

Minutes

Faculty Assembly, School of Liberal Arts

LE 105, 2:00 PM, November 2, 2007

Present: Aponte, Barrows, Belz, Bilodeau, Bivin, Carlin, Cochrane, Coleman, Conner, Curtis, Dalinghaus, Dicamilla, Dickerson-Putman, Eller, Flynn, Ford, Harrington, Johnson, Goff, Kovacik, Kryder-Reid, Lovejoy, Murday, Nnaemeka, Polites, Powell, Robertson, Schneider, I. Sheeler, K. Sheeler, Shepard, Spector, R. Sutton, Thuesen, Vargus, Ward, Weeden, White-Mills, White-Stanley, Wokeck, Zimmerman

- 1. Call to Order**—Robert Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.
- 2. Approval of Minutes**—approved unanimously without discussion
- 3. Guest presentation, David Lewis, Dean of University Library**

The Agenda Council invited Lewis to discuss the impact of increasing journal costs and a flat acquisitions budget on library resources. Lewis organized his response into four parts. (A copy of his slideshow is attached to these minutes.) The first, general trends, identified inflated journal subscription fees as the force driving the issue. On average, journal costs have increased ten percent annually for thirty years, for an average price increase from \$19.94 in 1975 to \$404.40 in 2007. During this time, the demand for online access to journals has increased. Book prices have increased at a small pace (between two and four percent annually). At present, books account for fifty-three percent of acquisitions. Journals account for the remaining forty-seven percent.

Second, the Library's materials budget (nearly \$3.5 million) has remained static for two years after several years of significant increases due to inputs from the Commitment to Excellence fund. Lewis expects the materials budget to remain flat for the year to come. Seventy percent of the materials budget comes from the Schools. The Library contributes the remaining thirty percent. As journal costs have increased, the Library has maintained the journal collection and book purchases have declined to compensate for increased journal costs.

Third, the SLA materials budget, is based on the School's overall assessment to support the Library. In absolute terms, the SLA materials budget has grown from

\$421,714 in 2002/03 to \$542,469 in 2007/08. In 2006/07 purchased 6,160 books and 890 journals.

Fourth, the Library is faced with a decision: should the journal collection be maintained at the cost of continued decline in book purchasing? At what point do we say that it's no longer reasonable to continue to pay inflated journal costs at the cost of buying fewer books? Maintaining the collection at present levels requires a five-percent increase in the materials budget. An increase of this magnitude is rare. Most likely it would come from School assessments. Given the fifty-three to forty-seven percent split in book and journal acquisitions, Lewis suggested that the SLA draw the line at a fifty-fifty split in the materials budget between books and journals so that the journal budget does not overtake the book budget. We must consider a \$25,000 cut in serials budget to maintain current status.

Questions for Lewis from the Assembly followed. Marianne Wokeck (History and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs) inquired about the cost of the JSTOR and MUSE databases. Lewis replied that the cost for these services is split between libraries and departments. He suggested that one cost-saving maneuver would be to purchase subscriptions for individual faculty members rather than blanket access for everyone, including students, in the SLA.

Brian Vargus (Political Science) asked whether the budget for the medical library is separate. Further, he asked if it is correct that the medical library maintains serials which overlap with those used by the School of Science. Lewis responded that any significant overlap has been eliminated. When electronic access is purchased for a journal, it is purchased for an entire campus.

William Schneider (History) asked about the Library's overall budget. Lewis shared that the Library has an operating budget of \$9 million. Fifty-five percent of this sum is devoted to staff compensation. The Library's budget has increased annually at approximately one-percent. Schneider inquired as to who decided to keep the materials budget flat. Further, could other funds, such as those collected by not replacing retirees, be channeled toward the materials budget. Lewis replied that the Library has not opted to do that. Schneider concluded by noting that whereas the campus budget has increased annually at approximately four percent, the Library's budget has not received a commensurate increase in resources.

4. Faculty Assembly President's remarks—Robert Sutton

Sutton reported that the Dean Search Committee has convened. The review of applications will begin on December 1 with the intention of conducting interviews in February. Next he raised the matter of the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. After a show of hands, the date for the event was set for Friday, November 16. In lieu of volunteers, Sutton agreed to convene the committee.

5. Dean's Remarks—Robert White

White noted that there are presently ten faculty searches underway in the School: SLA:

- two in Communication Studies for senior- and junior-rank professors;
- an open search in Economics;
- two in Geography for an assistant professor and lecturer;
- a Political Science lecturer;
- an assistant professor in Sociology;
- and three searches in World Languages and Cultures for assistant professors of Chinese, Spanish, and the Hoyt-Reichmann Chair in German-American Studies.

White reported that he has not heard anything more about the possibility of merging SLA with the School of Science. The School submitted six “Signature Center” proposals in response to Dean Sukhatme’s CFP. With regard to the Dean Sukatme’s “Enrollment Shaping Initiative,” AO calculated the average number of out-of-state students for the past three years to establish a baseline. Revenue generated by an increase in out-of-state students above this baseline will be split between AO and the student’s school. Moreover, the increased revenue will not be counted toward the school’s assessment. White reported that the SLA budget remains in good shape with revenues continuing to exceed expenses by a small amount. Finally, the Dean’s office is lobbying for the next installment of Cavanaugh Hall air handler upgrades to happen during the fall or spring, not during the summer.

6. Report from SLA committees

Agenda Council. Robert Sutton announced the Agenda Council’s vote to not extend an invitation to Ward Churchill for a proposed symposium on academic freedom. In advance of the vote, Johnny Flynn (Religious Studies) and Larry Zimmerman (Anthropology and Museum Studies) argued against inviting Churchill. They raised concerns about his scholarship and the fact that he has presented himself as an American Indian, though he does not belong to a tribe and has no tribal affiliation. In their opinion, inviting Churchill would undermine the School’s budding efforts to connect with the region’s American Indian

community. The majority of Agenda Council members were persuaded by their rationale. In response to comments voicing concern over any possible precedent being set by Agenda Council's vote, Sutton stressed that Agenda Council was bringing news of its vote to the Assembly as a recommendation, not a final decision on behalf of the School. Further, the Agenda Council recommends that the School move forward with the ad hoc committee and symposium.

Faculty members offered several comments on the matter. Flynn averred that it would be a mistake not to consult with communities affected by a speaker like Churchill. Edward Curtis (Religious Studies) related the story of an Iranian academic recently denied a visa to enter the country and visit our campus. He urged the Assembly to consider that academics studying Islam or perceived to be related to it are increasing targets of intolerance for academic freedom. Richard Ward (Anthropology and Associate Dean for Student Affairs) agreed with Flynn there was enough controversy around Churchill that it would detract from the larger issue of academic freedom. Philip Goff (Religion Studies) suggested that the committee invite four Indiana-based individuals named on David Horowitz's "100 Most Dangerous Academics" list. Nancy Robertson (History) questioned the efficacy of the proposed symposium, wondering aloud if the subject would be of any relevance to the broader community.

William Schneider called for a vote and recommended that a local member of AAUP chapter be on the committee. A motion was proposed that the Assembly accept the recommendation of the Agenda Council not to invite Ward Churchill to be a part of a possible panel/symposium. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Faculty Affairs Committee. The committee brought forward for discussion a proposed resolution on the matter of ten or twelve month faculty pay. The issue is being raised because faculty teaching during the second summer session are not receiving their final installment until end of August. This has created hardship for some.

Resolution and Recommendation [friendly amendment]

1. The Faculty Assembly of the IU School of Liberal Arts directs its representatives to the IFC and UFC and the Dean to convey [to those bodies] the following resolution for action in time to make the requested changes to the Summer II instructors' payment schedule:

Whereas the 2007 Summer I payment schedule for instructors matches the final installment of pay closely with the end of the session, the final

installment of the Summer II session occurred well after the date grades had to be reported to the Registrar. For Summer II 2008 and subsequent years the date for the final pay for the session is to be no later than the due date for grade reporting to the Registrar.

2. The Faculty Assembly of the IU School of Liberal Arts directs its representatives to the IFC and UFC and the dean to convey [to those bodies] the following resolution for action in time to make the requested changes for the next Academic Year (2008-2009):

Whereas many colleges and universities offer their nine or ten-month faculty the **option** of a pay schedule over twelve months, this option is currently not available at IUPUI or IU. The IU School of Liberal Arts faculty requests that a **twelve-month payment schedule option** be offered to ten-month faculty, beginning Academic Year 2008-2009.

Marianne Wokeck amplified the point that this resolution would establish the option for faculty to choose ten or twelve month pay, not a requirement.

The first resolution passed unanimously.

David Ford (Sociology and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs) noted that a faculty member can garner a higher summer salary when on a research grant because we consider ourselves working a nine-month year but we are paid over ten months. Schneider offered that the University is already paying us different installments than the time we work; same logic follows to have ten or twelve month option for nine months of work. Wokeck mentioned that if a faculty member is on a grant, he or she can opt out that year from the twelve-month pay schedule. White noted that the University has a new CFO and President so there is a chance that this will be approved but the issue may be dictated by the personnel software (PeopleSoft). Schneider encouraged someone to research the practices of our peer institutions and then add that information to the resolution.

The second resolution passed unanimously.

Ad hoc committee on a proposed panel/symposium.

Marc Bilodeau (Economics) submitted the panel/symposium idea to the Faculty Affairs committee. Several individuals were interested in joining the ad hoc committee but have since declined since learning of the vote against Churchill in the Agenda Council. Robert White contacted George Wright in law school to ask his interest in serving on the ad hoc committee.

Philip Goff asked the Assembly to consider framing the symposium broadly to include freedom of speech more generally, rather than the relatively narrow subject of academic freedom. In response, Wokeck offered a point of information regarding the AFT's efforts to raise the status of academic freedom. She is concerned that if we branch out to freedom of speech more generally, our credibility is less than if we keep the panel focused academic freedom. A more narrow focus may more effectively influence the broader debate on the topic of academic freedom. William Schneider agreed and suggested treating the two issues separately.

Nancy Robertson responded by questioning if a public event on academic freedom would draw an audience beyond like-minded academics. She suggested that the Assembly consider how such a proposal might sound to policy makers. Is there a way to couch the issue to have broader appeal, she asked? Obioma Nnaemeka (WLAC) echoed Robertson's comments and urged the Assembly to think about the audience for such an event and how it might be appealing to the wider community. Goff suggested a series of events associated with freedom of speech, with one of them focused on academic freedom, as a way of making the faculty's concerns relevant to a wider audience.

Brian Vargus agreed with these concerns and urged the Assembly to keep in mind that the state legislature is sensitive to constituents and it is an election year. Including the community, we must think more broadly and carefully.

Scott Weeden (English) agreed that having several discussions would be good in part because it would demonstrate a clear concern for the broader society, not simply our own work conditions.

Gail Plater (Assistant Dean for External Affairs) asked if perhaps this topic could be addressed by the Democracy Project. Could it possibly be incorporated into the upcoming Taylor Symposium on political communication?

The Assembly directed this matter to the Faculty Affairs committee.

7. New SLA website—Shawn Plew (SLA Web Specialist)

Plew introduced the School's new website. It replaces the School's current website which has been in place since 2001. Both Plew and Gail Plater encouraged faculty to explore the website and share their feedback using a built-in website feature.

8. Reports from IFC and UFC Representatives

IFC representative Robert Barrows (History) noted several items to be aware of including the family leave policy which was temporary and now must be updated. There are ongoing discussions about the undergraduate curriculum and student fees, neither of which have been resolved.

UFC representative Marianne Wokeck reported that the family leave policy and Oncourse CL are being discussed.

9. General announcements

Wokeck announced that the tenth anniversary of the Principles of Undergraduate Learning will be celebrated in the Lilly Auditorium on November 15. Schneider announced that the next meeting of the state AAUP is scheduled for November 10 at the University of Indianapolis.

10. Adjourn, 3:55 pm.