25 October 2018

Greetings from your Senate Officers:

 The Faculty Senate held its 3rd meeting this academic year on October 18.  A number of important issues were raised and discussed, the highlights of which are presented below.  Provost Licari, in his administrative report, announced that the Board of Trustees approved a “naming policy” designed to support endowments for faculty hires and professional development.  Also in his report he stated that the new Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Council has begun to meet regularly.  Of note, the Provost said the State Budget committee’s visit to campus earlier in the week had gone well.  The committee had been able to tour the new HHS building and Drieser Hall, renovation funds for the latter comprise this year’s budget request.  Finally, the Provost explained that President Curtis called a special meeting of her Cabinet to discuss concerns over events that took place during Homecoming Weekend.

Katie Butwin requests faculty volunteers for the Discrimination Appeals Committee. Please inquire via the email of the Office of General Counsel.

CAAC forwarded a proposal for a Business Analytics minor from the School of Business.  After deliberation the Senate approved the minor.

The Senate passed two items proposed by the Faculty Affairs Committee.  Each generated robust discussions and are worthy of note.  The first creates a University Ombudsperson, designed to provide guidance for faculty who have issues or concerns that may require a grievance.  The proposal, which can be found among the Senate materials on Blackboard, has administrative support.  The second item concerned the merit-pay procedures that departments will be expected to develop as a result of the revisions to the Biennial Review.  FAC prepared general guidelines (and a timetable) for departments to consider as they move on this charge. Much of the discussion focused on the connection to the Biennial Review schedule and appropriate distinctions for merit pay.  Senators were reminded that the new Biennial Review empowers departments to make such decisions on their own with some college-level oversight. The Senate has forwarded the FAC document to college deans with the request that it be distributed to department chairs.

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 Faculty Senate Blackboard Site that all faculty may access.  You will find it in your course list as COM-ISUFACULTY: University Faculty.

Your Senate Officers for 2018-2019 and their contact information are:

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

Vice Chair:  Liz Brown, Professor and Chairperson of Mathematics and Computer Science, Liz.Brown@indstate.edu

Secretary:  Shawn Phillips, Professor of Anthropology, Dept. of Earth & Environmental Systems, Shawn.Phillips@indstate.edu

Please contact one of the Officers or your Senate representative(s) with any questions or concerns.