Academic Senate Executive Committee  
Meeting minutes  
November 6, 2015  


President Scott Opasik called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Chancellor Allison noted that EVCAA Jann Joseph is at a Chief Academic Officers meeting where they are discussing the HLC ruling regarding dual credit teaching requirements. Teachers now must have both a Master’s degree and at least 18 units in the subject area in which they are teaching. IU South Bend is discussing various online options for both the MLS and MAT degrees and ways to structure the MLS and/or MAT to include the subject hours. The MA has been more popular than the MAT thus far.

Allison has met with some area superintendents, who have inventoried the teachers in their districts – about 90% do not have the required qualifications to teach. There are few incentives to gain these degrees. IU South Bend should try to be as flexible as possible to assist area teachers in getting these credits. We are trying to make area teachers aware of the courses that we offer.

Question - Are the high schools paying for these dual credit classes?

Allison noted that Edwardsburg High School has classes being offered at the Elkhart Center; they negotiated a price with IU South Bend for a group of their students. A similar arrangement has been discussed with schools in Elkhart County but that has not gone forward. This will also be discussed with Penn.

Question - Paying for teachers to complete the required credit hours?

Discussion is occurring and most schools feel that they will at least contribute something if not pay for all of it.

There would advantages to creating specific certificate programs for 18 credit hours in a subject area; these might be eligible for financial aid because these are job requirements. English, Math, Biology, History, Political Science, & Psychology are the most popular subject areas. There are some Chemistry and Physics teachers that need more credits as well.

We have asked the school districts to let us know if the English courses being offered this spring will help, to tell us what is needed in Math, and to ask for other courses.

Chancellor Allison reported on the Fundraising training offered this morning. Chancellor Allison left the meeting.

Nominating Committee

The Academic Senate Constitution notes that we form the committee in December but we don’t have a meeting that month so it will be formed in November. The Executive Committee brainstormed names for the Committee; Lee and Scott will prepare a slate for the Academic Senate meeting.

Lyle Zynda, General Education Review
Lyle Zynda visited the meeting to report that he has been selected to lead the General Education Task Force that will review and consider revision to the campus Gen Ed program. A General Education Director position was recently advertised but after Lyle talked to Academic Affairs the position was changed so that he will lead the task force and Linda Chen will continue to do the day to day management of Gen Ed.

Lyle and Linda are working on a draft of the Task Force structure and time line. This is a 2 year plan. They hope to have the committee appointed this fall to begin work this spring.

Lyle would like a few minutes on the November Senate meeting agenda to report on these activities.

There was discussion about disappointment that there is no faculty General Education Director going forward.

Opasik discussed Executive Committee meeting dates for spring semester. Senate switches to the 4th Friday of each month and changes to 1:30 p.m. Ideally the Executive Committee meetings would be held on the 2nd Friday – two weeks before the meeting. Scott will send out a calendar request but will tentatively scheduled for 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Discussion about the role of salary in campus budget decisions and how to have a conversation with the faculty to find out where the priorities should be. We are curious about whether or not the Academic Personnel committee had input into faculty hiring decisions this year. The Executive Committee will charge Faculty Welfare and Academic Personnel committee with working together to stage these conversations.

The Budget Committee would like to have some voice in the structuring of the budget process and the instructions that go out to the departments. That request will go the Chancellor.

There has been discussion about having the budget process start earlier this year and for hearings to continue. There was a suggestion to have an additional forum for faculty to speak if it is deemed necessary (similar to last year). VC Bill O'Donnell will be asked to speak at the November Senate meeting about next year’s budget.

Faculty approval and review of online courses

There is concern about the extent that we as faculty have a review mechanism for which courses go online. Discussion noted that the curriculum as the purview of the faculty and that decisions about individual courses lie with each department. There is pressure in some areas to develop courses online even though the faculty may not want to move in that direction. Discussion on how to have conversations about which courses are appropriate for online learning.

It was noted that there has been some pressure to include the expectation of teaching online courses in all appointment letters and also an automatic line in job ads regarding online teaching which may dissuade good applicants. How common is this in various fields?

Scott will ask EVCAA Joseph about this issue.
There was discussion of the November Senate meeting agenda and the order of presentations in consideration of time. In general, the President’s report will go first, then Senate business, then administrative reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Colborn

Academic Senate Secretary