

#17

Indiana State University

Faculty Senate, 2021-2022

Executive Committee

March 1, 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: *N/A*

Ex-Officio Present: President D. Curtis, Provost C. Olsen

Guest: R. Noll

1) **Administrative Reports**

a) President D. Curtis

Thank you for last week's lively discussion and the manner in which it was conducted. I appreciate everyone's willingness to hear each other's views.

There has been a discussion of mask requirements over the last couple of day. We will look at a number of items before making any decisions. We look at state guidelines, CDC recommendations, and county requirements. The county and surrounding counties have been moving towards yellow. We have consistently been in the single digits [of positive COVID tests]. IU and Ball State will be moving to masks optional on Friday while Ivy Tech will be moving to that on Monday. With that said, we will most likely be moving to masks optional starting Saturday. This will let us test this out for a week before students return. We do ask if someone wants to wear a mask, please be respectful to them.

b) Provost C. Olsen

I want to wish everyone a great Spring Break. I have had three emails about an old "mask-optional" posting on our website. This is an old post left over from last summer. We are trying to get it taken down. We will be creating a new announcement if we move to that.

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

No report

3) **Fifteen Minute Open Discussion**

a) Faculty Searches

A. Arrington-Sirois: I was happy to hear about the twenty-one approved faculty searches. I was wondering if there has been talk about faculty orientation for the new hires.

C. Olsen: We are not expecting to have huge changes to what we have done in the past. It will be an intensive half-day in August, then we will get people connected with their department colleagues.

A. Arrington-Sirois: I was part of that year long training and felt it was too much. I did learn a lot and met a lot of people that are still important to me during that time.

b) Mask Requirement

K. Yousif: Will the faculty be able to still require masks in the classroom?

D. Curtis: In your private place you can require that, but not the classroom. We do have a supply of N-95 that we can give. We also have plenty of Plexiglass that can be provided if you feel that it will be needed.

J. Gustafson: Is there a specific metric that you are following, and if that changes will we go back to a mask requirement?

D. Curtis: We have tracked CDC, state, and county guidelines and stayed consistent to those guidelines. We will continue to keep the dashboard up and will continue contact tracing. We will include the language that we have the right to change the requirements at any time. Last week in my discussion with Dr. Brucken he was comfortable with this change. He also sits on the Vigo County Schools advisory board. He isn't saying everything is great and that nothing is going to happen again but he is very supportive of us carrying that language [of possible reinstatement] with any changes we make.

L. Brown: Will we still require those that have not been vaccinated to be tested? Those that have been vaccinated can still contract COVID. The state and county have shifted from intensive contact tracing to letting the person that has a positive test contact those that they have been near. Are we sure that moving to mask optional the week students return from Spring Break is wise?

C. Olsen: Yes, no changes will be made to the vaccination or testing requirement. We will continue our data monitoring with the dashboard. We have had nearly zero positive tests since starting the testing requirements.

D. Curtis: As far as timing and Spring Break, while we will be on a break next week the staff will be here. This will give us a week to see how this goes.

J. Gustafson: When should we expect the policy change to take effect then?

D. Curtis: We are looking at Saturday March 5th.

K. Yousif: When will there be an announcement?

D. Curtis: We are still looking at some shifting data but it looking like we release that information tomorrow.

c) Day Off for Staff

L. Brown: I would like to thank you and Diann McKee for giving the staff next Friday off. It was a nice gesture.

D. Curtis: It seemed a very reasonable thing to do as we don't have the budget to give raises. We wanted to do something to say thank you.

4) Approval of Executive Committee Minutes (February 22, 2022)

Motion to approve K. Hinton, A. Arrington-Sirois: 9-0-0

5) CAPS manual revisions: Cross-College Programs

Motion to approve, J. Gustafson, J. Frost: 9-0-0

R. Noll: Thank you everybody for having me here. This was actually something that was charged to us by the Senate, both to CAAC and Graduate Council (GC). Rusty Gonser on GC took the lead and then CAAC came into the process. This was a joint effort. It is being brought forward to you by CAAC because we "own" the CAPS manual so it falls to us to bring forth any changes. This is a revision to the manual that contains new material on cross-college/department programs. As the University seeks to have new programs that are cutting edge there will be more co-mingling of colleges and departments for programs. The requirements are based on actual problems that have

arisen. The main change to the proposed part of this is a Memorandum of Understanding that will need to be written and approved by all of the units that will be a part of these types of programs. The Memorandum of Understanding must address certain issues such as the form of the curriculum committee, by what majority certain types of change must be approved, expectations of faculty resources, and faculty time, while giving details of how the program will handle these issues. The language doesn't give specific as to what decisions need to be made, it just states that these issues have to be in there and give guidance. Sometimes faculty are surprised by the demands on their time within these programs, so having these items addressed up front is a good way to move forward. The idea is to actually have this as a part of the Curriculog process when applying for program approval.

K. Yousif: Even though this came from GC it looks as if it could be used for Undergraduate programs as well.

R. Noll: This is intended for both graduate and undergraduate programs. While GC did do this for graduate programs, CAAC meet with them and suggested some changes based issues that have arisen in the past.

J. Gustafson: Can you give an example of a program that had these issues or is this just a speculation of what could happen?

R. Noll: I have had a couple people speak to me in private about issues they have had and I don't want to break that confidentiality. There have been programs that have said that they wished they had had this when they started.

C. Olsen: Some of the programs that have cross-college courses are Genetic Counseling and Engineering.

R. Noll: Another thing is that existing programs don't have to go back and do this.

J. Gustafson; I think it is a good idea that everybody has items agreed upon in the beginning. This could also be a way forward for existing programs to help solve problems if they have issue in the future.

S. Arvin: How does the home department factor into the curriculum committee? With multiple departments, how would the voting committee be distributed?

R. Noll: The curriculum committee would be different than the home department's curriculum committee. The MOU should specify x amount from each department based on the number courses that are taught by them.

L. Brown: It should be up to each program as each will be different.

J. Gustafson: Many of the existing multidisciplinary programs have something like this.

M. Badar: An example of this would be Information Technology. It was a cross-college program. There used to be some conflict and a question of who should do what. Basically, the proposed policy states that if twenty percent or more of the courses are taught outside of the home department, it is a cross-departmental program. If a department wants more control then they would have to decrease courses from the other departments. In the past everyone was protecting their own yard but this should give a chance to have future programs be cross-college programs. We need to look for what is better for the students, not the programs or colleges.

6) Standing Committee reports

AAC: Arrington-Slocum: No Report

AEC: Gustafson: No Report

CAAC: Arrington-Sirois: Met today. Approved change to Nursing major. Approved a new Technology major. Sent Unmanned Systems major back. There were some question about the program and no one showed up to answer them; the committee didn't feel comfortable moving forward.

FAC: Brown: Meeting on Friday to continue the discussion of the discipline and dismissal charge.

FEBC: Hinton: No Report

GC: Frost: Met last Wednesday. There were changes and program approvals. Evaluation and Assessment certificates passed. Changes to the Math MS passed. The Elementary Education Transition to Teaching is coming back. A Health Science doctorate change was approved.

SAC: Badar: Will meet on Friday.

URC: Arvin: No Report.

Adjournment: 4:02 pm