President Barry called the meeting to order. The roll was passed with instructions to sign for yourself or to initial if you were attending for someone else. The minutes were approved as written, and the meeting was turned over to Chancellor Bichelmeyer for her report.

Chancellor Bichelmeyer began her speech by reporting that budget pressures continue to be an area of focus on campus, with the request from the governor that higher education institutions return 2% of their state apportionment. This will return will transpire at the end of this fiscal year. Also, the headcount and credit hours from spring 2013 to spring 2014 was only 0.1% lower, and all things considered, this is good.

VC Meriwether was then asked to give a brief overview highlighting these numbers, and especially where we are struggling. VC Meriwether highlighted in particular the benefits that accrued from faculty involvement with enrollment and retention. Faculty members played a significant role in boosting retention with regards to the group of students they were asked to target last fall. The principal area that continues to show room for growth is in the graduate students. Although much of the campus is trending in the right direction, there is lots of room for expansion in the graduate programs, especially given that the numbers have dropped significantly of late.

Chancellor Bichelmeyer continued by noting that the two other ways that we can help the campus are through retention and graduate programs. These foci are paired with our efforts to partner with Ivy Tech, gain transfer students, and increase enrollment through online initiatives. We have the retention issue trending in the right direction, and subsequent semesters will provide further clarification. The graduate programs have been hemorrhaging, experiencing double-digit declines year after year. Continuing to shore up these items, including exploring new graduate program opportunities, will greatly improve our financial situation on campus.

Superintendents from the local school districts came to the school on the morning of January 16 to discuss possible advanced college projects or dual credit offerings through I.U. There has not been a strong dual credit offering in this region in a long time, and this is a missed opportunity for us given that an Core 40 high school diploma with academic honors requires six credit hours of dual credit, advanced placement, or I.B. Faculty who teach dual credit classes receive a stipend for their efforts, and I.U. receives a portion of the state apportionment for those students.
EVC Dufrene and the Chancellor are discussing where we can go with non-credit bearing programs on campus. The adult education market and the corporate market are two particular areas of interest to target.

Finally, while reading about the regional service area that is in the IU Southeast reference book and comparing it to the regional service area that is outlined in the University handbook, it came to the Chancellor’s attention that at least two areas fall under our purview but we have as yet not been reaching out to them as proactively as we might. We will be more actively reaching out to connect with Switzerland and Perry counties in order to try to establish some connections there.

We are closing out and will soon be reporting on the gun on campus incident from December 5, 2013. VC Meriwether and his staff have met with the student, and he has also taken concerns and complaints from individuals with concerns. Chancellor Bichelmeyer also received a great deal of feedback from her solicitation. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is also looking into ways to best prepare and train faculty for the future. They will report to the Chancellor by March 15 with suggestions for optimal ways to ensure our preparedness going forward.

As we prepare for the upcoming University-wide fundraising campaign, Melissa Weissinger has been moved into the role of Director of Development, working closely with the IU Foundation to ensure that all the upcoming efforts and intricacies are handled appropriately. Jerry Wayne has taken on the role of Executive Director of Alumni and Community Relations, focusing on these two constituencies in particular in order to bring them into our future efforts.

The finalists have now been announced for the Chancellor search. They will be coming onto campus January 28 and 30 and February 3 and 5. All faculty are encouraged to attend the meetings, participate, and to offer their input based on their observations.

EVC Dufrene began with commendation to all those who worked diligently to work with students, enabling us to have a favorable enrollment picture going into the spring semester. We are in a much better financial situation as a result of the roles that so many played in this capacity.

Collaborations and a fall Open House with Ivy Tech have led to IU Southeast faculty offering our first class (German) on their campus, and it is now fully enrolled. An Open House will be held in the spring at JCTC in order to work towards formalizing something like the transfer program that they have with U of L with us. This is a great way to bring more students to our campus going forward.

Deans, faculty, and administration have been working closely since a meeting last fall to develop new areas in which we can offer expanded degree programming, whether certificates or new programs. These areas include: Social Media, Sustainability, Information Management, and International/Louisville. The goal is to close the credit hour gap by maximally utilizing our existing resources in new and creative ways.

EVC Dufrene passed out a handout (available on the Faculty Senate website) outlining cross-enrollment in online classes among Indiana University campuses. Although many of our students are taking courses throughout the IU system, many others from without are enrolled at our campus. We expect that this number will continue to grow, as this is only the first semester for us at IU Southeast.

Jean Abshire expressed a concern, shared by EVC Dufrene and others, about students in her area who are taking foundational courses in a 90-student online course, rather than in a face-to-face environment. The quality of instruction that the students receive and the individual attention that they need in order to succeed are principal concerns here.
President Barry began his update with a note about a recent retreat held by the Senate Committee Chairs. Some of the subjects discussed were: online courses; best strategies for meeting with the Chancellor candidates and then drafting a formal proposal in support of the best candidate; and, building more effective relationships with high schools.

Circulars: All from APC

New Course Requests

Circular 14-6A: NATS-S 100 Intro to Pre-Professional Science Studies – A question was asked about whether someone was available to teach the course given Dr. Tobin’s departure. Anne Allen did not know definitively, but assumed so given that the request has gone through multiple iterations even after Dr. Tobin’s departure. The item was subsequently passed.
Circular 14-6B: NATS-S 350 Seminar in Pre-Professional Science Studies – Passed
Circular 14-6C: FINA-A 215 Ideation and Process – Passed
Circular 14-6D: INFO-Y 395 Career Development for Informatics Majors – Passed

Course Change Requests Anne Allen recommended that Circular E – O be approved as a bloc. This motion was put forward, and all of the subsequent course change requests were passed together.

Circular 14-6E: HPER-S 210 OSHA General Industry Standards – Passed
Circular 14-6F: HPER-S 415 Safety Education and Training – Passed
Circular 14-6G: SPH-S 101 Introduction to Safety – Passed
Circular 14-6H: SPH-S 151 Legal Aspects of Safety – Passed
Circular 14-6I: SPH-S 201 Intro to Industrial Hygiene – Passed
Circular 14-6J: SPH-S 231 Safety, Engineering, and Technology – Passed
Circular 14-6K: SPH-S 255 Threats, Violence, and Workplace Safety – Passed
Circular 14-6L: SPH-S 336 Emergency Management – Passed
Circular 14-6M: SPH-S 350 Topical Seminar in Safety Education – Passed
Circular 14-6N: SPH-S 402 Emergency Planning and Preparation – Passed
Circular 14-6O: SPH-S 410 Advanced Industrial Hygiene – Passed

Arts and Sciences Distribution

Circular 14-6P: Diversity and Ethical Reasoning – Proposed new BA requirement – Passed

New Degree Programs

Circular 14-6Q: B.S. in Music – Audio Production Concentration - Passed
Circular 14-6R: B.S. in Sociology – Passed

New Minor

Circular 14-6S: School of Business – Entrepreneurship Minor – Passed

Program/Curriculum Change

Circular 14-6T: B.A. in Journalism – Passed

No other new business was presented, and the meeting at 3:45 pm.