Agenda Council Minutes  
Friday, September 15, 2006

The meeting began at 1:05 PM, in CA 438.  
**Present:** Bilodeau, Sheeler, Sutton, Vargus, Weeden, White, Wittberg  
**Guest:** Jim Brown, Associate Dean, School of Journalism, IUPUI  

1.) Jim Brown updated the AC regarding the impending merger of the SoJ with the SLA. SoJ started in SLA but became a system-wide school in 1981. After Trevor Brown (IUB SoJ Dean) retired, the new dean at IUB did not include the IUPUI SoJ in faculty meetings, etc. Chancellor Bantz wants IUPUI SoJ to merge with SLA. IUPUI SoJ faculty 100% behind this and sees it as a tremendous opportunity. Wishes to merge quickly – by Jan. 1, 2007. Dean White has working with JB on a draft plan; has contacted Bart Ng and Rosalie Vermette. RW is also checking with the Graduate School (Dean Queener) to see if the Masters in Journalism can simply be transferred to IUPUI, since all the courses are here already. JB wants the SLA Faculty Assembly to begin approving the graduate courses now – even though the SoJ will not formally become part of SLA until next January. Marc Bilodeau asked if there were financial implications. Dean White said that the SoJ is sound, and will not be a financial liability for SLA. Brian Vargus noted that there are curricular advantages for many departments by this merger: cross-listing courses, potential integrator courses, etc. JB noted that many SoJ offerings complement English and Communications courses.  
Note: SoJ will keep its current distribution requirements, which are different from SLA. It will also remain located in the Informatics building; the Sagamore will soon be housed in the new Student Center. Dean White noted that having a professional school like the SoJ in SLA gives him the opportunity to have a voice in meetings of the professional schools, and also makes it easier for our students to get double majors, minors, etc.  

Agenda item: RW and JB will present the background to this at the Faculty Assembly and take questions. Voting – to endorse or not to endorse the merger - will be by (electronic) secret ballot. The Chancellor will make the final decision.  

2.) Committee Assignments were confirmed. Student representatives were appointed to the Technology (James Dowell) and Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards (Amy Coleman) Committees. We still need student representatives for the Academic Affairs, Graduate Curriculum, Library, and Resources and Planning Committees. Bob Sutton will try to find these.  

3.) Faculty Council Unit Representatives: Bob Sutton noted that 2 of the 3 unit representatives to the Faculty Council are from WLAC; the vice-president, Rosalie Vermette, is also from WLAC. He asked if that was too strong a representation from one department. The Council decided that it was not, since several of the SLA’s at-large representatives to the Faculty Council were from other departments.
4.) By-Law Revision: Bob Sutton noted that the by-laws, after so many revisions, have inconsistent wording, indentation oddities, etc. They need a good text editor to make them consistent. The Council empowered Bob Sutton to appoint an ad hoc committee to take care of this. Several Council members also noted further inaccuracies (mostly unrevised dates) in the by-laws. These will be fixed by the ad hoc committee, too. It was decided that, even though the Committee for Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) has done very little, we would not omit it from the by-laws in this revision. It was also decided not to re-merge the Graduate and Undergraduate Curriculum Committees at this time. Bob Sutton will announce all of this at the Faculty Assembly in his President’s Report.

5.) Dean’s Business:
   a.) Dean White reported briefly on the problem with the Labor Studies Program, which currently comprises 15 faculty scattered over several campuses. The SLA was asked to bring it in as a program, and Dean White approached the History, Political Science, Sociology and Economics departments about housing them. All the departments were unwilling to do so. Another option is to bring in the 5 Bloomington-based faculty as individuals, each attached to the department in his/her respective field, and to have Labor Studies be an interdisciplinary program like Women’s Studies or Philanthropic Studies. Dean White is consulting with Mark Sothman about whether this is a viable option. Marc Bilodeau asked what would happen if SLA can place 3 of the 5 in willing departments but not the other two. Dean White will ask MS about this. He asked the Council if we would be amenable at least to continuing the conversation. The Council agreed, and RW will include a mention of this in the Dean’s Remarks at the Faculty Assembly.
   b.) Signature Center Proposals. Dean Sukhatme has a grant fund of one million dollars to support research centers, and has put out a Request for Proposal. The grants would be matching: ½ from AO and ½ from the school or some other source. RW is interested in having the SLA participate, even though it will cost us to come up with the matching funds. His question for the Council was whether, when these proposals are submitted to Associate Dean Ford, he should route them for ranking and evaluation to the Resources and Planning Committee, the Research Advisory Committee, or to both. The Council recommended that the proposals be routed to both committees, as this will elicit a broader range of evaluative views. RW will mention this, too, in his remarks at the Assembly.

6.) Marc Bilodeau presented a suggestion that a Faculty Statement in support of Defending Dissent and Critical Thinking on Campus be submitted to the Faculty Assembly for their endorsement. MB will write this statement and circulate it via email to the Agenda Council. Assuming that there is time, it will be placed on the agenda.
7.) Due to the over-abundance of agenda items in the September meeting, the suggestions from Carol Gardner regarding sexual harassment and incorporating Disability Studies across the curriculum were tabled until the November meeting. Pat Wittberg will ask Carol to come up with a formal motion to present to the Council in its October meeting for the November agenda.

8.) Finalize Agenda: (see below)

9.) Charges to Committees: Bob Sutton went over each committee assignment and the leftover business from each committee.

10.) Adjournment at 3:30 PM

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Agenda
Faculty Assembly, School of Liberal Arts
CA 508, 1:00 PM September 29, 2006

1. Call to Order – Robert Sutton
2. Guest: Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculties Uday Sukhatme
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Dean’s Remarks – Dean White
   State of the School
   Labor Studies
   Signature Center Proposal Routing
5. President’s Remarks – Robert Sutton
6. Results of the summer elections – Pat Wittberg
   Agenda Council: Scott Weeden and Brian Vargus
   By-Law Proposals passed
7. Old Business
8. Guest: Jim Brown, Associate Dean, IUPUI School of Journalism
9. New Business
   Discussion of the School of Journalism merger
   Defending Dissent and Critical Thinking – Marc Bilodeau
10. Introduction of new faculty – Department Chairs
11. Adjournment
12. Reception: New Faculty and the Celebration of Research and Teaching