

#12
Indiana State University
Faculty Senate, 2021-2022
Executive Committee
January 11, 2022
3:30 p.m. via Zoom

Members present: A. Arrington-Sirois, A. Arrington-Slocum, S. Arvin, A. Badar, L. Brown, J. Frost, J. Gustafson, K. Hinton, K. Yousif

Absent Members: *none*

Ex-Officio Present: Provost C. Olsen

Guest: K. Butwin, T. Nesser

1) Administrative Reports

a) **President D. Curtis:** President Curtis *absent*

b) **Provost C. Olsen**

Persistence rate is up from last year's numbers. Thanks to advisors and to University College.

Lily grant is clearly a part of this.

Fall 2022 numbers tracking positively.

Please be supportive and responsive when Admissions calls for help. The next few months are a critical time for us. We are set up to have a strong Fall class but we need to follow through.

With COVID, the first few weeks may be a little rocky. We are going to do our best to keep moving forward. We are now on a five-day quarantine period for those affected, so that will usually be one or two class periods. Work through your chairs on reasonable accommodations.

We will be flexible on this. Let students know that any classes moving online will only be doing so temporarily. We will see how the first few weeks go; it will likely peak and recede quickly.

2) **Chair Report: K. Yousif**

Be safe and vigilant, mask up, and ensure students follow our guidelines. Remember that we need to be flexible with students, don't punish students who are sick, and show some grace to colleagues.

Ombuds search is starting. This has proved to be an important position.

We will meet next week publicly instead of an informal. It is stacked heavily with curricular items.

3) **Fifteen Minute Open Discussion**

a) **Faculty Searches**

K. Hinton: Congratulations, first of all, to Provost Olsen. What is going on with other searches now?

C. Olsen: Getting organized on CAS dean search. Meeting with deans and chairs on other searches. Moving as fast as we can. Sent out revised instructional budgets to deans, with go-aheads on an additional round of searches. Stretching the budget cut out over the next two years.

b) COVID, Vaccination and Testing Requirement

J. Frost: What do the testing and vaccination numbers look like?

C. Olsen: Vaccination rates for on campus students above 60%, with big increases among some of the lagging colleges. HHS and Education and CAS are above 60%. Honors above 75%. Employees are at about 80%. Faculty has been above 80% for a while. Now the testing requirement is live, and many have contacted with requests for information about how to upload vaccine records. All positive signs. No real problems among faculty. A few employees did test positive, but it was a handful. This will now expand this week since everyone is coming back to campus. Masks are still required.

c) Faculty Resignations

A. Arrington-Slocum: Large number of resignations this year. What is the university planning to do with faculty who are feeling overworked and at their wits end, and fighting now to keep their jobs under looming budget cuts.

C. Olsen: We are doing some searches. We're all feeling it at some level after 24 months. Its hardly unique to us. This is happening throughout higher ed, with resignations, high work load. We are certainly appreciative, and students and parents are appreciative. If you have specific ideas, I would love to hear them.

d) Canvas

A. Arrington-Sirois: The Canvas transition is going fine, but I am tired of being told so many times how intuitive Canvas is. It's one more thing to do, moving all our classes to a new system. Also, why are all of our classes tagged on the front page as Creative Commons Open Use?

C. Olsen: Please send those specific questions to me and I will forward to OIT.

A. Badar: There is too much template information to delete on Canvas.

e) COVID, Teaching Accommodations

A. Arrington-Sirois: Are accommodations up to us having a benevolent chair? What happens if schools close? Or for caretakers?

C. Olsen: We are working on guidance. If we have big disruptive problems, we'll have to adjust. It won't be moving the university online entirely though. 300 or 400 level classes we are less concerned about than freshmen and sophomores. We need to be consistent and clear with students that any movement online is temporary.

f) COVID, Failure to Test

A. Badar: For anyone who is not vaccinated and does not go in for test, what happens?

C. Olsen: We laid out a series of progressive disciplinary steps. By the end of this week, we'll have a better sense of whether there is a problem of non-compliance, but we have a process laid out. You don't have to get vaccinated, but if you don't upload proof of vaccination, you do have to test.

g) MLK Day

K. Hinton: Sad that MLK Day function was canceled. It should be celebrated somehow.

C. Olsen: I was surprised by it, but I understand the reason why it was canceled. The speaker canceled, but committed for next year. The series of events for Black History Month are scheduled and ready to go forward.

4) Approval of Executive Committee Minutes (November 30, 2021)

A. Badar, A. Arrington-Sirois, 9-0-0

5) Curriculum: Suspension: Recreational Management and Youth Leadership

<https://indstate.curriculog.com/proposal:5363/form>

L. Brown, A. Arrington-Sirois 9-0-0

T. Nesser: This program was staffed by faculty who left, it was on the backburned and not maintained, no one to cover classes, so we made the decision to make it go away. We cannot continue to afford to bring in students and have no one to cover classes.

K. Yousif: Approved unanimously all the way up through CAAC. Will you teach out the remaining students?

T. Nesser: Yes. The faculty member who was covering the classes was doing so on an overload. That individual has since changed departments. We have viable substitutions for the remaining class needs.

6) Standing Committee reports

AAC: Arrington-Slocum: No report.

AEC: Gustafson: No report.

CAAC: Arrington-Sirois: Passed along the choice to the officers to deal with the Leadership program. Passed a minor proposed by Political Science and have passed a Pass/Fail plan. Decided to put on hold a plan to create a minor in Cultural Studies from Communications. Seeking to reorient it.

FAC: Brown: No report.

FEBC: Hinton: No report.

K. Yousif: We will need a replacement for the chair of FEBC. Same for FAC.

GC: Frost: No report.

SAC: Badar: Met in December after our last Exec meeting. Pass/Fail policy discussed and sent back to CAAC. Also discussed mental health issues.

URC: Arvin: No report.

Adjournment, 4:10pm.