

Minutes of the SLA Faculty Assembly Meeting
September 29, 2006
LE 105

Present: Aponte, Ardemagni, Bannerjee, Barrows, Beck, Bein, D. Bell, L. Bell, Bersier, Bilodeau, Bingham, Brant, Burlingame, Carlin, Coleman, Condon, Connor, Craig, K. Davis, T. Davis, Douglas, Dwyer, Ford, Gardner, Glidden, Goering, Goldfinger, Gressens, Gronfein, Grossmann, A. Haas, L. Haas, Hamilton, Harrington, Hovde, Hughes, Hyatt, Kirts, Kostroun, Lindseth, Lovejoy, McCormick, Miller, Mullen, Mullins, Murday, Pfeifer, Pike, Rebein, Robertson, Rooney, Rozycki, Sauer, Schneider, I. Sheeler, K. Sheeler, Stahl, R. Sutton, Tezanos-Pinto, Thorington-Springer, Tilly, Upton, Vargus, Ward, Watson, Weeden, R. White, White-Mills, White-Stanley, Williams, Wilson, Wininger, Wittberg, Wokeck.

1. **Call to Order:** Robert Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.
2. **Acceptance of the Agenda**
3. **Guest:** Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculties Uday Sukhatme addressed the faculty, expressing his belief in the importance of Liberal Arts for IUPUI. He also described the development of the new campus Action Plan, which will soon be posted on the web for all to examine. Several small “Action Teams” are being formed to address a series of Action Items that are part of this plan. All are invited to give input via the web to team members. A key part of this Plan is the establishment of Signature Centers of Excellence: proposals are being solicited to expand presently-flourishing centers, revitalize centers that have languished or diminished in recent years, and to create new centers. All kinds of centers are encouraged, not simply ones related to the Life Sciences. Dean Sukhatme urged the faculty to “Think big on this;” there is money available for funding these centers, and their establishment will be the basis of a fundraising effort next year. Dean Sukhatme also stressed his interest in fostering the collaboration of the SLA with other schools on campus. Dean White and President Sutton warmly welcomed Dean Sukhatme to the campus in the name of the SLA faculty.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 21, 2006, SLA Faculty Assembly were approved without corrections.
5. **Dean’s Remarks:** Dean White informed the faculty that the SLA had been approached this summer regarding the possibility of the School of Journalism merging with the SLA and becoming an SLA department. Jim Brown, the current Dean of the School of Journalism then addressed the faculty, outlining the events leading up to this request. Journalism had originally been part of SLA at IUPUI as a minor, but had become a separate school some twenty-five years ago so that there could be a system-wide school of journalism centered at IUB. But the SoJ on this campus has been quite small: presently comprising only 4 full-time faculty. There has recently been a push from several quarters to separate the IUB and IUPUI

programs, and the IUPUI SoJ has been encouraged by Chancellor Bantz to combine with a larger school. After reviewing the possibilities, the Journalism faculty unanimously expressed their preference for merging with SLA.

In response to a question from the faculty, Dean White noted that the SoJ is in positive financial situation and faces no long-term threats. Dean Brown stated that the SoJ has always lived within its resources and, in fact, has had a 76% increase in enrollment since last fall. Currently, there are 265 students in the SoJ, and a steady revenue stream in the Sagamore, which the SoJ operates. The SoJ has never been part of the IUB budget, so the merger should not affect the tax allotments. The SoJ would stay in the IT building rather than moving to Cavanaugh Hall. Efforts are being made to have the Masters degree in Journalism, which is currently conferred in IUB, to be conferred here.

This type of a merger appears to fall under Option C of the Faculty Council Guidelines: a “Friendly Merger with Little or No Opposition.” Deans White and Brown have discussed, or will soon discuss, the merger with the Agenda Council, at the department chairs’ meeting, with the Resources and Planning Committee, with the Student Council, and with the Alumni Board. Other discussions are in the process of being scheduled. Dean White stated that the curricular requirements are similar, if not quite identical, and that having a professional major would involve the SLA in conversations that, at the moment, tend to include only professional schools – an additional plus. The Bylaws state that this merger must be voted on by a secret ballot of the faculty of both schools. If both faculties support it, the merger would be forwarded to the IUPUI Faculty Council and ultimately decided by Chancellor Bantz.

Dean White next gave the State of the School address. The number of SLA faculty has grown by 5 or 6 over the past year, and the number of SLA majors is almost 1600, which is a significant increase. The number of credit hours is flat or slightly down, however – which probably reflects a decrease in the number of majors in other schools which require students to take our lower-level service courses. The addition of Journalism would significantly increase the number of SLA majors. There has been an almost four-fold increase in the number of SLA graduate students since the 2000-2001 academic year. The number of accepted grant proposals has risen; the total amount, however, has fallen. Our development office raised almost \$2 million last year. In all, the school is in the best financial shape it has ever been in. A copy of Dean White’s full address is available via the SLA web site.

Dean White next briefly discussed the difficulties with Labor Studies, whose funding from the state was recently decreased. There was a proposal to transfer some of the Labor Studies faculty into Liberal Arts as a program, but no SLA department to date has been willing to absorb such a program. Dean White stressed that this transfer will not occur unless SLA agrees to it. Conversations are continuing, and Chancellor Bantz will decide this next February.

Proposals for the Signature Centers of Excellence will be routed through the Resources and Planning and the Research Advisory Committees.

The Career Center is no longer coordinating student internships. Associate Dean Rick Ward and Sloane Thompson are working on how to incorporate SLA internships in the SLA office. They will report on this at a future meeting.

6. **President's Remarks:** President Sutton welcomed all the faculty to the new meeting place for this semester. He encouraged faculty to give him input on whether meeting in LE 105 is more agreeable than meeting in CA 508. Johnny Goldfinger has kindly agreed to serve as Parliamentarian again this year.

This is a time of great transition for the SLA: our relationship with the university at large, especially IUB, is changing. The most visible manifestation of this will be the unified image campaign which will abolish official use of campuscape (already banished), the IUPUI logo, and the SLA logo, and adoption by all campuses of the IU logo. This will affect our stationery and business cards, among other things. There will soon be a search underway for a new President to replace Adam Herbert.

A new campus mission statement focuses on health – how will that affect our SLA mission? The trustees have mandated that courses be made more transferable across the various campus; curricular changes may be necessary for this. Finally, President Sutton will be appointing an ad hoc committee to address editorial revision of the SLA bylaws. There have been many recent changes and the language, subsection titles, etc. are not always consistent.

All committees are now staffed and thanked all for volunteering their time to help with the School's business. President Sutton urged committee chairs and members to read the bylaws governing their committees.

Concerning fire drills, President Sutton urged all faculty to note the location of the safe rooms on each floor on which they teach and work. Safe rooms are designated on each floor where handicapped students should go to await rescue in event of fire or other emergency. In the last fire drill, otherwise a great success, a student in a wheelchair took the elevator, which is not to be used in a fire.

President Sutton then invited Linda Haas to give a brief talk encouraging people to contribute to the United Way.

7. **Pat Wittberg reported the results of the summer elections:** Scott Weeden and Brian Vargus were elected Agenda Council Representatives. The By-Law proposals were passed.

8. **Reports from IUPUI and IU Faculty Council Representatives:**

Rosalie Vermette reported that the IUPUI Faculty Council will be working on the procedures for the 3-year review of new faculty. Labor Studies and the General Education Curriculum changes will also be on the agenda, which is posted on the web.

Bill Schneider reported that the University Faculty Council will also be looking at Labor Studies and the General Education Requirements. In addition, the UFC has been asked to develop a new Chancellor Review Policy. The trustees want a weaker version of this, with less faculty input and fewer faculty members on the review committee. The UFC is objecting to this. The existing process, with stronger faculty input, will continue for the time being. Also, IUB has established a unified Office of Research Compliance, even though IUPUI does most of the research which needs to be vetted for compliance with the Human Subjects regulations. We must be alert to whether this office's oversight of research compliance is extended to administration and financing.

9. Update on General Education: Sharon Hamilton, Marianne Wokeck, and Rick Ward:

"Sharon Hamilton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, who has been spearheading campus efforts, reported on the current state of the new University-wide General Education initiative. The trustees have mandated a unified approach to Gen Ed from all of the IU campuses, especially emphasizing transferability from one campus to another. When President Herbert heard of this, he convinced the trustees to couple transferability with a revision of the General Education requirements. Initially, this raised warning flags on this campus, since it would supersede the PULs which we so laboriously developed and put in place four or five years ago. Since then, the two issues have been decoupled again. In February, the university will submit to the trustees our own procedures/criteria for improving transferability across campuses. Vice Chancellor Banta is heading an ad hoc committee for this. Associate deans Marianne Wokeck and Rick Ward will work with the departments and welcome discussion opportunities with them – especially on whether or not to require Service Learning and/or Internships of all SLA students and whether to expect study abroad or advanced language study.

10. Nancy Robertson gave a brief presentation on the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

The committee sees its charge as assisting SLA faculty in putting forth syllabi that allow them to teach well. There are Campus guidelines for what must be in a syllabus. These guidelines are found at http://www.iupui.edu/~gradoff/gac/curr_design-evaluation.html. Requests for new courses or changes in courses (including credit hours), need to comply with these rules or the Curriculum Subcommittee of the Graduate Affairs Committee will delay processing them and alert the submitting department. When this committee returns a course syllabus back to submitting faculty, it is to insure that the course is accepted by the University Graduate School, not because the Graduate Curriculum Committee is finding fault unnecessarily.

In the case of Variable Subtitle Courses, the Current SLA Faculty policy is that these are also to be reviewed by the Graduate Curriculum Committee. They do not need to go to the Campus Subcommittee of the Graduate Affairs Committee. The Committee proposes to handle Variable Subtitle requests in an expedited manner:

- They will be reviewed by one member of the Committee, who will approve the course unless that member sees a serious problem worthy of discussion by the Committee as a whole.
- Minor problems will be sent back to the Chair with a request to see that the problem is addressed, but the revised syllabus will not need to be resubmitted to the Graduate Curriculum Committee.
- There will be more flexibility regarding deadlines for variable title courses. Still, it would be advisable to receive them before the catalog for the semester is published.

11. Discussion ensued on the proposed merger of the School of Journalism with SLA.

Rich Steinberg made, and Rosalie Vermette seconded, the following resolution:

That the Dean’s Office present the SLA Faculty with:

1.) a checklist outlining the differences in curricular requirements between SLA and SoJ

2.) relevant financial data on how a merger with SoJ would impact SLA financially.

This motion was passed with three negative votes.

Susanmarie Harrington moved, and Rosalie Vermette seconded, the following resolution:

That the Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee be asked to report to the next Faculty Assembly a plan to initiate faculty discussion and input on the gradual convergence of the degree requirements between SLA and SoJ.

This motion was passed with one negative vote.

Item 9.c. of the Agenda, “Defending Dissent and Critical Thinking,” was postponed until the next Faculty Assembly meeting

12. Introduction of New Faculty: The following new faculty were introduced in a PowerPoint presentation:

Philosophy	Martin A Coleman	Assistant Professor
History	John Dichtl	Executive Director, National Council on Public History
English	Mitchell Douglas	Assistant Professor
Religious Studies	Johnny Flynn	Lecturer
Geography	Shawn S Nayeri	Visting Lecturer
Sociology	Lynn Pike	Professor + Tenure
Sociology	David Bell	Professor + Tenure

Comm. Studies	Ian A. Sheeler	Lecturer
Comm. Studies	Linda Bell	Professor + Tenure
Political Science	Jasper Sumner	Lecturer
WLAC	Rosa Tezanos-Pinto	Associate Professor
Anthropology	James T. Watson	Assistant Professor
English	Debra M. White-Stanley	Assistant Professor

The following Future Faculty Teaching Fellows were also introduced:

Daniel Clasby, History

Kathleen Costello, Anthropology

Kelly Branam, Anthropology

Nicholas Gresens, WLAC/Classical Studies

Jeremy Rapport, Religious Studies

Naomi Uechi, Comparative Literature (WLAC)/American Studies

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30, and the faculty adjourned to a reception to greet the new faculty and honor the research completed in the school during 2005.