Minutes for the Executive Committee Sept. 5, 2014

In attendance: Susan Cress, Nancy Colborn, Steven Gerencser, Jerry Hinnefeld, April Lidinsky Yuri Obata, Scott Opasik, Carolyn Schult, Henry Scott.

I. Chancellor Allison

A. Attendance and Retention

Chancellor Allison discussed the SB Tribune coverage of admission being down 1.4% student credit hours. Revenue projections are down about a million and a half. Good news: larger incoming class; IUSB is the only IU campus where transfer numbers went up this semester; first year students up; retention up 4.7%.

Allison shared a document from “College Factual” website that suggests that IUSB is less likely to graduate students than peer institutions.

Allison passed along a document of high C- and DWF rates; Allison asked the Senate to take a look at the data and discuss how some classes can have 25% failure rates. Allison suggests the Senate and departments address this issue. Not clear if FNs are included.

Schult on the data: Big difference between full-time and part-time faculty DFW rates. There are other variables. Allison: How can we address this; what role can the Senate play? What can each department do? H. Scott: Do we know what a reasonable DWF rate is?

Cress: Any data on higher graduate rates if they’re here longer than a 6th year? Allison: We do have that. After 7 years, graduation nationally really drops off, as it does here. Less than ½ our first-year students start at less than ½ time … that makes a big difference in retention (student intentionality at play).

Allison: Group of regional chancellors working on more student support (supplemental instruction, peer mentors, veterans support, etc). Our high standards are commendable, but we need to help more students meet that high standard.

Schult: Problem of book-purchasing being delayed by financial aid; can get in the way of student success. What can be done? ($500 isn’t enough.) Allison: loan defaults have made it harder to make money available.

B. Budget Process

Allison: Pay-raise question: IU Kokomo was able to establish new salary minimums for each level (beyond 2%). Allison went through the budget to find out why we didn’t have the money for some of those raise strategies.

Allison distributed a chart of comparative data. Faculty pay is close to the bottom on many categories. Student credit hours for full-time faculty members is much lower than other campuses – regional and IUB and IUPUI. What role does online education play? We lost 1100 student hours to IU-connect. Revenue will soon be split 70/30 (teaching campus vs. enrollment/advising campus). No clear payoff for having such small classes, based on retention. So: this is the challenge. There’s been an implicit tradeoff between smaller classes and current salaries; not possible to shift more resources into higher salary without improving “efficiencies” with larger classes.
Gerenscer: distribution of large classes uneven over the university. Where do we raise the caps – intro courses, other? Allison: that will be up to each department. Maybe we’re offering too many sections too often … each department will have to look at the data. Encouraging programs to look at enrollment patterns. Schult: Is there a plan to reduce the number of tenure track faculty as part of this plan? Allison: Looking at other campuses of our size, they are using different models. Allison: Recognizing that when possible, faculty have seen value in creating full-time faculty work, but this has locked us in. Now, depts. must have very strong cases to replace full-time people. If we want to address the fact that our salaries are low, we will have to address FTEs.

Gerenscer: role of graduate programs in these numbers? Allison – our numbers are very low in graduate programs. Positive: grad students to use for discussion groups, etc., but overall our grad numbers are very low. Cress: legislative changes have meant grad student numbers in education have dropped.

Allison: there is good news about transfer students and retention. Will be looking at the number of units students are taking, looking for patterns. Just graduated a large number of students. Lower enrollments will be with us as students move through programs. Working on recruiting. Image survey results are part of the picture, addressing perceived quality of education. Academic master plan is in place; moving forward with new programs. Do we take a hit from our reserves this year to make up for the gap? Retaining more students from the first to the second semester would make a big difference. H. Scott: If instructional costs are 60%, where do we fall in peer institutions for the other 40%? Allison: we’re lower than many peer institutions on facilities, administrative pay, etc.

Hinnefeld: Speak on change in reorganization of research accounts? Allison: accounts won’t be swept. Concern about parking money and leaving it there, without control or accountability for funds. Not meant to be long-term savings accounts. Some faculty have forgotten funds in accounts, or haven’t spent start-up funds for research/promotion. Has asked J. Joseph to establish a system of accountability for those funds. So, have shifted the accounts to College accounts, and asked faculty to state intentions for using funds.

II. Marianne Castano Bishop

A. Discussion about a committee for distance education. The goal: to find an effective way for our campus to know what we’re doing with online courses. We’ve lost about $350,000 to other campuses. The 90/10% (tuition to host campus and student’s campus) is shifting to 70/30% soon (no clear date). Putting together a list of courses most likely to be taken on other campuses. 8 of top 10 are within CLAS. Asking us to think about as a campus what direction we will take. Submitted a proposal to HLC to be part of the bachelor of science online degree program. We were the only campus that was denied; reason: we didn’t follow through with the HLC recommendations from 7 years ago. Gerenscer: what recommendations? Castano Bishop: student support, stronger transfer support, testing center. We’re piloting a testing/proctoring center. Important to address the other recommendations.

Castano Bishop: In order to have more power/voice, should a committee (ad hoc or Senate) to address this? Or, a task force? The HLC will be looking for us to act. How best to have this larger conversation with the campus? Gerenscer: If there’s a task force, they could ask if there’s a role for faculty governance committee as part of this work. Opasik: Not clear on the goal/outcome of faculty committee. What is their charge? C B: It would be the committee to look at, campus-wide, if and how we’ll increase the number of courses and degree programs (if we want to go that way) on our campus. Now, deans are having conversations with faculty, but
we don’t yet have an action plan that brings together the campus. The committee would work closely with academic units to come up with a comprehensive plan.

Hinnefeld: This is the work of administrators, isn’t it? Faculty should have a voice, in this … but Academic Affairs should play a key role. Do we really lag that far behind other campuses (besides IUE)? Sometimes, the issues are prereqs, etc. that can be addressed. Suggestion: not a standing committee, but perhaps an ad hoc committee/task force with a very specific task to examine the reasons behind our lack of representation of the OCC and what can be done; perhaps sharing with faculty the data on learning outcomes of online education. Opasik: perhaps lack of IT support for students/faculty is a factor.

Gerenscer: Faculty have not yet been given compelling reasons about the ways our teaching practices can be transferred to online teaching. Faculty have been trained to teach in-person. Faculty who are willing to try hybrid courses do work that isn’t counted by the OCC.

Castano Bishop – offer to come to department meetings to talk with faculty? Group: perhaps.

Colborn: the money lost is part of the equation. And: students want these courses. Are we student-centered?

III. Setting agenda for the Sept. Senate meeting

A. Chancellor; VCAA (perhaps Linda Chen’s report on Degree Mapping and Titan Success Center as part of VCAA time); SGA president; Old Business: addressing tabled resolution for teaching load for associate faculty; UFC report; vote on the replacement of the PTR folks.

Respectfully submitted,
April Lidinsky, Faculty Senate Secretary, Sept. 10