

**Senate Committee on Student Affairs
Minutes
February 5, 2008**

The following committee members were present: Azad Ismail Ali, Terry Appolonia, Ray Beisel, Frank (Pete) Brooks, Yong S. Colen, Kate Cook (student), Reena Dube, Linda Hall, Heather Powers, Sue Rieg, Terry Rittenberger, Vanessa Varacalli (student), Heide Witthoeft

The following committee members were excused: Dennis Hulings, Beatrice Fennimore, Rhonda Luckey

The following committee members were absent: Tracey Cekada, James Collins (student), Germaine McArdle (graduate student)

The following Student Government Association Senators were in attendance: Michael Daniel, Mehmet Beyazit Disli, Stephen Fisher, John McMurray, Michele Moulten, Slade Powell

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beisel at 3:30p.m.

Old Business

1. The minutes of the November 17, 2007 minutes were approved.

New Business

1. Chairperson Beisel introduced Mr. Jack Makara from the Office of Housing and Residence Life. Mr. Makara reported that all new Living-Learning buildings currently being constructed will be ready for August 2008. Mini-grants are available for faculty and/or staff members who wish to submit a proposal to enhance the Living-Learning Communities. Grants up to \$2500.00 each will be awarded for resources such as speakers, field trips, and research. Applications are presently being accepted and will be reviewed weekly until funding is exhausted.
2. Mr. Mike Lemasters from Housing and Residence Life also addressed the group regarding the new Living-Learning Residence facilities. He reported that 50% will be filled by new students and 50% by returning students. Presently 90% of the returning students are filled for next academic year and about 40% of the new students are filled for next year. Mr. Lemasters also reported that Phase III of the renovation project is on schedule.

Vice President's Report

Mr. Terry Appolonia reported the following for Dr. Rhonda Luckey:

1. Regarding commencement, the departmental ceremonies are not being discouraged; however, attendance at the stadium is being encouraged. Students who attend the stadium commencement will have their names called and will receive special diploma covers and gifts from the IUP Alumni Association. Discussion followed regarding the concerns the committee had regarding the new plans for graduation. Dr. Hall moved and Dr. Brooks seconded a motion to send a resolution to President Atwater, the President's Cabinet, Chairperson of the Senate, and the Commencement Committee. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Student Government Report

1. Vanessa Varacalli reported that the next topic for Speak Up IUP will be commencement.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sue Rieg, Committee Secretary

----RESOLUTION SENT TO PRESIDENT and PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEMBERS----

----- Original Message -----

From: [Susan Patterson](#)

To: [Tony Atwater](#) ; [Peter.Broad@iup.edu](#) ; [Kyle Campbell](#) ; [Robin Gorman](#) ; [Robert Davies](#) ; [John Eck](#) ; [Rhonda H. Luckey](#) ; [Barbe Moore](#) ; [Jimmy Myers](#) ; [Robert.Simon@iup.edu](#) ; [Susie Sink](#) ; [David Werner, Int. Provost](#)

Cc: [susanp@iup.edu](#) ; [Ray Beisel](#) ; [Margie Boucher](#)

Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 3:34 PM

Subject: University Commencement Procedures

The following message is from Dr. Ray Beisel, Chairperson, IUP Senate Committee on Student Affairs

Subject: University Commencement Procedures

The members of the IUP Senate Committee on Student Affairs wish to express unanimous concern regarding the University commencement ceremony procedures which have been announced for May, 2008.

Concerns include:

- The impact of late date change of plans on families (esp. very young and elderly).
- The impact on departmental ceremony plans.
- The efficacy of contingency plans for inclement weather.

We recommend taking time for full consultation with students, faculty and others in order to make improvements in current practice, and that changes not be implemented until May, 2009.

Thank you for taking the time to review our recommendations for a successful graduation for our May and August 2008 graduates.