Greetings from your Senate Officers,

The Fall Semester is in full swing. Three-Week Attendance Reporting ended last week, and Homecoming is just around the corner.

At the second Senate meeting on September 15, we heard from Molly Hare, Interim Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence.  FCTE is rolling out a new initiative, Branch Out, in which faculty will be challenged to improve one teaching skill this year.   We also received an update from Provost Licari and Diann McKee regarding international travel.  The travel forms have a new check-box to indicate if the destination is on the State Department’s Watch List.  If so, the Provost will need to sign off on the trip.  Provost Licari indicated that this does not mean such travel will not be permitted, just that it will receive additional scrutiny.  And finally, senators approved the slate for the Promotion and Tenure Oversight Committee.

The Executive Committee has had discussions with President Bradley and Provost Licari regarding faculty obligations toward the Bookstore.  We have gleaned the following from these discussions, and we ask department chairs to ensure that this information circulates among the faculty:

1) Faculty must provide the Bookstore with a list of required and recommended materials for every course that they teach by the date established for each semester.

2) Faculty are under no obligation to tell their students that they must obtain class materials through the Bookstore.

3) Faculty are absolutely free to inform students that they can purchase their class materials from other vendors and to even to inform them of potential vendors.

Department leadership has recently arisen as an important topic of conversation between the Senate and the Administration.  We are not in a position to relay any new information at this point but will do so as the discussion evolves.  The Senate officers wish to stress, however, that productive departments are those that work together—and that is the case for the majority on campus.  To ensure the success of each and every department and, therefore, the university as a whole, we strongly encourage every member of the ISU community to prioritize collegiality, compromise, and cooperation in our workplace.

We are pleased to report that Malissa Muyumba has been appointed by Provost Licari to serve as the Temporary Faculty Advocate.  We are confident that she will be an excellent advocate for her fellow Lecturers.  Her email address is Malissa.Muyumba@indstate.edu.

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 University Faculty Blackboard Site that all faculty may access.  You will find it in your course list as COM-ISUFACULTY: University Faculty.  Your Senate officers for 2016-2017 and their contact information are:

**Chair:**  Timothy Hawkins, Professor of History, Timothy.Hawkins@indstate.edu

**Vice Chair:**  Christine MacDonald, Professor of Educational and School Psychology, Chris.MacDonald@indstate.edu

**Secretary:**  Liz Brown, Professor and Chairperson of Mathematics and Computer Science, Liz.Brown@indstate.edu

Please contact one of the officers or your Senate representative with any questions or concerns.