Minutes for the Academic Senate Meeting of 22 March 2013

Present: Peter Aghimien, Justin Amellio, Mahesh Ananth, Michelle Bakerson, Vicki Bloom, Kristen Budd, Catherine Borshuk, Marianne Castano Bishop, J Colborn, Louise Collins, Smiljka Cublic, Brian Davis, Hope Davis, Hang Dinh, Kenneth Douglas, Diane Economakis, William Feighery, Bridget Fong-Morgan, Steven Gerencser, Catherine Hebert, Marsha Heck, Patricia Henry, Jerry Hinnefeld, Sean Hottois, Sharon Jones, Lee Kahan, Cincci Kwong, Larry Lambert, Casey Lard, Ilan Levine, April Lidinsky, Elisabeth Lucal, Jeffrey Luppes, Jessica McCormack, Johnny McIntosh, Doug McMillan, Alex Meisami, Gwen Mettetal, Robert Meyer-Lee, Ronald Monsma, Susan Moore, Jonathan Nashel, Micheline Nilsen, Kelcey Parker, Una Mae Reck, Dennis Rodriguez, Leon Schjoedt, Carolyn Schult, Henry Scott, Scott Sernau, Feng Shan, Dmitri Shlapentokh, Matt Shockey, Warren Shrader, Ken Smith, James Smith, Cunthia Sofhauser, Eric Souther, Bruce Spitzer, Alison Stankrauff, Kyoko Takanashi, Monica Tetzlaff, Rebecca Torstrick, David Vollrath, Lesley Walker, Bruce Watson, Timothy Willig, Jeffrey Wright, Lyle Zynda

I. Minutes

The minutes were passed as written.

II. Chancellor Reck

New Dean of Health Sciences: Mario Ortiz, who has served as Chair of the Nursing Department at IU Northwest for the past five years, has been appointed to this position.

The Bachelor of Social Work Degree will be offered beginning fall 2013, having been approved downstate.

Budget Working Group: Chancellor Reck has approved $1.7 million in cuts from their recommendations. We will not be able to determine the budget until IU sets tuition, faculty salary increases, and other budget issues. The fact that Purdue did not increase tuition while IPFW increased it 2% suggests that regionals do not have to follow the main campus, which is different from past years. John Applegate will visit campus on March 27th, and this visit will include the annual budget conference with the Chancellor’s Cabinet. May know more details about tuition increase, etc.

Senior Lecturer Promotion will increase from $2000 to $3000.

Education and Arts Building: The dedication will take place on April 17th. Construction will continue over the summer, faculty will move in July/August and the building will be fully operational for the fall semester.
Northside Hall 158: Construction will begin in May and is scheduled to be completed in February 2014.

Dining Services: IU is preparing to take proposals for a new dining services contract. Three companies participated in a pre-proposal meeting. Proposals are due to IU Purchasing by March 29. The new contract will take effect July 1, 2013 and will be for 3 years, with the possibility of two 2-year extensions.

III. Executive Vice Chancellor Alfred Guillaume

Campus Directions Committee has put its last touches on the strategic plan. There will be a link to it in the Academic Affairs newsletter.

Academic Affairs Budget: AA is still examining appropriate reductions. They have reviewed the budget working group report and have agreed on some items; others are still in the discussion phase. Guillaume emphasized that we need to rethink retention to increase revenue. The first-year experience is an effort in this direction, as are the initiatives with IU Central concerning online education. We continue to work with Barb Bichelmeier to determine how IUSB will structure online education.

Bachelor of Applied Science: This is a regional university effort partnered with Ivy Tech to make a seamless transition for students in technical fields to obtain a baccalureate degree.

IV. Beth Van Gordon

The consolidation of IT (UITS) has enabled us to provide services that individual campuses could not provide on their own. We also have access to a variety of professionals on other campuses to help us. It also streamlined the administrative workload, since the different administrative structures of campuses created an additional amount of work for people. Now all base funds will be assessed every year. Separate accounts are set up for each campus. These are for base funds and reserves. Van Gordon will manage the accounts along with Beth Church, as advocates for the campus. This means they will no longer come to campus to ask for money. Van Gordon concluded her remarks by showing a video demonstrating IUAnywhere and IUBox.

Q: Before we do the full transfer, can we benchmark the costs for IUSB before the transfer to see if this saves money?
A: You're right, and we do that on an annual basis. Regarding desktops, we now have 200 more on campus than we did before this plan. Thanks to this policy, we were able to offer faculty the option of a desktop or laptop while moving to a four-year life cycle. So those numbers we have in hand. It’s my responsibility to make sure that university administration is completely in touch with what we need.
Q: I was just wondering what the savings was for the administrative structure?
A: For example, we were operating with a separate statement of accounts for this campus and also interfacing with UITS and they interfaced with administration. So we were duplicating and in some cases tripling efforts. This really burdened the administrative staff, since instead of one IT, we were looking at IT at all regional campuses, plus the Columbus Center, IUPUI and Bloomington.

Q: So there was no reduction of staff because of centralization?
A: No.

Q: What does this mean in terms of the decision-making process? Are these still campus decisions with faculty input from the IT Committee and the Facilities Committee, or are they made unilaterally downstate?

Q: They are still local decisions. All universities have committees like this. It would not be in the purview of UITS to make such decisions. Guidelines for these funds have been in place for a long time. The reason is that we want to make sure that we are serving the general population, not subsidizing specific disciplines at the expense of the total campus. We would not use reserves for technology specific to a discipline unless it will benefit the entire campus, in which case we will use seed funds. But we will not use seed funds for any technology that will not be lifecycled. That is a guiding principle that we operate with.

Q: Centralization may streamline administration but it also produces disadvantages. With the centralization of purchasing, for example, we can no longer choose local vendors. This is my fear—that we'll be required to use certain technology and then required to pay for it—and that there won't be any local decision making. For example, did the IT committee have any input on the new high-tech classroom?

A: I have had the same concerns that you just mentioned. I have been involved in several consolidations and have to say in all honesty that what you describe with purchasing has not happened. I feel very comfortable when Brad Wheeler makes a commitment that he will serve each campus distinctly. As for the classroom, that goes back to the President’s principles of excellence, along with the current IT strategic plan and the blueprint for student attainment. We have had the same infrastructure for almost 15 years. We don’t want to move on without input from faculty, so we have to establish what we call the next generation classroom. It will be equipped with technology that everyone will have an opportunity to try and hopefully they will give us feedback about what works and doesn’t work. The room will have Polycom Eagle Eye technology that allows people to teach in a high definition realm without the need for someone to operate a camera. We have the system at Kokomo and Northwest. This is something that we at the last minute had the opportunity to put into Education and Arts. It was fast-tracked, so we didn’t have a lot of time to talk about it, and we used funds from the IT reserves.

Q: The reserves that we actually built up before we moved to the centralized model?
A: Yes

Q: That’s what I’m concerned about—these quick decisions without consultation with the senate committees.

A: I understand completely. But if we missed that opportunity, we would be one of the only campuses without that technology, I’m afraid.
Q: I think that as we move forward in budget construction, we need to make sure that you are working in close collaboration with the IT Committee. And that when decisions have to be made quickly, there is a mechanism for faculty consultation.
A: Absolutely.
Q: I was wondering what the current status of the annual reserves is.
A: There was a large reserve built up over several years. Most of that has been exhausted through projects that came out of the task force that the chancellor formed. I want to say we have roughly $700K in reserves going into the new building.
Q: Will this cap out the reserves?
A: No. It takes us where we need to be in lifecycle equipment without having to ask for new funds.
Q: So there will continue to be reserves?
A: The reserves go into university accounting, in accounts dedicated to South Bend. Anyone with access to the system can go into those accounts.
Q: And see transactions from those accounts? Will our chief fiscal officer have access to those accounts?
A: He should. He has the keys to basically everything.
Q: [Vice Chancellor O'Donnell] I have access to campus accounts. I wouldn’t know what account number to put in for that account.
A: I can certainly share that with you once I get it.
Q: As a Dean, I don't see any reduction in my budget in terms of how much I pay for my phone. It has to be less expensive, I would think. As for the laptops, we are responsible in the college for buying the batteries, which don't last long. That seems odd to me, too. There seems to be a lot of shifting of the costs, yet we're not getting the services we would expect.
A: that is something we need to consider. This is the first time we've had faculty with laptops, so this is a situation that we need to review. I'll take that forward. About the phone system: we are in the process of working on a network master plan for this campus and all the campuses. The rates on this campus have not been high enough to recapitalize our network structure. If we had to purchase a new phone system on our own, we would not have had the capital to do it. Also, our technology is aging; our cables are more than twenty years old, and we cannot get the bandwidth that we need out of them. With that in mind—and I have spoken with the budget committee about this—if we are looking at a 10 year recapitalization plan to update our network model, we are about $1.9 million short over ten years. This is a serious issue. To answer your question, we were not charging enough to recapitalize anyway.
Q: [Not recoverable from audio]
A: Let me share a dream that I have. My hope is that we can use reserves to build technology classrooms that benefit areas in different ways. For example, I would hope that we have classrooms where business and economics have the first right of usage but that then others can schedule those classrooms when not in use. Our first goal was to get technology in the classrooms and have it be the same and consistent everywhere, which meant we focused on the general good. But as technology has
evolved, that would be my hope, and that is the whole point behind the next generation classroom.

Q: Perhaps the solution is that when reserves rise above a certain level, that surplus could be used for projects that are not for general use.
A: That is my hope. That is not a decision I would make. I would like the IT Committee and the campus to make that decision.

Q: Can the amount be made clear to us so that we know what we have?
A: Absolutely. I don’t have those numbers with me.

V. President Walker

Budget Report: President Walker encouraged Vice Chancellor O’Donnell and EVCAA Guillaume to heed the budget committee’s recommendation to examine unused funds. She emphasized finding ways to spend some of the General Fund Reserve, which is currently $10-12 million—an amount that far exceeds the reserves of other regional campuses. A good budget is about not just avoiding overspending but also avoiding underspending, which we have been doing for the past several years. We currently are having difficulty gaining access to that fund, and we need leadership to articulate our needs. President Walker urged the Chancellor to talk with John Applegate about how to gain access to the reserves and use them strategically. The Executive Committee will express this priority to Applegate as well.

Scheduling Grid: Walker received an email from Guillaume asking the senate to consider the scheduling grid, and assured him that the executive committee will craft a response. It will also consider instituting a faculty forum so that faculty can discuss such issues in depth without the pressure of moving through the amount of business that occurs at a senate meeting. The Executive Committee has also been in touch with the SGA, who will be holding a town hall meeting about the scheduling grid on April 9.

UFC: One of the first steps of the Vigilance Committee is to pass a resolution on all campuses to the effect that the legislature should not interfere with the business of the university, particularly the curriculum, which should be in our hands. All of the campuses are passing some kind of resolution to send this message to the legislature.

Applegate Visit: Two items will be on the Executive Committee’s agenda when it meets with Applegate: the budget and tenure. It seems that Applegate is under the impression that people should only receive tenure based on one category of excellence. This has not historically been the case on our campus. It is not clear if this is a communication problem or if Applegate’s office is actually enforcing what amounts to a mandate. That is simply not in their purview. Tenure lies with the faculty, not the administration.

Q: I’m surprised because Applegate was at the UFC when we reviewed the tenure process and that was never discussed.
A: This is something that has only come up in the past three semesters—at IU East as well. Applegate has said that this is just "advice," but this is not how campuses are interpreting it. Right Johnnie?
A: In fact, cases were returned this year that chose more than one category of excellence.
Q: How are other campuses responding to the Friday scheduling issue?
A: I asked all the faculty representatives this question at the UFC, and it was clear that this is not an urgent matter on their campuses.
A: [McCintosh]: The other chancellors have been in on the same meetings we have. They may not be communicating these conversations with their campuses.
Q: This is a common problem—that information does not filter down. Still, it doesn’t seem to me that they feel a sense of urgency. They've heard about it and have made some attempts to include more Friday classes, but nobody is talking about redoing their scheduling grids yet.

VI. New Business

Election Results: President Walker displayed the results for Elected Senate Committees, which can be found on the Academic Senate homepage. The amendment to dissolve the General Studies Degree Committee that was included on the ballot passed.

IU Kokomo Resolution: The resolution attached to the meeting agenda was passed after friendly amendments.

VII. Announcements

The Nationwide Diversity Survey will launch the first week of April. Please encourage students to participate.

Please send comments about what you think could improve the research climate at IUSB to Ilan Levine, our representative on the Research Advisory Board. The Vice President of Research encourages faculty to apply for collaborative research grants for teams across divisions, units or campuses who work on research problems together. Nearly 40% of the grants applied for were awarded. This grant can provide $70K or more in funding.

The course development funding deadline is April 19.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:02pm