**Academic Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 07, 2025**

**7:00 P.M.**

**OLD MAIN ROOM, BONE STUDENT CENTER**

***Call to Order (Student Body President/Academic Senate Vice Chairperson)***

Vice Chairperson Montoya called the meeting to order.

***Seating of New Senate (Student Body President/Academic Senate Vice Chairperson)***

***Roll Call (Student Body President/Academic Senate Vice Chairperson)***

Senator Montoya called roll and declared quorum.

***Election of Academic Senate Chairperson***

Angela Bonnell, Milner

Senator Bonnell was unanimously elected as chair.

***Election of Academic Senate Secretary***

Dimitrios Nikolaou, CAS

Senator Nikolaou was unanimously elected as secretary.

***Election of Executive Committee Faculty Members***

Rick Valentin, WKCFA

Craig Blum, CoE

Todd Stewart, CAS

John McHale, CAS

The Executive Committee slate was unanimously elected.

***Public Comment: All speakers must sign in with the Senate Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.***

None.

***Presentation:***

***Research Programs***

***Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Craig McLauchlan***

Senator McLauchlan: Good evening, everyone. I am Craig McLauchlan, Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. When I agreed to talk about research in August it was a different time in life, and it was going to be just a little different presentation based on what I knew then. This is a shortened form of the state of research if you will. I gave the University Research Council in February a very high-level view. You will be aided by the fact that I only have a few minutes and I have no visual aids to show you, so you will get slides after the fact which will make some of the charts and graphs a little bit silly to talk about.

Normally, I like to lead off with talking about the impact of our scholarship. When we say “research” we mean research in creative scholarship for whatever the scholarly outputs that are appropriate to your discipline are. We just shorten it to “research” because it is faster. I would point you to the Redbird Scholar and our annual report for examples of the great impact that is going on in our campus.

Usually, I would point to you to our seal, which talks about how gladly we teach and learn. We focus on the fact that we do both at Illinois State University, and we are proud of that rich heritage of doing both. I would point you to Excellence by Design and say our new strategic plan includes creative scholarship and research as a big part of who we are, especially in point 3. I have a great picture of ISU authors in the library. Thank you, Dean Long, for helping make that happen. The construction puts it in an even more prominent spot now. The first thing you see when you walk in the library proudly showcases the work of our authors at ISU and we are proud of that heritage. We are a Carnegie R2, which in the new parlance loses a little bit of its luster, but we are high research spending and high doctoral production. Doesn’t sound quite as good as “high research activity doctoral institution” but that is our new designation in 2025. We are still primarily an undergraduate institution because we produce fewer than 20 PhD’s in certain disciplines. The statistics of sponsored projects and grants don’t tell the whole story. There is a lot behind it. About half of the work at ISU comes from ISU funds, not external funds. We will talk more about that, but it is important to focus on our outcomes.

When you get the slides, you will see these are the top 20 areas that we tend to publish in based on metrics collected out of the library. These are the top trending research topics. We are acting in a lot of different areas, so take my word for it that we have scholars active all over campus, but our areas of strength are demonstrated on the slide you are not seeing, where we are very good in a couple of disciplines in business and our cover crops projects are incredibly unique in their impact and their uniqueness as a campus. If you look here at publication data, you can see that we are pretty flat over time. We put out about 500 publications a year in a highly curated dataset coming out of the Web of Science.

Our proposals remained pretty steady over time. Our research grant proposals which we will talk a little bit about- FY25 is still in progress, but we are already ahead of where we are year over year from FY24 and on pace for past years, which is good. Awards are way down. We have only seen one federal award since January. That is highly unusual for us as a campus. We typically get about 160 awards a year, so in Q4 we should have about 120 right now and we are a little bit below that. The scarier part is with the slowness of federal awards and portfolio size that we usually have, that is a little bit nerve-wracking. We currently have 214 active projects; 92 of those are federal, and the state boards are picking up the rest. One of the things I would like to show is our National Science Foundation higher education research and development survey. It shows that had about $32.96 million dollars committed in 2023. There is always a lag because the federal fiscal year runs October 1 to September 30. By the time we get to the end of ’24 it takes a while for those data to be compiled. There is always about a year and a half behind. Those data were submitted in January based on the numbers from November and they will come out in late November. There is always a big lag.

We were fourth-highest research and development amongst the Illinois public four-years. With Southern Carbondale’s move to being an R1, that makes us the highest-ranked R2. All the R1s in-state have medical schools, and we do not. We take a lot of pride in that work.

I was also going to show you that we do like to reinvest our funds. Our office which includes funds from the provost has invested over a million dollars last year into supporting our scholars through things like the arts program, the university research grants, the Office of Student Research which encourages students to get funding themselves through FIREbird, BirdFEEDER, they always have cool bird names. That money supports student scholarship which we know is not just awesome, but that engagement allows high-impact practices for retention and recruitment etc. I would have highlighted our arts projects, which is the advancing research and creative scholarship, which is a program to go after big ideas and problems of interdisciplinary nature. We had our first cohort. The provost committed 3 and half million dollars over a 7-year period from her foundation funds. The first cohort is ending, there is 3 programs there. One out of Math, one out of Art History, and one out of Physics. That is just the lead PI because they are all very interdisciplinary. Second cohort, those announcements will be made May 15th. We will have a fresh set. Those are very exciting projects that we think will have a long-term return on investment.

We have a trends slide where I will keep it brief. It has been a shift in the federal landscape over the last few months. We have had quite a few executive orders that impact us. There is an entire team that is committed to keeping an eye on all the news and all of the websites and listening and meeting with our peers across the nation as we figure out what is going on and how to respond. We had funding freezes in the beginning and then we just have the turning off of the spigot in a variety of areas. A lot of threats to cut indirect cost recovery or FNA or IEC depending on which acronym you want to use for facilities and administration. 15% are federally negotiated rates; 48% most of those have been impacted by lawsuits so they all remain in some state of flux. We have seen a shift in agency priorities, which has led to a stopping of some awards. We are lucky as an institution to largely escape a lot of the hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts. The National Science Foundation has cut over 1,000 awards. The National Institute of Health has cut over 750 awards to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars in UNICEF and over a billion dollars for the NIH. While our portfolio is large in those areas, we have been lucky enough to largely escape most of those cuts. We are starting to see those trickle in as we go. The most important thing I would say is that RSP and the rest of campus continue to monitor all these communications and try to come up with a plan.

When we say “impacts,” sometimes an impact is teacher impact, that student you couldn’t hire, that person you couldn’t involve in research that we couldn’t send on this trip, etc. We do have current awards underway as well. If you see anything, please share it with us. We would like to update the campus community. Here is our QR code for the government relation website. We strongly encourage you to check that out. When you see the slides, you won’t need the QR code in the same way. You can just click on the government relations website. A big thanks to Eric Hodges who led that effort for the campus community to keep that up to date and we are always behind. It is an attempt to try and keep everyone in the loop. We have been holding office hours as well and been in touch with Jeff. That is a really high-level overview. I tried to keep it under 7. I don’t know if I did that. It was better without slides. We have so much to be proud of and so much I could and would love to talk about, but really just wanted to give you a very brief summary of where we are. I am happy to answer any questions.

Chairperson Bonnell: Thank you. I was able to follow you with your descriptions even without the slides.

Senator McLauchlan: I haven’t been in the classroom in a minute, but I do miss it.

Senator Peters: I was curious if you had the information about existing proposals that are under review right now and whether or not we could expect those to potentially be funded through National Science Foundation.

Senator McLauchlan: Are you talking NIH or NSF?

Senator Peters: NSF, mostly.

Senator McLauchlan: The NIH, there have been proposals out there with scores for a long time and no decisions. Nature reported that no NSF awards are being made, but NSF program officers highly dispute that. The facts say it may not. We have seen one award since January, and it was an NSF award. They say review panels continue to meet. From what we are hearing from PIs they are continuing to meet. We have not seen any notices of award though. Word on the street is yes, there are certain areas that are under higher levels of scrutiny, especially with new awards, as the NSF issued their shift in agency priorities. The expectation in talking to program officers is that we should see awards. The CD budget from US President does call for a massive cut to NSF funding and the NSF is funded on a 5-year cycle which comes due this September 30th for a new appropriation for a new year. There is a belief that perhaps they are just kicking the cans down the road for that new appropriation until the FY26 budget is passed. That doesn’t help us because that pause might as well be not funding. They have not issued a no. That is a really long “I don’t know.” There are many things where we have no idea. We are just seeing information at the same rate and trying to respond, trying to come up with a short-term plan and a long-term plan. In a world of uncertainty there is only so much certainty we can provide, but we want to try to come up with a short-term and a long-term plan that can assist our scholars and our students.

Senator Peters: Thank you. It is a difficult time. Thank you for your information.

Chairperson Bonnell: I agree with Senator Peters, thank you for all your work in these difficult times. Thank you for coming tonight with your presentation. I will look forward to the slides.

***Approval of the Academic Senate minutes of*** [***4-9-2025***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/Senate/Senate%20Packets%2024-25/2025.05.07/mch-%20Academic%20Senate%20Minutes%202025.04.09.docx?d=w7429d845b7e048c8ac42fa507bd54e32&csf=1&web=1&e=XZ2WsU)

Motion by Senator Peters.

Second by Senator Susami.

Unanimous approval.

***Chairperson's Remarks***

Chairperson Bonnell: I would like to take time to thank Senate Office Administrator, Kevin Pickett, for typing all these minutes for this session and all the minutes in the past year. They serve as historic record, and they matter to express the transparent governance that permits access to the process of Academic Senate. These notes in particular are 27 pages long and they share the debate on the Gen Ed revisions. I am sure they will be read-through well into the future, so thank you, Kevin.

Welcome to all the new senators and thank you to the continuing senators. Thank you for all your important work on this, the university’s principle governing body. Congratulations to Vice Chair Montoya for your election as the Student Body President. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Congratulations also to Secretary Nikolaou. You have previously served as Senate Secretary and I am so grateful to benefit from your past experience, thank you. Congratulations also to Senators Valentin, Blum, Stewart, and McHale for your elections tonight and for taking on the additional Senate roles. You are all fantastic and I always appreciate your work representing your constituents. Congratulations to May graduates and thanks to all those who might still be working on projects, taking finals, or grading at the end of the semester. I wish you well.

Another item I wanted to say at the outset is that this is the first that Senate has met since shots were fired at the Bone Student Center on April 27th. I want to thank the Illinois State University Police Department, the Bone Student Center staff, and all the first responders for their quick response. It is hard to imagine what those affected may still be feeling. Thanks to those who provide counseling services. This is another reminder to take advantage of counseling services available through the university through Redbird care and through the Safe Redbirds app. Chair Horst shared with me that the Campus Communications Committee has included a statement and recommendations regarding this tragic incident. That will be read at the Friday morning Board of Trustees meeting and that will be in this room.

Speaking of Chair Horst, I know I have big shoes to fill. I have always appreciated Chair Horst’s organization, attention to detail, relationship building, and hard work during her tenure as chair of the Senate. She has been so gracious to me, and I will miss her, but I will work toward emulating her leadership style. One of the sayings that she made with some regularity is that the long-term goal of the Senate is to review items in the Academic area broadly conceived and in a timely fashion. I will work toward that goal in a manner that is consistent with our university policies and procedures. In the upcoming year, Senate will have an important role in aligning, reconciling, and synthesizing the university’s governing documents such as the Constitution, ASPT, and variety of policies with the recently ratified UFISU faculty contract. To that point, tonight we will be considering an ad hoc committee proposal to aid in that process.

Some of you may know that in Milner my primary responsibilities are in helping patrons access, understand, and use government information for their research. At the federal and state levels I delight in the interconnectedness of those different entities and functions. I will work at applying those principles in integrating and updating our government documents with the elements from the ratified contract. It is important work, and I look forward to working with the teamwork that it will take to get this accomplished. I will conclude by saying, I think some of you know this, but I really love Senate. I have always loved being on Senate.

My Senate service dates back to 2009 under Chair Holland’s leadership. He was so extraordinarily kind to me when there were some strange things going on the library. I really appreciate him, thank you to Chair Holland. I believe this will be Senator Holland’s last Senate appearance; can we thank him? [*Applause*] He served 7 years as Senate chair. I also had the privilege of serving with former chair Paul Borg in his last year of service on the Senate Chair. Senator Borg crafted that extraordinary Memorandum of Understanding in 1999, creating a bridge with the Senate, Board of Trustees, and the President. Senator Borg also gave me advice that I think about every time I come into Senate. When Senate was led by Chair Susan Kalter, I was one of the URC members attending Faculty Caucus as we were revising ASPT and that was with the sanctions, suspensions, and dismissals. Chair Kalter knew me well and my tendency toward trepidation, and with some frequency she would incite me to have courage. I think of that now as I sit here somewhat petrified. Courage, she would say. Another comfort I cling to is one that Chair Horst and I discussed, and we agree on and that is Senate endures from all the individuals, it is the Body that matters. It is its continuity.

Similarly, some of you may remember that back at the August 28 Senate meeting, we passed a resolution honoring Academic Senate’s first chair Dr Charles Morris who had passed from this life on August 11. Dr Morris and his wife Dr Jeanne Morris were monumental figures in the University’s and community’s history. Fifty-five years ago, Chair Morris convened the Academic Senate where they approved a resolution deploring the violence and deaths at Kent State University and they espoused the freedom of expression. At that Senate they also elected members to what we now know as AFEGC. The Senate made plans to begin a review of faculty workloads. President Braden shared with the Senate a report on the budget situation and he hoped a compromise could be met. There is continuity in the work of the Senate; Senate finds a way of working through the challenges that present themselves. So, while I hope to never adjourn Senate as late as Chair Morris did in May 1970 at 11:20 pm, I do look forward to working with you all as in previous Senates in the best interest of all affiliated with Illinois State University. Thank you again for your service.

***Student Body President's Remarks***

Senator Montoya: Good afternoon, everyone. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Noah Montoya. I am honored to serve as the student body president this term. I am succeeding Cobi Blair who is out in the audience today. I have some big shoes to fill. I am excited to continue our work and advocate for our students. I would also take a moment to congratulate the new assembly leadership. Emma Susami, our Speaker of the Assembly, Abhi Jannu our Vice Speaker, and Joshua Sweedler our secretary who will also be serving on the Academic Senate Executive Committee. I am confident they will lead with integrity and dedication. Finally, congratulations to Senator Bonnell on being elected chairperson of Academic Senate. I look forward to working alongside you while supporting our shared governance efforts throughout the year.

***Administrators' Remarks***

* ***President Aondover Tarhule***

Senator Tarhule: Good evening. First of all, congratulations to Chairperson Bonnell and President Montoya. I know you both have big shoes to fill. Chairperson Bonnell, I have no doubt at all that you will do an outstanding job, and we look forward to working with you. I would also like to congratulate all of the executives that we elected this evening plus all the new senators coming aboard. ISU prides itself in our shared governance. This is something that we all value as well for strong traditions and I look forward to continuing that tradition and working with all of you during this coming year. I would also like to congratulate our graduating students. We have over 4,000 students who will be earning degrees this spring graduation. More than 3,500 of those will be walking during commencement on Friday and Saturday. I will be shaking a lot of hands, but it is pretty exciting. We wish all the students well. We had an advocacy day in Springfield on April 30th. Cobi Blair was present and testified on behalf of Illinois State. He gave an outstanding testimony, very memorable and exciting. We are very proud of you. We had several meetings with different representatives pushing ISU’s legislative priorities. We also had the Redbird Caucus reception that evening. The Redbird Caucus comprises ISU alums who write legislature. That also includes staff and other people in the Springfield area who work in government. Many people in our cabinet, Cobi Blair, and other shared governance partners all came down and we met with that group of alums and friends pushing our legislative priorities and asking for their help in getting us that support for those priorities.

* ***Provost Ani Yazedjian***

Senator Yazedjian: Congratulations to everybody that was elected. I look forward to working with everybody in this room next year. We were discussing at the last Exec meeting that there are several items pending for next year and I am confident that we will be able to work together collectively to do good things for Illinois State University. For those of you who will be off contract for the summer, have a great summer. For those of you who are going on to internships or just sitting around, have a relaxing summer. See you in the fall.

* ***Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson***
* ***Vice President for Finance and Planning Glen Nelson***

Senator Nelson: I have successfully made it through my first semester at Illinois State University. I really enjoyed working with all of you and the community through this semester. I am also looking forward to this summer with the heavy lifting of now building a prospective budget model based on the input from the campus community and RISE Taskforce putting down the guidelines and the framework. We will be working with our consultants at Grant Thornton to design a new model that we can test when we are back in the fall. We will be able to show that work and do more testing on that. I also appreciate the work that everyone has done at holding costs down through the remaining part of the fiscal year. I am hopeful that we will end the year where we need to be, in a much better place than we were with the estimated deficit before we did the 2% rollback and the other activities this spring. Thank you again for welcoming me, and I enjoy working with all of you and I am really looking forward to working with you next year.

Chairperson Bonnell: Vice President Johnson is not here, so there will be no remarks from them.

***Consent Agenda:***

***(Final Academic Senate approval of all Consent Agenda items will occur during a regularly scheduled Academic Senate meeting. All items presented on the Consent Agenda to the Academic Senate will be enacted by one motion. There will be no individual discussion of these items unless a senator so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered at the appropriate point on the agenda. All matters on the consent agenda that are not removed will be voted on by one vote. The motion to adopt the consent agenda shall be nondebatable. There will be no separate discussion on consent agenda items.)***

* ***Department of Management -*** [***Leadership Certificate***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/SUB%20-%20Executive%20Committee%20of%20the%20Academic%20Senate/2025.04.28/Linked%20Items/Consent%20Agenda/Leadership%20Certificate%20-%20Consent%20Agenda.docx?d=w0d75fc0d1b2d4ec7b975a8490a55eab9&csf=1&web=1&e=T20YMV) ***–*** [***FIF Here***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/SUB%20-%20Executive%20Committee%20of%20the%20Academic%20Senate/2025.04.28/Linked%20Items/Consent%20Agenda/FIF_leadership%20undergraduate%20certificate_approved%203-17-25.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=QmiVRD)
* ***School of Creative Technologies –*** [***Interdisciplinary Technologies Name Change Proposal***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/SUB%20-%20Executive%20Committee%20of%20the%20Academic%20Senate/2025.04.28/Linked%20Items/Consent%20Agenda/Interdisciplinary%20Technologies%20name%20change%20proposal/Digital%20media%20name%20change%20request-SRI_AY1.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=0mTaJj)

Motion by Senator Valentin.

Second by Senator McHale.

Unanimous approval.

***Advisory Items:***

***Assistant Vice President for Academic Planning Cooper Cutting***

[***Academic Plan***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/Senate/Senate%20Packets%2024-25/2025.05.07/Academic%20Plan%202025-2030_Senate_%20DRAFT%205-1-25_v2.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=oKtXX4)

Cooper Cutting: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to share this year’s academic plan. The plan serves several purposes. It goes to the Board of Trustees in July. It outlines upcoming academic initiatives in Academic Affairs and also provides a review of any changes that have happened for academic programs or centers on campus in the prior fiscal year. It also provides the outcomes of any self-studies that were submitted by academic programs in the prior year that were reviewed by the Academic Planning Committee, an external committee of the Academic Senate.

First, I am pleased to report that the Higher Learning Commission reaffirmed Illinois State University’s institutional accreditation in January. This was a significant undertaking that engaged faculty, staff, and students from across the university. Our next step is preparing a monitoring report on program assessment due in late 2026 which will ensure that we continue to refine how we measure student learning and program outcomes. This milestone reflects the institutions deep commitment to continuous improvement in academic excellence. We continue to expand and evolve our academic portfolio this year. We saw the launch of the Bachelor of Science in Data Science and the BA and BS in Sports Communication- both programs that reflect student demand and market needs. The data science program in particular is highly interdisciplinary, bringing together expertise from mathematics, information technology, marketing, health sciences, sociology, and politics and government.

This year, we approved many new sequences across a wide range of programs, including Data Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, Fashion Merchandising, Spanish, Sociology and Anthropology, Geography, Public Health, and Physics, and probably a few more that I just didn’t fit in. Additionally, we created several new certificate programs, including a new certificate in Queer Studies, which is our first undergraduate certificate program- the first of many, I expect. These additions reflect the creativity and responsiveness of our faculty in addressing emerging disciplinary areas and the needs of today’s learners. We continue to make meaningful progress on equity, diversity, access, and belonging- core goals in Excellence by Design, our new strategic plan. The 4.5 million faculty diversity and enhancement program has supported the recruitment and retention of faculty who advance equity through their research, teaching, and mentoring. Illinois State continues to prioritize student success through initiatives like TRIO, Hope Chicago, STEM Alliance, THRIVE, Project Rebound, and Pure Success Advocates program. Noticeably, the GSA program has raised retention rates among very high-risk students from 30% to 82% with 72% improving or maintaining their GPA. We plan to expand the program next year further strengthening our efforts to help all students thrive.

Illinois State continues to expand the accelerated master’s degree programs, the 4+1 programs which allow undergraduates to complete both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s Degree in about 5 years. Students can take up to 12 graduate credit hours during their undergraduate studies with those credits counting towards both degrees. Since 2018, 15 departments have launched 22 accelerated programs across the disciplines including Criminal Justice Sciences, Marketing, Geography, Physics, and Spanish, among others. Additional units such as the Department of Economics are exploring new offerings. These programs have seen strong growth with enrollment quadrupling over the past four years reflecting student demand and institutional success in supporting timely degree completion. This year marked an important milestone with the approval of a revised General Education Program following an extensive multi-year review and collaborative effort across the university. The new program strengthens connections between foundational skills and disciplinary knowledge, increases flexibility for students, and better aligns with national best practices. It reflects our shared commitment to delivering a well-rounded, high-quality educational experience that prepares students for success in their academic, personal, and professional lives.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to build our online and extended learning capacity with the goal of serving adult learners, working professionals, and other non-traditional populations. This includes developing a scale of old infrastructure for online course and program development supported by centralized instructional designers and a sustainable funding model. We are also developing the infrastructure to support offering Illinois State University-based micro-credential programs. Finally, this year’s plan includes summaries of program reviews from all departments and schools of Chemistry, Physics, Communications, Social Work, Theatre Dance and Film. These reviews are essential to our culture of continuous improvement. They provide formative, peer-driven feedback that helps departments refine their curricula, assess learning outcomes, and position themselves for future success. I want to emphasize that all of this work is rooted in collaboration and shared governance. The Senate engagement along with that of faculty, staff, and students across campus have been critical in achieving the initiatives reflected in this plan.

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by the creativity, persistence, and commitment across our campus. Qualities that have made it possible for Illinois State to not just weather challenges, but to advance in meaningful ways. Together, we are advancing the goals of Excellence by Design, elevating institutional excellence, expanding access, fostering belonging, and building meaningful partnerships. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Illinois State’s future. I look forward to working with you as we bring these plans to life.

Chairperson Bonnell: I read this over the weekend, and I really enjoyed it. It is really forward-thinking, so I appreciate all the time and energy that goes into that. I know that you meet every other Friday for a couple hours, so there is a lot of work that goes into this. One thing I did want to point out. Under “Journalism” there is a section where you mention Senate and one of your recommendations is monitoring the impact of incorporating the Vidette into the curriculum. Do you want to talk a little about that?

Cooper Cutting: There have been some recent email exchanges following the consultation meeting. The drafts of the outcome summaries that you see here are the drafts that might go the departments and schools, and we need to discuss those findings. When we met with the School of Communication, they said the Vidette was not incorporated, then the chairperson looked back and said they could see where it was coming from. What was being said there was not factually correct, so they offered up some evidence on that. The concern was if the Vidette is brought into the School of Communication as part of the curriculum is the independence of that as a journalistic entity being compromised. I think the school has been pretty clear that that is not the case. Some of these emails were this afternoon, but I think that I will likely be going in and making some small revisions to that. That said, I think the school is considering coming to Senate next year to talk about this issue.

***Communications***

Chairperson Bonnell: The College of Engineering Dean, Tom Keyser sent me a chat and said there will be another building tour at 1709 GE R0ad, that is the building on the right. That tour will be this Friday at 3 PM and all Senators are welcome. If you are interested in seeing 1709 GE Road, know that you are welcome. The person leading that will be Matt Aldeman. I would encourage you to go, it is fantastic and really worth seeing. If you have any questions about that, let me know and I can get you more information.

Senator Tarhule: I would like to echo your comments. If anyone has time to go see the building, I would strongly advise it. I think it is a lovely building. Especially if you are on Senate, I think you should make the time to take the tour. Once construction begins, we will not be able to see it. If we get approval from the Board this Friday, we will start construction in 2 or 3 weeks. This may be the last time to see it before it is closed off for renovations.

Chairperson Bonnell: You might be able to go, and you can have a before and after in your mind.

Senator Yount: I was going to acknowledge that a Senior student and his seeing-eye-dog got an honorary degree. He is a previous student of mine, so I am super excited that Ginsberg Edwards got his honorary degree as a seeing-eye-dog for a Senior that is graduating. I know the family is excited and as a previous teacher of that student it is super exciting to see.

***Adjournment***

Motion by Senator McHale.   
Second by Senator Yount.

Unanimous approval.