Absent with Alternate: Ranida Harris (Brian Atwater), Michael Harris (Ron Dunlop), Robin Fankhauser (Cathy Shea),
Absent without Alternate: John Finnegan, Richard Kopp, Kathleen Free,
Present: Administration, Ex Officio Faculty, Professional Staff Council: Chancellor Patterson-Randles, Gil Atnip, Anne Skuce, Dana Wavle, Emmanuel Otu, Marty Rosen, Dana Gohmann,
Guest: Brittany Hubbard, Kate Moore, Valerie Scott

President Squires called the meeting to order. The roll was passed with instructions to sign for yourself or indicate if you were attending for someone else. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved as read.

Chancellor’s Report: 1) The new Strategic Plan has just hit the news from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. The new plan is called “Reaching Higher, Achieving More” with colleges focusing more on completion and student success. The purpose of this plan is “to create more pathways for degree completion to safeguard college affordability and to ensure academic quality at all levels of all of Indiana’s post-secondary education system.” There are three key challenges and things that will be focused on: college completion, degree production, and educational attainment. 2) Admissions—Summer applicants are about the same as last year, 278 over 273 last year; admits are about the same, 115 over 111. Our first year beginning students are up a little. For fall our applicants are up 10.2% about 1800 students over 1636 and of that group our first year beginners are up by almost 11%. Admits for fall are up 8.9% and first year beginners are up 10.9%. 3) For summer the big program is the 25% discount program. That will impact us hugely. 4) Housing – currently in student housing we have 370 beds that are filled with 30 being open and regarding our new applications we already have about 273 to 275 applications for next year so we are doing very well again in filling student housing. 5) This next year is going to be very tight regarding budget because we are going to be impacted by the summer tuition discount and also some other things. Our enrollment projections have us pretty much plateauing for the next ten years and if we have gains it is going to be through retention. 6) Our reciprocity agreement is up for renewal by next summer (2013) and we are already making plans to get that renewed.
7) Thanks to CBAG for the work they have done; I have their recommendations and also to Gil Atnip and Dana Wavle for their assistance on the committee. 8) We are going to have our planting of 70 trees on April 4, and I hope we have our schools turn out. This will be a great way to celebrate out 70th anniversary. 9) On April 25, we will be having our groundbreaking for our sixth lodge.

Abshire asked how we compare with the other IU regional campuses in terms of ICHE and the on time degree completion. Exact numbers were not readily available but it was suggested that we are all fairly comparable.
Wavle on the budget: We have had four different views of the budget and each time it gets a little clearer. In mid-February the budget office sent a preliminary view of our FY13 budget showing a 1.2% increase in total credit hours (fiscal ’12 budgeted credit hours not actual) and within that was a .06% decrease in undergraduate resident tuition. At that time, total tuition revenue was projected at $33.6 million. Spring credit hours dropped by 3.4%. Our revenue dropped from $33.6 million to $32.8 million this being a $776,000 reduction for view #2. Our fiscal ’13 projections did not include the 25% summer tuition discount. The President then approved a 25% discount for summer ’12 tuition and we then reassured that the University will make up the difference for this year but for next year they want us to put in the budget with no reimbursement from the University. So applying that change to the model our revenue dropped from $32.8 million to $32.2 million this being a 600,000 reduction. On the 3rd view of the budget we were sitting on a $1.1 million dollar deficit. The 4th view of the budget we made one more change in credit hours. We were reflecting the 25% discount in summer tuition in the budget but we did not reflect an increase in the credit hours. We went back into the model and tweaked the credit hours upwards showing an increase in summer enrollment and took a more optimistic view of enrollments in the upcoming year. We were able to restore approximately $500,000 leaving us with a current deficit of $600,000. These are fairly rough numbers. The Cabinet is working on a plan to eliminate the deficit and provide base budget and one time funding in the upcoming year. Fortunately, through years of prudent financial management, the campus is well positioned to weather the storm. We will be working with a very, very tight budget for 2013.

VC Atnip’s Report: I do have information to pass around. These are copies of acts that were passed by the legislature in the last session. Senate Act 182 mandates two things. First, is the development by the Higher Ed Commission of a common course numbering system at least for all courses in the core transfer Library. Secondly, the development by December of this year of a state wide general education core not based on specific courses but based on defined competencies of learning objectives. Debbie Finkel has been sitting in on the discussions trying to come up with a way faculty can be involved in the development of this state wide general education core given that this is a very ambitious time frame. The second Act for you to be aware of is 1220. This act does two things, the second item, sometime called the Credit Check Bill, mandated that associate degrees will have no more than 60 credits and baccalaureate degrees will have no more than 120 credits unless the institution can justify additional credits. (You can read for yourself the language regarding this justification.) This will apply to current degree programs and we don’t know what the process will be but at some point we will be asked to reduce our programs with more than 120 credits and justify those to the Higher Ed Commission. The first part of this bill has not gotten much press but it is a significant change. The first part of this bill gives the Higher Ed Commission the authority to disapprove existing degree programs. I’m sure this body will see a proposal come through general education with some urgency in the next few months.

Finkel: In terms of state wide general education the goal is to do it by category and not course as Gil said. It is also her understanding that you can transfer a 30 credit hour category and if you don’t have the whole unit it doesn’t apply but if you are going to transfer in some of the courses then we can use our regular Gen Ed requirements. Our Gen Ed may not be impacted at all but we are certainly going to have to make charts and look at it.

UFC – Abshire: (Report from two meetings) 1) A University wide committee is being constituted to investigate the right of free speech and the right of peaceable assembly issues. 2) We spent a lot of time hearing updates on legislative matters that Debbie and Gil have already discussed. 3) In response to current events, IU system wide is doing a review of policies relating to child protection issues to make sure there are no big holes in the policy. 4) The question of salary policy came up yet again and President McRobbie said again that the Trustees would not consider anything other than a merit based framework but
within that the campuses have some discretion. The possibility of compression and equity issue being addressed does seem to be out there but only again within the framework of the Trustees’ merit system. 5) There have been ongoing discussions of University Faculty Council reform and it is about to be completed and if you have any questions let Jean know. 6) There was a report on the Student Services Initiative but effectively they are looking to save money by centralizing all of the student services and that is everything from admissions, bursar, financial aid, registrar and as much as they can do. Skuce said they are just waiting to see what their decisions are. Abshire asked if there were any other question; there were none and this concluded her report.

President Squires made some clarifications regarding letters sent to the deans about elections of senators and committee members. She also thanked Bonnie Breger for her assistance in Grace’s absence.

The Senate approved the following items:

Circular 12-8A, International Programs By-Law change, 2nd reading
Circular 12-8B, Academic Advising Committee, By-Law change, 1st reading
Circular 12-8C, FAC Proposed Change to Academic Handbook
Circular 12-8D, SR&R Comm. Recommendation for mid-Term Rosters
Circular 12-8E, Budgetary Affairs, Recommendations for 2013 Budget
Circular 12-8F, General Education, Approval of Course List
Circular 12-8G, Arts & Letters, Writing Prose Notification ENG-W 405
Circular 12-8H, APC Information Items: Changes to BS in Special Education & BS in Elementary Education

There was no new business. A motion to adjourn was entertained and seconded and the meeting ended.