Regional Faculty Caucus
October 20, 2014
10:00 a.m. – noon Eastern/9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Central
Video bridge 229401

Members Attending:
Janet Badia (IPFW)  
J Barry (IU Southeast)  
Barbara Bichelmeyer (UAA)  
Sharon Calhoon (UAA)  
Chris Darr (IU Kokomo)  
Chuck Gallmeier (IU Northwest)  
Scott Opasik (IU South Bend)  

Guests attending:
TJ Rivard (UAA)  
Becky Torstrick (UAA)  

Meeting Notes (action items in red)

1. University Academic Affairs updates (Bichelmeyer)

John apologized for not being able to attend. He is discussing IU’s student welfare initiative with the Commission.

In general, Barb will use this time to cover University Academic Affairs information, and provide updates on the agendas for the Regional Chancellors Cabinet and CRCE (VCAAs).

UAA: The State of the University address focused on the university strategic plan. We are now in the response period until mid-December. Encourage your faculty to send their comments.

There was no committee. The strategic plan rolled up ideas from campus strategic plans, with comment from the President’s Council—this is why comment period is important.

John will visit all of the campuses for a faculty forum to discuss the strategic plan. Danyele is working with the campuses to set these up. This could happen during a faculty senate/organization meeting, as long as the invitation is extended to all faculty and not just senate members.

Barb will check with Danyele to find out who she is working with at the campuses.

OOE is searching for next director. Judy Halstead has taken leave of absence from IU and is serving as founding president of new nursing accreditation organization, focusing on online nursing programs. New director will be focused on student affairs and enrollment management rather than academic affairs.

Regional chancellor cabinet meeting (held October 8).

Most of the meeting was about IU’s immigration process for new hires. University Counsel has a new person who specializes in this; she has offered to come to campuses to discuss what search committees and deans need to do to be fully compliant with federal standards. (Information is also on their website.)

Chancellors also discussed Blueprint 2.0 metrics.

This legislative session, IU is asking for $5 million for regional campuses. Terry Allison (IU South Bend chancellor) and Steve Keucher discussed how the funds would flow. Purpose is to support programs to increase student retention and graduation (e.g., advising, career services,
bridge programs). Discussion included ideas for increasing retention and student success, which will help us be successful in the performance funding model.

The meeting was in conjunction with the Board of Trustees meeting. The new chairman, Trustee Tobias, is refining the BoT operations in many areas. A trustee is assigned to every campus, and that person’s role is to communicate from campus to Board and Board to campus, not to advocate for that campus over other campuses.

Chuck mentioned that IU Northwest is working on improving advising (with respect to performance funding issues). Barb said that Chuck might want to brief his VCAA fully on that work, so he can bring it to CRCE as an update from IUN.

CRCE (VCAA’s meeting; met September 8):
Discussed the status of Bachelor of Applied Science. This semester is a soft launch, to be sure tech systems work and we have the courses we need to deliver it. Next semester (about mid-semester), OOE will use its funds to advertise the BAS statewide and perhaps to 4 states surrounding Indiana, to increase enrollment.

Uric Dufrene from IU Southeast talked about a faculty in-service at IU Southeast about various initiatives in student completion and success.

David Malik from IU Northwest discussed the idea of multi-term registration (registering for classes as much as a year in advance). Others have found improved retention. Chuck said that they discussed this at their most recent faculty org meeting, and there will be more conversations.

They also discussed degree maps and FLAGS best practices.

An issue of concern to the VCAAs is faculty engagement on campuses—how to encourage faculty to be engaged in the life of the campus.

2. UFC transfer policy revisions and updates (TJ Rivard)

The University Transfer Office (UTO) and the Articulation and Transfer Committee (academic representation from all campuses) are encountering difficulties with policies that guide transfer at IU.

Four policies deal with transfer:
- [http://www.iu.edu/~ufc/docs/policies/TransferCreditAssoc.pdf](http://www.iu.edu/~ufc/docs/policies/TransferCreditAssoc.pdf)
  - policy on transfer credit from 2 year college: won’t accept more than 64 credit hours to apply toward a degree.
  - At issue: #2 under “exceptions.” The schools of nursing are working on a partnership with ITCC for an RN-BSN. But the proposal is that students will transfer in much more than 64 credits (their proposal is that students take all their gen ed at ITCC).
  - TJ would like to make the policy less restrictive by creating a process for making exceptions, such as in cases where IU creates a partnership with ITCC.
  - Exceptions would usually be in technical areas, or health programs with certifications, which have more than 64 credits.
  - TJ also wants to integrate the UTO into these policies.
Q: does this cede all of gen ed to ITCC? A: No. That would happen only by agreement between IU and ITCC. Exceptions are for specific programs, not student-by-student.

http://www.iu.edu/~ufc/docs/policies/MasterCourseInventory.pdf

This undergrad master course inventory policy isn’t really a policy; it’s a process. Ostensibly all courses at 100- and 200-level have been compared and we agree they are equivalent. 300- and 400-level have been compared and, if not totally equivalent, are at least close.

We use CARMIn process to deal with this with respect to new courses. But CARMIn is vague about what happens if a campus objects to a new course (or course change) and there is disagreement as to how to handle it. Some say it’s just an information item, others say the course can’t go forward. There is no specific process for dealing with objections. Most are handled informally among deans. Few rise to the level of needing university mediation.

TJ recommends that the wording with regard to the old process be removed and the CARMIn process identified.

There is wording about students who might be disadvantaged by inter-campus transfer. UTO has asked UIRR to look at whether students moving from one campus to the next are at a disadvantage.

Some courses have added components such as service learning or intensive writing. Students getting those courses from other campuses not get those components. But IU’s policy says they’re equivalent, so we can’t tell a student who took it somewhere else that they have to take it again, just to get that special component. If the course has learning outcomes that are different enough that the student can’t count the other course, then the two courses should have different numbers.

Barb noted that having different pre-requisites for identical MCI courses is also an issue that shows up in several areas (degree maps, IU Online Class Connect, inter-campus transfer).

http://policies.iu.edu/policies/categories/academic-faculty-students/academic-student-affairs/transfer-credit-two-year-institutions.pdf

The policy isn’t what the title suggests; it’s about earned credit at other undergrad institutions (2 & 4 year).

Some campuses want to get rid of the policy. Their argument is that a 100-level course at one campus can be as demanding as a 300-level course at another.

There’s a push to revise it from some institutions. E.g., The same faculty member teaches a 200-level Criminal Justice course at ITCC and a 300-level CJ course at IU, using the same textbook and basically the same syllabus.

We have no good definition/understanding of what makes an upper-level course distinct from a lower-level course.

J suggested that the policy is a good one. We need to distinguish between upper-level and introductory work. But some program-based exceptions might be appropriate--could treat these as exceptions (as in first policy discussed) rather than getting rid of the policy.

Current policy statement is too brief and needs further development.
3. Research visits (Becky Torstrick)

OCSS hired first staff member—Tim O’Malley, based in Indianapolis. Tim, Becky, and Shawn Peters (research grad student) will be coming to every regional campus as part of their “Listening Tour.” Encourage faculty interested in student completion to stop by and discuss the issues they’re having, what data they’d like to have. Office of Completion and Student Success will be creating new reports which can be used by campuses to inform their work. The goal to provide richer set of data to support questions about student completion/success.

Becky sent the invitation to RFC members this morning; VCAAs were also asked to send the information out.

4. Degree map update (Becky Torstrick)

Currently: 716 active maps across the 7 campuses; 263 still in progress. Only 35 have problems which prevent them from being published. A huge improvement. Expect an announcement soon about degree maps.

Becky is putting together FAQs about degree maps, so would like to know what questions are coming up on the campuses. Ideas:

- Give examples of issues that have to be fixed in the academic structure, so people understand all of the work that has gone on to make this happen
- Explain how transfer students are affected (A: Degree maps legislation is for first-time, full-time students only.)
- Will students be prevented from choosing from a variety of courses which satisfy a requirement? (A: IU fought against limitations on student choice. The standard map is one version, but could have many different versions for a degree. Courses are moveable—the only ones locked down are those identified as being critical to a student’s progress. When a set of courses satisfies a requirement, map lists all those courses which fulfill that requirement, and students can choose from that list.)
- Will new courses be “frozen out” because they won’t appear on the degree map? (A: As new courses are added into the AAR, they will appear in the degree map. Not intended to stifle innovation or updating of the curriculum.)
- What about students who need more than 8 semesters to finish? (A: Students can create a map that takes longer, if that is their goal. The degree map shows the student CAN finish in 8 semesters—i.e., IU isn’t holding them back. Students can choose to take longer if they want.)
- Sometimes faculty create individual readings course to take the place of a required course that’s offered at a time a student can’t take it. Will degree maps permit this? (A:
Yes. Advisors can manually create an exception to make that class count toward the requirement.)

Barb: It’s important to understand details of what’s incumbent upon students and what university is responsible for.

The degree mapping group is developing a process for cleaning up pre-reqs across the campuses. Will be piloting process at IU Southeast to be sure it’s workable, starting with finding out if they have accurate information about pre-reqs for all of the courses, which are located in several different places inside and outside of SIS.

After that, they will look at situations where the same course has different pre-reqs across the campuses. Expect to hear more about that in the future.

5. Update on proposal to add third co-chair for regional campuses to UFC (Barry and Gallmeier)

The campuses have had their hearings, and the ballot should go out to all faculty late this week or early next week. So far, no pushback, though there have been questions (mainly about how the co-chair would be selected).

The co-chair would likely begin in 2015-16.

Need to discuss a process for selecting this person.

Issues to be considered:
• Ask faculty for permission for RFC to vote on who would be the co-chair (or the process for selecting the co-chair).
• Does it need to be a current RFC member? Could it be a past member?
• Should RFC members be elected for a 2 year term on their campus?
• Consider Bloomington model—President-Elect, President, Past President.

Chris will draft a proposal.

Sharon will set up a video meeting in late December/early January for this group to discuss further.

6. IU Online Class Connect updates and status report (Barb and Sharon)

Met on Oct 3 for 5 hour meeting

IUOCC summit: On October 3, the chancellors, VCAAs, and registrars from 5 regional campuses met to discuss third pilot (for classes to be offered in spring 2015).

The goals of IUOCC are to:
• address student needs and student choice at an intercampus level, eliminating the need for cumbersome intercampus transfer procedures,
address degree map legislation through the sharing of needed online classes across campuses,
make joint academic programs (as required by ICHE) possible,
make the offering of online classes to external audiences possible, and
achieve efficiency and economies of scale by sharing faculty resources across campuses.

They heard about improvements in IUOCC based on surveys of students and faculty, feedback from a task force convened by ALC, and chancellor and registrar requests, including:
- Class search order gives on-campus classes first, then online campuses at the student’s campus, then online classes offered by another campus
- Ability to replicate classes using 8W1 sessions in addition to standard session classes (because we now have common start dates and refund dates)
- Ability to replicate unique classes (courses offered by only one campus), which is what the chancellors have asked for and is needed for joint academic programs.

We still are unable to replicate courses when the pre-requisites are different from one campus to another. The Office of Completion and Student Success is working on that issue, because it is important for degree maps.

Discussion items:
- Bolstering quality assurance through Quality Matters and other faculty development initiatives, to ensure we have a common understanding of quality
- Replication rules, including
  - Common replication date and time (one week after registration opens)
  - Only one open section of a course can be replicated from a campus at a time (2nd section may be replicated after first section is full)
  - Classes with enrollment cap greater than 50 must be 50% full before replicating
  - Revenue share—agreed to maintain current 70/30 share (with this share, 3 campuses either benefited or almost broke even)
- Enrollment management

Campuses are finalizing their course list for spring 2015; replication will begin November 12.

Action Items:
1. **Barb** will check with Danyele to see who Danyele is working with at the campuses to set up the forums on the university strategic plan and report back.
2. **Chris** will draft a proposal for how to select the regional campus co-chair for UFC.
3. **Sharon** will set up a meeting for late December/early January for faculty governance members of RFC to discuss and finalize Chris’s proposal.