

# 6

Indiana State University

Faculty Senate, 2021-2022

**Executive Committee**

October 12, 2021

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: President D. Curtis, Provost C. Olsen

Guests: *none*

## 1) Administrative Reports

a) **President Curtis**

We just had our exit interview with the ABET accreditation team, with thirteen programs under review.

Yesterday, dedicated a half-mile stretch of 5<sup>th</sup> street between Tippecanoe and Cherry Streets that have been renamed Cynthia Shepard Perry Way.

b) **Provost Olsen**

The ABET exit interview went well. They were very positive but we won't know the final results until we get the review documents.

Homecoming is next week. Five of the colleges will be hosting open house events.

Administration is working hard on outreach to students and employees about vaccinations and testing. The experiential learning roll-out had some ups and downs. The glitches seemed to have been worked but if you encounter any, please inform the Dean of Students. know right away so it can be fixed.

As we look forward to the spring semester we have had a lot of inquires that have focused on the vaccination requirement. Remember that we have a testing option as well. The university encourages vaccinations. Please talk to your students and colleagues and point them towards proper resources.

The number of registered vaccinations is up and the number of isolations is down.

2) **Chair Report** (Keri Yousif)

No report

### 3) Fifteen Minute Open Discussion

#### a) Canvas

J. Frost: What percentage of faculty do you realistically expect will use Canvas in the spring semester? How has the faculty reaction been to using Canvas in the Spring as the default?

C. Olsen: Responses have been overwhelmingly positive. It is more user friendly. Remember that we will not be doing default Blackboard sites. Those will have to be requested. We are hoping that the number of requests coming in will give a better sense of where we are with the transition to Canvas. The lower the number of Blackboard users, the better it will be for our students.

J. Frost: Will there be OIT support for Canvas like we currently have with Blackboard? What sort of training did they receive? Right now we are being directed to Canvas for support.

C. Olsen: I will check with Susan and Bob about what we can expect, but our federal dollars allowed us to purchase the highest level of support from Canvas.

K. Yousif: We are hoping that the pilot Canvas users will help get the word out.

J. Gustafson: For the pilot classes, Blackboard will redirect you to the Canvas site so students will not get lost. We should also do the reverse, and create a tile or link on the front page of Canvas for any Blackboard courses. I worry that we will have a quarter of our faculty not using Canvas during the first semester and that will affect a large number of our students.

J. Frost: Many faculty don't know that Canvas is the default for Spring.

K. Yousif: We did not include it in the musing this time due to information overload. We will however be doing that soon.

J. Gustafson: Just like the Sycamore Health Initiative, the messaging has not been clear and explicit. Faculty members and students still do not know about vaccine or testing requirement, or about the imminent move to Canvas. Those have been buried within other announcements.

C. Olsen: We will be happy to do more messaging. I am hoping that we will see 100% usage of Canvas but we have had some professors announce that they will be leaving at the end of the Spring term and I don't seem them going through training just for one semester.

S. Arvin: The Library is here to help with Canvas. Just try to give the staff a couple weeks' notice. We like to have time to be prepared. Will there be training for librarians?

K. Yousif: No word on that, but they will also be offering one-on-one training sessions.

C. Olsen: Will ask S. Powers.

A. Badar: There is a different training session for each module and each is thirty minutes to an hour. It is complicated.

K. Yousif: Signing up for any training will give access to the Sandbox to play with. Training was set up to be in different modules.

J. Gustafson: Every college and department will have different uses for Canvas. Training for the pilot members will be targeted to what you will need within your discipline.

#### b) Standing Committee Reporting

A. Arrington-Sirois: As a liaison on a Senate committee, what should be reported regarding Exec when asked to do so? Is that normal to have as a committee agenda item?

K. Yousif: Yes, just related what is relevant from Exec to the committee and vice-versa.

#### c) Funding for Faculty-Led Study Abroad

A. Arrington-Sirois: A faculty member reached out about their inability to plan their recurring faculty-led study abroad trip as they have been told that there is no money

available. As we start moving towards the ISU Advantage plan, money has been made available for student travel. If no money is available for faculty how can these trips be planned?

C. Olsen: Each department has their regular allocation. They have been told to prioritize travel for places students have not been.

A. Arrington-Sirois: We are being told there is no money available for planning trips. The process is stressful regardless.

K. Yousif: I also have not taken a trip in ten years because of how stressful it is. The process for getting the funds is also difficult. At some point there needs to be faculty input on the process.

**d) Student Success**

A. Arrington-Slocum: I had the opportunity to sit in on a meeting in which it was stated that 798 students had three or more failing grades on their interim grade reports. Is this normal? If it is how does this work for retention? What can faculty do to help with this? How can we be better informed? This seems like a huge number.

C. Olsen: This is the reason that accurate interim grades are so important.

J. Gustafson: Is this normal for there to be so many with three or more failing grades?

C. Olsen: This is just above the normal number.

A. Arrington-Slocum: How are we going to address this so we can keep retention up?

C. Olsen: The Lilly grant addresses just this. Students will have a professional advisor that will stay with them throughout their entire four years at ISU.

**e) Health Insurance**

A. Badar: We are having another increase in our health care cost this year. Will we be able to vote on this?

K. Yousif: There is a committee that has three faculty members on it that help make this decision. This item is not up for a vote.

A. Badar: Will there be a raise for the lowest paid employees? This will be a financial burden on them.

K. Yousif: We can make a suggestion but we don't have an active voice in that.

**4) Approval of Executive Committee Minutes from September 28, 2021**

Motion to approve: A. Badar/A. Arrington-Sirois (9-0-0)

**5) Faculty Nominations for PTOC (Promotion and Tenure Oversight Committee)**

Motion to approve: A. Arrington-Sirois/A. Arrington-Slocum (9-0-0)

K. Yousif: Exec members received nominations for openings on the Promotion and Tenure Oversight Committee (PTOC). Also note that FAC appoints an *ex-officio* that becomes chair of PTOC.

A. Badar: Is this additional to the members we appoint?

K. Yousif: Yes.

M. Badar: FAC's vice-chair becomes chair of PTOC.

K. Yousif: Correct.

6) **Informational Item: Indiana State Advantage** (Provost Olsen)

*C. Olsen presented a slide show on the Indiana State Advantage Program.*

C. Olsen: There is a three-part guarantee: a four-year graduation guarantee, zero tuition for Pell-eligible students, and \$3000 for every student to help cover an experiential learning experience. The new marketing plan is coming from an Indianapolis firm to break out of the Wabash Valley bubble and get into markets that ISU has had trouble getting into in the past.

A. Arrington-Sirois: How do they determine the markets?

C. Olsen: Spoke to alumni, conducted market research, and set a geographical range. The new campaign will be intentional in what it puts out. We have small school appeal with large school amenities and a world class faculty. We are no longer trying to be these larger schools and we are owning what we are good at. With the new campaign there are billboards, video ads, and Facebook post. There are ads that target parents, traditional students, and non-traditional students. Dr. Campbell is even doing a Latino outreach program.

D. Curtis: This campus has been in media bubble for some time now. With the new company we will be able to break into markets that we have not been able to reach before. We no longer want to be the best kept secret in Indiana.

K. Yousif: Has SEM council met? How we are now for applications for Fall 22?

C. Olsen: Right now we are way up from last year. Honors applications are back at 2020 levels. Honors is doing individual videos to every student. The Indiana Advantage message is geared around a private school approach and we have to deliver on that. The director of admission is coming from Rockford University, a private school, and hopefully she can help instill some of that culture. The experiential learning stuff is where we shine. We love to design undergraduate research and we love to take students on study abroad. We are going to need more. We have a few years still to develop all those plans.

J. Gustafson: A lot of the pieces of this are things that faculty will have to deliver. Can you give an example of that?

C. Olsen: For undergraduate research, this could be a residential intensive program. We need to think of some creative ways to do that. It would be especially valuable if there could be themed programs that crosses disciplinary boundaries, even across colleges.

A. Arrington-Slocum: Are these kind of conversations happening within departments? We need faculty to develop these world class learning experiences. There are some departments across campus that do it very well, but there are some that don't do it well. We need to make sure that we are actually providing these opportunities.

C. Olsen: Yes, we want our students to have choices. The Center for Student Research and Creativity is a big part of it. I have talked to them about help the next generation. There are plenty of faculty that have done these things whose experience we can learn from.

7) **Standing Committee Reports**

a) AAC (A. Arrington-Slocum): No report.

b) AEC (J. Gustafson): No report.

c) CAAC (A. Arrington-Sirois): Reviewing proposals for PSCI and Physics.

d) FAC (L. Brown): Met last week with Dean Mallory to talk about the possibility of having clinical faculty.

e) FEBC (K. Hinton): They want clarification of the charge about the "COVID faculty reimbursement." There was nothing more to discuss and wanted to know if there was more to it.

K. Yousif: If they decided that it wasn't an issue then they can drop it.

- f) GC (J. Frost): Met last week. They approved OSCM 525 and 535. They passed grad faculty expectations that they are going to forward. They have reviewed the procedures for grad faculty change of status. They are voting on that next Tuesday.  
K. Yousif: I think a lot of faculty will have something to say about that.
- g) SAC (A. Badar): Discussed the student vaccination dashboard. 2,468 vaccination cards were uploaded, but some of them could have been multiple uploads. Talked to the Dean of Students about how students can be motivated to get vaccinated. Being told incentives do not work; mandates work. Sycamore Care and mental health program also a matter of concern. Demand has risen.
- h) URC (S. Arvin): Met on October 6<sup>th</sup>. They voted to change the deadlines for the submissions for the grant from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in November and the first Monday in March. They said that this has been a problem in the past. They have elected officers and are off to a good start.

*Note: next meeting is informal.*

**8) Adjournment: 4:58 pm**