

Minutes of the SLA Faculty Assembly Meeting  
September 23, 2005

**Present:** Aponte, Beck, Bein, Bersier, Bingham, Brand, Brant, Burke, Carlin, Cochrane, Craig, Curtis, T. Davis, K. Davis, D'Etienne, DiCamilla, Eberl, Foote-Ardah, Ford, Freeman, Gardner, Gibau, Goff, Goldfinger, Gronfein, Harrington, Hayes, Hoegberg, Howard, Hyatt, Johnson, Kilpatrick, Kovacik, Kryder-Reid, Little, Littlefield, Longtin, Lovejoy, Masters, McDonald, Miller, Modibo, Murday, Oukada, Parrish-Sprowl, Pegg, Polites, Rainey, Robertson, Rozycki, Sauer, Schneider, Schultz, Sheeler, Shepherd, Snodgrass, Souch, Stahl, Stamper, S. Sutton, R. Sutton, Thuesen, Turner, Vidon, Ward, Weeden, Wheeler, Whitchurch, White, White-Mills, Williams, Wilson, Wittberg, Wockeck, Wood, Zimmerman

1. **Call to Order:** Susanmarie Harrington called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 22, 2005, SLA Faculty Assembly were approved without corrections.
3. **Acceptance of the Agenda**
4. **President's Remarks:** President Harrington welcomed both returning and new faculty. She stated that last year had been a busy one for the School, and that, over the course of the year, we made significant decisions regarding both curriculum and promotion and tenure guidelines/criteria. However, we left unresolved important issues regarding research and promotion. A summary of actions taken by this assembly last year has been posted on the SLA website, and is attached to these minutes. President Harrington stated that she expected the Assembly to make substantive progress on what remains of those issues: the Faculty Affairs will consider issues regarding salary and promotion and tenure policies; the Tech Services committee will be working on priorities and policies regarding the reorganized and expanded computer facilities in the school; the library committee will be examining our ability to affect campus library policy and will have recommendations about the best ways for faculty here to direct their efforts. In addition, several committees relating to curriculum will consider policies regarding the integrator requirement. Due to the number of curriculum committees with overlapping jurisdictions, President Harrington has constituted a committee on committees, consisting of herself, Sue Hyatt, and Enrica Ardemagni. This committee is charged with recommending to the Agenda Council some simplifications to our standing committee structure. The Agenda Council will be consider the ways we allocate work to committees. President Harrington hopes to present bylaw proposals on committee restructuring to the SLA Assembly later in the year. Since these issues raise important and fundamental questions about how we define our work, what we choose to reward, and what service commitments we expect from each other, President Harrington expressed the hope that all faculty members, whether you on a standing committee or not, will find ways to participate in the decision making about these issues during the year.
5. **State of the School Address:** Dean White gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached to these minutes) on the state of the school. We have 216 full-time

faculty: 114 male and 103 female, 26 of whom are persons of color. The school has a record number of 1576 undergraduate students, but the number of credit hours has fallen 1.6% since last year – primarily due to a drop in non-SLA students taking SLA courses. The largest major is Political Science (320 majors) followed by Communication Studies (279), and English (268). In addition, the school counts 254 graduate students. Of the undergraduate students, 60% are female, and 55% are 24 years old or younger. Most (81%) of the undergraduates are white; 11% are African American, and 2% each are Asian and Hispanic. The majority (54%) have taken all of their credit hours at IUPUI or at IU. Faculty applied for 85 grants (down from 89 in the previous academic year), of which 59 were funded – for a total of \$11,174,363. In fund-raising efforts, over 1,000 donors gave a total of \$383,197.91.

Dean White next presented the financial state of the school. The average salary increase for all Liberal Arts faculty was 2.8%. Due to responsibility-centered budgeting, the school pays more in assessments than it received in appropriations from the state; other schools (e.g. Science and Business) have a similar deficit. On the positive side, Dean White noted that the school has been required by the trustees to have 3% of its operating budget in a reserve fund; this past year, for the first time, the school's reserve fund meets this requirement. The Bowers Building has been razed and ground-breaking for the new, 5-storey Student Center building will be on September 30. This building is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2007.

Finally, Dean White had several announcements: Summer 2006 salaries for full time faculty will be no less than \$4,000 and no more than \$5,000 per course. Dean Souch will be leaving in January; a search has begun for her replacement. New chairs/program directors have been named to the following departments and programs: Communication Studies (Kim White-Mills), Geography (Jeff Wilson), ASL/EI (Vera Masters), Political Science (Margie Ferguson, acting chair), English (Karen Johnson), and WOST (Nancy Robertson). Dean White thanked both the outgoing and incoming chairs. Finally, the strategic plan is in process; the Planning Committee will meet on September 29.

6. Update from Development and External Affairs: Assistant Dean Gail Plater gave a PowerPoint presentation (appended to these minutes). She, Gen Shaker, and Annette Hill serve as “image police” for the SLA, working with over 5000 alumni to encourage them to be advocates for the school and for individual school programs in the community at large. They are working on a common design for fliers and brochures. Also, the office of Communications and Marketing will be focusing on in-depth feature articles in local, regional, and national outlets; the SLA is asked to identify 4 to 6 key stories. The faculty were asked to contact Gail with ideas for these. In addition, she asked that faculty volunteer to be listed as “faculty experts” available for contact by the media in their area of expertise. Also, contact Gail with announcements of campus and community events; departments will be able to post their own department events on the new event calendar.

**7. Introduction of new faculty and Future Faculty Teaching Fellows:**

The following new faculty and Future Faculty Teaching Fellows were introduced:

Michael Polites (Communication Studies)

David Cardwell (English)

Vera Masters (English)

Suzan Stamper (English)

Elizabeth Vidon (Geography)

James Hayes (Geography)

Daniella Kostroun (History)

Edward Krzeminski (History)

John Lary (History)

Matt Stanard (History)

Peg Zeglin Brand (Philosophy/Women's Studies)

David Pfeifer (Philosophy)

Edward E. Curtis (Religious Studies)

Marci Littlefield (Sociology)

Michelle Rainey (Sociology)

Maria Kilpatrick (World Languages and Cultures)

Najja Modibo (African-American and African Diaspora Studies)

- 8. Reports from the IUPUI Faculty Council and the UFC:** Associate Dean Ward reported that the IUPUI Faculty council approved new class time slots for the Fall of 2006, to better use available classroom space and even out the use of the lecture hall. The Council will also be revising the PULs. Associate Dean Ford added that, last spring, the Faculty Affairs Committee passed a Conflict of Interest and a Conflict of Commitment Policy, but that these were sent back to the Committee again – which is difficult to explain since there is little leeway to deviate from the University policy anyway. Associate Dean Schneider noted that the UFC will meet on Tuesday, September 27. The UFC's meetings will determine a lot of the IUPUI Faculty Council agenda this year – e.g. with making the PULs more congruent with other campuses, and with writing a mission statement.

**9. Committee Business:**

**Agenda Council:** Last April, the Faculty Assembly suspended the bylaws on elections, to allow voting by electronic means. The Agenda Council now proposes to amend the bylaws to allow for electronic elections. The proposed change, to amend Bylaws Section 2e, on elections, reads as follows:

- (1) The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for officers which will be submitted to the assembly no later than the second meeting of the spring semester; at this time, the President shall call for additional nominations from the floor for each office.
- (2) For the regular election of officers and committees, the Secretary will distribute a ballot to all faculty members in order to conclude the election in a timely manner so that results can be announced at the April meeting

of the Assembly. Offices will be filled by candidates receiving the plurality of votes.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

A second change was proposed to Bylaws Section 3b, Nominating Committee:

(1) The Committee will prepare slates of candidates for Agenda Council and for elected committees for presentation no later than the second spring semester meeting of the Faculty Assembly, of candidates to fill vacancies on the Agenda Council or elected committees between regular elections, or candidates for School representatives to the IUPUI Faculty Council, and of candidates for other elections that may from time to time become necessary.

This proposal, too, was unanimously approved.

**Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:** The Committee presented a proposal for a new International Studies Major. Scott Pegg will direct the program, which will create two new courses, U100 Introduction to International Studies, and I400 the Capstone course. The third sentence of the proposal was amended to read “The International Studies major aims to **help** prepare students for graduate work in such disciplines.....” since some faculty worried that the sentence as originally written implied that the courses required by the major could substitute for prerequisites in the disciplines named. The revised proposal passed unanimously. A copy of the revised proposal is appended to these minutes.

**Graduate Curriculum Committee:** The Committee presented a proposal from the Department of Sociology for an Internship Option in lieu of a Masters Thesis. This proposal was unanimously accepted. A copy of the proposal is appended to these minutes.

10. Adjournment: The Assembly adjourned at 2:45, and was followed by a reception for new faculty.