Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee Minutes December 11, 2019

Members Present: Arthur Martinez, David Marx, German Blanco Lobo, Isaac Hollis, Somnath Lahiri, and Sandi Cavi

Members Absent: Julie Murphy, Hannah Beer, Kaleb Hefford, and Zaria Heath

Meeting began: 6:10 pm

The committee discussed the surveys to be used for the annual Request for Commentary on the President, one for faculty/staff and the other for students. Senator Marx invited the committee to recommend any changes to the existing surveys.

The committee decided to add more demographic questions related to gender, race, and ethnicity with the option for respondents to opt out of answering those questions. The second question on the student survey was altered to ask about their housing/commuter status and a new question regarding traditional/non-traditional status.

For the faculty survey, a question was added to assess the respondent’s familiarity with the role of the President. To the list of statements concerning the President’s leadership, a question was added, “..inspires a culture of excellence at ISU.”

The surveys were otherwise unchanged.

The discussion then turned to Policy 6.1.37 on the Naming of University Facilities and Entities. Four weeks ago, there was a significant amount of discussion on the Senate floor about the policy when it was presented as an information item. The committee discussed the points made using a transcript of the proceedings.

The main things that need to be addressed are:

1. the lack of a mechanism for the people associated with an entity that is proposed to be named to have a voice in the decision,
2. whether the Board of Trustees needs to approve the naming of entities, and
3. a specification that an individual or corporate entity giving a name should be representative of the core values of ISU.

For the first item, there would need to be a way to ensure the confidential nature of the process and secondly that a strong objection by the stakeholders would essentially veto the naming.

For the second item, the University governing document gives the Board final approval of the naming of facilities, but not entities.  When the AABC first looked at changing the policy, it was assumed that the board should also approve the naming of entities.  However, some senators questioned whether that is necessary and thought that the final approval could stay with the President.

As to the third item, which was primarily raised by student senators, the idea was that the institution should uphold its values even if it means turning down a major donation.

Senator Marx will contact the President to discuss these issues.

Meeting adjourned: 6:55 pm.