



Minutes
January 13, 2022
via Zoom
10:30am – 12:30pm

Members Present: Nick Aballi, Eric Aztor, Rhonda Beecroft, Sarah Ber, Teresa Dwyer, Viola Ellis, Jamie Hays, Nancy Hall, Christine Knight, Todd LaComba, Michelle Lewis, Brenda Lower, Katie Lugar, Alisha Moorhead, Grace Munoz, Angie Napier, Tina Pitts, Elizabeth Tomlinson, Roxanne Torrence, Martha Vaughn, Brooke Young

Members Excused: Barbara Auman, Robert Bandelt, Susan Crist, Marsha Dull, Elonda Ervin, Morgan Leek, Pamela Malone, Kelly Wright

Members Unexcused:

Guests Present: Alicia Miller

Call meeting to order at 10:32am (K. Lugar)

Welcomed Brenda Lower and Viola Ellis to Council. They are replacing Pam Chamberlain and Jake Jenkins since both have left the university.

Guest Reports

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Keri Yousif, Faculty Senate Chair, keri.yousif@indstate.edu

Thank you to staff because we would not be able to get this semester started without them. Faculty Senate is working to make sure faculty are complying with uploading vaccination or doing weekly testing. The Faculty Senate agenda has curriculum items in January. Happy that Staff Council and Faculty Senate were on the provost search. We are moving on to several dean searches on the academic side. The semester is off to a good start, reminded everyone to keep the spirit of grace, for yourself or family members you care for or children out of school. Also for colleagues and students.

Questions and answers

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Student Government Association

Austin Nettrouer, SGA President, Austin.nettrouer@sycamores.indstate.edu

First and foremost, we will continue to promote students to getting the vaccine and booster to help combat the new Omicron variant and pay close attention to the students electing to

submit to weekly testing and their experience therein. Additionally, with health and wellness, SGA is looking to install a 2-year position for a student to serve on the Jed Foundation project in the form of advisory in meetings with student affairs.

In Academic Affairs we're paying close attention to the experience of students working with Canvas in the classroom, as well as addressing potential concerns of students still taking classes between both Blackboard and Canvas. Additionally, we will be selecting a representative to serve on the search for the next Dean of Arts and Sciences.

With Engagement, we're already hitting the ground running in two events with campus partners for a Winter Social and the Spring Involvement Fair. Our freshmen leadership program Sycamore Leadership Coalition will enter its next stage of developing its Capstone Project for the campus. In Inclusive Excellence, we are preparing various events for Black History Month and bringing separate student organizations in to help out and get them involved.

Another large project for this semester is new to Student Government as we are working toward the development of an advisory board. As you may know, last semester we looked into finding a replacement advisor due to the vacancy of the position. Throughout the process, we found resounding support from within student affairs and individuals wanting to be involved which struck the thought of the development of an advisory board under the primary advisor, since Student Government has developed greatly over time to expand into various sectors of Indiana State and has required a lot of time commitment and knowledge of university operations for one individual to advise while still serving their own full-time position. Now that we've established a primary advisor, we will revisit the application process, develop the board, and approve additions to our governing documents to ensure its sustainability and operations for the future.

Finally, hard to believe, and I should have prepared and mentioned to have tissues nearby, SGA elections for the next President and Vice President are just around the corner, and we are starting to prepare the next election board and election calendar therein. As always, if you've worked with any students who will be here next year and have a passion for representing the voice of the student body, advocating for systemic and cultural change within the university, and above all seeks to empower and protect our students as their first priority, don't hesitate to encourage them for the position and you are welcome to share my email with them to reach out to for more information.

Questions and answers

- **How is it coming with the pass/fail?** There is full support and willingness to move in this direction.
- **Have all classes switched from blackboard to canvas or is it optional?** Every instructor was encouraged to switch and if you didn't you have to make a request to be an exception. K. Yousif did not have numbers on exceptions but she has heard complaints from students that are struggling going back and forth between blackboard and canvas.

Human Resources Report

Tami Weinzapfel-Smith, Executive Director of Human Resources, tami.weinzapfel-smith@indstate.edu

Diann McKee, Sr. Vice President of Finance, Administration/Univ Treasurer, diann.mckee@indstate.edu

D. McKee

The COVID testing site did open on January 3rd in Dede II for faculty, staff and students. Those that are required to test will get an email on Friday regarding testing for the following week. This is not a public testing site. There is a limited number of tests and was based on projections of those faculty, staff and students that are required to test. Those that show up and are not on the list are being redirected. Students that have symptoms can go to the health center for a test.

Thanked M. Leek for serving on the Provost Search Committee and anyone that participated in the open sessions.

Employee recognition celebration has been moved to March 1st due to COVID. They are trying to not have a lot of events until we can get through this surge of positive cases.

T. Weinzapfel-Smith

Questions and answers

- **Completed the Sycamore Health Assessment and they were not cleared to be on campus and the note says you are to remote work. Are they allowed to do remote work?** Needs to work through your supervisor and get approval from VP or Cabinet member approval.
- **Testing last week, did we have a large number of employees that didn't test and get their verbal warnings?** Emails went out but there were some that were not on campus and several that were on vacation so they are working through that list. The first week is probably not a good measure. There was an issue with a few people on the reporting with One to One.
- **If someone is required to test, can they test somewhere off campus?** There is a link in the email regarding testing for them to upload test results that are lab confirmed.
- **Testing site, are the opportunities to be vaccinated?** It is not a vaccination site due the space limitations. Vaccines are available through the health center or other testing sites in Vigo County.

- **Is there any updates on the data of the frequency or number of separations and how can staff council can support or assist with anything that is needed?** There is no specific number or percentage of separations over the past few months. ISU is experiencing the same as the entire country is experiencing. Exit interviews are being conducted.
- **Do retirees get an exit interview?** Staff are sent an email and given the option. Tami was unsure about faculty.
- **Do you think the current policy regarding sick policy on forced quarantine has something to do with resignations?** The CDC guidance altered what the quarantine and isolation can be. If you are vaccinated the need for you to isolate/quarantine is reduced.
- **Does being vaccinated include a booster?** At this point, no.

Approval of Minutes

November Minutes were not presented due to quorum not met.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented for discussion.

Executive Committee Report (M. Leek)

- **Emergency Fund** – This fund is on hold until we get updates from Payroll and the Controller's Office. We are getting a quick tax opinion on the processing of the funds.

New business

Vacancies were discussed. There are currently two open positions with one seat ending in 2022 and one ending in 2024. Regular elections should be mid-February with elections at the end of February.

The By Laws have been reviewed and we are in the process of making changes. These will be presented at the next regular meeting to begin the approval process.

Old business

There was no old business presented.

Standing Committee Reports

Staff Relations

Alicia Miller, Committee Chair, Alicia.miller@indstate.edu

Staff Relations Committee has not met this month so no report was available.

Public Relations

Roxanne Torrence, Committee Chair, roxanne.torrence@indstate.edu

Ornaments fundraiser was successful. All shirt orders that were placed have been delivered.

We have a Luncheon Bingo planned for February, a create-a-bear fundraiser for March and carnation fundraiser for Administrative Professionals Day in April and that should get the committee through the end of the year.

Staff Benefits

Alisha Moorhead, Committee Chair, Alisha.moorhead@indstate.edu

Discussed ongoing workable proposal regarding staff and the SRC. The committee also discussed language to add and define for the positive options for the work/life balance charge.

The meeting moved to closed session.

M. Vaughn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Dwyer.

Next meeting: **February 10, 2022 via Zoom at 10:30am**