

## Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

September 20, 2017

3:00 – 4:30 p.m., UL 2115G

Members Present: Mark Bannatyne, Sharron Crowder, Andrew Garvin, Jeff X. Watt, Angela White (Note: The Chair received several requests from members to be excused due to schedule conflicts or illness.)

1. The meeting was called to order by Bannatyne at 3:05 p.m., and all members were welcomed by the Chair.
2. Chair's Report:
  - a. Bannatyne remarked that the work the committee had done in reviewing the rewording of the "Faculty Sponsorship of Student for Admission as a Beginning Freshman" policy had been through its Second Reading in the Faculty Council and had been passed as amended.
  - b. Bannatyne discussed the charge which he had received from the IFC Executive Committee to assist in the creation of an ad hoc committee which would include members from this committee, the Undergraduate Committee, and also James Gladden. The purpose of this ad hoc committee would be to review the current Principles of Undergraduate Learning and Principles of Co-Curricular Learning, and report back to the Executive Committee their recommendation as to whether or not these Principles should be amended in light of the new Common Core. The Chair asked for any volunteers to serve and received a response from Angela White. The Chair also invited Kate Thedwall to serve as the other representative from the AAC, who willingly accepted.

Those present offered some opinions concerning this charge which included the following:

- a. Many of the POULs have no accurate way in place to measure them effectively
- b. Some of the PULs are far too big to be measured, or written in such a way that they cannot be accurately measured until after students have graduated which creates a problem in collecting the data associated with them.

These remarks will be carried forward to the ad hoc committee the members from the AAC.

3. The Chair asked that discussion concerning Credit Transfer, Credit Application, and Residency requirements be moved ahead in the meeting and tabled for further discussion in the November 2017 meeting so that more time could be given to the Executive

Committee's request that the AAC make any recommendations that felt were necessary as early in the semester as possible concerning the new date approved for the 2018 Commencement date and time (May 13, 2018). All agreed to table this item until November.

4. Considerable discussion from all present regarding the new 2018 Commencement date and time (May 13, 2018). A synopsis of what was heard follows in the order it was expressed:
  - a. The faculty were asked to express their opinion(s) in regards to moving the Commencement from Mother's Day to the Saturday prior. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of such a move. This was also favored by the Chancellor who presides at IUPUI.
  - b. It would be best to remember that there are a high percentage of Purdue University students on the IUPUI campus and their needs should be considered seriously in making such a move.
  - c. It was mentioned that should schools on this campus wish to have other ceremonies in addition to Commencement, that they were instructed not to allow the wearing of ceremonial regalia at such meetings. The wearing of robes, hoods, etc. should be reserved expressly for the Commencement ceremony only.
  - d. It was noted that only one Trustee was present at the last Commencement which was disappointing to many of the faculty.
  - e. All professional schools should be present at the Commencement. It was expressed that all schools should be present at Commencement to help represent the full academic experience offered at IUPUI.
  - f. A smaller, more intimate ceremony is preferred by most participants, and the Commencement as presently run is too overwhelming to many.
  - g. Representatives, if not the Presidents themselves, from both hierarchies of the partner universities should be present at Commencement.
  - h. It should be remembered that Graduation is for the students, and not the administration in any manner.
  - i. Extra days which might be required for families to attend should be taken into account in light of the time required to stay in Indianapolis for those from out-of-town, and the cost of accommodations and meals.
  - j. Commencement should last a maximum of 100 minutes.

- k. Services available to guests (specifically food service) were not satisfactory for the length of time in which they must be present during Commencement (early arrival and long ceremony).
- l. The length of the Commencement could be greatly reduced by having students enter in multiple lines from several directions simultaneously.
- m. All traditions usually attendant in the Commencement cannot be implemented and time reduced. Some parts of the ceremony would have to be eliminated in order to reduce the length of Commencement.
- n. IUPUI's commitment to service in this community must be remembered as most students come from this area.
- o. School ceremonies should not be surrendered as they have become an integral part of those traditions and people look forward to the smaller, more personal attention that happens in those meetings.
- p. The question of where or when hooding should take place was heard with no definitive conclusion. This is a point that could be discussed further.
- q. Discussion was also heard on when and where the diploma covers should be handed out (requires further input from members of the committee).

The Chair remarked that he would summarize all opinions heard in the minutes and ask all members of the committee to review and respond to him directly should they wish to add any further comments. Once all comments have been received, the Chair will prepare a report to be forwarded back to the Executive Committee and circulate it to all members of the AAC for their review.

#### 5. New Business:

- a. The Chair suggested that the AAC may wish to review and recommend to the Faculty Affairs Committee standards used in hiring adjunct faculty. This matter will be presented again at a later date should the committee have time to begin discussion on it during this academic year after other matters presently under consideration have been concluded.
- b. The Chair will review everyone's schedule online and set the next meeting date and place for near the end of October.

Adjournment.