Minutes of the SLA Faculty Assembly Meeting  
November 17, 2006  
LE 105


1. Call to Order: Robert Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the September 29, 2006, SLA Faculty Assembly were approved without corrections.

3. President’s Remarks: President Sutton noted several exciting developments on campus, which form the agenda for today’s meeting. Additionally, he informed the faculty that the “gerbil tube” from the new Campus Center to Cavanaugh Hall will be constructed over the Christmas break. After the Reception to celebrate teaching, faculty were encouraged to remain for a Sabbatical presentation by Robert Rebein. The vote to admit the merger of the School of Journalism as a department in the School of Liberal Arts was approved 99 to 1, and is currently being considered by the IUPUI Faculty council. Herbert Brant has resigned as a delegate to the IUPUI Faculty Council; a candidate to replace him needs to be chosen. Interested faculty are urged to contact Margaret Ferguson or some other member of the Nominating Committee.

4. Dean’s Remarks: Dean White spoke briefly about the requests of the Black Students’ Union. He has sent a letter to SLA faculty outlining his position, and all of the deans are working on a letter to be sent to the Indianapolis Star. As it currently stands, the campus will seek a full-time diversity officer, and there will be a Multicultural Center in the present University College building. The Chancellor believes that the AO building is too far from campus and is isolating; Dean Sukhatme agrees. So they are looking for more central office space. Dean White and Associate Dean David Ford spent some time in Kenya earlier this month, where they witnessed the signing of the statement of strategic partnership with Moi University. Moi University is currently serving some 30,000 persons with AIDS. Together with their families, this comes to between 100,000 and 120,000 persons. The Partnership will build on this: in addition to IUPUI faculty specifically researching AIDS, he envisions (e.g.) an exchange of historians to teach classes on each country’s history, or a greater exchange of students doing international research.

The merger of the School of Journalism is on the agenda for the December 7 meeting of the IUPUI Faculty Council, but there is a report on reorganizing the entire core-campus model being considered at the University Faculty Council which may supersede this. Chancellor Bantz, however, has told Dean Sukhatme to proceed with
plans to merge the School of Journalism with SLA.

With regard to Labor Studies, Dean White sent a memo to all departments in SLA, but none expressed interest in absorbing Labor Studies as a separate program within their department. Dean White then sent a letter to Chancellor Bantz, copying all the SLA chairs, proposing that the Labor Studies faculty members be brought into the relevant departments as individuals. Then an interdisciplinary program in Labor Studies could be constructed parallel to WOST or Philanthropic Studies. Dean Sothman and Dean White will meet with the Labor Studies faculty to explore this possibility. It may or may not work.

Regarding space issues, the Sagamore will move to the new Campus Center, and the Speaker’s Lab will then move from the fourth floor to the former Sagamore space in the basement. Dean White is also meeting with Emily Wren of Campus Facilities to see if SLA can also take over the bookstore space for computer labs. This would move all or most of the computer functions to the basement and free up badly needed office space for new faculty. The Technical Services Committee voted to use the student technology fee to pay for the renovation of the Sagamore space. The bottom line is that we are currently doing more faculty searches than we have space to house the new faculty we hire.

As President Sutton has noted, the skybridge is scheduled to be constructed over the Christmas break. Mary Ann Black had not been told of this and so the classrooms that will be destroyed for the skybridge have been scheduled for classes – Dean White is not sure what will be done about this. The new Campus Center is scheduled to open for full implementation in January 2008, although some functions will be available in the fall of 2007. The initiative to redesign the lobbies in Cavanaugh Hall so that the contrast between the new Campus Center and Cavanaugh is less stark, is still in process.

With regard to curricular changes, there is work going on to initiate a BA and a BS in Motor Sports Studies. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the SLA and the School of Engineering regarding this. We are also working on a Film and Media Arts Program that could potentially develop into a degree.

Regarding the Black Students’ demands, Associate Dean Schneider asked whether, since SLA already offers a BA in African-American Studies, the school could also create a Department of African-American Studies. Dean White said he would support this if enough students expressed interest. It would be a good fit for IUPUI, given the university’s history in the area and the plans to revitalize Indiana Avenue. President Sutton noted that, if one used the Individualized Major to gauge the amount on interest in an African-American Studies major, one would not find sufficient interest in it.

5. **General Education Update:** Associate Dean Ward reported on the General Education Initiative. This originally came from the Trustees and President Herbert in
September, 2006, and asked for a single General Education curriculum across all campuses. This mandate was later changed: each campus can now have its own General Education requirements, but the Trustees want to see them. They were unaware that IUPUI had already addressed this issue with the PULs. Associate Deans Ward and Wokeck are on the committee that will look at the IUB “Foundations” document and map them against the PULs and the SLA General Education curriculum. The committee will also deal with the problem of transferability of courses across campuses, since this is an issue that particularly vexes the Trustees. Eventually, they will produce a template outlining how the courses articulate between campuses. There will still be problems with some requirements – for example, IUB considers several courses as fulfilling the speech requirement, whereas IUPUI requires all students to take R110. The Trustees want this done by February; Deans Wokeck and Ward anticipate finishing with their part by December.

6. **Reports from IUPUI Faculty Council Representatives:**
   Robert Rebein reported that the IUPUI Faculty Council spent time discussing Three Year Reviews. Schools are asked to call these “Three” Year Reviews and not “Third” Year Reviews, to make it clear that the review is cumulative over all three years. The AO will review the process for each faculty member who comes up for review.

   Rosalie Vermette reported that Karen Whitney spoke to the IUPUI Faculty Council on the Black Students’ demands. The council also discussed the Intellectual Property Policy: it is still not quite complete after four years of development. The major roadblock at this point is the question of how to define “software,” and whether software is copyrightable by faculty members or patentable by the University. This is especially important to the School of Informatics and the Medical School.

   A special meeting will be held on November 21, between the IUPUI faculty and ??? on the search for a new University President. Faculty are strongly encouraged to attend. If no one comes to this meeting, it will be considered a sign of disinterest on our part and our wishes will be ignored.

7. **Report from the IU Faculty Council Representatives:**
   Bill Schneider reported that the UFC, the IUPUI Faculty Council, and the SLA Faculty Assembly have all been discussing the same things – the Gen Ed mandate, etc. The UFC also discussed the policy for reviewing the chancellors. The policy preferred by the faculty differs from the one proposed by the Trustees in that the faculty wanted a definite majority on the Search Committee while the Trustees only wanted an “approximate” majority of faculty members. Also, there were problems with confidentiality, as open-ended comments on the reviews given by the faculty members will not be part of the chancellors’ reviews. The UFC is considering having its own Faculty Review of the Chancellors, and publishing the results, to remedy the deficiencies in the process established by the Trustees.

8. **Technology Committee Report:**
Thom Upton reported on one item – our screen savers have been set to lock if the computer shows no activity for four hours. Faculty would then have to log back in. This is a security precaution.

9. **Old Business: Defending Dissent and Critical Thinking:**
Marc Bilodeau reported on the controversy surrounding the firing of Professor Ward Churchill by the University of Colorado as a result of Professor Churchill’s statements regarding 9/11. The AAUP has called on the University of Colorado to reverse its decision, saying that the firing was politically motivated. He proposed that the SLA faculty pass a motion supporting Professor Churchill. Several faculty questioned what would be done with this motion. Associate Dean Ford submitted a friendly amendment that the motion include a statement specifying that it would be sent to the AAUP. Both the friendly amendment and the following motion were passed unanimously:

*The Faculty Assembly of the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI deplores the decision of the University of Colorado at Boulder to fire tenured Ethnic Studies Professor Ward Churchill. He is being unfairly punished for having expressed unpopular and controversial views in a book and at public forums. We view this as an attack on critical thinking, which ought to be protected on campuses everywhere, and ask that the University of Colorado at Boulder rescind this decision immediately. This motion of support will be sent to the American Association of University Professors and to the University of Colorado at Boulder, CO.*

Some discussion ensued about whether the motion should also be given to the Indianapolis Star. It was decided that this would be counterproductive, but that the Agenda Council could be encouraged to write an Op Ed article explaining the issues involved.

10. **New Business: Update on and Discussion of IUPUI Black Student concerns:**
SLA President Sutton had invited the leader of the Black students to come and talk to the Faculty Assembly, but had gotten no response. Associate Dean Ward noted that the protest was not merely by the students, but also had the support of the Black faculty and staff as well. As background, Dean Ward noted that a group of students had intervened in a meeting on campus diversity two weeks ago with Karen Whitney as campus diversity officer. Dr. Whitney’s office framed a statement by the students’ Monday deadline, but the students rejected it as insufficient. Many of the faculty councils asked to meet the students; the students held a three-hour meeting at the Madam Walker building on Sunday evening instead of going to each faculty council separately. Dean Ward expressed his pleasure at the way the students have conducted themselves. The Student Council supports them; the Anthropology students have formally expressed their support. Dean Ward does not recall this level of discussion and concern before, and attributes it to the way the Black Students were able to raise their concerns. The
university has made a second offer – the students consider that it shows some progress and will meet today or tomorrow to discuss their response. Giles Hoyt asked whether any of the other student groups have felt excluded by this process. Dean Ward said that several groups have expressed their concern that the $78,000 demanded by the students is $10,000 more than the entire student activities budget for all student clubs. The Black students responded that they never intended that this money be taken from other groups to fund the Black Student Center: the entire Student Activity Fee is $5,000,000 and they are asking that more money be drawn from that amount. On Wednesday, the Chancellor announced a review of the allocation process for student activity funds. One possible way is to post the url for a website outlining how student fees are spent. Dean White noted that he sits on the Diversity Committee, while Associate Dean Wokeck is a member of the Affirmative Action Council. Approximately 70% of the SLA faculty say they include multicultural issues in their curriculum – the question is, whether this is a large enough percentage or not. Missy Kubitschek noted that it is unclear what counts as “diversity” in the curriculum. Dean Ward noted that the SLA is the school entrusted with insuring that students are exposed to diversity issues in their undergraduate education, so it is important that we do it well.

11. Presentation on International Study by the Teaching and Advising Committee: Linda Haas gave an update on Study Abroad opportunities. The year 2006 has been designated by the U.S. as the Year of Study Abroad. Our students face barriers of money, time off from work and families, but there are ways to alleviate these concerns. For example, grants are available and short-term programs are offered. This is a good time for Study Abroad programs at IUPUI: we are strengthening our ties with Africa, and we have more than 200 faculty with international research interests

Stephanie Leslie, International Study Coordinator in the Campus Study Abroad Office, spoke on a report that her office is scheduled to issue next Monday on the Study Abroad program. 308 IUPUI students went abroad in the 2004-2005 Academic Year. Of these, 49 were SLA students; SLA is the third highest in the percentage of total students studying abroad. Most are short-term programs: 90% were less than 8 weeks. Most (85%) were programs led by IUPUI faculty. There has been a steady growth of students in the program, from 100 in 1995 to over 300 today. In 2005-2006, there were 10 SLA-organized trips abroad. It is important that the faculty be proactive in promoting these opportunities and inform the students that grants are available.

Adam Jones, an SLA student who went to Jordan for a 6-week program in 2005 spoke on the benefits he had received from his experience.

Scott Pegg, the Director of the International Studies BA Program, spoke next.

The International Studies Major has 17 or 18 majors already. Key features of the
program are:

- It is interdisciplinary, and must include at least 3 different departments of schools.
- It requires foreign-language competency at the 200-level or higher.
- It is the only program that requires at least 3 credits of study abroad.
- A 9-credit area concentration is required, covering one of the following: Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, or Asia.
- A 9-credit thematic concentration is also required, for example: business, global civil society.
- Dr. Pegg is trying to make the major attractive for double majors. Up to 9 credits of appropriate courses from the other major can count toward the International Studies major.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00, and the faculty adjourned to a reception to honor the teaching accomplishments of faculty in the school during 2005.