Officers' Musings, 18 September

Colleagues:

In August two proposed changes to the ISU Faculty Constitution were presented to the Faculty Senate.  The first amendment recommends adding the following language to the section (245.3.1) defining membership within and apportioning representatives to the University Faculty Senate:

* 245.3.1.1.4 University College. The University College is not a coordinate academic subdivision in this sense and is not entitled to separate representation in the University Faculty Senate.

While this change would recognize the existence of the University College, the language would clarify that the UC is not entitled to separate representation on Senate, since it currently lacks an independent faculty.  The proposed language reflects the precedent already established by the College of Graduate and Professional Studies.

The second amendment recommends a minor change to section 245.3.5.4 which establishes the term of service of the Executive Committee:

* 245.3.5.4 Term of Service.  The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate shall serve from June 1 of the upcoming academic year to May 31 of the following year.

This revision was proposed to better reflect current practice and to ensure that the newly elected Executive Committee and its officers are in position to plan for the coming year.

Yesterday the Faculty Senate passed these constitutional amendments by the required two-thirds majority.  As a result, Qualtrics ballots will be sent out to the voting members of the University Faculty within the next week.  In order to pass, these amendments require “approval by a majority of those voting and by at least 40% of the voting membership of the University Faculty.”  When you receive your ballot, please take the time to vote.  Ballots must be cast within two weeks of their receipt.

In other news:

* Senators were reminded of the importance of the *It’s On Blue* campaign.  This is mandatory training for faculty, staff, *and* students.  Please encourage your degree-seeking undergraduates to complete their version of the program.  Otherwise, they will not be allowed to register for spring and summer 2016 classes.   Attached please find the approved *Faculty and Advisor Guide to Helping Students with It’s On Blue*.
* Senators received an update on the Wellness Campaign from Lauren Campbell, the Employee Wellness coordinator.  Questions about the health screenings taking place on campus can be directed to her office in Rankin Hall 327, phone: 812-237-4117.
* Finally, Candy Barton provided senators with a glimpse ahead at potential adjustments to health benefits for the coming year.  We will keep you apprised as details are confirmed.

Have a great weekend.