1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson of the University Senate, Eric Kelly, at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by initialing the roster located at the entrance to LB 125.


Substitutes: Jeffrey Clark for D. Marini, Amanda Savasta for B. Wagner


2. A motion was made and seconded (Supa/Shawger) to approve the minutes of January 20, 2011.

The motion carried.

3. Announcements

Items III. A., B., and C., (next scheduled meetings, Program Information, University Senate Action) were reviewed.

D. Report from Task Force on Online Evaluations (University Senate Agenda, 2/17/11, Enclosure #1)

Brien Smith, Chairperson of the task force, was present at today’s meeting. Brien reported that the task force looked at three different areas: review of literature, existing practices at other institutions, and convening of focus groups of faculty and students.

Discussion ensued regarding anonymity on the online evaluations, as well as whether response rates are readily accessible on the websites from the other institutions website. Concern was raised as to whether the research from 2000 might be data studied from 1999.

A senate member questioned if there might be a problem when the faculty member gave the students too much information, which could skew the student responses one way or another. Brian’s opinion is yes, there probably is; however they did not find anything that indicated this might be a problem.

A senate member reminded the other members that numbers are available from only first and second summer session and fall of last year. This was implemented when the university also shifted to online grade submissions by faculty. These were two big changes last year, making it different for everyone. The Provost reported that he has numbers broken down by departments and believes it is a good idea to have Jim Jones from Unified Technology Support attend the next senate meeting. He can provide more information regarding the numbers involved.

Implementing the online evaluation system saves the university $120,000 yearly.
A motion was made and seconded (Zivney/Pearson) to accept this report.

The motion carried.

4. There was a moment of silence to recognize the deaths of Irma F. (Traughber) Gale, Elizabeth Jane Glenn, Beulah Murphy, and Robert C. Wolfe

5. Committee Reports

A. Governance and Elections Committee – John Ledbetter, Chairperson

John reported that the committee met and approved the policy regarding Performing Outside Service Activities – Policy on Ghost Employment.

John was recommended to the nominating committee for the vacant Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) faculty position. He encouraged faculty members to consider running for this position and to contact him should they have interest.

B. Faculty Council – Barry Umansky, Chairperson

Barry reported the Faculty Council met in January and accepted the report from the Special Leave Committee. The University Promotion and Tenure revision concerning the addition of Immersive Learning in the handbook did not advance to the senate. The Contract Faculty representation and the Graduate Faculty policy revisions were approved and are on today’s agenda.

C. University Council – No report.

D. Campus Council

Mike reported the Campus Council met on February 10 and continued their discussion on the Cardinal Cash issue as well as Meal Card Reimbursement when on long-term field trips. There was a discussion on inclement weather and the council approved a statement for the senate’s consideration on today’s agenda. The next meeting is March 17.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Eric Kelly (University Senate Agenda 9/2/10, Enclosure #3)

- Online Evaluations can be removed from the GANTT chart.
- Promotion and Tenure Recommendations from Council of Deans: The Provost reported that colleges and departments have been contacted regarding suggestions concerning the Promotion and Tenure Recommendations. All suggestions will be considered and the Council of Deans will be sending them forward to the University Promotions and Tenure Committee
- Timeframe for fall semester grades: The Provost and Nancy Cronk, Registrar, reported that there is some hand labor that needs to be done with the grades, even though they are now submitted electronically. They both feel that the implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system will alleviate this problem.

7. Questions Directed to the President
8. Question and Answer Period

A senator reported that the link is broken to the Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook on the main page of the Ball State website.

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business

A. Revision to Faculty and Professional personnel handbook regarding Contract Faculty (University Senate Agenda, 2/17/11, Enclosure #3)

Discussion ensued regarding how this affects departments. It was confirmed that the language regarding departments still stands.

A motion was made and seconded (Pearson/Shawger) to approve. A hand vote was requested.

Yes: 34 No: 8 Abstentions: 2

The motion carried.

The constitutional amendment portion of this revision (not included in today’s vote) will be included in the constitutional amendments next fall.

B. Revision of Graduate Faculty Policy (University Senate Agenda, 2/17/11, Enclosure #4)

Deborah Mix, Chairperson of the Graduate Education Committee, was present at today’s meeting. There was no discussion.

A motion was made and seconded (Pearson/Edmonds) to approve.

The motion carried.

11. Other Items

A. Inclement Weather

Campus Council (2/10/11)

“The Campus Council requests the University re-evaluate the procedure for cancelling classes.”

Michael Miller, Chairperson of the Campus Council, reported that the discussion at the Campus Council meeting revolved around the lack of organization in addressing the inclement weather. There were residence halls on campus that went into lockdown and students could not leave to attend classes.

A motion was made and seconded (Crawley/Umansky) to approve this statement.

The motion carried.
12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Kapinus, Secretary

/mt