered. The means by which these measures are combined and weighted depends on the target. Mr. Toomey expressed reservations about making these measures

public. Mr. Buffington will check on the extent to which, if specified, these measures would be publically available.

While it is true that SAT scores of admitted students have declined from 927.8 in 2011, to 923.6 in 2012, and to 914.3 in 2013, in recent years, there may be plausible reasons which have little to do with the quality of students being admitted. One possible explanation is that teaching to Indiana students in particular is being geared more to performance on state required ISTEP testing and a variety of other school curriculum assessment tests, rather than preparation on SATs. Plus there are other considerations, such as students who take the SAT/ACT only one time may distort the ISU average; students who take these tests multiple times typically see their scores improve. (See Appendix 1: “Fall 2013 Enrolled First-time Freshman Quality Indicators.”)

4. Monitor scholarship GPA maintenance standards. Specifically, what are the standards for maintaining scholarships for out-of-state students receiving 125% tuition limits. Are these standards appropriate and/or are they harming Illinois-student retention in particular. R. Toomey.

Ms. Wurtz outlined current practices of the Illinois Student Scholarship program. All incoming first-year students who are residents of Illinois and admitted to the University will be automatically considered for this scholarship (a reduced tuition rate). No additional application is required. The HSGPA requirement was recently raised from 2.75 to 3.0. Additionally, an 8 semester limit is in place for first-year students, with a 4 semester limit for transfer students. This program has been successful in recruiting out of state students. Mr. Toomey gave additional information on recruitment efforts of his team.

5. Administer the Faculty Scholarship. Investigate “fast-tracking” of scholarship winners to the Executive Committee. A. Arrington-Bey/J. Liu/A. Waite.

(Note: see Appendix 2 for draft of the Faculty Scholarship letter.) Ms. Arrington-Bey presented the letter for review. The letter received SAC approval and will be posted to Faculty by week’s end. A follow-up reminder which will include a copy of the letter, will be sent out shortly before Winter Break, urging faculty to take advantage of the available year-end tax breaks for donations.

Mr. Liu presented a proposal addressed to Faculty Senate asking for their approval of the “fast-tracking” of the Faculty Scholarship. Following the meeting using ideas brought up in the discussion, Mr. Buffington drafted a formal proposal (see appendix 2.) In deference to the need to submit it for timely Faculty Senate action, he will electronically distribute it to SAC and call for an electronic vote. Results are reported as a formal addendum to these minutes:

November 19, 2013 Addendum: **Move to accept “Report to Faculty Senate Executive Committee on Fast-Tracking Scholarship Selection Process”** (see Appendix 3, SAC 13/14: #3, November 12, 2013) **and forward as an action item to Faculty Senate.** Arrington-Bey/Blevens. **Motion passed: 7-0-0.**

6. Continue to monitor late textbook purchases in 2013-2014. C. Blevens/ R. Toomey/L. Maule.

This issue generated lively discussion around the table. Among the topics: reasons for purchasing textbooks late, the advantages/disadvantages, desirability/undesirability of using eBooks, the Bookstore's practice of returning textbooks to the publisher before students have been able to secure funds with which to purchase them, etc. General consensus was that the issue is complicated, has no easy answers, and is an ongoing topic of discussion.

7. Continue to monitor current rules governing course evaluation policies and practices at department and college levels and to keep abreast of the Provost's task force investigating alternative evaluation instruments. J. Buffington.

Mr. Buffington has asked the chair of the task force, Dr. Susan Powers, for a summary of activities. He will share her response when he has it.

8. Work with AVP J Powers regarding a change to the Student Success Council as per proposal offered at 8/20/13 Exec Meeting. J. Powers.

Dr. Powers was unable to attend the meeting. His written report (Appendix 4) is attached to the bottom of these minutes. The motion passed by SAC in September and recently approved by FAC was also approved by the Faculty Executive Committee and will be presented to the Faculty Senate.

9. Complete a Year End Report and provide that to the Faculty Senate Officers. J. Buffington.

Mr. Buffington will prepare a report at the end of the 2014 Spring Semester.

10. Investigate the desirability of ISU's adopting a Medical Amnesty Policy. L. Valentine/L. Decker.

Within days, Mr. Valentine will meet with Melony Sacopulos, General Counsel to the University, to finalize a proposal for an ISU Alcohol Health Policy, which has been named the Alcohol Safety and Assistance Program ("ASAP"). One question to be answered is whether "ASAP" should be a policy or a procedure. SAC will be asked to endorse the final product of Mr. Valentine's work.

11. Investigate the desirability of sending midterm grades to all students. L. Valentine/J. Hauser.

Mr. Valentine has been talking with various administrators and faculty in the past few weeks. He has sent out a survey to the student body and plans to send the same type of survey to the faculty but wants to look for questions and disagreements. Over 90% of students agreed with the ideas of everyone receiving midterm grades or interim grades. And over 90% of students said that they would be more likely to ask for help if they knew their grades more often. He would also like to look into grade reporting regarding using blackboard for all courses. He shared questions he presented to students in the survey:

1. "As a student, would you like to receive your midterm grades for all classes regardless of your age?" Of the 692 respondents, 93.5% said yes; 2.17% said no, and 4.34% had no opinion.

2. "Do you believe that if you knew your midterm letter grades, you and other students would be more likely to ask for help in classes you may be struggling in?" 92.77% responded yes; 2.89% said no; 4.34% had no opinion.

3. "If faculty was required to report assignment/exam grades to Blackboard within a certain time frame, which would you believe would be an appropriate time frame for both students and faculty?" 65.7% responded 2 weeks; 14.02% said 3 weeks; 3.76% said 4 weeks. 16.47% responded to "Based on class level (100, 200, etc.)."

Mr. Valentine expects to have a recommendation ready for SAC review by the January SAC meeting.

12. Charge to All Standing Committee Chairpersons: Convene as a Taskforce on the Handbook, with the FAC chair as the chair of this taskforce. The other members will be the chairs of the standing committees. Identify all handbook inconsistencies. Focus on sections 245, 246 and all 300's. Assign the perceived inconsistencies to the appropriate standing committees for review and amendment. J. Buffington.

No report.

#### V. Administrative reports

1. Chair. J. Buffington.

No report.

2. Ex-Officios

No report.

3. SGA. L. Valentine/A. Nichols.

No report.

#### VI. Open Discussion

No report.

#### VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m..

Cheryl Blevens, recorder.

### **Appendix 1**

**Fall 2013 Enrolled First-time Freshman  
Quality Indicators**

At end-of-day on	Unconditional Admits				Conditional				Total New Freshmen Enrolled			
	Avg SAT	Avg GPA	Core 40*	Head ct	Avg SAT	Avg GPA	Core 40*	Head ct	Avg SAT	Avg GPA	Core 40*	Head ct
28-Jun-13 final summer ses	923.5	3.15	99.4%	2216	854.5	2.39	95.1%	315	914.9	3.06	98.9%	2531
14-Aug-13 final August session	922.6	3.14	99.4%	2378	854.2	2.41	95.8%	300	914.7	3.06	99.0%	2678
<b>official official</b>	<b>922.5</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>99.4%</b>	<b>2361</b>	<b>853.3</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>95.9%</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>914.3</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>2661</b>
<b>Fall 2012</b>												
28-Jun-12 final summer ses	933.5	3.15	99.1%	2157	870.0	2.41	96.8%	344	924.9	3.05	98.7%	2501
16-Aug-12 August session	932.2	3.14	99.0%	2337	864.9	2.41	97.0%	338	923.5	3.05	98.7%	2675
<b>official official</b>	<b>932.6</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>99.1%</b>	<b>2335</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>923.6</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>2668</b>

*Excluding CEP\**

Fall 2011 (official)	930.9	3.12	98.3%	2226	904.0	2.37	94.0%	295	927.8	3.04	97.8%	2521	2521
Fall 2010 (official)	942.1	3.12	96.4%	2207	882.9	2.39	90.0%	500	930.7	2.98	95.1%	2707	2581
Fall 2009 (official)	948.6	3.14	96.9%	1669	870.9	2.40	92.9%	366	933.2	3.00	96.1%	2035	1828
Fall 2008 (official)	966.3	3.20	97.6%	1457	859.1	2.44	91.3%	483	937.2	3.00	95.8%	1940	1855
Fall 2007 (official)	958.9	3.17	95.1%	1483	869.3	2.42	79.1%	369	940.0	3.01	91.6%	1852	1722
Fall 2006 (official)	974.2	3.20	94.0%	1346	861.5	2.41	78.8%	357	948.8	3.02	90.4%	1703	1577
Fall 2005 (official)	971.2	3.16	80.7%	1316	873.1	2.44	71.4%	326	949.8	3.01	78.6%	1642	1543
Fall 2004 (official)	965.7	3.09	79.2%	1553	885.8	2.30	60.0%	298	951.5	2.95	75.8%	1851	1729
Fall 2003 (official)	964.8	3.06	84.4%	1667	864.7	2.26	61.1%	349	946.4	2.91	79.9%	2016	1893
Fall 2002 (official)	951.3	2.97	79.4%	1870	866.7	2.25	65.8%	270	939.4	2.88	77.5%	2140	2003

\* Core 40 percentages reflect the percentage of Indiana HS Grads with Core40, Core40 with Academic Honors, and Core40 with Technical Honors Diplomas

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FTF Quality Ind cube/FTF Off Qual Ind cube (Argos)

## APPENDIX 2

November 04, 2013

Dear Faculty Colleague,

Make a difference in the life of an ISU student through your donation to the *Faculty Senate Scholarship*! Authorized by the Faculty Senate in 2000, the Faculty Senate Scholarship is awarded to one or more academically outstanding sophomore(s) or junior(s). This year, the Eighth Annual Faculty Senate Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Student Affairs Committee. Details can be found on the Faculty Senate website, [http://www.indstate.edu/facsenate/faculty\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.indstate.edu/facsenate/faculty_scholarship.htm).

As faculty, many of us benefitted from university scholarships as students ourselves, and we know how meaningful those awards were to us. Sara Umphries and Morgan Whitehead, the two 2013 Faculty Senate Scholarship recipients, expressed what the award meant to them.

*It is such an honor to receive this award. As a college student it can be stressful to pay tuition, not wanting to have to take out a loan or ask your parents. A relief to that stress is always welcome. Being selected for this scholarship out of so many worthy applicants means so much. To be asked to apply was an honor in its self. I try to work hard and do the best that I can, setting high standards for myself. It is nice to know that that hard work is recognized.*

– Sara Umphries

*I am so thankful that Indiana State offers the Faculty Senate Scholarship to undergrad students. By receiving this scholarship last year, it not only helped me financially, but also was a huge source of encouragement. Knowing that ISU Faculty support ISU students through the means of this scholarship shows the genuine care and pride they hold for students. They not only teach and share their time and knowledge, but they also support, encourage, and share their resources. It has made me feel more invested, and has given me a greater sense of pride for my school and for our faculty members that are the heartbeats of Indiana State, making our university thrive through what they invest into the students.*

– Morgan Whitehead

As faculty members, we also pride ourselves on commitment to our students both in and out of the classroom. The Faculty Senate Scholarship, funded almost entirely by faculty donations, is an important expression of this commitment. Your support is essential to continue granting this scholarship.

Any amount you choose to donate is greatly appreciated. If all 720 full time, adjunct, and special purpose faculties donated even just \$20, we would be able to award a great sum in scholarships! Think of the impact that would make in the lives of our deserving students! Plus, your donation is tax deductible. For example, a \$400 donation per couple reduces ones Indiana tax burden by \$200.

There are several ways to contribute. The most convenient method—one that may allow some faculty to earn credit card points/miles—is to donate online through the Foundation website. Simply go to <https://www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=isucont>, fill out the form and under "Gift Information" check "Other" in the designation category and fill in "Faculty Senate Scholarship Fund" in the box marked "Additional Comments." Alternately, a check to the *Faculty Senate Scholarship Fund* can be sent to the ISU Foundation.

As faculty, our support *does* make a difference! I can think of no more worthy gift than an investment in our own students. Your generosity is much appreciated.

With heartfelt thanks,

Jim Buffington  
Chair, Student Affairs Committee

Steve Lamb  
Chair, Faculty Senate

### **Appendix 3**

November 12, 2013

#### **“Fast tracking” of Faculty Scholarship**

Dear Colleagues in the Faculty Senate,

The Student Affairs Committee would like to ask for Faculty Senate’s approval of the “fast-tracking” of Faculty Scholarship.

We feel that fast-tracking is necessary given the very tight timeframe of processing the applications for this scholarship every year. The typical timeline of the process is as follows: In November we send the solicitation letter for donation to all faculties at ISU. In January at the start of the spring semester we send the letter of inviting applications to all qualified undergraduate students. In early March the faculty scholarship committee members evaluate the received applications and recommend the winner(s) to the Student Affairs Committee. Then in early April it is the time of awarding the scholarship to the approved winner(s). Therefore, the timeline of this process is really tight. A fast-tracking of the approval at the Faculty Senate would save time and enhance efficiency on this matter.

Thanks for your consideration!

Colleagues at the Student Affairs Committee

### **Appendix 4**

#### **Report from the Office of Student Success**

Joshua Powers, AVP

Distributed at the November 12, 2013, SAC meeting

Approximately 150 faculty and staff and around 50 students attended and/or participated in the inaugural Student Success Conference. The evaluations from the conference were also very strong. The consensus feeling of the committee was that it is worthy to do again next fall, although probably a few weeks sooner.

Representatives from the Student Success Council and the Assessment Council gathered a few weeks ago to discuss the 2013 NSSE and FSSE results. An ad hoc committee will be forming from the two groups to facilitate campus engagement on key findings from the studies. Two presentations at the Success Conference focused on this topic. Concetta DePaulo's statistics class is working with the data to do deeper analyses suitable to help inform campus education and action.

Beth Whitaker has an advisory board now in place to assist with visioning and program activity planning of the new Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence. An internal search for a 1/2 time faculty fellow is also underway with plans for him/her to start in January.

The Faculty Senate Exec. discussed and voted to approve the proposed Handbook Language and membership changes to the Student Success Council. It will be an agenda item at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

The Student Success Council has formed subcommittees in the areas of SP Goals 1-3 oversight, student policies, programs, and data. The committees will be populated with a mix of SSC members and outside persons, including faculty.

Efforts are underway to build greater student interest in summer school. State legislative changes that link credits completed to state aid necessitate that more summer opportunities are available.

Tutoring and consultation through the Math & Writing Center and the Center for Student Success has been way up this year. Hiring of tutors/consultants/supplemental instructors has enabled coverage of this increased demand. Both units anticipate being slammed right after the Thanksgiving Holiday and have plans to be responsive.

The third issue of Goal Line, the new newsletter of the Office of Student Success, went out last week (November issue). Faculty and staff are invited to send in story ideas that link to student success.

Posters of students and their success stories are posted around campus on lawn signs and are appearing in the Statesman as part of a visibility campaign of student success. The Statesman is also running a twice monthly student success column. Connie McLaren was the featured author most recently on the subject of how students can build relationships with their faculty.