Officers’ Musings

12 December 2017

It is finals week. Here’s to a productive last week of the semester and Happy Holidays thereafter.

The Faculty Senate held its fifth meeting of the semester on December 7, 2017. It was President Bradley’s last Faculty Senate meeting. We wish him and Cheri all the best over the coming year as they travel and spend time with their family. Most of the meeting was taken up with discussions about Anthem’s Emergency Room coverage and Handbook language surrounding passwords and data security (the “900s”).

Candy Barton and Diann McKee responded immediately to our concerns about Anthem’s Emergency Room coverage (thank you to Mike Chambers for raising the issue). They had heard about the impending changes that same week, gathered information from Anthem, and are in the process of putting together a packet about the new coverage. The details will be in the information they provide but, until then, the changes reflect Anthem’s desire to curtail “emergency room visits for colds.” Anthem would prefer that we make use of the other services they cover (e.g. urgent care, the nurse’s hotline) to confirm that whatever symptoms we or our family members are experiencing really warrant a visit to the ER. Ms. Barton reassured Senators that, in the case of an emergency, by all means call 911 or go to the emergency room immediately. She will work with us after the fact to deal with the coverage and paperwork. If, however, we can manage to call the nurse’s hotline to describe symptoms or go to urgent care, we should. Doing so is preferable to going to the ER. If the nurse’s hotline, urgent care, or your doctor sends you to the emergency room, that ER visit (of course) will be covered. Please call Human Resources at 812-237-4114 for additional information and watch for written details from HR about the recommended procedures.

Senators approved changes to sections 930, 937, 938, and 939 of the Handbook and the removal of sections 933, 934, and 941. We will leave the details to the full Senate minutes (which will be posted after the next Senate meeting). In brief, the changes reflect ISU’s need to “come into the 21st century” with regard to its stated IT policies. Changes to section 930 include new guidelines related to password usage. We are now required to change our passwords at least every six months, including those we use for ISU-related software, e.g. curriculog, for which we are not automatically prompted to do so. There was some discussion about the workload-related consequences of the new password policies. Chairs, for example, often provide their administrative assistants with their passwords in order to enable them to enter information into Banner, etc. The new policies forbid this kind of password sharing. Lisa Spence indicated that there may be ways to enable administrative assistants to input this type of information. She and her staff are working on a solution.

Sections 937, 938, 939 were clarified. Of note, any usage of “Indiana State University,” the sycamore leaf, etc., on websites has to go through Communication and Marketing for final approval. This is to ensure that University-sponsored information is consistently branded.

The next Senate meeting will be held on January 18 in Dede III.

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 2017-2018 and their contact information are:

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

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

Secretary: Lisa Phillips, Associate Professor of History, Lisa.Phillips@indstate.edu

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