Regional Faculty Caucus
February 24, 2015
10:00 a.m. – noon Eastern/9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Central
IT 541
IUPUI

Members
John Applegate (UAA)                              Sharon Calhoon (UAA)
Janet Badia (IPFW)                                 Chris Darr (IU Kokomo)
J Barry (IU Southeast)                             Chuck Gallmeier (IU Northwest)
Jay Barbre (IU East)                               Scott Opasik (IU South Bend)
Barbara Bichelmeyer (UAA)                          Guest: Becky Torstrick

Agenda

1. University Academic Affairs update (John Applegate)

John commended J for his remarks to the Board of Trustees at their February meeting.

John noted two points of interest from yesterday’s State of Higher Education address: career/job preparation, and the Purdue/Gallop survey. IU already does a lot with career preparation, but the concern is that ICHE wants to tell institutions what the curriculum should be, which is beyond their purview. The talk opened with praise for the Purdue/Gallop survey re alumni satisfaction with their college education. Gallup wants to sell it to institutions; Vic Borden will take a closer look at it and make a recommendation to John about whether to participate. ICHE negotiated a special deal from Gallup to participate in this, and talked about it as a kind of state rating system of colleges and universities, which is concerning.

At the federal level, Sen. Lamar Alexander of TN, chair of Senate Education Committee, asked college presidents to form task force to look at federal regulatory burden on universities. That report came out last week http://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/Regulations_Task_Force_Report_2015_FINAL.pdf — IU is on record praising this report. The hope is that this will result in a reduction of the reporting burdens (e.g., crime statistics).

At the state level, there continues to be growth in legislation related to academic affairs. University Academic affairs works with IU’s Government Relations staff to ensure that they understand the consequences of proposed legislation. The government relations staff have become a resource for legislators, who see IU as an honest, informed source of good information. Because IU speaks with one voice to legislature, they know we represent campuses from all over the state. As a result, we have been successful in changing proposed legislation so that it is more flexible.

IU did well with the budget numbers and with performance funding. There is a major change in performance funding proposed, which flattens the differences in first year and makes those difference up in the second year. At end of biennium, the campuses end up where the original performance funding model took us. IU ends up with net gain.

Other legislation: Guns on campus bills are not progressing.
The proposed funding for student success at regional campuses is not in the budget. However, this gave us a way to express the need, which will let us find other ways to fund it (e.g., through a fee, banded tuition). By going on record, stating it as a need, we can make it part of our tuition/fee structure.

IU is working on getting new R&R money put back into the state’s capital budget, in addition to regular state funding for institutions, which is especially important for regional campuses. Very few of the capital requests are included in the budget.

Other UAA updates:

Sexual misconduct policy: Emily Springston and Jenny Kincaid visited the campuses and conducted forums. John asked whether they were useful. NW and EA reported they had a great turnout and faculty appreciated being able to ask questions and provide input. SB had a smaller turnout, but those that attended appreciated the presentation. All agreed that this is an example of effective collaborative committee work.

Bicentennial Strategic Plan: We sent UFC co-chairs an assignment sheet, which shows where responsibility lies for each item in the plan. Though some are marked as being the responsibility of formal faculty governance, faculty are involved in other aspects of the plan, as well.

For Priority #2: Scholarly Community, there is an action item for faculty governance regarding establishing expectations around presence. This came from regional campus VCAAs. An important aspect of an IU educational experience is close working relationship with faculty; this is a differentiator between IU and competitors such as ITCC and for-profits. This needs to come from the faculty. UFC needs to consider how to proceed with this.

Discussion points:

• Growth of online education makes it possible for faculty to not be present on campus.
• Culture change is needed, and can begin with who we hire. Hire faculty who are willing to be on campus.
• Dependence on part-time faculty contributes to this. But FT faculty are expensive, and we don’t have the funding from the state for it.
• Faculty commitment to be engaged with each other and to be engaged in service is important. If faculty who teach online say they don’t have to be on campus because their students aren’t there, that suggests that teaching is the only thing faculty do.
• Campus presence helpful when faculty can engage with each other. Need to have a serious broad-based conversation about why we do what we do.
• What does interactivity as a hallmark of and IU education mean? What commitments are we making to our students and to each other?
• Interactivity—what does that mean—what are we committing to students, and what do we commit to each other—and what does that look like?
• Though campuses may have initiatives and incentives to increase online classes, there won’t be a university mandate telling faculty how they must deliver a course.

Blueprint 2.0: The chancellors adopted Blueprint 2.0 last week. There is one significant change: The chancellors added an item which states that the regional campuses will seek the Carnegie Community Engagement classification in 2020 (the next time these applications will be accepted). An important
requirement of this is that the campuses have better methods of tracking and reporting student and faculty engagement in service learning.

FAR replacement: This will be discussed at UFC this afternoon. It has been designed to meet the needs of all of IU’s campuses.

2. Regional campus UFC co-chair update and discussion of selection process (All)

The term for the UFC co-chair begins July 1, so the new person must be selected before then. Several of the current RFC members are rotating off, though.

Recommendation: It’s easier to change campus procedures than UFC procedures. So campuses which have presidents begin in July might consider changing to an earlier date. UFC wants the names by April 1st.

Election procedures:
- Simple majority vote of the incoming RFC members.
- If someone is nominated and doesn’t wish to serve, that person may opt out.
- Election may be by video, online, or other electronic means. It need not be a private ballot.
- A special meeting will be convened between April 1st and July 1st, with current (including outgoing) and incoming RFC members to hold the election. (This year it will be in May)
- If unable to attend, the incoming RFC members may give proxy to the outgoing members from their own campus.
- The new co-chair’s term will start July 1.

Sharon will find a time in May for the special meeting to elect the RFC co-chair. Please send names of new RFC meetings to Sharon at the same time you send them to UFC.

Chuck will serve as co-chair at the April Board of Trustees meeting and the co-chair elect will attend the June meeting.

3. UAA website and academic approval process update (Barb Bichelmeyer)

Barb encouraged all to visit uaa.iu.edu, the University Academic Affairs website. It’s been updated to be more transparent, comprehensive, and process-oriented. It includes information about ALC, the program approval process, forms for new program proposals, how to use APPEAR system for proposing new programs, developing online academic programs (including process for collaborative programs), and how to add notations on transcripts. It lists all programs currently under review and has a list of all program accreditations at IU.

A new section is dedicated to “Academic Program Councils.” This is part of the Bicentennial Strategic Plan (building scholarly community). With various state mandates and other changes in higher education, faculty at various campuses need to have more communication with each other. UAA plans to bring intercampus faculty groups in key areas together once a semester to discuss the issues. UAA will call the meeting, facilitate the meeting, give the faculty information they need to be aware of, and the faculty will tell us what they need to discuss. We are starting with programs/areas which we know have
reasons to meet, but if faculty don’t see their discipline listed, and want to meet with their colleagues, they can contact UAA and UAA will set up a meeting.

4. Degree map update (Becky Torstrick)

The Office of Completion and Student Success will be collecting descriptions of each degree from the Academic Affairs offices at the campus. They will gather the information from Bulletins and department websites and ask departments to review it.

OCSS also needs requirements for minors, certificates, cognates, and concentrations. This work probably won’t start until the summer.

We need to figure out how to handle curricular changes, such as changes in pre-requisites or required courses. These have to be captured in the map and in the degree audit. Though this has been a rather fluid process in the past at some campuses, there now needs to be more order in the process. How can we best work this out across the regional campuses?

Each campus has a different process. Some campuses have a clear path for any kind of curriculum changes, other campuses don’t. Becky will talk to the different campuses to learn more about their processes, and write a draft of a process. She’ll work with RFC to refine it. The process must include timelines, because it takes time to make changes to degree maps. RFC members noted that reflecting changes in a timely way is a matter of fairness to students and is important work. The maps are expected to positively influence retention and completion.

To see the degree maps:
- Public services in OneStart—degree map link—under Schedule of Classes.
- Also on faculty center in OneStart.
- Also in one.iu.edu

Becky asked RFC to encourage faculty to look at the degree maps to ensure accuracy, to see if they are intelligible (no acronyms, not too vague), and to be sure the links work. Building the maps was a complicated process, so there may be a lot of little errors. The more eyes on this, the better. Contact ocss@iu.edu to report errors.

Becky is happy to come to any campus to demo the maps and help people understand the process and get the vision of where they are headed.

5. Moving Forward 2.0 conversation (Barb Bichelmeyer)

Barb presented a status update on online education to the Trustees at their meeting last week. Her talk included the following points:
- About 2 ½ years ago, President McRobbie announced IU Online initiative. IU Online is past the initiative stage, and is now part of the normal operations of IU.
- As IU Online has developed, we have been intentional about keeping academic ownership of our courses. Unlike other universities, IU doesn’t sell its IP or hire outside companies to deliver our online courses.
• Faculty continue to own the curriculum. The challenge is that, historically, IU has been based on regional service areas (except for Bloomington, which has a statewide mission). So faculty from the different campuses have not had to talk to each other about curriculum. But all faculty have ownership of the IU curriculum, so we must have inter-campus communications.
• When IU Online began, there were 75 fully-online programs online across the university; there are now 103.
  o 22,665 (23%) are currently taking at least one online course.
  o 6,550 (6.7%) IU students who are not currently in an online program are taking a fully online class schedule this semester.
  o 4,428 students have applied to and are currently admitted to 100% online program
• Compared to other large multi-campus universities, IU has about as many online programs, but far fewer students. So there is room for growth.
• OOE will increase its focus on marketing and brand awareness.
  o About 75% of students take courses at a campus within 100 miles of their home.
  o Recent research suggests that location of campus is less important than knowing about the campus (its brand).
  o Large potential for growth in the 5 state region (Indiana and its 4 bordering states).
  o IU is ahead of other multi-campus universities in the Midwest in developing processes for providing online degrees. IU is a model for other institutions in how we are engaging all of the campuses in this work.
• OOE has hired a new director, Chris Foley, who will focus on recruitment, marketing, and student services, to drive up interest in IU Online programs
• OOE will also work to create seamless student experience (from inquiry to admissions to orientation/assessment to enrollment).
• OOE model is as a curricular clearinghouse, with shared student services.
  o With the new processes in place, we have mechanisms to convene groups of faculty to develop collaborative online degrees (see https://uaa.iu.edu/academic/program-development/collaborative-programs.shtml for details). Campuses can join if they want, but are never forced to join.
  o IU cannot have duplicative online degree programs, but the original principle of undergraduate degrees for regionals and graduate degrees for core campuses is no longer in effect.
• OOE has worked with registrars, UITS, campus academic leaders, chancellors, and others to develop an infrastructure to support joint online degrees.
• OOE is working with Quality Matters, a national model for quality design in online courses, to improve the faculty development/training they offer.
• OOE has been obtaining and paying for required state authorizations on behalf of the campuses. Recently, IU became the first institution to become part of a state authorization reciprocity agreement, which could save IU hundreds of thousands of dollars.
• OOE is working with IU Communications to develop a targeted marketing campaign for the Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree.

Action Items:
• Sharon will find a time in May for the special meeting to elect the RFC co-chair. Please send names of new RFC meetings to Sharon at the same time you send them to UFC.
• Chuck will serve as co-chair at the April Board of Trustees meeting and the co-chair elect will attend the June meeting.
• All: Encourage faculty to look at the degree maps to ensure accuracy. Contact ocss@iu.edu to report errors.