

Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes
Monday, April 28, 2008, 4:00 P.M.
(Approved)

Note: The Executive Committee agreed to take some action during the summer on the review process of the Student Code of Conduct. See that section of the minutes for the details of the discussion.

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Present: Larry Alferink, Ted Mason, Dan Holland, Susan Kalter, Ed Stewart, Paul Borg, Farzaneh Fazel, Jacqueline Krug, Marielle Ruscitti, Acting Provost Jan Murphy, President Bowman. Matt Spialek, Academic Student Senator, will begin attending the Executive Committee meetings in the fall.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of April 14, 2008

Motion XXXIX-75: By Senator Borg, seconded by Fazel, to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of April 14, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Distributed Communications:

From Senate Office: Academic Senate Meeting Schedule 2008-2009 (Senate Information/Action Item on May 7, 2008)

The Academic Senate Meeting Schedule for 2008-2009 will be presented to the Senate for approval at the Senate meeting of May 7, 2008. The President extended his invitation to Senate for the traditional annual dinner with the President. Senator Holland expressed his appreciation and accepted the invitation on behalf of the Senate. The Senate dinner will be held at the President's residence on Wednesday, August 27, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.; the Senate meeting will held at 7:00 p.m. on the same evening.

04.18.08.06 From Student Government Association: Professional Dress Code: Request to Investigate Concerns Regarding the Use of a Professional Dress Code as Part of an Academic Grading Process (Dist. To 2008-09 Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Holland: The Student Government Association first brought its concerns regarding the dress code for students attending certain classes in the College of Business to the attention of the Senate Executive Committee in October 2007. As they have been unable to resolve those concerns with the department chairperson, SGA is asking the Senate, as a whole, to look into the issue.

Senator Ted Mason, Student Body President: I think the letter we submitted to this committee covers it pretty well. Last fall, there were continuous meetings with Dr. Longfellow and Dean McGuire about the dress code. I know that a number of people were involved in those meetings, including former Student Body President Dave Horstein and former Speaker of the Assembly Mark Cassata. Our advisor also attended a couple of the meetings.

The problems with the dress code include the cost of buying more clothes, getting them dry cleaned on a regular basis, and the cost of buying seasonal clothes. People are also concerned about freedom of expression. The SGA memo indicates that the BTE students did submit a petition to show that they were against this, but that did not alter Dr. Longfellow's decision.

The Student Government Association talked to Dr. Longfellow about alternative ways of dealing with the business dress code, such as instead of making it mandatory to wear business casual, having it as extra credit for the students. I am not sure, but I think that they offered to have just one class be designated for business casual, such as the last class before graduation. However, Dr. Longfellow did not approve of any of the suggestions. Since we have gone through the process of talking with both Dr. Longfellow and Dean McGuire on multiple occasions, we are now asking the Academic Senate to look at this.

Senator Holland: Do we want to send this to an internal committee?

Senator Mason: I would think that it would go to the Rules Committee.

Senator Kalter: Why does the notation on the draft indicate that the memo will be distributed to the Academic Affairs Committee?

Senator Alferink: I would think that it would go to Academic Affairs.

Senator Kalter: The issue at hand is whether or not this should be part of the grading process, so I believe that it should go to the Academic Affairs Committee. There is also the particular issue of whether this is differential towards gender and class.

Senator Borg: Do we know whether the faculty in the department have had input about on this?

Provost Murphy: I don't know.

Senator Borg: For something that has academic implications, we should be aware of faculty involvement and not just the response from the chair. Is it faculty who are asking for this dress code?

Provost Murphy: Those are very good questions, which I think the Academic Affairs Committee may be able to get answered.

Senator Holland: Last fall, former Student Body President Dave Horstein specifically asked the Senate not get involved.

Senator Mason: At that time, he was still talking with Dr. Longfellow.

Senator Holland: So we will forward this to the Academic Affairs Committee.

04.18.08.01 From Frank Waterstraat/Academic Affairs Committee: University Mission Statement – Revised (Senate Information Item on May 7, 2008)

Senator Holland: We have from the Academic Affairs Committee a proposed revision to the University Mission Statement in which we are adding “public service”.

Senator Fazel: Is this the same revision that was previously presented to the Senate?

Provost Murphy: There was a bit of a conversation on the floor of the Senate, but it never officially came from the Academic Affairs Committee to the Executive Committee and back to the Senate for a vote. So, yes, it is exactly what we talked about.

Senator Fazel: We took it to the Senate and we said that we could not really finish it there, so we sent it to the Academic Affairs Committee?

NOTE: On November 7, 2007, the Executive Committee presented the proposed addition of “public service” to the University Mission Statement to the Academic Senate at the request of the Educating Illinois Task Force. The Senate did not reach a resolution on the proposed revision and the matter was referred to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Senator Holland: Yes, I think that they did it very quickly, but then it got lost.

Senator Fazel: There were a few issues discussed by the Senate, but I don't see those issues addressed here.

Senator Holland: The main issue that I remember was changing “between” to “among”.

Senator Fazel: The other issue was the phrase “public service” as opposed to “professional service”?

Senator Holland: Correct.

Senator Borg: Are we thinking about presenting it as an Information Item and moving it to action at the upcoming Senate meeting?

Senator Holland: It we can, it would benefit *Educating Illinois* because public service is being emphasized in that document.

Senator Borg: I suggest that we communicate to the Senate that the committee has worked very hard on this and that moving it to action is not an effort to try to just push something through.

04.18.08.03 From Kevin Martin/Student Government Association: Student Code of Conduct – Revised Draft

Senator Holland: We have received a revised Student Code of Conduct. Previously, we received a draft without the markups, so we could not see what changes had been made.

Senator Alferink: The deletions in this markup draft are pretty clear, but in a lot of cases, the additions are not. So I think that it is going to be very confusing to know what has been added.

Senator Borg: I agree. For example, in Section 6, not only did they not bother to change the numbering, but on page 12, an entire section has been deleted and there is no indication of what replaces that. I assume that there is going to be a statement about the relationship between university discipline and state and federal law, which is what this section talked about. Does that appear elsewhere in the document?

Senator Mason: I can go back through the document and try to make sure that all of the additions are underlined.

Ms. James: Would you indicate those with underlining and in bold?

Senator Kalter: Since it looks like this is going to come back to us again and since it is 52 pages and I only got it about an hour ago, is there any way to get it more in advance than we received it this time?

Ms. James: The problem is the turnaround time for the Executive Committee packets. We have the Senate meeting on Wednesday. I then need to wait until the Thursday after that Senate meeting to receive any documents from the Internal Committees for the Executive Committee. Therefore, you usually won't get the Exec packets until Monday.

Senator Kalter: I understand; perhaps we can receive it and then place it on the next agenda so that we have time to review it.

Ms. James: Certainly.

Senator Holland: Is the committee that actually did all of this work going to still be on campus to address it?

Senator Mason: There is still at least one person in the Association who was involved with this and I can talk to her.

Senator Borg: Are we still going to consider this at the next Senate meeting?

Senator Holland: I think that without the markup draft, it would be somewhat confusing to present this at the next Senate meeting.

Senator Borg: This was brought to us by Student Government in accordance with the way in which committees were reorganized on the Senate. What was the nature of administrative and faculty input on this draft?

Senator Alferink: There would have been a document that came from SCERB (Student Code Enforcement and

Review Board), so this would have been initiated by SCERB. My other question is how has this document changed from the version that SCERB submitted.

Senator Borg: It is interesting. The things that now go through Student Government used to be the responsibility of the Student Affairs Committee. I am not sure that there is faculty involvement in Student Government. There is a Senate Faculty Liaison on Student Government, but I am concerned especially about those issues in the Code that have to do with academic dishonesty. Something that affects curricular issues so directly needs to have faculty input. It ought to be the responsibility, starting with the Executive Committee during the coming year, to review whose responsibilities all of these issues are and to take a look at what has and has not quite worked.

President Bowman: At some point, the University's General Counsel ought to weigh in on this as well.

Senator Alferink: It is also the case that we have a new Provost coming on board and I would suggest that this go to her to consider whether this is the best way to handle some of the issues.

Senator Holland: So the Code will be deferred until the fall.

Senator Mason: Will it come back to the first Executive Committee in the fall?

Senator Borg: Why don't we work during the summer to ensure that some of these questions regarding participation are answered? The Executive Committee can then make a decision about how to proceed.

Senator Holland: So we should look at it and also take it to legal counsel.

Provost Murphy: In a document this size, it is always helpful to have some sense of what the changes are, some summary for each of these sections. I think that that would really help the people who are reading this to understand the significant changes in each of these areas and the rationale for the changes. If they are minor, editorial changes, then that is not as important, but if you are really making a significant change in how something functions, I am sure there is a reason for it and it would help us if we know why.

01.28.08.01 Alcoholic Beverages Policy

Senator Holland: There is one other document that should have been under "distributed communications", but which somehow fell through the cracks, and that is the Alcohol Policy. We received it earlier in the semester and I am not sure to which Internal Committee we sent it. I thought it had gone to the Rules Committee, but it did not go there. The Rules Committee thought it went to the Administrative Affairs Committee and it had not gone to them either.

Senator Alferink: Yes, I think that it was decided in Executive Committee to go to the Administrative Affairs Committee.

Senator Holland: Basically, they are trying to make all dormitories alcohol-free. I don't see anyway we can actually pass that this year. I am sure that students want to weigh in on this.

Senator Borg: Who is recommending the changes?

Senator Holland: University Housing. I am not sure if it will be that much of any issue since there will be very few 21-year-olds in the dorms anyway, but it is a change and people would like to have input.

President Bowman: Is it something that the Senate could talk about at the upcoming meeting and then vote on whether to move it to action?

Senator Holland: We could conceivably do that if Student Government has enough time to look at it.

Senator Krug: I don't think there would be enough time.

Senator Holland: If we don't do it now, it would be a full year before any changes went go into effect because they would not change policy in the middle of the year. It is officially written as university policy, so it has to come to us. I don't want to go before a new Senate and appear as if I am trying to push something through.

Senator Mason: Can we talk to Vice President Adams and find out if there is an actual time issue? If theret is, then we could send it out by e-mail.

Senator Krug: We just sent out a large number of e-mails and also many students will be leaving on Monday.

Senator Mason: Is Housing going to be upset if they can't implement this policy at the beginning of next year?

Senator Holland: They would prefer to do it, but if they can't do it, they understand. I talked with Maureen Blair about it and told her that there is a remote possibility that we could present it as an Information Item and move it to action at the next Senate meeting, but we also have a completely new Senate that has never seen this.

Senator Kalter: I think SGA should be allowed to have enough time to look at it.

Senator Mason: Also, if we sent out an e-mail right now, we would get a lot of feedback from 21-year-olds, who might not be affected by this in the future, complaining about no alcohol in the residence halls. Whereas, if we send it out next semester with mostly freshmen in the residence halls, I don't think as many concerns will be raised in the feedback from them.

Senator Krug: Would they be able to do it next semester or would they have to do it at the beginning of the year?

Senator Holland: At the beginning of the year because I believe that there is a one-year contract in the dorms.

Provost Murphy: Can you remind me of what happened?

Senator Holland: Steve Adams gave it to us and I remember discussing it here. It was going off to committee and it never got to committee.

Ms. James: I would have to check on that, because it would have been my responsibility to send it to committee.

Senator Holland: I thought that it was to go Rules, but Rules did not get and Rules thought that it went to Administrative Affairs, but they did not get it. Well, they may have gotten it, but they did not remember receiving it.

Senator Borg: I think this is an example of why we need to look at which committees certain issues go to so that they will be expecting them.

Provost Murphy: I may have a worry about moving it too quickly, but it really wasn't Housing that was not communicating. So I would hate to have had the Senate drop the ball, us try to rush it and then have students feel that Housing is trying to move something under the radar past them. Since we have dropped the ball, I don't want that to reflect badly on Housing.

President Bowman: It's not the end of the world if we can't act on it this year. I think that students would feel better if they have a chance to provide feedback.

Senator Mason: And if they know a year in advance that it was coming, if they know about it next fall, there will be even fewer concerns.

President Bowman: The people that the policy affects the most in a negative way are students, because the people that enforce the rules are students and they have to figure out a way to do that. I think that students will have a better understanding once they hear all of the issues.

Senator Holland: So we will address the alcohol policy next fall.

Proposed Agenda for Academic Senate Meeting of May 7, 2008:

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

Call to Order by Student Body President/Senate Vice Chairperson

Seating of New Senate

Roll Call by Student Body President/Senate Vice Chairperson

Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2008

Election of the Senate Chairperson

Election of the Senate Secretary

Election of Faculty Members of Senate Executive Committee

Presentation: Foundation Board Report (Joe Armstrong)

Chairperson's Remarks

Student Body President's Remarks

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman

Provost Jan Murphy

Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams

Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg

Advisory Item:

Academic Plan 2008-2013 (Provost Jan Murphy)

Information/Action Item:

Senate Meeting Schedule for 2008-2009

Information Items:

04.18.08.01 University Mission Statement – Revised (Academic Affairs Committee)

04.18.08.03 Student Code of Conduct – Revised - Markup Draft (Student Government Association)

Communications

Adjournment

Motion XXXIX-76: By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Alferink, to approve the proposed agenda for the Senate meeting of May 7, 2008.

Senator Borg: Should the Election of the Members of the Executive Committee be indicated on the agenda as the

Election of the “Faculty” Members of the Executive Committee or do we elect students also?

Ms. James: I think that we ratify the student members.

Senator Borg: The Senate elects these members. The Faculty Caucus has arranged a slate and the slate has to be elected by the Senate. It’s interesting that, given the reorganization of the Senate, the Senate no longer elects the student members, which we always did in the past.

Ms. James: I think that we have done it both ways; I think we have had both students and faculty nominees for Exec come before the Senate for election, but I can check the minutes.

Senator Borg: Check the minutes to see how that happens. If we need to officially elect the student members, we need to do it.

Senator Mason: I know that last year, I was not elected. Just as the incoming Secretary of SGA, I was officially a member of the Senate Executive Committee.

Senator Borg: The other question is about the Code. Are we going to officially remove the Student Code of Conduct as an Information Item from the proposed agenda?

Senator Holland: Yes, and that will be worked on over the summer.

Provost Murphy: Cynthia, we will have the Academic Plan to you on Wednesday.

The Academic Senate Agenda for Wednesday, May 7, 2008, as revised, was unanimously approved.

Adjournment