

Report to the Faculty Senate

CIUS meeting 11/10/09

The meeting convened at 10:15 AM, although I was somewhat tardy due to an enroute navigation error.

Under the first item of business, State Budget Woes, solutions were hard to come by. One possibility suggested was to specialize each campus in order to avoid funding multiple specialized programs in the same areas. It was pointed out that UI-C in the past had a choice of either foregoing 1/2 of the negotiated raise for a year or losing 15% of its faculty. It was further noted that the recent group trips to Springfield to recover MAP funding had been quite successful and may help in the future. Also, lobbying the IBHE, being a smaller group and more approachable, as well as the State Legislature would be of some help.

Under the subject of Shared Governance, all agreed that, since the faculties are permanent whereas administrators tend to be transient, the scholars must be brought into the governance process. We, as Senators need to communicate more effectively with our constituencies, explain what we do and why. Find out what our colleagues want us to do for them. Educate the junior faculty to link them with the "institutional memory" of our schools. As part of our role, we should assert control of standards both for admission and for the granting of degrees. We also need to communicate more effectively and assertively with our administrators. Structure sessions with administrators to yield a "quiet chat" rather than a perceived confrontation or adversarial format which tends to result in each fearing the other as "the enemy". We need to stress the intrinsic rewards of our service to the Universities to our junior colleagues in order to draw them into the shared governance process. Stress shared responsibilities to the university community and focus on how we can help the community survive.

Under Time Reporting, the major question asked was "why?". Here, the BOT's need to be our advocates. We cannot make this an issue by ourselves, but need to involve the entire academic community. We do agree that we need to be accountable for our actions, but the current method is unsuitable for those who work in our format. As to what action we should take, it was suggested that we send a message to each school's higher administrators to "take this up with the BOT" and with the Senates. Who are the people to "touch" on this issue? Establish a dialogue with the Governor's office.

Finally, it was agreed that we should formalize the CIUS in order to maintain a more consistent dialogue among ourselves and make any actions we may take more consistent. We need should choose officers to maintain the structure, more frequent meetings, perhaps by teleconferencing, and increase the number of representatives from one to three from each campus, giving us a better chance of getting at least one at every meeting.