

Minutes of the SLA Faculty Assembly Meeting
January 26, 2007
LE 105

Present: Anton, Aponte, Barrows, Bein, Bersier, Carlin, Coleman, Craig, D'Etienne, Dickerson-Putman, Douglas, Eberl, Foote-Ardah, Ford, Fox, Freeman, Gardner, Goldfinger, Gibau, Gronfein, Harrington, Hoyt, Kryder-Reid, Lindseth, Lovejoy, Masters, Miller, Oukada, J. Rapport, Robertson, Sauer, Schneider, I. Sheeler, K. Sheeler, R. Sutton, Tilley, Vermette, Ward, Weeden, White, Wittberg, Wokeck, Yonogi, Zimmerman

1. **Call to Order:** Robert Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.
2. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the November 17, 2006, SLA Faculty Assembly were approved with minor corrections.
3. **President's Remarks:** President Sutton presented a memorial resolution forwarded by Susanmarie Harrington on the death of Christian Kloesel, who had passed away in December. Giles Hoyt seconded this resolution, which was passed unanimously. A copy will be sent to his widow Kelly and his daughter Alicia Turchette. President Sutton then reported that Susan Sutton has been elected to finish the at-large slot on the IUPUI Faculty Council vacated by the resignation of Herb Brant. He clarified that lecturers are not eligible to serve as voting members of the IFC. The Nominating Committee has called for volunteers to be nominated and/or to help draft nominees for various positions. A form for this has been circulated to all the faculty.
4. **Dean's Remarks:** Dean White reported on the creation of a SLA Diversity Council as called for by Vice Chancellor Whitney. The Agenda Council, the Student Council, the Staff Council and the Alumni will each be asked to nominate two persons to serve on this council. It will serve as a sounding board and, using the template given by Gary Pike of Institutional Research, will file a report on diversity in SLA. Dean White next reported on the status of various mergers with SLA. The status of the School of Journalism is still in process. President Herbert will be speaking with Provost McRobbie and Chancellor Bantz before a decision is made. The School of Music may also join SLA or some other unit on campus. The School of Music at IUB is amenable to this. Finally, the ultimate fate of Labor Studies is still in process. There is a possibility that the five Labor Studies faculty with tenure through IUPUI will be placed with the relevant departments here and that Labor Studies will become a program similar to Women's Studies. If so, the degree requirements will be changed to conform with SLA requirements: reducing the present requirement of 45 hours to 30. Another possibility is that the School of Social Work may bring Labor Studies in as a system-wide program in the School of Social Work. They are voting on this today.
With regard to space issues, we have received funding for two Signature Center Proposals, the funds from one of which, Religion and American Culture, will be used to help renovate CA 415/17. The Speakers' Lab is also in the process of being moved

to the basement space vacated by the *Sagamore*, and the foundations of the skybridge were laid over the winter break. There is a possibility that no summer classes may be able to be held in Cavanaugh due to the construction.

February 14 is the Campus Campaign kickoff. There will be a party from 2:00-3:30 On that day. The SLA campaign will emphasize staff scholarships. Our goal is to increase participation of all units in SLA.

There has been a problem with the State Appropriations payback. At the end of 2003, the SLA did not receive the last of its quarterly payments. We have been treating this as “receivable,” which in accounting parlance means that we expected it to be forthcoming. Since it never arrived, it has been deleted, which posts a loss to SLA of \$238,000. Another \$500,000 may also be pulled back. In theory, these monies will be returned to a rehabilitation fund managed by IUB, but this could be spend on any rehabilitation or construction for any school on the IUPUI campus. We are working to persuade those who administer the fund to use the money to rehabilitate Cavanaugh, which was once one of the first buildings in line for rehabilitation after the new Student Center was completed, but was pushed back in favor of rehabilitation medical buildings. We need more space if we are to fulfill our Strategic Plan. Spring credit hours are down 3.3%, which amounts to 1,900 hours. The University College is also down significantly, while the School of Science enrollment has increased by 2.7% . This is a reversal of previous patterns. It makes the issue of retention all the more important. We do hope, however, to make up some of this in Summer I. Elizabeth Kryder-Reid pointed out that one problem may be delays in the approval of new courses that students want. Dean White urged her to take this up with the Curriculum Committee. Rosalie Vermette suggested that the departments check whether the enrollment drop has occurred mostly in 100-level courses as a result of the University College decline. Associate Dean Ward said that, actually, the 300-level courses had declined more (3%) than the 100-level courses, although the 100-level courses count for the largest numerical decline.

- 5. Technology Committee:** Committee Chair Brian McDonald and Julie Freeman, who both with Jennifer Cochrane served on an ad hoc committee of faculty from the SLA, the School of Engineering, the School of Education, the School of Nursing, and the School of Social Work on Oncourse CL, presented a Proposal for Faculty Approval of Technological Teaching and Learning Tools and Systems. Since technology is increasingly involved in structuring how we teach and how we relate to students, we should be involved whenever it is changed. This was done in the early stages of the original Oncourse, but NOT with Oncourse CL, which remains an inferior technology in many ways. The committee requested the endorsement of the Faculty Assembly of this proposal. Several faculty questioned the efficacy of the proposal without an enforcement, but Julie and Brian noted that the administration and IT have no reason to oppose it and that they have been collaborating with the committee. There had been some disagreement over the wording of the proposal, and the original “Rationale” section was deleted. But the committee managed to thwart the deletion of the word “approval” which remains in the proposal. David Ford moved and Paul Carlin seconded a motion that the Faculty Assembly strongly endorse the entire proposal, including the “Rationale” section. The vote was unanimous.

David Ford then proposed that the Faculty Assembly commend, Julie Freeman, Jennifer Cochran, and Brian McDonald for their work on this. This commendation was passed by acclamation of those present.

6. Reports from IUPUI Faculty Council Representatives:

Robert Burrows reported that the IUPUI Faculty Council spent time discussing Three Year Reviews. The version that was ultimately approved was similar to the one SLA already uses. The IFC also discussed Labor Studies, and, most importantly, the Open Letter to the Next President and the Trustees. Rosalie Vermette gave the background for this. In 2005, IUPUI was asked to create a Mission Statement, which we did and which was received and approved without comment by the Board of Trustees. In 2006, however, an “Agenda for a Future of Distinction for IU” was promulgated which seemed to relegate all non-medical units of IUPUI to teaching and not research. At a special meeting on November 21 to discuss the search for a new University President, Trustee Tom Reilly encouraged the IUPUI faculty to give more input. President Bart Ng suggested that this be in an open letter to the President, the Trustees, and such a letter was recently passed by an overwhelming majority in the IUPUI Faculty Council. All schools on the IUPUI campus are being asked to endorse this letter. Leaders of the School of Medicine helped draft the letter, and the School of Medicine will probably endorse it, as has the IUPUI Faculty Council. The SLA Faculty Assembly unanimously endorsed this Open Letter.

7. Report from the IU Faculty Council Representatives:

Brian Vargus reported that the UFC meeting was an informational one and passed no resolutions. The UFC discussed reconsidering Gen Ed, the Labor Studies reconfiguration, and the outsourcing of services such as the motor pool and the bookstore.

8. Graduate Curriculum Committee:

The Graduate Curriculum Committee presented a proposal to change the thesis requirement for the Philosophy MA Program to a thesis option. This was unanimously passed by the Faculty.

9. Old Business: Defending Dissent and Critical Thinking:

President Sutton reported on the follow-up to Marc Bilodeau’s resolution on the firing of Professor Ward Churchill by the University of Colorado and asserting the need to defend dissent and critical thinking on campus. This resolution had been passed at the November Faculty Assembly. As the resolution directed, President Sutton has sent a copy to the AAUP, the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Provost, and Board of Regents of the University of Colorado at Boulder. [Subsequently, he also sent copies of the resolution to the Chronicle of Higher Education and via email to a website on critical thinking and to Professor Churchill.]

10. New Business:

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.