**Planning and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Spotlight Room**

**Call to Order 6:02pm**

**Roll Call**

Present: Lea Cline, Jeff Helms, Rick Valentin, Carl Palmer, Jimmy Holmes, Paige Hofstetter, Wendy Polifika, Vishal Midha

Absent: Amanda Hendrix, Dan Elkins

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Committee Minutes**

All approved 10/25/23 meeting minutes

**Chairperson’s Remarks**

Senator Valentin: We have a few things to talk about today, we are tasked with reviewing the academic facilities priority report, the administrative affairs and budget committee is also assigned this. We might have a joint session to talk about that report.

Also, the strategic plan mission statement will have to be looked over and reviewed. We do have more policies on our issues pending list, including the smoke and tobacco free policy, and the concealed carry policy. Which we will schedule at a later date.

The exec committee has requested we look at these policies and get them to exec by late January, having general council look at them.

Additionally, we will be looking at priority brief topic today, where we can choose or not choose a topic.

**Order of Business:**

1. Issues Pending
   * *Policy 6.1.40 Unmanned Aircraft Systems*

Senator Valentin: This policy began reviewing this last year, talking with Risk Management, the current copy is now on teams. This is the 2nd revision of the language that risk management has returned.

There have been some changes in terminology and definitions, as well as the section on procedures, which added a checklist of procedures which needed to be gone through. This is a part of the discussion which has been hacked out of the policy and has been moved to a document on the risk managements website. The reason for this is that this procedure may need to change, so having this in the policy content language means that it can become out of date. This allows for easy procedural changes.

I have a few notes. First, I edited and added a note which had a link to the procedures. I then had a question about the language on unauthorized flights. The paragraph on this has a procedure for reporting flights to local police, my question was that this seems more like procedural information and not necessarily policy.

Senator Cline: This should be restated having it be who holds responsibility in the time of a violation, having the person who’s the authority on this listed.

Senator Valentin: There is already a section on this, in the responsible parties section. It might be an option to put this in procedure. Rewriting this so it outlines the procedure.

The section on amplified sound noise complaints is similar where it outlines who this should be reported to. The same thing for the third paragraph under this section.

Senator Helms: Who would know who is not following FAA rules, I may view any drone as being unauthorized which would lead to excess calls.

Senator Midha: Could this be similar to the training thing we went over, where we said if you suspect something just call.

Senator Polifka: People would just call the police anyways and not look at the policy.

Senator Midha: These could be legal requirements.

Senator Cline: I would just leave this.

Senator Cline: It is my experience that the size of the aircraft is extremely important, I do not see anything in here. Specifically, no wingspan and noise requirements. Normally the permits go with the size.

Senator Helms: This was discussed in the past.

Senator Holmes: Is it normal to have links to non-university policy websites.

Senator Valentin: A lot of time there are redirects which the government will do when the website changes.

Senator Cline: So the weight is covered?

Senator Helms: All of the FAA requirements were covered.

Senator Cline: A question about unauthorized use, are the results of the flying of the drone anywhere in here. Does the PD need for ISU to do anything?

Senator Holmes: There is a section on everything needed to abide by ISU and state and federal laws.

Senator Holmes: What if someone gets permission to fly a drone off-campus and then records someone on campus from off-campus.

Senator Valentin: Anything else?

**Vote on the Approval of this Policy Language with the Revisions.**

No Debate, Seconded by Senator Holmes

**Vote count:** All in Favor,

1. Review, Discuss, and Select Priority Brief Topic

Senator Valentin: This committee has in the past done priority briefs, research and reporting on a topic, like pedestrian and vehicular safety. This is the main sort of discussion on this committee.

The two topics we discussed were AI, and disruptive technology, as well as weather related and environmental long-term planning. We also could do smaller scale topics, as this committee is about planning. Long term planning issues that require more efforts to go over. The pedestrian one for example was started by safety concerns but also addressed the master plan.

Senator Valentin: Some previous topics have been, increasing the number and value of student scholarship and financial aid, examining the enrolment cliff and research into that, came up with the idea of a college of engineering.

Senator Cline: Our two proposals are AI and weather, as someone who dislikes discreet tasks AI makes me nervous. There are already things happening right now that we might do again. Hearing you talk about some past things, I would like to look at an emergency cash loan system that could be implemented. The previous university I was at allowed students to take money out in case of emergencies, with no penalty if paid back in 30 days.

We do have several loans, with persistence funds, but this requires talking to a person, this is easy and has low default rates so the institutions do not make money. We could use the persistence funds in coordination with this.

Senator Valentin: Typically, what happens with this is the research component and then the creation of a brief. My question is that we are wanting to have the recommendation say this, but how can we set the brief in a way that it will come up with this solution?

Senator Cline: There is a lot of data on this that could support this, we could ask the question of what we could do to help student persistence, I also want this to apply to faculty and staff. How can we help provide opportunities to increase persistence?

Senator Valentin: I like this topic, and how can we find a way to elegantly say this in a single topic.

Senator Cline: We could look at other models and institutions.

Senator Valentin: I would like a good title for this brief. I like the idea of talking about financial security.

Senator Cline: Financial security and student persistence?

Senator Helms: Some of the ways that we are expanding our student population is by bringing in some students with these issues.

Senator Polifika: This goes back to Dan Elkins comment on Silos and how people are working on the same things. We need to work on this and know more about this in a centralized way. We need to talk about financial literacy and make sure that people know how to persist, but also persist in a long term way.

Senator Cline: You tie this to their experience on the campus, so they have a stake in the loan, we have to also be careful in the sense that it is not connected to anything, so students to not do it in a way that makes them feel shame.

Senator Valentin: Getting some people from student affairs in might help.

Senator Polifka: It can be a lot of issues for people, and this can be a global issue on campus

Senator Holmes: This can be used with the student navigator’s system, where it was pitched in a way that people who need financial help can call them.

Senator Cline: Not having to speak to someone is the main selling point for someone. Sometimes it is justifiable, but other times it is not. We could also make it to where people cannot borrow excessively.

Senator Polifka: Taking it from the staff standpoint, some staff do not have the funds to do reimbursements, and we have a system in this, which can embarrass some staff members.

Senator Valentin: Would this topic be applicable to staff.

Senator Cline: We can come up with the title at a later date.

Senator Valentin: Any other thoughts about other topics?

Senator Valentin: Housing issues are a problem right now, with international and graduate students in particular.

Senator Holmes: The town of normal talked about parking and how the rules on it are a major problem for increasing the density of housing.

Senator Roy: One idea that I had was on a priority brief on food insecurity.

Senator Valentin: Looking at the schedule for our meetings, even if we were to start to meet and talk about a priority topic, with the other things we have in the bank right now we would probably not be able to start looking at it till the beginning of the year next semester. Spring could be our section where we go over this priority brief.

**Adjourn 6:52pm**

**All in favor**