26 September 2018

Greetings from your Senate Officers:

With the Fall ’18 semester now in full swing the Faculty Senate has been actively engaged in the duties of shared governance. The second Faculty Senate meeting this academic year took place on September 20. President Curtis reported on her efforts to raise ISU’s visibility throughout the state and future plans to improve PR messaging on the university’s distinctiveness. She also relayed that the requested funds for the Dreiser Hall renovation were well received by the ICHE. Provost Licari, in his administrative report, praised the Library Extravaganza and the Bat Festival. He extended his appreciation to the faculty and staff whose efforts made each of those recent events a success. In an extended report to the Senate, the provost presented recent admissions data as part of his effort to improve enrollment management policy. We appreciate his declared intention to bring faculty into the admissions decision-making process.

Also of note, Candy Barton appeared before the Senate to report that the Employee Benefits office does not intend to recommend an increase in 2019 health insurance premiums to the Board of Trustees. She noted that projected savings from the switch to Anthem were realized, which, subsequently she credits to no premium increase this year.

United Way representatives presented a shift in focus for donations to the organization. The UW will use the “ALICE” index to assess poverty in the Wabash Valley and will target donations to improve that index. The representatives also discussed a number of incentive programs for potential donors.

Finally, the time for posting interim grades is now upon us. Please be sure to complete this important task by 4pm on Tuesday (Oct 2). Interim grades provides early performance notice to students while there is still time in the semester for them to make needed improvements. Please also tell your students how you determined their interim grades.

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.