27 February 2019

Greetings from your Senate Officers:

The Faculty Senate held its second meeting of the semester on Thursday, February 21.   This message summarizes the Chair’s report, informational items, updates, topics from the open discussion, and action items passed by the Senate.  Please note, both President Curtis and Provost Licari attended Board seminars and were not available for this Senate meeting.  For full details please see the Senate minutes available in March.

T. Hawkins (Senate Chair) thanked faculty for the robust attendance at the SEM sessions held earlier in February.  He also encouraged faculty to vote in the upcoming Senate elections.  Nomination forms are due March 15th and elections will happen via Qualtrics the following week. Officer elections and executive committee nominations are April 4th. The following number of seats will be open for each college:  10 (CAS); 3 (HHS); 2 (SCOB); 1 (BCOE); 0 (LIB); 3 (COT).  The officers will hold an informational meeting on March 7th at 3:30 pm in HMSU 421 for those with questions about Senate service.  Here is a link for the nomination form and more details on the Senate election.

<https://www.indstate.edu/services/facsenate/elections-and-evaluations>

Dr. Hawkins provided senators with a brief update about the recent University Budget Committee meeting.  Much remains in flux now, as the university must wait until April for a final decision on the state’s contribution.  Current planning anticipates at least a $5.5 million reallocation, with a significant portion coming from Academic Affairs.  The officers have been told by the administration that instruction remains its top priority and that cuts to that area are counterproductive.  Despite our fiscal challenges, the Senate expects that the core academic mission of the university will be protected by those charged with primary authority over the budget.

Significant informational items and updates were also presented to Senate.  Those included an introduction to the “Give to Blue” campaign and new donor options by A. Angel (VP University Advancement); an overview of the Biennial Review Template report by S. Powers (AVP Faculty Affairs) and L. Brown (Senate Vice Chair); and, an update on university budget planning and the current state of the discussions with the state government by D. McKee (VP Finance and Administration).

The open discussion centered on issues concerning distance students.  Faculty asked whether distance students could have representation in upcoming SGA elections, how fees for mental health services would be applied, and if those students would have access to those services.

Senate took action on eight items.  The following motions were approved:  a departmental name change Communication Disorders and Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology (CDCSEP) to Applied Clinical and Educational Sciences (ACES) 32-0-0; the Humanities for Health and Medical Professionals Minor 31-0-0; suspension of the Martial Arts Minor 31-0-0; the Forensic Sciences Minor 31-0-0; Entertainment Design and Technology Minor 31-0-0; Accelerated Masters in Mathematics 29-1-0; and the Accelerated Non-Thesis Masters in Biology 29-1-0; and one FAC item, revisions to 350 30-0-0.

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.