

Minutes of the School of Liberal Arts Faculty Assembly

Friday, March 9, 2001

Present: Andersen, Antón, Aponte, Ardemagni, Barrows, Bein, Bertrand, Bloom, Brant, Connor, Craig, Cramer, K. Davis, T. Davis, DeBoer, Dickerson-Putman, Ferguson, García, Goff, Gronfein, Grossmann, Harrington, Harris, Heathorn, Hoegberg, Houser, Hovde, W. Jackson, Johnson, Kirk, Kloesel, Kovacik, Dryder-Reid, Langsam, Lovejoy, McGeever, Mullins, Newton, Rebein, Robertson, Roy, Saatkamp, Sánchez, Sandwina, Sandy, Schneider, Schrader, Shepherd, Sherrill, R. Sutton, S. Sutton, Trotter, Upton, Wallihan, Ward, White, Wilkins, Wittberg, Wokeck.

1. **Call to order and acceptance of minutes.**

President **Kloesel** called the Assembly to order at 2:04 p.m.

Kloesel asked for corrections or changes to the minutes from the meeting of January 26, 2001. Hearing none, the minutes were approved unchanged.

2. **Dean's remarks.**

a. *SLA Activities.* Dean **Saatkamp** was pleased to announce that both the **Barlow Lecture** and the **Taylor Symposium** were great successes for the School. Attendance at the Barlow lecture, for example, was so great that the Auditorium was filled to overflowing. Of note, also, were the excellent presentations made by Indiana's First Lady, Judy O'Bannon and O. **Nnaemeka** (FLAC) at the Taylor Symposium.

b. *New Programs.* Signalling that perhaps IUPUI had finally "turned the corner" with the ICHE, the Dean proudly announced that the M.A. in the Teaching of Spanish had been approved by the state commission. Another program, the Individualized Program B.A., proposed many years ago, had also been approved. Saatkamp added that a difficult issue, particularly with regard to the M.A. in Spanish, would be funding.

c. *Enrollments.* The Dean noted that enrollments for the spring semester were impressive and further, that applications for admission were also high—up 14%. However, Saatkamp

explained that due to higher admissions standards, the percentage of students actually admitted was up only slightly. The number of new admits increased 4.4% over last year with only 40% of the expected applications completed.

d. *State Budget*. The “bad news,” Saatkamp added, was that the legislature was “back to the beginning” on the state budget. While legislators had come up with a 3-4% increase for higher education, the income projections for the state were lower than expected. The president of the state senate confirmed that the committee would have to go back to the original budget proposed by the governor and start negotiations afresh. Although this is a setback, the Dean was confident that the budget will ultimately include a 3-4% increase.

3. **President's remarks.**

a. *Thanks*. The President opened his remarks by thanking C. **Souch** (GEOG) for having agreed to serve on the administrative review committee of Emily Wren.

b. *Security*. Kloesel noted that there had been several robberies in parking lots late in the evening and, as a result, faculty, staff, and students were reminded to be more careful. Dean Saatkamp added that although the news media had announced a murder at campus apartments, the impression is false; the apartments are located north of campus.

c. *Health Updates*. Kloesel noted that retired faculty member G. **Ballard**'s (ENG) condition is critical, while S. **Seregny** (HIST) and D. **Bingham** (ENG) are doing better. J. **Schultz** (ENG) will probably undergo additional surgery in the summer.

d. *Awards to SLA Faculty*. The President mentioned that the Department of English has succeeded in getting several summer teaching awards. C. **Roy**, H. **Schwartz**, S. **Harrington**, and M. **Sauer** are the recipients. Kloesel then announced that other SLA faculty members had also won important awards: J. **Howard** (SOC) was honored with the President's Award, and R. **Fredland** (POLS) has won the J. W. Ryan Award.

4. **Committee Business.**

a. *Academic Standards & Policies Committee.*

S. **Heathorn** (HIST) spoke on a proposal by R. **White** (SOC) which combines W131, R100 and S100 into one blocked course. Part of the proposal specifies that students will receive seven credit hours but pay for only six. The report was for information purposes; no action was required of the Assembly.

White took the floor to note that the original proposal had been changed after its approval by the AS&P Committee. He stated that there was a grant to create a course that combines W131 and R100 as part of a project to lower the cost of instruction. The new combined course, which adds S100, will create a "learning community" section of the course (according to University College specifications) and students will receive six credits, paying for only five (the new course design will embed one hour of class within the course). White suggested that the course is experimental, and that once the first group of 25 students has experienced it, a full report will be made, evaluating its success.

R. **Sandy** (ECON) inquired about the purpose of giving students six credit hours, but paying for only five. White responded that it makes sense to offer students an economic incentive because it will attract good students to the course and faculty cooperation will indeed lower the cost of instruction.

White also mentioned that the course will be administratively difficult to manage because students will need to sign up for the courses as a block and if they need to drop one part of it, they will also have to drop all of them as a block.

b. *Curriculum Committee.*

D. **Bertrand** (FLAC) reminded faculty that deadlines for submissions to the committee must be observed and that the required number of copies must accompany submissions.

He then gave the floor to E. **Kryder-Reid** (ANTH) who spoke on changes to the undergraduate program in Museum Studies. Kryder-Reid noted that since the creation of the program in 1992, there had been no changes, but now that a graduate-level certificate has been approved, several alterations had become necessary to the undergraduate program. She summarized these changes noting that the

total number of credits for the certificate had been reduced from 24 to 18, and that there was a revised distribution of core and elective courses (see attached information sheet).

Kryder-Reid then indicated that the rationale for the changes was based on the need to design the program of study to include courses which would apply specifically to the certificate. One area of possible concern, she indicated, was the elimination of writing courses in the core, and added that much writing was included within the core courses themselves.

K. **Davis** (ENG) affirmed Kryder-Reid's observation and assured the Assembly that the program director had involved the Department of English in the renovation of the program. He added that he was convinced that the writing component of the revised program was sufficient at the advanced level.

The proposed changes were approved by the Assembly.

c. *Technical Services Committee.*

R. **Sutton** (FLAC) reminded faculty that two research grants were still available (with a deadline of March 31, 2001). *Electronic* applications were to be sent to M. Simmons of the MLRC.

d. *Research Advisory Committee.*

N. **Houser** (PHIL) presented the committee's proposed policy regarding conflict of interest. The university's policy, he noted, was adopted in September of 2000 and each of the Schools was required to create its own individual policy, compatible with the university's. Enforcement of the Schools' policies, he noted, will be the responsibility of each Dean.

In presenting the SLA policy, Houser pointed out that it was designed to be "unobtrusive," but useful (see attachment to 9 March 2001 Agenda). Summarizing the major points of the new policy, he indicated that faculty should contact the Dean's office to discuss a possible conflict of interest, and then write out a statement that explains the perceived conflict.

I. **Levy** (Research and Sponsored Programs) explained further that the main difficulties with conflict of interest concern bio-medical research. But the larger issue of protecting the credibility and integrity of academic projects also concerns faculty in Liberal Arts. He added that any financial relationship that could be considered a conflict of interest was usually cured by simply *disclosing* the relationship from the beginning. Levy also made a distinction between “conflict of interest” (financial) and “conflict of commitment,” which was defined as a situation in which faculty spend 20% or more of their time performing activities outside their duties as faculty members.

The new policy was approved without opposition.

e. *Retention & Recruitment Committee.*

K. Davis informed the Assembly that the committee has spent the academic year learning about the issues related to recruitment and retention, in an intensive “seminar.” The committee was prepared to create a report on what they have learned and will prepare it in either written or electronic form for faculty perusal.

f. *Teaching & Advising Committee.*

M. **Antón** (FLAC) indicated that the eight Trustees Teaching Awards designated for SLA will be divided between six tenure-line faculty and two lecturers.

Another issue facing the committee concerned the data gathered on student evaluations. Antón asked for the will of the Assembly with regard to including data from one-student sections into the statistical averages for the department and school.

Dean Saatkamp suggested that perhaps they could be prepared both ways, and then we could see if there was a noticeable change in the averages. He wondered how other schools handled this issue.

R. **Barrows** (HIST) asked whether there could be any semblance of anonymity on evaluations with only one student enrolled in the section. He suggested that

anonymity could be maintained if the evaluations from one-student sections were melded into courses at the same level.

g. *Nominating Committee.*

N. **Newton** (FLAC) informed the Assembly that M. **Trotter** (ENG) and C. **Gardner** (SOC) were the candidates for unit representative to the IUPUI Faculty Council. Trotter took the floor briefly to state that she would be a strong advocate for the School. Paper ballots were then distributed and the votes were collected.

Newton then urged all faculty to heed the call for volunteers to fill positions still vacant: one for secretary, one on the SLA Agenda Council, two on the Nominating Committee, and two for the Promotion & Tenure Committee.

h. *Bylaws Committee.*

H. **Wilkins** (ENG) reminded faculty that the revised version of the Assembly bylaws would be made available in approximately two weeks, well before the April meeting. She hoped that everyone could view the document on-line ahead of time and take note of the important changes.

S. **Harrington** (ENG) lamented the past problem of only providing enough candidates as positions to be filled on the Promotion & Tenure Committee, effectively neutralizing the idea of an "election." She urged the Bylaws Committee to include language in the bylaws that require more candidates than positions for the important P & T Committee.

5. **Reports from the IUPUI and University Faculty Councils.**

M. **Wokeck** made several announcements. First, she reminded all faculty to vote for SLA representatives. SLA has often remained underrepresented on the Council. Second, she informed the assembly of the discussion at FC on the application of "human subject" research and that assessment within the classroom was becoming a new area of concern. Finally, Wokeck noted that President Brand had concluded his study conducted by Anderson Associates on "centralizing administrative services such as enrollment and record keeping" and that all faculty were urged to read the report, available on the internet.

P. **McGeever** (POLS) spoke on another difficult issue discussed at the IUPUI Faculty Council. He indicated that IU was working on creating rank levels for non-tenure-track appointments. He noted that two different proposals had been made. One system would create a senior/junior lecturer scale, while the other divided the positions into full, associate and assistant levels. IUPUI favored a choice between the two systems, according to School.

R. **Ward** (ANTH) reported from the University Faculty Council meeting. He noted that the UFC had also discussed the issue of rank for non-tenure-track appointments, adding that there would have to be campus or unit decisions on the creation of these levels. He also indicated that there was much debate on Dean Boschmann's "Virtual University" initiative. Finally, Ward mentioned that the "intercampus transfer of credit" was in remonstrance for 100- and 200-level courses.

Returning to the question of rank for non-tenure-track positions, W. **Schneider** (HIST) reminded faculty that the most important aspect of this policy is the almost unlimited re-appointment of instructors in lecturer positions, regardless of rank, and that the policy contains language to limit the number of these positions as a way to "protect tenure."

W. **Gronfein** (SOC) responded that AAUP guidelines explicitly prohibit these types of permanent non-tenure appointments and wondered whether the proposed IU policy intended to "challenge" the AAUP on the issue.

M. **Rush-Hovde** (ENG) added that the goal of the policy was aimed primarily at giving definition to and recognizing the importance of our hard-working lecturers, not destroying the tenure system. She strongly urged faculty to accept the new policy.

6. Old Business.

Newton announced that M. Trotter had won the election for SLA representative to the IUPUI Faculty Council.

7. New Business.

There was no new business.

8. Adjournment.

After reminding faculty of the reception to honor those who have made contributions to research in the past year, President Kloesel adjourned the meeting at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert J. Brant, Secretary
4-9-01