A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated**Academic Senate Rules Committee**

**Illinois State University**

**11/08/2023**

**Minutes**

**Roll Call:**

* Senator Craig Blum
* Senator Megan Fulton
* Senator Emma Beddow
* Senator Mikayla Blum
* Senator Maegan James
* Senator Nancy Novotny
* ~~Senator Tom Hammond~~
* Senator Jomo Sankara
* Senator Benjamin Schmeiser
* Provost Designee Craig Gatto

**Absences: 1**

**Meeting called to order at 6:04**

**Public Speakers**

* **None**

**Approval of 10/11/23 minutes**

* Motioned by Senator Beddow
* Seconded by Senator James

Approved: 8

Abstain: 0

**Constitutional Amendment Update/Bylaws Update**

We are almost done and waiting to see if AP and Civil Service merge. A decision will need to be made soon. If no decision is reached, they shall remain separate.

**Senate Bylaws**

**For this meeting, the Rules Committee looked over each issue and had a general discussion.**

* Chair of the Senate (001)
  + Can the chairperson of the Senate be the chair of a department? Chairpersons are tenured faculty. We have chairs that serve in the academic senate as chairpersons. Can we continue to allow the chair of a department to serve as chair of the Senate? Is it a conflict of interest?
  + The argument against it is that the workload is too much and hard to balance both.
  + There is no inherent benefit of having a chair serve as chairperson besides on an individual basis a person serving both may be very qualified to hold both positions.
  + Rules agreed that a chair can’t be chairperson and suggested changes to article IV of the Chair of Senate Rules.
* Voting Rules (002)
  + Last year a section was added to Voting Rules to clarify abstentions.
  + By clarifying the policy of abstention, it keeps everyone on the same page and avoids confusion.
  + The Rules Committee looked over each section that mentioned voting and agreed that clarifications were necessary.
* External Committee Absences (003).
  + The Absence policy was changed to only 5 absences, where the fifth would be removed. Not all committees do not meet Bi-weekly making 5 too much.
  + A vacant seat most likely will not be filled until next year.
  + Rules is discussing waiting to see how the 5 absences affect the committees.

**Adjournment**

* Motion to adjourn by Senator Blum
* Motion seconded by Senator Beddow
* **Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm**