

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2008 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, David Arnold, Lowell Baker, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady, Rona Donahoe, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Roy Maize, John Mason, Ed Stephenson, Marcia Barrett

ABSENT: Margaret Garner, Jenice “Dee” Goldston, Shane Street, Jeanette Vandermeer

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Clark Midkiff.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of December 4, 2007 were approved.

President’s Report – (*John Vincent*) The spring **faculty/staff meeting** is scheduled for April 2, 1:30 pm in the Bryant Conference Center Rast Room. Last year’s chair review results are promised to be out soon. This year’s dean review questionnaire should be out soon. A two or three word addition to the University’s equal **employment non-discrimination policy** was made in December and is posted on the Human Resources web page. A review of the 2008-09 **University calendar** revealed that public schools have scheduled their spring break late in the spring making it extremely difficult for higher education institutions to schedule theirs at the same time. UA and public school spring breaks scheduled at different times creates hardships concerning child care arrangements. A late spring break also presents the problem of stress on the students. Shelton State has decided they cannot have their spring break at the same time the public schools have theirs. Many UA students attend Shelton State. The last day to drop a course falls in the middle of spring break. It will be recommended to the Provost to have the withdrawal date on the previous Wednesday. The suggestion was made to forward information to staff and faculty that the University does not have a choice in choosing the dates of spring break. The public school system should notify UA earlier about their spring break dates. Summer semester final exams are scheduled for July 3rd and 5th with Friday being July 4th. This is an extremely difficult time to schedule exams since the University has July 4th as a holiday. There is minimal space for any changes to be made to the Summer University calendar.

Vice President’s Report – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

Secretary’s Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahoe*) The Academic Affairs Committee proposes a survey to determine the priorities of faculty members regarding new monies distribution. The proposed question would be whether faculty prefers the

distribution of new monies to be in faculty raises or the hiring of new tenure-track faculty. Requesting department and divisional information will reveal the location of faculty members feeling pressured. There are projections predicting a major decrease in the Educational Trust Fund next year. Discussion included the length of the survey, timing, composition, numerical ranking of priorities, information the survey will reveal and the use of the information.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) This committee had a joint meeting with the Financial Affairs Committee. John Kasberg is to forward data concerning the PEEHIP issue.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) No report.

There were two handouts for this committee to consider titled “Environmental Quality” and “Executive Summary: GIS Analysis and Tree Inventory for Indiana University Sustainability Task Force”. Indiana University has a sustainability task force in place to properly manage the natural resources of their campus. These resources include energy, food, recycling, natural and non-natural resources and environmental quality. The mission of this group is to research and explore alternatives in environmental and land use leading to greater sustainability for the campus and surrounding community. They have identified every tree on campus including the type and location. They are also in the process of identifying all plant life on campus. These projects could be student centered in collaboration with the forest service. A survey has been done on the UA campus revealing information about birds.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) The Ombudsperson election will be held in February. John Vincent will send out an email requesting nominations from the faculty. Senator elections will be held within the next two months. Karen Steckol is a nominee for President of the Faculty Senate. Nominations should be forwarded to John Mason or Roy Maize.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter*) No report.

A presentation on block seating will be made at the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee meeting Wednesday, January 9.

Other committee reports –

Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee – Agreement has been reached in principal on the basic procedure. The actual instrument to be used has not been determined. There will be a committee meeting on Wednesday, January 9.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM.

