

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE 2020-21 UNIVERSITY SENATE  
MARCH 25, 2021

Members Present: 37

Members Absent: 12

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair of the University Senate, Tarek Mahfouz, at 4:00 p.m.

Substitutions were asked to email Bethany Allen for record keeping purposes.

Members Present: J. Blyth, C. Bohanon, A. Bowen, M. Carter, K. Chipman, M. Clayton, K. Coker, C. Dailey, O. Frausto, S. Fulton, K. Gayes, K. Hennessee, J. Hopwood, M. Kovach, S. Lee, D. Lewandowski, T. Mahfouz, M. McCarthy, M. McGriff, C. McIntosh, G. Mearns, C. Montenegro, J. Place, V. Rapatz, S. Rivera-Mills, N. Seely, C. Shue, J. Shimkus, S. Snideman, J. Sponseller, J. Truitt, J. Tye, D. Wheeler, S. Wilczynski

Substitutes: Terry Heifetz for S. Smith, J. Plowdrey for R. Yantz

Members Absent: V. Birk, N. Bogart, L. Gerstein, K. Kessler, E. Lucas, S. Martin, N. Perera, K. Reese, C. Sanburn, M. Watters, D. Whitton

Guests: J. Buckrop, A. Beach, C. Airriess, B. Frankel, R. Kovac

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of February 25, 2021.

No nays noted. No abstentions noted.

Motion carried.

2. Announcements

- A. Next Scheduled Meetings

University Senate – Thursday, April 22, 2021, 4:00 p.m., WebEx/Zoom

Senate Agenda Committee – Monday, April 12, 2021, 2:00 p.m., WebEx/Zoom

- B. Indiana Commission for Higher Education- Application for Faculty Position on the commission. Tarek Mahfouz wanted to share information about this position. It is a two-year service position. The deadline for application submission is Friday April 16, 2021. He will share the application information including the schedule for monthly meetings. The commission needs to know that you are able to attend the meetings.
- C. Proposed Amendment SB414 #30- Tarek Mahfouz stated this has not been discussed with the administration yet because it was just received. Sam Snideman provided additional information and explanation. Sam explained this will be work for the Government Relations office to complete but will have no impact on faculty and staff. Work will be done over the summer into the fall with a deadline of November 21, 2021. Concerns about wording and language was raised. Sam Snideman stated he is available and willing to answer any questions anyone has moving forward.

3. Recognition of Deaths – There are no deaths to report presently.

4. Questions Directed to President Mearns

President Mearns wanted to share some information with the University Senate, topics and discussion included but not limited to the following:

- Update from the Indiana General Assembly- the University is working to persuade the Assembly to not use the current formula for allocating funds.
- We are cautiously optimistic about a possible return to a 2% raise based on merit pending allocations.
- Enrollment is doing well. Fewer undergraduates have withdrawn as compared to last spring. The returning undergraduate numbers are good and the freshman class coming in Fall 2021 continues to grow.
- Strategies are being implemented to increase enrollment, including on campus orientation.
- Indiana Governor Holcomb has changed the mandatory face mask order to an advisory order, beginning April 6, 2021. Ball State University will continue to require the use of face masks inside campus buildings and when social distancing cannot occur. If recommendations are made to change this policy, that will be shared with the university.
- The Honors College is concerned about actions taken in response and in prevention of the safety of the LGBTQ community on campus. As a result of an incident fall 2020, the President mobilized additional security forces to prevent another incident. President Mearns is very open to suggestions on how to improve the prevention of political and racial violence on campus, possibly including the Honors College in a task force.

- Excitement regarding the vaccination clinic available at the College of Health was expressed. At this time, vaccination is encouraged but not required. If this changes, it will be communicated to the university. A possible incentive is being considered.

5. Committee Reports

- Governance and Elections Committee – Suzy Smith- Terry Heifetz is substituting for Suzy Smith. Suzy continues to field responses from the survey. One committee was missed and a reminder is going out to committees that did not respond.
- Faculty Council – Jon Truitt- The council met on March 18, 2021. A few reports were received from committees. The council approved the Promotion and Tenure Document revisions and the Joint Appointment statement. They do anticipate receiving a final report and recommendations from the University Core Curriculum subcommittee at the next Faculty Council meeting on April 15, 2021. There will be a regimented discussion time implemented at the meeting.
- Professional Personnel Council – Sam Snideman- The council met on March 4, 2021. A few committee reports were received. There is no other information to report.
- Student Government Association – Connor Sanburn/Dylan Lewandowski- Dylan reported that the Student Government Association elections have concluded. Connor and himself are conducting transitional meetings over the next month with the incoming slate. Several members will be presenting at the Board of Trustee meeting tomorrow, March 26, 2021. The process for selecting the next student member to serve on the Board of Trustees is underway. Several applications have been received.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Tarek Mahfouz – Gantt chart (Enclosure #1) - Issues in the Senate System

Tarek Mahfouz reviewed each item briefly, highlighting the current location and ongoing nature of each. These items included:

1. Core Curriculum Revision- Tarek serves on the committee- The committee will be providing their final report and recommendations including a question and answer document and a common themes document. This report will be received by Faculty Council on April 15, 2021.
2. Board of Trustee Membership Ad hoc- We will be discussing this today.
3. UEC- BA/BS Program Distinctions- still with UEC- There is no new information to report at this time.
4. UEC- Credit for Prior Learning- There is no new information to report at this time.
5. UPT Editorial Changes- The revisions have been approved by Faculty Council on March 18, 2021 and will be made an announcement at the next University Senate meeting on April 22, 2021.
6. UPT Joint Appointment Statement- This item has been approved by Faculty Council on March 18, 2021 and will be made an announcement at the next University Senate meeting on April 22, 2021.
7. Charge to all Committees- We have already heard an update from Terry Heifetz.

7. Question and Answer Period: There were no questions asked at this time.

8. Unfinished Business:

- A. Board of Trustee Ad hoc Committee report/response- Jim Flowers (Attachment titled AdHocCmteTrusteeMembershipFinalReport)

Tarek Mahfouz hopes that everyone has read the document provided by the Ad hoc committee. The committee has requested that Ron Kovac present the final report. Ron will be given five minutes to make his report. Any counter points will be given five minutes and then each will be allowed two minutes after that.

Ron Kovac provided a detailed summary of the steps taken from start to finish by the Ad hoc committee referencing the written report provided. Questions for other members of the Ad hoc committee were invited. Discussion ensued including by not limited to the following points:

- A coalition was not formed.
- The memo from the President and Board of Trustees explaining their position was referenced.
- The Ad hoc committee members were thanked for their efforts and hard work.
- Question regarding what issue are we trying to resolve by adding a member to the Board of Trustees?
- The Chairs of University Senate and Faculty Council meet with the administration.
- The Provost and President attend University Senate meetings regularly to enhance communication.
- Ninety-Five percent of responses to the Ad hoc Committee survey stated they support the proposal.
- What other ways to increase communication with administration is needed?
- The University Senate serves as an advisory group to the Board of Trustees currently.
- Suggestions to improve the information accessible to governance participates including posting minutes from councils and committees, live links to committee information/pages.
- Research article titled Advancing Higher Education was referenced and link provided talking about communication between faculty and administration.

[https://www.tiaainstitute.org/sites/default/files/presentations/2017-02/ahe\\_governance0110\\_03.pdf](https://www.tiaainstitute.org/sites/default/files/presentations/2017-02/ahe_governance0110_03.pdf)

- Student Government Association supports the addition of a faculty member on the Board of Trustees.
- It was explained that under Indiana Law, you are prohibited by law to serve on the board of an entity if you are also employed by that entity. Our Governor and legislature have determined that law.
- We have plenty of advisory groups already established and more being established as needed.
- There is always room for improvement when it comes to governance representatives communicating information.
- Options were provided on how to move forward with this information, from revising the proposal, sending it directly back to the Board of Trustees, to table to discussion, etc.
- Based on background information provided, this change would need to go through the Indiana Assembly.
- As an Ad hoc Committee their work and final report has been submitted and is concluded.

A motion was made and seconded to table the discussion on this report and revisit it at a future meeting.  
No nays noted. No abstentions noted.

Motion carried.

9. New Business: There is no new business presently.

10. Other Items:

A. Tarek Mahfouz will provide updates to the Board of Trustees on March 26, 2021.

11. Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

No nays noted. No abstentions noted.

Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie McIntosh, Secretary

/ba