**Academic Senate Rules Committee**

**Illinois State University**

**10/12/2022**

**Minutes**

1. **Roll Call:**

* Senator Craig Blum
* Senator Zoe Smith
* Senator Nate Rardin
* Senator Angela Bonnell
* Senator John McHale
* ~~Senator Jayden Wilburn~~
* Senator Bahae Samhan
* Senator Gabriel Gudding
* ~~Senator Morgan Taylor~~
* Senator Benjamin Schmeiser
* Provost Designee Craig Gatto

**Absences: 8**

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:05**
2. **Public Comment**
   1. No public comment given
3. **Approval of Committee Minutes 22-28-24**
   1. Motion to approve by Senator Smith
   2. Motion seconded by Senator Rardin
      1. Abstain vote by Senator Gudding (wasn’t present for last meeting)
      2. Approve vote by all others present
4. **Update by Senator Blum Concerning the Academic Senate Bylaws Changes**
   1. General language dictates clarity regarding rules around quorum and voting rights for those not physically present as it relates to the Open Meetings Act
   2. Question by Schmeiser clarifying what the specifics are for accommodations for being allowed to attend a meeting remotely
      1. Clarification by Blum that members are allowed to be remote as a result of reasonable accommodation and may vote but not count towards quorum
      2. Further clarification that the Bylaw language to be reviewed is for the purpose of clarifying that remote members’ ability to vote is not related to their not counting toward quorum
   3. Motion by Senator Gudding to approve revised language
      1. Motion seconded by Senator McHale
      2. Language approved unanimously
5. **Graduate Council Bylaws Review**
   1. Overview given by Senator Blum in regards to purpose of review
      1. Purpose of review clarified to be more advisory insofar as the goal is to give thoughts and recommendations but have dialogue with the Graduate School over said recommendations
   2. Looking specifically at Article IV, Section 3.E
      1. Recommendation by Senator Blum to address broadness of the language
      2. Discussion started by Senator Gudding over language “actively served”
         1. Potential issue of “actively served” being difficult to fulfill as requirement for membership as membership is likely already required to “actively serve” to begin with
      3. Point echoed by Senator McHale that “capstone projects” aren’t included in this section despite it being a roughly analogous in ending a graduate curriculum as a thesis or dissertation.
         1. Note made by Senator Blum
         2. Further point made by both Senator Blum and Senator McHale that some departments may have thesis alternatives that are department specific and should potentially be included in this section as well.
            1. Agreement to this point echoed by Senator Schmeiser, Senator Gudding, and Provost Designee Gatto
            2. Point of information by Senator McHale that his department has a “culminating creative outcome” of some kind (e.g., a “documentary”) which could fit this category.
      4. Question asked by Senator Gudding to ensure the “actively served” language is addressed to avoid the issues laid out in item ii above
         1. Essentially “You have to serve as graduate faculty to have ‘actively served’ but have to have “actively served” to be on the graduate faculty.” (paraphrasing)
            1. General agreement by rest of committee on this point
            2. Further note made by Senator Blum to have this be addressed by the Graduate Council
   3. Looking specifically at Article IV, Section 2.D
      1. Comment by Senator Blum that “exceptional circumstances” language may not be accurately reflecting current practice
         1. Suggestion to ask Graduate Council to review this section
      2. Comment by Senator Gudding on potential redundancy of using “prior” twice in the sentence
         1. Addressed by Senator Blum as specifically meaning that
   4. Discussion on Article IV, Section 1 started by Senator Bonnell
      1. Discussion concerning potential title inconsistency.
         1. “Vice President” should be “Vice President of Academic Affairs”
   5. Discussion on Article VI, Section 4 started by Senator Gudding
      1. Question as to whether the language “research related awards” should be “research and creative activity related rewards”
      2. Suggestion by Senator Rardin to have the Graduate Council review the use of the language “Research Committee” as it may need to be “Research and Creative Activity Committee”
      3. Point made by Senator Bonnell that as some instances of the committee's name in the document state “Research and Creative Activity Committee” and other instances state “Research & Creative Activity Committee,” consistency of use of the word “and” as opposed to the ampersand symbol (&) should be reviewed
         1. Point echoed by Senator McHale and examples given of this inconsistency existing outside this section
   6. Wrap-up by Senator Blum suggesting the committee take another meeting to go through this document.
6. Adjournment
   1. Motion to adjourn by Senator Rardin
   2. Seconded by Senator McHale
   3. Unanimous approval
   4. **Officially adjourned at 6:56pm**