MINUTES
Faculty Assembly, School of Liberal Arts
Friday, January 25, 2013   LE 105


1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Faculty Assembly (FA) President Enrica Ardemagni. By head count, she and the FA Secretary determined that a quorum was present.

2. The minutes were approved as written.

3. President's remarks
   a. President Ardemagni welcomed faculty members who are new in Spring 2013.
   b. She gave a brief overview of the history of the FA bylaws. She charged the current FA committee Chairs with reviewing their respective committee's section(s) of the bylaws; she will be also be sending an email about this to the committee Chairs. Going over the timeline for the bylaws revision project, she made special note of the February 14, 2013 deadline for proposed changes to the bylaws. It is important to adhere to this deadline so the FA can vote on proposed changes before end the of the present academic year.

4. Dean's remarks
   a. Dean William Blomquist reminded FA members that Prof. Didier Gondola is the Chair of the Department of History, having taken this post in July 2012.
   b. Students can still be nominated for the IUPUI Top 100 Students through Wednesday, January 30.
   c. Faculty members should anticipate that the SLA's post-Commencement program will be somewhat different this year as, for the first time, we combine Bachelor of General Studies graduates with School of Liberal Arts BA, MA, and PhD graduates. There will be more graduates to recognize and more families present, and we will blend elements of our past format with the past format of the post-Commencement program that Continuing Studies has operated for decades, and still try to keep the Commencement program to a reasonable length.
   d. Thanks to those of you who shared your thoughts and comments in response to my announcement in early December about the change in leadership in our Office of Development and External Affairs. Your thoughts and comments overwhelmingly endorsed the selection of our colleague Dr. Gen Shaker to become our Associate Dean of Development and External Affairs. Soon we will announce the date, time, and place for a celebration we are planning for the career and contributions of Gail Plater.
e. The next transition in the Dean's office will come this summer, when our colleague Marianne Wokeck plans to conclude her service as our Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and shift to a different mix of duties and responsibilities. I have asked a number of colleagues to serve on a search committee, and am very pleased that our colleague and former Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Richard Ward, will chair it. This transition will also entail a reorganization of the portfolios of the associate deans, to establish a position of Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and a position of Associate Dean for Academic Programs. The search committee will receive and review applications for both of these positions; position announcements and descriptions will be distributed soon.

f. Dean Blomquist strongly encouraged SLA faculty members to take advantage of any opportunities they have to participate in, and provide input to, the strategic planning process: IUPUI 2025. This is ongoing during the current semester, so most opportunities for suggestions and participation will come during February and March 2013.

5. Old business

a. Teaching and Advising Committee:
Enrica Ardemagni and Carrie Foote reminded everyone that the new course evaluation forms will be instituted for Spring 2013 semester.

b. Update on General Education requirements:
Marianne Wokeck, SLA Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

The IUPUI campus has not changed its mind, but has refined its thinking. Requirements are tied to the PULs. All courses that go in the Common Core will have to be vetted using CARMIn system. No details yet. Strongly recommended that departments with courses in the common core, e.g., R110, be on the lookout for this.

Majors are not being examined for the Common Core, but majors do need to dovetail with Common Core.

If you have suggestions, please direct them to Beth Goering, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

If you are interested in following the progress of the Common Core, Dean Wokeck recommended going to the statewide General Education common core website. Reminded everyone that we all have a vested interest in this. Recommended finding balance between research and these courses.
c. Parking privatization/monetization

ACTION ITEM. Motion from Thomas Marvin introduced this motion, which was seconded by William Schneider.

I move that the Faculty Assembly of the School of Liberal Arts adopt these two resolutions.

Whereas a long-term lease of parking facilities to an outside contractor will result in parking funds being diverted from the legitimate needs of the university to private profit:

(1) We ask the Board of Trustees to maintain University control of parking facilities and operations.

Whereas any attempt to generate increased revenue from parking will impact faculty and staff at IUPUI as a de facto pay cut and undermine the university's mission to be accessible to the general community and to provide an affordable education to its students and to improve on-time graduation rates:

(2) We ask the Board of Trustees to submit any parking monetization plan to a campus-wide referendum.

Discussion followed:

Finding revenue is important, but this is a public university. We need to find revenues without changing who we are: a university.

Questions about cost ratio. Concerns that we are rejecting this out of hand. Should express concerns to the university that this be handled in the right way. Recommended giving the university another alternative (unspecified).

Will there be a series of resolutions from other Schools? IUPUI Faculty Council (IFC) will have one: transparent data; affected bodies should be consulted; pay attention to the special qualities of IUPUI student body as compared to IUB (e.g., few other alternatives for parking at IUPUI). Concerns that IFC's?

Did IUB's FC have similar resolution? Answer (Marvin): Came out against it, but we don't know specifics.

What the university would collect from a for-profit corporation would actually come from faculty, staff, and students. Indiana University would get money up front, in exchange for alienating its constituencies; we will pay for all of this up-front money over a period of years. It is a fallacy to say that faculty, staff, and students would be getting anything out of parking privatization.

Suggestion to compare things that are already privatized, in terms of what food costs and what employees are paid. Compared Chartwell with University Hospital: In general, Chartwell charges more for its food, and pays its employees less than University Hospital.

Concerns that many students already can barely pay for tuition and parking. If parking went up, they might go to another university.
Let's look at the contract and evaluate it as scholars. People don't object to contracts with Microsoft for software.

We're scholars, not lawyers. We are not trained to read the kind of language that is used in contracts. Recommends stronger wording in the resolutions under discussion. Argued that faculty area already being treated unprofessionally by the Board of Trustees: makes the decision and then tell the faculty to give the illusion of participation and get buy-in.

Unless there are review clauses in the contract, there will be no way to make amendments as IUPUI changes.

Should be demanding a campus-wide referendum.

To our benefit to lay out concerns now, because will not be a real chance for this later.

Microsoft had competitors.

If parking is going to make money, it should be IU's money. e.g., Business School faculty members could consult.

Privatized parking is an impediment to bridge town-gown relationships.

Should think of how we can lead as scholars.

Questions: Is the Board of Trustees the legal representative in negotiations? Or is it others? Answer (Marvin): Board of Trustees, and Goldman Sachs, and Walker Parking.

The faculty, staff, and students should be consulted. Question: What are we prepared to do if the Board of Trustees passes this (e.g., refuse to buy parking permits)? Example: University tried to reduce health care costs by collecting health information, Chartwell employees risked their jobs to make changes. Both were successful.

Marvin: Board meeting on IUPUI campus on Feb. 14. Students already planning something; we should join them.

Should follow model of Dr. Martin Luther King. Four steps: Use non-hate words first; fourth step is use bodies. Called the question.

MOTION PASSED with one abstention and about three nay votes.

6. New business

a. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) ~ Policy on Accumulated Overload Instruction

ACTION ITEM. Gabrielle Bersier, committee chair, presented the proposed policy. On behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, she introduced the motion. The IU School of Liberal Arts Faculty Affairs Committee moves that the Faculty Assembly adopt the Policy on Accumulated Overload Instruction. See accompanying document.
Discussion followed.

Question: Who makes these decisions? Answer: Chairs, in concert with the Deans.

Question: If the FA approves this motion, does it become policy? Answer: Yes. Ardemagni; Blomquist: Is analogous to salary policy--FA passed and Dean's office carries it out.

Question: Does this include honors projects within a larger class? Answer (Bersier): Yes.

Question: Departments with individualized internships do not seem to be covered by this proposed policy. Different expectations with respect to graduate courses. Answer (Wokeck): Not every course can be listed, and they do not reflect changes. Ardemagni summarized: These are umbrella terms; specific courses are intended to fall underneath them.

Wokeck: Want to be clear: Mentoring does not count under this policy. Only activities that follow under a course would count.

Question: Unclear where figure of 45 hours came from. Thinks 45-hour figure is too low; e.g., directing master's theses is a lot of work. Disparate amount of work for the various categories in the motion. Using strictly a credit hour criterion can be misleading, e.g., an M.A. thesis in English is 4 cr; in European History it is 6 cr; in Public History it is 2 credits because of the requirement of a four-credit internship. Inconsistency department to department, and even within dept.

Mix of graduate and undergraduate courses; is not equivalent. One solution might be to go ahead with this, and they review it after a few years and adjust the 45 credits if necessary.

There is never going to be a perfect number. The 45 hours are more of a guide; might need to negotiate this with the department Chair.

Bersier: Committee thought 45 credit hours is in line with current requirements. Is three classes of 15 students each (the minimum # of students in an UG course). Might need to do it differently for graduate courses to get an equivalent to get the proposal up and running.

Suggestions of wordsmithing to accommodate people who often teach an overload.

Wokeck: Want to aim this policy at faculty members who regularly take these things seriously and credit to those who do this.

Blomquist: Faculty members get paid for teaching an overload; if replacement is not made, a faculty member could get both credit and extra pay.

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b. Faculty engagement, FA President Ardemagni

   Asked for suggestions to instill a culture of engagement with attending FA meetings in those who are not present

   suggestions:

   circulate a list of people who served on FA committees in the past couple of years
   list absentees on minutes
   require that faculty members list on Faculty Annual Report the FA meetings they attended
   point out to everyone that we are under contract
   Ardemagni: a ten-month appointment is August 1 to May 1
   a constituency needs to tell absentees the importance of FA, and of attending FA meetings

   What is engagement?

   should not punish people for being absent (e.g., might be out of town; could be working on other projects that are part of their faculty work; might be engaged in other ways)

   engagement is part of a broader issue of faculty morale

   Blomquist expressed appreciation for those who do attend FA meetings. Pointed out that Fridays at 2-4pm are not cast in concrete. Should FA meet at other times? Should FA be live-streaming meetings? Should be recording FA meetings for playback?

   Wokeck mentioned organizational culture of the university: Many new faculty members have not been mentored well in graduate school; it falls on us to mentor them--especially junior faculty members--so they will realize the importance of engagement in faculty governance, and that they can make a difference and that "we are a good crew to make a difference."

   The possibility of a superannuated curriculum was briefly discussed.

7. Hearing no additional new business, President Ardemagni asked for, and received, a motion to adjourn.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted March 1, 2013.

Gail Gráinne Whitchurch
Associate Professor of Communication Studies
Secretary of the SLA Faculty Assembly, 2009-2011 & 2011-2013