

## **Indiana University East Faculty Senate 2008-09 President's Report**

### **Major Senate Action**

One major goal of most committee charges was to bring the academic handbook up to date. Much of this task has been accomplished. Some changes to faculty policies were editorial, but most were substantial and some included rescinding of existing policies.

Faculty Senate approved a proposed Academic Appointments Policy, which explains the meaning of the academic ranks at Indiana University East. This policy now serves as an introduction to the section of the academic handbook that deals with academic appointees.

Faculty Senate also approved numerous revisions to the Bylaws, including a new Dean's review instrument. This instrument was first used in the review of the dean of NSM in April 2009. Another change to the Bylaws aligned the membership rules for the Budgetary Affairs Committee with current practice. The Promotion and Tenure policy was revised and now explains the procedure to be followed when a Dean must make a recommendation on a candidate that he/she has not supervised. It also stipulates a maximum size of the dossier and provides additional guidelines for candidates.

Finally, the Faculty Senate approved a mandatory First Year Seminar for all incoming new students and favored Indiana University East's permanent membership in the NAIA athletics association.

### **University Council**

The all-IU University Faculty Council continued its work on making recommendations for uniform Promotion and Tenure guidelines. These recommendations had been discussed by two committees in 2007/08 and during the summer of 2008. Elements from the committees' reports and additional requests from the President were eventually included in a resolution that encourages campuses' faculty governance bodies to make a good-faith effort in revising the promotion and tenure guidelines in accordance with the UFC recommendation.

### **Recommendations for 2008/09**

#### Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee

The AAA committee should review and propose revising the policies for Drop, Add, Change of Section Policy and for Deviations from Degree Requirements. It should also examine the

academic forgiveness policy and determine if it serves the students in the way the policy was originally intended.

### Athletics Committee

The Athletics Committee should develop a policy against hazing in all team sports. Hazing can take many forms (a mild form of hazing was reported in Fall 2008) and is a widespread problem in athletic programs. Yet hazing is contrary to the mission of the athletics programs; the policy should clearly state that hazing is unacceptable and should outline sanctions against players who engage in hazing. Secondly, the Athletics Committee should begin work on a policy that distinguishes between athletic teams and intramural club sports. This request had been part of the Athletics Committee’s charge 2 years ago and has not been taken up. Indiana University East continues to emphasize engaging students on campus; intramural club sports are one way of providing a venue for this kind of engagement. The proposed policy should differentiate between club sports and athletic programs.

### Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee should consider the second degrees policy and how this policy affects students who wish to earn two baccalaureate degrees simultaneously. At question is whether such a student would be required to complete 150 credit hours, or whether less would suffice, provided that the requirements for both degrees are met. The current form of the policy also addresses dual associate degrees. The committee should examine whether these portions of the policy are still relevant.

In addition, the curriculum committee should develop guidelines for distinguishing between 100-200 and 300-400 level courses. We commonly make a distinction between upper- and lower-division courses, for example in evaluating transfer-credit from two-year colleges and in formulating degree requirements. There is no IU-wide policy that distinguishes upper- and lower-division courses. The committee should develop a policy that will list distinguishing features of upper-division courses. The new policy could be phrased so that it only applies to newly created courses, thus grandfathering existing courses that may not meet the distinguishing characteristics.

### Faculty Affairs Committee

The committee should examine the IU East Promotion and Tenure policy vis-à-vis the recommendations for Promotion and Tenure policies from UFC, and should propose changes as needed. By March 2010, the committee should report on the progress to UFC’s Agenda Committee.

Faculty Affairs should consider further revisions to the Bylaws and other faculty policies. Considerations should include possible mechanisms to ensure representation of all schools on the Curriculum Committee and possibly other standing committees. The committee should continue weeding and pruning the policies of the academic handbook. In particular, the “Search, Screen

and Hiring Procedures” should be revised, so that it asserts faculty’s legislative authority in the hiring process and recommends procedures for faculty consultation, where appropriate.

Budgetary Affairs Committee

This committee should meet with Deans and gather feedback on their experience with RCM.

Respectfully Submitted  
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Faculty Senate President 2006-2009