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Letters must be signed, include student's major or class standing, and be fewer than 300 words. The Horizon reserves the right to edit for brevity, grammar, and style, and may limit frequent letter writers.

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To inform, enlighten and entertain the IUS community.

Senators look into student, faculty concerns

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voiced."

Also at the meeting, the SGA reviewed a bill that would retroactively reimburse money the SGA spent on ponchos to hand out to students for free. The bill will be voted on next week.

Leah Balmer, former treasurer and biology graduate student, resigned from the senate last week. After swearing in two new senators, one of them, Susan McManus, was elected as the treasurer.

Sandy Turpin, chief justice

and general studies senior, said parking appeals will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 6 in the Howard Room, in the new conference center in University Center North, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Billy Roby, senator and secondary education freshman, said a student had raised a concern about the two high-definition televisions in the bookstore, and whether or not those had been purchased with student activity fees.

Roby said after looking into it, the televisions had not been purchased through the SAF.

Classes

Adjuncts teach intro courses effectively

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but the decision to do so is not an easy one.

Taylor said there are both pros and cons involved with using adjunct faculty. One possible advantage is that students often get to interact with instructors who are employed in the area being studied.

"Adjuncts provide sometimes an expertise we don't have here," Taylor said. "It enhances the education of the students."

Taylor said one disadvantage of using adjuncts, particularly new ones, is the difficulty to know whether an adjunct is a good instructor despite their qualifications.

"Initially, they're unknown," Taylor said. "Occasionally, we've had some real clunkers."

Cliff Staten, dean of Social Sciences, said working around the schedules of adjuncts can make scheduling classes more difficult. Adjunct faculty often have other jobs or obligations which limit their time on campus and availability to students.

"We have adjuncts who drive all the way from Lexington," he said.

Staten said social sciences used 32 adjuncts in the fall semester and most of those teach two courses.

"If full-time faculty had to teach intro courses, there would be no advanced courses," Staten said. "We'll always have to rely on adjuncts."

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Gil Atnip said there are basically two groups of adjuncts at IU Southeast.

One group is mainly responsible for teaching introductory courses and the other teaches specialized courses because of expertise.

"I've been very pleased with the quality of adjuncts," Atnip said. "We try to make sure we have qualified faculty members."

One reoccurring issue is the limited amount of office space available to adjunct faculty members on campus. Atnip said the ideal solution would be to construct a new building to free up space, but for the foreseeable future the use of adjuncts at IU Southeast will likely stay the same. Another possible solution



Gil Atnip

to limited offerings of classes would be to add more full-time faculty. Taylor said students often need the assistance of full-time faculty in order to get into graduate or professional school.

"A lot of students need to do research," Taylor said. "We think there needs to be more full-time faculty."

Adding new full-time faculty positions is also an involved process. Staten said before a new position is approved, he must build a case for it and then present it to the IUS administration.

"I have to justify it," Staten said.

Atnip said there are several factors he takes into account when considering the addition of new full-time faculty positions.

Atnip said if a particular school is using an inordinate amount of adjuncts compared to full-time faculty, it could warrant a new position.

Another consideration is if there are constant changes in a particular area of study which requires expertise.

"You need to keep up to date," Atnip said. "Whenever we look at adding faculty, I try to make it a very open process within the administration."

Another limiting factor in offering more course sections is the size of the classrooms, which restricts the number of students per class. Still, Staten sees small class sizes at IU Southeast as an opportunity for students and faculty to interact more easily.

"That's something I hope never changes," Staten said. Taylor said the small class sizes at IU Southeast, as well as efforts to keep tuition affordable, makes the problem of offering more course sections a tough one.

"It's a problem I don't think there's any easy solution to," Taylor said.

Retention below previous average

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Atnip said one reason the surveys are conducted is to try to figure out if something unusual is going on and contributing to the increased attrition, but no unusual situations have been identified so far.

"The really odd thing is that most of the ones we got hold of who didn't come back said they had a great experience at IUS," he said.

"Of course that leaves us wondering, 'Is there anything we could have done?'"

Atnip said IU Southeast's average rate of about 65 percent is competitive with the rates of similar universities

nationwide.

"In a sense, we think we're doing well compared to other colleges like us," he said, "But you always want to ask yourself, 'Can you do better?'"

Although last year's rate is below average for IU Southeast, it was above last year's average for all other IU regional campuses.

"We historically, almost every year, do better than the average of the other campuses," Atnip said.

A notable exception to the statistic is students who transfer to another IU campus. Students who start at any IU campus and transfer to another IU campus will count as being retained at

their original campus. They will not be counted in the transfer rate at the other campus.

"As long as they are an IU student, they have been retained," Sukec said.

Atnip said part of the reason for this is to avoid double counting.

"I think it's good if you look at IU as a whole, but it makes it a little harder for us to interpret the numbers," he said.

But he said these transfer students do not usually affect the statistics very much because the number of transfers between IU campuses is small and stays somewhat stable from year to year.

Center

UC South growth invites community

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real central sort of student union that provides the majority of service to students."

Stephen Taksar, vice chancellor of administrative affairs, said he thought this is a great opportunity for the students and community.

"This was one of the Chancellor's priorities in the renovation of the University Center and really all we have done is lump all our conference rooms in one spot," Taksar said. "I mean we have about the same number we had before with two extra conference rooms."

Taksar said the new conference center will also be an asset once the dorms are built.

"It's going to allow us to

'They will be fully wired for all of the technology we will need.'

Stephen Taksar
vice chancellor
Administrative Affairs

actually host small conferences here on campus and with housing coming on line we'll be able to actually accommodate guests during non-academic periods and use the conference center as a meeting place," Taksar said. "The technology we are putting in the rooms will have all the latest technology available. There will be, I think, plasma screens in the rooms and availability to plug laptops into the tables. They will be fully

wired for all of the technology needs we will need,"

Vickie Hartman, conference and catering, said only student groups, faculty, staff or community members will be able to request space for conferences.

"It will be available to the students, I mean these are meeting rooms that are available to the campus community first, but it's really for the whole campus not one group or another," Hartman said.

WARES OF THE WORLD AN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

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