

**Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes
Monday, March 31, 2008, 4:00 P.M.
(Approved)**

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Holland called the meeting to order.

Present: Larry Alferink, Ted Mason, Dan Holland, Susan Kalter, Ed Stewart, Farzaneh Fazel, President Al Bowman, Allison Graham, Mark Cassata, David Horstein

Absent: Paul Borg, Acting Provost Jan Murphy

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of March 17, 2008

Motion XXXIX-59: By Senator Alferink, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of March 17, 2008. Revision, Page 4, Senator Fazel: "I think I you mentioned..." The minutes were unanimously approved, as revised.

Distributed Communications:

03.27.08.01 *From Larry Alferink/Rules Committee: Proposed Addition to Bluebook – SCERB Grievance Committee (Senate Information Item on 4/9/08)*

Senator Alferink: We are just adding the SCERB Grievance Committee to the *Bluebook*. There was a complaint from a faculty member who did not know what the grievance committee did. He then resigned from it. This basically lifts language from the Student Code of Conduct.

03.27.08.03 *From Jan Murphy/Deb Smitley/Educating Illinois Task Force: Educating Illinois 2008-2014 - Revised Draft (Senate Presentation on 4/9/08)*

03.27.08.04 *From Senate Office: Sense of Senate Resolution in Support of Educating Illinois (Senate Communication Item immediately following Educating Illinois Presentation on 4/9/08)*

Senator Holland: Last week, we, hopefully, had the last meeting in which we will make any significant changes to this edition of *Educating Illinois*. Deb Smitley will make a Senate presentation on April 9. As far as substantive changes, there is not a great deal of variation from the document presented in the fall. Some of the goals and strategies were shifted around. Also, we broke up a couple of the goals so that all of them have about the same number of strategies now. We are open to recommendations for changes to the current title, *Educating Illinois 2008-2014 Priorities for Illinois' First Public University*.

Senator Fazel: I think that a recommendation came to the Executive Committee about adding the service component to the mission statement. Did we send that to the Academic Affairs Committee?

Senator Holland: Yes, we did and I believe that Academic Affairs passed it and was supposed to bring something back to us.

Senator Fazel: Should that be incorporated into this?

Senator Holland: Yes, it should be.

Ms. James: The *EI* task force was not going to add that to the mission statement until it was approved by the Senate.

Senator Fazel: According to this, we are going to present a Sense of the Senate Resolution to endorse this at the next Senate meeting, but this document does not include the service component.

Senator Holland: If the Senate gets the mission statement revision, then it will be included in the *Educating Illinois* document. This does not have to be endorsed until, I believe, May when it goes to the Board of Trustees.

President Bowman: I believe it is the May 6th meeting.

Senator Holland: I think that we will be able to endorse it at the next meeting with the possibility that the mission statement will change.

03.31.08.01 *From Farzaneh Fazel/Planning and Finance Committee: 2008-09 Priorities Report (Senate Information Item on 4/9/08)*

Senator Fazel: Every year, the Planning and Finance Committee develops a list of priorities for the university, which we take to the Senate for the Senate's approval. After the Senate approves them, they are then presented to the President. The administrators will have a chance to respond to us about whether they agree or disagree with what we are recommending and to let us know why. Based on the reports that they give us, we would then look at a set of priority recommendations for the following year. Due to time constraints, I sent this to members of Planning and Finance by e-mail and tried to incorporate any recommended revisions, but I would like to have the committee look at it one more time before we take it to the Senate. So there may be a few additional minor revisions.

President Bowman: The first goal, which concerns the salary program, is something that will have to be long term. The goal was never to reach the median and stop; it was to go beyond it. We have made progress, but it has been slow. If we had even a small amount of new money from the state, we could catch up a lot faster. Going into the next year, the Governor recommended a 0% increase, so all of the new revenue generated will come from students and only new students. So 5,000 students will, essentially, carry the load.

Senator Stewart: Curt White reported at the last meeting that for every dollar you invest in universities, you get 10-30% back in taxable income. So it just increases the income for state if those people get jobs and remain in the state.

President Bowman: The library issue is near and dear to all of us; it's something that we are going to deal with, but it's another one that we can't solve in one year. Over a period of a couple of years, we can take their budget up to seven figures. These short-term answers for fixing problems all relate back to the fact that we are not just getting \$10 million a year less from the state, but \$14 million less, because we are paying \$3 million for group health insurance and \$1.6 million for Veterans Grants. We have not received reimbursement for those grants for the last two years.

Senator Stewart: I am confused about the veterans' benefits because that is a benefit that the state guarantees.

President Bowman: Yes, we waive tuition and then we wait for them to reimburse us.

Senator Stewart: But they are not reimbursing us?

President Bowman: Not anymore.

Senator Stewart: It seems to me that that is constitutionally or legally wrong.

President Bowman: It's very frustrating. The tenor of the public conversation has changed because now what I am reading in the paper is that institutions ought to support these veterans, but when we complain about not being reimbursed, that does not mean that we are not supportive. When we are not reimbursed, we pass those costs on to our students. It's just a tax on students. Last year, we were not reimbursed \$600,000 and, this year, we were not reimbursed \$1 million.

Senator Kalter: Last year's report contained an item about enhancing resource bases to units to help maintain aging facilities. We discussed whether or not the deferred maintenance part of tuition has begun to address that issue.

President Bowman: The first year, it did not generate a lot of money.

Senator Fazel: Our assumption was that it has been addressed.

Senator Kalter: So we are not sending a signal to take it off (the university's agenda) since it is not in our report?

President Bowman: No, it's just that we need \$450 million to catch up.

Senator Holland: When we tear down Dunn-Barton and Walker, is that going to help?

President Bowman: It does help a little because it takes them off line.

Senator Kalter: The other part of that was promoting a campus-wide conversation about financing lines. Though that's not in this report either, is that something that has been generated?

President Bowman: There is a dialogue underway and I have written a charge for a financial aid group to look at that piece of it. I really don't think that our problems are going to be this enormous forever. I think we are in a political process that will work itself out and that will turn things around.

Senator Kalter: I think that we just wanted to make sure that we were not sending a signal by taking things off this year's report that were in last year's report.

Senator Holland: Senator Bragg made the point that in order to address it, the money needs to be there.

03.31.08.02 *From Paul Borg/Faculty Affairs Committee: Milner Library Resource Funding Position Paper (Senate Communication on 4/9/08)*

Senator Holland: We have a draft paper from the Faculty Affairs Committee in support of additional funding for Milner resource materials. I think that the committee discussed adding a fee per credit hour. Do you know if that was discussed?

President Bowman: I have not heard that conversation. We tend not to want to go in that direction because it limits our flexibility, but we have documented the need for general revenue to take care of it. So that could do the same thing that a fee could do.

Senator Kalter: So this would be adding \$250,000 each year for the next four years to augment the library budget by a \$1 million?

President Bowman: Out of the central budget, not out of Academic Affairs; it's in addition to what they are already getting and that would be part of their permanent base.

Senator Fazel: So this would triple the budget for materials, basically, from about \$400,000 to \$1.4 million?

Senator Holland: One of the things I got from the budget presentations last week was that if you looked at the budget when Milner opened, the 2008 budget would be about \$1.4 million.

Senator Kalter: Once we do this, how do we keep it from just eroding again?

President Bowman: Their base would go up on a percentage basis. Is everyone clear that the library budget was not cut by \$200,000? The acquisitions budget has not increased, so the library is buying less. We have been very careful to protect the acquisitions budget.

Senator Fazel: So what do we do with this document in the Senate? Is it like a Sense of the Senate Resolution?

Senator Holland: Yes.

Senator Fazel: There are some differences between this document and the Planning and Finance Committee's priority document. Here, they are specifically talking about how much money is needed and over what period of time. In our document, we are saying, 'let's look at how far behind we are'. Do we present both at the same time?

Senator Holland: This document is part of that conversation.

Senator Fazel: I ask because I remember Dr. Presley saying that it's an overreaction; we are not in that bad of a shape. So that is why we posed it as 'let's take a look and document how far behind we are', then we would decide on how much to increase their budget. They have already gone through that process and identified deficiencies in our library that we need to address.

Senator Holland: I don't know that they have done a comparison against our peer institutions.

Senator Stewart: But if the budget stays flat, then there will be a loss.

Senator Holland: Yes, we have been cutting subscriptions on a regular basis. Some of them probably are not really being used that much, but this is acknowledging that there still needs to be an increase.

From Larry Alferink/Rules Committee: List of Faculty Nominations for the External Committees of the Senate (On Faculty Caucus Agenda of 4/9/08)

Proposed Agenda for Academic Senate Meeting of April 9, 2008:

**Academic Senate Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
7:00 P.M.
OLD MAIN ROOM, BONE STUDENT CENTER**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2008

Presentation: Green Team Update (Chuck Scott, Director of Facilities Management)

Presentation: Educating Illinois 2008-2014 - Revised Draft (Deb Smitley/Educating Illinois Task Force)

Senate Communication Item: Sense of Senate Resolution Endorsing Educating Illinois 2008-2014 (Senate Executive Committee)

Chairperson's Remarks

Student Body President's Remarks

Administrators' Remarks:

- *President Al Bowman*
- *Acting Provost Jan Murphy*
- *Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams*
- *Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg*

Committee Reports:

- *Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson: Senator Waterstraat*
- *Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee Chairperson: Senator Lonbom*
- *Faculty Affairs Committee Chairperson: Senator Borg*

- *Planning and Finance Committee Chairperson: Senator Fazel*
- *Rules Committee Chairperson: Senator Alferink*

Information Items:

03.27.08.01 Proposed Addition to Bluebook – SCERB Grievance Committee (Rules Committee)

03.31.08.01 2008-09 Priorities Report (Planning and Finance Committee)

Communications:

03.31.08.02 Milner Library Resource Funding Position Paper (Senate's Endorsement Requested by the Faculty Affairs Committee)

Adjournment

Motion XXXIX-60: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Kalter, to approve the Senate Agenda of April 9, 2008. The committee expressed concerns about the length of the agenda. Senator Holland noted that the Green Team report would not take very long to make and that the *Educating Illinois* Task Force preferred making the *EI* presentation at the upcoming meeting since they would be taking the document to the Board in May. He acknowledged that faculty would have a long evening, however, because of the discussion of the Academic Impact Fund in the Faculty Caucus. The committee agreed to make no revisions and unanimously approved the agenda.

Adjournment