28 August 2018

Greetings from your Senate Officers:

We hope your return to campus was refreshing after a hot and busy summer. The positive energy on campus with the new and returning students, staff, and faculty has been palpable this opening week of the semester. The Faculty Senate held its first meeting for this academic year on August 23 and received reports from campus leadership. Stephen Lamb, SGA President, outlined priorities that included improved access for mental health, inclusiveness initiatives for the student body, and voter registration projects. Provost Licari relayed two administration initiatives with campus-wide import. First, President Curtis has been working to revise the Strategic Plan. Following input from the campus community, including the Senate, the new plan should go to the Board of Trustees in October. Provost Licari describes the new Strategic Plan as not necessarily a fundamental shift but a change in focus from chasing metrics to broadening strategies under each goal and finding qualitative ways to demonstrate achievement. Provost Licari also described the importance of the President’s administrative reorganization that brought Enrollment Management into the Office of Academic Affairs. He argued that this would lead to a number of benefits. In particular, it would allow the university to shift its definition of student success from a focus on access to the front door to a process that ensures that students “cross the finish line.” The Senate officers are confident that shared governance will ensure that faculty play a significant role in these initiatives.

At the end of last year, Senate made major changes to the Biennial Review. As part of the process required to put those revisions into effect, Senate has charged the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) with providing oversight for departments. By October, FAC will ask departments to confirm that their standards for *Meets Expectations* and *Does Not Meet Expectations* conform to the new university document. Also by October, FAC will draft general guidelines for a merit-pay distribution model that departments can use during their internal deliberations. Senate reminds departments that all work related to merit pay should be completed by the end of 2018.

During the Open Discussion a number of Senators commented on the renovations happening across the campus. In particular, the improvements to the New Theater and the Holmstedt Lecture halls were much appreciated as conducive to a better teaching and learning experience.

It was mentioned at Senate that some attention is being given to the crosswalk at the corner of 3rd and Chestnut streets. Since 3rd St. is a state highway, there are more governmental obstacles in the way of straightforward changes such as increasing the metered crossing time. A tunnel is one potential solution, and the university is in talks with the City and other planning entities on this matter.

Finally, in curricular news, he Senate voted to eliminate the Psychology minor for Social Work majors.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be 20 September 2018.

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.