Regional Faculty Caucus
September 9, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Eastern/9:00 – noon Central
IT 500 and video bridge 229401

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

Agenda

1. University Academic Affairs updates (Applegate)

   University Strategic Plan:
   - State of University address will have university strategic plan as a focus. Plan will follow outline of Principles of Excellence, with priority areas of focus/investment.
   - Considering whether to add cross-cutting strategies (e.g., leveraging scale, diversity) not in Principles of Excellence, but are pervasive strategies at IU.
   - Plan should be open for comment in mid-October.
   - Hope to present final plan to Board of Trustees at their December meeting.
   - Trustees will approve university strategic plan before approving any campus/unit-level plans, including Blueprint 2.0.
   - Content of university plan comes from campus/unit plans, so should not impede progress on those plans

   Blueprint 2.0:
   - Continue to work on it. Chancellors met same day as RFC meeting to discuss the metrics.
   - Must also pay attention to state’s performance funding metrics and ICHE’s Reaching Higher; ensure that BP 2.0 metrics are consistent with those and we’re not missing anything in our strategic thinking.

   Performance Funding:
   - The campuses have done very well on the performance funding metrics in this biennium.
   - Won’t know for a while how that translates into funding for the campuses.

   Student welfare:
   - Trustees and IU have been focusing on this issue for a long time; well before political interest in the issue increased. IU is enhancing what it is already doing.
   - Trustee meetings in February, April, June, & August had major presentations on issue of sexual assault.
   - Prevention and appropriate response are first priorities. Regulatory environment has become more prescriptive, more compliance requirements under Title IX.
• Bloomington campus is being audited by Office of Civil Rights. We expect findings because of complexity of regulatory environment and aggressiveness of the investigations. Will address any findings that arise.
• See stopsexualviolence.iu.edu website for resources on compliance issues, prevention and response issues. Points to resources on each campus.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) meeting (9/11/14 in Bloomington):
• We will have several opportunities to tell the IU story at this meeting.
• One is biennial budget presentation to ICHE in closed session in the morning
• President will give general overview of IU.
• At closed luncheon, presentation devoted to the regional campuses-- showcase what we do, the progress we’re making, talk about performance funding and how well we’re doing on the measures.
• In the budget request, will ask for 3 line items: engagement & economic development, clinical & translational sciences; request for ($5million) resources to support student academic success on the regional campuses. Not overly optimistic that we will receive funding. But ITCC is reportedly asking for $80 million for the same thing.
• ICHE makes recommendations to legislature, which may or may not follow their recommendations.

IPFW:
• No back-room deal involved in recommendation from NE Indiana Business Council that IU take over management of IPFW.
• IU response: We thanked them for their careful work, but we just signed a management agreement with Purdue for another year. We’re not in the business of poaching another campus. Now it’s up to Purdue to take any first step.

Question about Purdue Northwest:
• Purdue Calumet and Purdue North Central will take the name Purdue Northwest. This is the one name IU said they wouldn’t want.
• Not clear if Purdue is combining the faculties; will be a consolidation of upper administration.
• Purdue announced early retirement plan only regional campuses. Considering proposal to consolidate two senates into one, no one sure whether that will work. Still in flux.

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

Proposal will come to UFC today (9/9/14), as recommendation from the Executive Committee. If it passes, RFC will have to decide how to elect the co-chair.

Consider whether UFC co-chair would also be on RFC—would be a lot for one person.

Consider electing someone who is rotating off RFC—no longer responsible for campus faculty governance, but has experience with it and with RFC.

Consider one vote per campus, and not voting based on size of campus. Ideally, would rotate among the campuses.
Timeline: After UFC votes, the full body (faculty) from all the campus must vote (UFC manages this). May need a “get-out-the-vote” campaign at the campuses—explain what it is to the faculty and explain why it’s important they vote. No quorum; majority of vote is all that’s needed.

3. Common Calendar (Darr)

At Kokomo, faculty approve the calendars 5 years in advance (the length of time and formality of approval vary from campus to campus). The registrar asked for 2018 calendar to be approved, but faculty didn’t approve it because it might be changed to align with the common calendar.

There should be a UFC calendar committee that will work with Jeff Johnston and Jim Kennedy to approve the calendar going forward.

However, there is no intention for common calendar to include end dates, final exam period, or breaks (e.g., fall break). Individual campuses would still need to approve those items in the academic calendar.

UFC last year voted to approve common calendar for 2014-15. According to Jim Kennedy, common calendars have been created for the next 20 years.

Common calendar for summer is next task—Jeff Johnston (new university registrar) will be working on creating common calendar for summer.

**Sharon will talk to Jeff about what common calendars (which years) have been approved, and where official common calendar can be found.**

4. Questions about online courses (Calhoon)

We want to maintain quality of instruction at IU. How do we know if faculty teaching online courses at other campuses have the right credentials?

Similar to the constitution’s idea of “full faith and credit”—we are all IU campuses, and therefore have a ground rule that courses at one campus are accepted for credit at other campuses without needing to transfer credits in. We have never had a practice of vetting faculty from other campuses. We respect choices made by faculty at other IU campuses.

Quality assurance will continue to be an important topic—which is why IU campuses are members of Quality Matters and Online Learning Consortium (both have quality rubrics/standards for online courses)

Class search: The class search tool has been fixed so that when a student searches for a class, classes will show up in the following order: (1) in person classes, (2) online classes from the student’s campus of enrollment, and (3) online classes replicated from other campuses.

Library materials for online students: UITS and the libraries have been working for more than a year to implement a central proxy service, so students from one campus who are taking classes
5. Summer Tuition Discount (Applegate)

Summer tuition discount is important for promoting student progress toward a degree. Students could use summer school to catch up on credits they might need to stay on track to graduate in 4 years (and so take advantage of IU’s “Finish in Four” tuition freeze.

Tuition discount didn’t attract students in numbers we anticipated, so will take another careful look to see if it makes sense. Every campus saw increases, but not all saw enough to offset the loss of revenue. Loss of Pell grant support in the summer is a major barrier for students who want to take summer classes.

Whatever is decided, will likely be a standard policy for at least the regional campuses.

6. Office of Completion and Student Success (Torstrick)

OCSS established July 1. Office will work with enterprise level efforts (FLAGS early alert, degree mapping, EAB Student Success Collaborative, Symplicity career services software.

Goal is to assist campuses in understanding how systems work, how to incorporate them into their day-to-day work, how to make better of use of information from the systems (e.g., to guide completion efforts).

Office will:
- Offer training and circulate best practices, keep lines of communication open
- Develop frameworks/templates for reporting what we’re doing on completion and student success.
- Develop research studies on completion and student success
- Collect input from campuses—issues, problems, suggestions for improvement—and send to those who can act on it.

In October, Vic Borden, Shawn Peters, and Becky will be visiting campuses to gather information about research. Want to meet with faculty leadership on the campus. Becky will work with campuses to set these meetings up.

FACET Leadership Institute:
FACET Leadership Institute is working with OCSS. Theme is Quality Teaching and Student Completion. Involves Campus-based projects focusing on quality teaching interventions to benefit student success.

Please allow teams time in your faculty governance meetings to report back to the faculty about what they’re working on. VCAAs support these efforts. FACET will post the names of the teams on the FACET website along with their preliminary plans. Teams have 18 months to complete their projects.

FLAGs:
Early alert system became active Saturday before Labor Day. Faculty can flag students who aren’t performing well. System is open—if you know a student is struggling, please flag them instead of waiting for official campus reporting time—then someone can intervene with them.

FLAGS governing board will meet this Friday (9/12). They are working on clearer messages to faculty about how to flag and how to work with students who’ve been flagged. The Board is chaired by faculty, and includes several faculty representatives, including Hossein Hakimzedeh (South Bend), Cynthia O’Dell (Northwest), Teresa Ochoa (Bloomington). Or, there is as link on the front page of FLAGS for sending requests.

Send suggestions for FLAGS improvements to these people or to Becky. UITS is doubling the number of software developers devoted to FLAGS to speed improvements. Where FLAGS information is housed is different on each campus (some AA, others in registrar’s office). One of the new operations managers in OCSS will have primary responsibility for FLAGS.

Please periodically remind faculty about importance of using FLAGS.

Degree maps:
Question: Having degree maps can solve some problems but create new ones. Small departments have less flexibility in moving courses to help students graduate earlier. Can’t always find a suitable substitute course on a small campus.

Answer: We tried to build the degree maps to be more flexible. Students can get a free course only if they can’t take a course in a semester in which it’s mapped and it hinders their progress to graduation. If you can help them find a workaround, you can adjust their map without penalty. The hope is that, once all the students are using the maps, departments will have better information about what scheduling issues might arise.

If this turns out to actually be causing harm to students, IU’s Government Relations staff are willing to re-open the discussion with state policymakers. Keep Becky informed of issues that arise.

7. Blueprint 2.0 (Applegate)

J Barry convened group of 15 – 20 faculty to talk about Blueprint 2.0. He will send their comments to John later this week.