Greetings from your Senate Officers:

We have recently heard from faculty members who have expressed concerns about disruptive students in the classroom.  We have been in contact with the FCTE about providing a workshop for faculty about this important topic and will have more information in the coming weeks.  In the meantime, we share the following guidelines for faculty facing this difficult situation:  If there is a disruptive student, first try to intervene and ask the student to stop their behavior.  If the student continues to be disruptive, ask the student to leave the class for that class period.  If the student refuses to leave, cancel the class period for everyone and talk to your Department Chairperson and then the Student Conduct Office.

We have also heard from faculty regarding the changes to the University health plan, the increase in employee contributions, and the current atmosphere of uncertainty surrounding healthcare in general.  We have been in contact with Diann McKee and Candy Barton, and they are willing to hold a faculty forum this spring on the topic.  When the date and time for this presentation is set, we will make an announcement.

On January 19, the Senate passed (24-6-0) a motion to endorse a FAC recommendation to define community engagement, experiential learning, and community service in the University Handbook.  A motion to endorse a FAC recommendation encouraging the Promotion and Tenure Taskforce to emphasize the value of engagement within the hiring, retention, promotion, and tenure process was narrowly defeated, 11-14-0.  Finally, a motion to create a special committee to investigate how to foster a positive faculty culture passed, 22-2-0.  Once constituted, this committee will prepare a report for Senate by the end of the semester.  Senate will meet again on February 16.

Senate elections for 2017-2018 are fast approaching.  The deadline for filing as a candidate is March 20.  The nomination form can be found on the Faculty Senate Blackboard site and will soon appear on the Faculty Senate website.  Consider running or encourage a colleague to run.

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>.   This material can also be accessed via the University Faculty Blackboard Site.  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.