

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
February 18, 2010

Members Present: 54

Members Absent: 11

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

Roll Call was taken by initialing the roster located at the entrance to TC 102.

Members Present: B. Adams, N. Ahmed, C. Ball, R. Bellaver, B. Cahill, P. Chandler, G. Crawley, L. Deckers, O. Dotson, A. Edmonds, J. Fry, J. Gora, J. Green, D. Grosnick, M. Guntsche, M. Harber, M. Harvey, C. Hall, L. Helms, R. Hicks, J. Huff, R. Kanu, C. Kapinus, T. King, J. Ledbetter, M. Maggiotto, D. Marini, L. Markle, C. Marlow, W. McCune, B. McRae, P. Parkison, R. Rarick, T. Richardson, J. Rybarczyk, D. Shawger, G. Slater, B. Smith, G. Stamp, F. Sun, M. Steib, D. Supa, B. Umansky, D. Waechter, M. Whitlock, A. Wieseke, B. Wills, S. Woosley, J. Yang

Substitutes: Irene Livshits for R. Bremigan, Beth Terrell for C. Munchel, Deborah Ceglowski for C. Walker, Jerome McKean for K. Warren-Gordon, Howard Hammer for T. Zivney

Members Absent: N. Akey, K. Brophy, R. Fluegeman, D. Haber, M. Johnson, E. Kelly, D. LeBlanc, M. Mills, L. Shaffer, W. Sharp, P. Spengler

2. A motion was made and seconded (Supa/Adams) to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010.

The motion carried.

3. Announcements

Agenda Items III. A., B., C. were reviewed.

D. Preference Polls

The chairperson reported that the preference polls will be mailed electronically for the first time. He requested the senators to talk with their constituents regarding this change and offer any information concerning time commitments, etc., for participation on committees.

E. University Budget

The chairperson reported that the first of two public forums took place yesterday, February 17. Approximately 300 people were in attendance. The second forum will be held on March 16, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The forum will be streamed live on the university website for those unable to attend.

4. Committee Reports

A. Governance and Elections Committee – John Ledbetter, Chairperson

John reported that the committee met earlier this month. The policy for an asynchronous meeting was passed by the committee and is on today's agenda.

B. Faculty Council – Barry Umansky, Chairperson

Barry reported that the Faculty Council met in January and discussed the items on the GANTT chart. The council heard a presentation from members of the Financial and Budgetary Affairs Committee, John Ledbetter and Sue Weller, regarding the activity of the committee concerning the university budget.

C. University Council – Laura Helms, Chairperson

Laura reported that the council met on February 18 and had a presentation from Barb Wills, University Council representation to the Financial and Budgetary Affairs Committee. The council approved the final piece of business from the Task Force on Professional Personnel regarding increasing professional personnel representation on committees within the senate system.

D. Campus Council – Matthew Whitlock, Chairperson

Matthew reported that the Campus Council met on February 11 and heard a report on the smoking task force and passed the revision to the academic calendar.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Brien Smith (University Senate Agenda 2/18/10, Enclosure #2)

The GANTT chart was reviewed by the membership of the Senate. There are a number of items in the senate system that have been or are nearing completion.

7. Questions Directed to the President

The President reported the following:

- The university does not plan to cut pension benefits, contrary to the Muncie Star Press report. PERF will not be affected. TIAA-CREF has been currently contributing 12.2% with no vesting period and the university may look at future contributions. Indiana University has reduced their contributions to 10% with a five-year vesting period.
- There have been excellent ideas submitted by the university community where there could be significant savings. Healthcare benefits is another area where there can be significant savings without significantly impacting benefits. The Salary and Benefits and Financial and Budgetary Affairs Committees have been tapped for input regarding the budget cuts.
- In the budget that was put forward to the state for 2010-11, there was a 4% salary increase, as in 2009-10. That will have to be re-examined. It is not possible to preserve the entire salary increase as requested to the state, but she is hopeful some of it will be preserved.
- Data regarding retention of the freshman class, from fall into spring. It was mentioned at the last senate meeting that the total enrollment this spring is actually the highest in 16 years. There was a 93.48% return of the fall 2009 freshman class. The Research Office reports this is a 5% increase in fall to spring retention since fall 2005.
- There are 525 more students living in residence halls than last spring which is an encouraging sign.

A senator commented on the discussions from the Salary and Benefits Committee concerning Purdue's budget cuts. They have cut retirement contributions down to 10% and the remaining 5% is put into a salary increase.

A senator inquired about healthcare benefits and if the university is looking at both employee contributions as well as what it does to the out-of-pocket expense. The President responded that they will look at the impact on any action that is imposed. More than 75% of the general fund is for salaries and benefits. It is inevitable that this portion of the general fund will be impacted. Their goal is to do their best in making

reductions that do not severely impact current employees, but the first priority is ensuring the educational experience of students.

8. Question and Answer Period

A senator inquired as to whether the social media policy was brought to the senate or faculty council for deliberation, and if not, why it was not an item of business.

The Chairperson responded that it was not brought to the senate, explaining that the senate is to oversee the curriculum of the university. Secondly, their responsibility is to advise on budget, tenure, and policies of the university. It would not fall under the purview of the senate.

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business

A. Academic Calendar Revision

Undergraduate Education Committee 11/2/09
Faculty Council 1/28/10
Senate Agenda Committee 2/8/10 (Pending approval of Campus Council)
Campus Council 2/11/10

1. Match the number of instructional days in fall semester to spring semester
2. Mirror the breaks
 - eliminate Fruesday
 - reinstate the 2 day fall break and move the days to Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week (fall break will be a week, which matches the week-long break in the Spring.)
3. Finals will remain five days, M-F, matching the spring semester finals week
4. Under this plan, the fall Monday night class time configuration will be lengthened as is currently done in the spring Monday night class schedule

A motion was made and seconded (Steib/Shawger) to move to the floor for discussion.

Amy Leahy, chairperson of the Undergraduate Education Committee, was present to answer questions from the senate.

Concerns with the revision included dropping one more day of instruction, and having a one week vacation only two weeks prior to semester break. The current situation proves to affect faculty morale, and create a lack of time to prepare for classes, especially lab courses.

Discussion included the part-time courses that are shorter than a regular semester and are difficult to make up, the comparison of IU and PU instruction days, and the current situation not being effective; some faculty

cancel classes and students do not show up.

A suggestion was made to add an additional day to the spring schedule by adding Saturday finals.

The motion to approve the revision in the academic calendar carried, with abstentions.

B. Revision to procedures for asynchronous meetings (University Senate Agenda, 2/18/10, Enclosure #3)

A motion was made and seconded (Ledbetter/Dotson) to move to the floor for discussion.

Barry Umansky, Chairperson of the Faculty Council, reported that a task force made up of him, Dave Pearson, and Marilyn Buck, worked on the revision. The revision pertains to electronic voting and the procedure of "reply to all," which clogs up e-mail boxes.

The following friendly amendment was suggested and approved:

1. Add "All e-votes will be verified by the chairperson of the Governance and Elections Committee," at the end of the revision.

The motion to approve the revisions to asynchronous meetings, including the friendly amendment, carried.

11. Other Items

The Provost reminded the members of the senate that individual faculty members are not authorized to cancel class unilaterally.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

March 25, 2010

Brien N. Smith, Chairperson

Carolyn Kapinus, Secretary

/mt