
Agenda

I. Chancellor

Where we are: EVCAA and Bill O’D met for 3 hours on recommendations from Budget Committee and presented to the Cabinet. Discussed what we could accept or not. The Budget Committee could not close the budget gap; I don’t see how we can close it if we want to give any raises. Predicting flat revenues for next year; good things going on for recruitment, but we’re down in applications. Good news: more qualified students accepted for fall, but because they’re so qualified, they might go elsewhere. If we have a budget gap at the same size the budget committee recommended, we’d start with a million and a half deficit … and other one-time spending for marketing.

From my perspective, we can’t continue on this course. We have to do something major to correct this. In the process: we have another month before we load our budget, so there’s time for the Budget Committee can look at our response and look again at their recommendations and data. We still have the lowest FTE in IU and for our peer group. If we meet IUPUI’s model, we’d see every TT faculty member raised by 15 students over courses per semester.

We did look at administrative spending, pay is lower that most peers (-10 -50%). Several administrators doing two jobs. I don’t see many opportunities to cut.

I welcome questions. We have time for more conversations

Henry: When will Budget Committee get these responses? Chancellor: they haven’t yet; I wanted to share them with you first.

Jerry: You’ve made the case effectively over the year and half that because we rely more heavily on TT faculty it costs more. It’s a hard pill to swallow that it’s a bad thing that we’re covering 80% of our teaching with FT faculty rather than less.

TA: We could afford 80% full time people but makes us less flexible … but then look very closely at re-assign time. That could be a strategy. Could look at efficiency of scheduling, seeing if we could accommodate more students in our classes, maintaining the FT people but reducing the adjuncts. But: as AAUP has pointed out, the adjuncts don’t make a lot of money so to reduce them does not reduce the budget gap very much.

60%-70% full time TT faculty is more typical of a master’s granting campus like ours.
There are strategies to maintain a higher than average percentage of FT faculty, but you have to look at other places in the budget, then.

Jerry: When you arrived, there was some leftover money set aside for marketing and other purposes. Were there transfers at the end of the 2014 year?

TA: No … we weren’t able to cover with unspent funds all the deficit incurred. A little of that money went into lighting across the river. Of last budget, all the marketing funds were spent.

Jerry: Plug for a longer view of enrollments; when you start plotting enrollments with 2009 or 2010, you’re starting in the middle of an enrollment surge, which gives a misleading view of an enrollment trend. Go back 10 years and you see the longer view. The fact that the enrollments have dropped off a lot in CLAS is mostly due to the ending curve from the enrollment surged. There are basic principles in presenting data. If the purpose of the graphs is to present the data, the graphs must be set on the same scale.

Chancellor: We can put them on the same scale, but it’s hard to read the info at the bottom. Back to the enrollment surge: it’s a fair comment. But compared to 10 years ago, the percentage of faculty grew at that time … IUSB hired faculty and gave pay raises at a high rate. We’d still have the same issues whether we look at 5 year or 10 years. We didn’t use the peak year for enrollment, but I realize it’s part of the bump. Still, we continued to hire full time even as our enrollment began to decline.

Table is misleading in Health Sciences … due to the anomaly of Social Work … we don’t pay for the faculty and all the revenue doesn’t go to us. The tables for revenue include the revenue that we turn around and ship to other campuses (due to social work and online courses). We send over a million dollars a year to IU School of Social Work. This was not a good idea for our campus. Now 200 social work majors, many of whom transferred from CLAS and Business. I’m working hard to change the expired MOU; transfer all the budget for the program and we will pay the faculty; if necessary we’ll pay for accreditation and other management.

Good news on IUConnect; we went from 0 courses to 9 in the fall; we’ll have 36 sections in Fall 2015. That was quite an accomplishment. 28 proposals for new courses. That is an area that faculty control, and it seems they have responded. We want to be able to offer the classes that we know that student are taking on other campuses.

These swings in enrollment … when you add them up, CLAS has lost 11% over the last two years. SW accounts for some, but faculty should be working with the dean to find out how to reach out into the community. What else are we going to do – call, contact students who have applied.

First TV commercials coming out.
Nancy: Did you know Mishawaka HS is expanding early college program, guaranteeing them up to 2 years. They have agreements with Vincennes and Ivy Tech, in addition to IU ACP.

TA: our average student only coming with 6 credits.

TA: Anything else I can answer on the process?

Dave: If in broad terms none of the Budget Committee recommendations are credible, how will you make the cuts?

TA: I don’t accept the “IF” part of your statement. I think we’ll find many recommendations credible; we’ll probably adopt much of what the Budget Committee recommended. My document is a response to where the faculty and administration differ … Where can we cut administration?

Nancy: I admire the Budget Committee of the principle of not getting rid of anyone’s position, but at some point you do have to look at reorganization and effective use of personnel and make those hard choices. If not this year, or next.

TA: Or .. we can grow. We’re in a national dilemma. A lot of states in worse shape: Illinois, Arizona, Wisconsin. I know people are experiencing a sense of change and loss, but we’re in relatively good shape, considering our conservative state government. We’ve asked the state for 5 million in student success for campuses to share; there’s a small chance we’ll get that.

Scott: at Regional faculty Caucuses, I asked Applegate about that and I was surprised by his answer: they didn’t get expect to get it but they wanted to be on record about it so that they could ask for student fees to cover this.

TA: That’s one strategy, but I think they’ve abandoned that strategy – fees are not the way to go. Probably better just to have increased tuition, and then students would be eligible for more aid, and maybe not until the second year of the biennium.
Jerry: The one stat you mentioned – 6.2 sections taught per full-time faculty member – hasn't percolated down.

TA: It’s in the fact book. East is an outlier.

Scott: When Jann and Bill are done, they’ll correspond directly with the Budget Committee.

Yuri: Recruitment of foreign students … I don’t see that helping us much …

TA: This year, according to Bloomington, there will be more international students who were well qualified that they couldn’t accommodate them in housing … last year 260 students in that category that they sent away. This year, they’ll give those students admission to IUSB. Connie will go to India; Business looking at a 3 year degree to accommodate Indian students who have longer HS degrees. Within IU it’s a touchy subject. There’s a worry that regionals are not ready (infrastructure-wise) to accommodate international students; I don’t agree with this. We will tell them that if they are under 21, they must live in housing. Most students are from China, South Korea, India.

Have a good break!

II. AAUP

Discussion of last week’s meeting:

Dave: I was only able to stay for 55 minutes. Well attended (over 40 people). More diversity (non faculty) that we anticipated. Agenda – coming up with a plan for action. Emerging consensus: Open letter would be developed (finalized over spring break) and then offer any and all faculty members and opportunity to sign if they like, and then present it to administration. Summary of our collective sense of the situation. Talk of making “Statement of Concerns” public beyond the campus.

III. Common Questions for Student Evaluations Task Force - Yuri

Yuri: 8 members on this task force; I’m the chair. We’ve collected information from each school and from beyond our campus. We need to recommend 4-6 questions to the Senate to approve at the April meeting. We think we have enough materials to make a proposal. The questions are general; our concern is that many faculty don’t know this is going on. Our mission is to create the recommendation.

Nancy: Need to make sure the faculty understand why this is happening and how it will be used.
Yuri: Not all units participating equally (or at all) on developing the questions. Should we offer a forum to get the faculty feedback?

Nancy to Scott: Can you talk to deans and directors to be sure they are bringing this to their units?

Jerry to Scott: maybe make this part of your remarks.

Yuri: Deadline is March 30. After that, we need 3 weeks to make a recommendation and make a report. Very short amount of time.

Jerry: Would be helpful to offer a short list to faculty to comment on.

Nancy: Maybe even categories of questions – survey of responses on each category.

Yuri: Will talk to task force members about this recommendation. We’ll announce it at the March Senate meeting.

III. Charges to committees for next year – Scott

Scott: if we have charges for each committee ready, maybe people would be able to make better choices about committee.

A. Teaching Committee - Define excellence in teaching.

Scott: There doesn’t seem to be a clear path to declare excellence in teaching.

Jerry: I’m skeptical that a committee could come up with a precise formula for documenting excellence in teaching.

Dave: Maybe meet with Gwynn and see what she says about the existing criteria to help distill the way forward.
Nancy: each department has their own criteria …

B. Other Committees

Plan to update the Faculty Handbook? Or: list of policies as Bloomington has. Nancy: need to reactivate that committee.

Maybe need to look at the charges and terms for every committee to make sure they still make sense. (Maybe 2 year terms for Executive Committee, for example.)

Nancy: perhaps each committee in the fall semester could examine the mission, review it, and suggest changes.

IV. Agenda for the March Senate Meeting – still being finalized.

V. Open discussion.

Respectfully submitted, April Lidinsky, Senate Secretary.