**Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 28, 2019**

**Approved**

***Call to Order***

Senate Chairperson Susan Kalter called the meeting to order.

**Oral Communication:**

Senator Kalter: We’re mostly just doing elections tonight. I want to start with a short item. So it came to my attention at the very end of April this past year, after the work of all our committees had completed that the Chair’s Council as we refer to it in the ISU Constitution and the entity that currently calls itself the Chair’s Council have become vastly different entities.

The Chair’s Council, which originated as what it sounds like, chairs with 33 to 34 members now also includes the following members: the Associate Provost, the AVP for Undergraduate Education, the WGS Director, the African American Studies Director, the Latinx/Latin American Studies Director, the Arts Technology Director, Military Science, the CTLT Director, the University College Director, the Honors Program Director, Lauby Center Director, the Stevenson Center Director, and I think possibly a couple of others. So that’s somewhere between 12 and 14 additional members, and, plus also, the 1 to 4 associate dean’s that are in Milner and Mennonite, because as we heard earlier they do not have department chairs and school directors.

So the ISU Constitution established a seat for deans, and it established a seat for chairs. At the time that that was put in place, and it may in fact have been carrying those seats all over from even older documents (I haven’t had a chance to look at that) but it was supposed to be a seat for chairs at that time. We still need that seat to be a department chair or school director because of the kind of work they do, particularly on the Caucus, but also on the Senate, being able to speak to the kind of work that’s done in departments.

So the way that that seat is worded in the Constitution currently is that it’s the Chair of the Chair’s Council. Now that, it’s interesting, because for a long time before about the last four or five years, it was a rotating seat. It didn’t necessarily get occupied by the Chair of the Chair’s Council, but about four years ago they decided to have it be the Chair of the Chair’s Council, and it says that that person sits as a non-voting member of the Senate. So as you might remember I was mentioning the Memorandum of Understanding, and the non-voting members of the Senate are kind of on the veto side, right, the President’s side, where they can say no to our recommendations.

So we’ve long valued having a sitting department chairperson or school director in that role. They don’t always say much on the floor of the Senate, but they can be turned to at a moment’s notice for understanding how items that we may be talking through, you know, work in departments or impact chairs, departments, and that kind of thing. So Rules Committee is this year going to have to make a change to the ISU Constitution to clarify that we need that, you know, what we want, what we need, and that that seat is intended to be… that chairs and directors are the ones eligible for that seat.

Before they do that work, I wanted to mention here that in the current Blue Book the person holding that seat in the Senate, when the Caucus begins, they are listed essentially as having a vote on the Caucus. So they do not have a vote in the Senate, but they have a vote in the Caucus, and my understanding is that that’s partly because one of the main things that we do is ASPT policy. So I’ll read you parts of the charge of the Caucus. The Caucus provides oversight of and makes recommendations regarding ASPT proposals or policy, reviews annual promotion and tenure documents from the Provost’s office, advises the Provost on salary increment programs, discusses and provides recommendation for other tenure-related issues that are not specifically give to the Faculty Affairs Committee, receives nominations from Faculty Affairs for faculty appointments to various committees, receives nominations from Rules Committee for external committees where we’re seating faculty, and then provides oversight of the University Review Committee and receives reports from it.

So you can kind of hear in that how many of those things relate to a chair’s promotion of research, scholarship, creative activity in a department, tenure and promotion, that kind of thing. It’s particularly important for us to have the chair or director here during ASPT deliberations and reviewing promotion and tenure documents, that kind of thing. But I wanted to confirm or have a discussion about whether we want, as they’re looking at that issue, for that person to continue to have a vote on the Caucus even though they don’t have a vote in the Senate. Or are we interested in debating it going to a non-voting seat. Do we have opinion about that? Keeping it as a voting seat here versus making it a non-voting seat.

Senator Horst: I don’t have… I probably do have the Blue Book in front of me but the Provost is a non-voting ex-officio?

Senator Kalter: On the Caucus. And it’s the Blue Book, the way it’s worded, the reason that you can tell the chair is a vote and the Provost is not is that it says ex-officio non-voting in front of the Provost line in the Caucus Blue Book description, where it does not say that in the description of the chairperson.

Senator Pancrazio: Can you give us a page number?

Senator Kalter: I’m sorry, I did not bring it, but maybe Senator Horst can give you a page number.

Senator Horst: The Blue Book, it’s page 6. And we have one ex-officio non-voting member who is the Vice President and Provost or designee. Then the members of the faculty Senators, the NTT faculty Senator, and the Faculty Associate Senator, then the Chair of the Chair’s Council is listed. In my mind since that’s an ex-officio position, it would make sense to have it also be non-voting so it is parallel to how the Provost seat works.

Senator Meyers: What’s been the practice for that position in recent years? Has it been non-voting or voting?

Senator Kalter: It has been voting.

Senator Meyers: My opinion would be that we should keep it that way until the Rules Committee has a chance to do their work and determine then if there would be a change. I would prefer to do that rather than to change it now.

Senator Kalter: So I wanted to gather feedback for the Rules Committee as it’s doing its work. So when it does its work, would it be your opinion that it should change or that it should stay a voting seat?

Senator Meyers: I think if the practice has been for it to be a voting seat, I would need to have a reason to change it. So probably, I would be inclined to keep it as is.

Provost Murphy: I guess I feel like we need more information. You’ve read… I guess I’m not sure what you’re trying to ask us to do. I feel like you’ve talked about a couple things but if there’s Blue Book information, if we could have time to review that, if there’s… I mean I think we just need to let the Rules Committee do their work. I guess I’m not sure what you’re asking us to comment on other than whether the Chair of the Chair’s Council should be voting or not. Is there anything else you’re asking us to look at?

Senator Kalter: No. I think it’s very clear what I’m asking. I’m asking whether or not the Caucus would like the chair to keep their vote. And I’m not coming from any position. It was a question that was raised when this was called to my attention, and so I’m asking what the tenor of the Caucus is. That’s only one question. And so that Rules can know what the Caucus wishes.

Senator Mainieri: I was going to say something similar that I would be hopeful that the Rules is going to consider the historical reasons why the Chair of Chairs had the voting privileges. I find it hard right now to offer any opinion without seeing some of that documentation.

Senator Kalter: I’m not sure what kind of documentation we need.

Senator Mainieri: I would just like some historical context as to some of the discussion that happened that lead to this position being voting. And so, as a member of the Caucus, I don’t even know if I could offer any input to the Rules Committee at this point.

Senator Kalter: My understanding is that it’s the… first of all a chairperson can be elected and people have been elected into the faculty seats on the Senate as a whole. So just because you’re a chairperson doesn’t mean that you can’t hold a faculty seat. They’re the only administrator that we consider to be eligible to sit even just in an ordinary faculty seat. And my understanding is that because of the things that I described as the charge—ASPT policy, tenure and promotion, and things like that—that the vote was valued because it is, sort of, if you’re sitting, for example, on an ASPT committee, your chairperson has a vote on that shared governance committee, and that it’s an important part of Caucus deliberations, particularly when we’re talking about the five-year review of ASPT policy, that if we’re going to be asking the chairperson on the Faculty Caucus, you know, drawing on them as a resource, asking them questions about where they think ASPT changes should or should not be made, that we’re doing that in part in the spirit of being an ASPT-type committee, right, in that respect, and that we wanted to have them have a vote for those reasons, right? To respect their part in all of our ASPT processes.

Senator Horst: As I look at this Blue Book page, it doesn’t list the chair of the Chair’s Council as being ex-officio.

Senator Kalter: Correct.

Senator Horst: And I’m wondering if it’s as simple as a typo, that they used to be listed as ex-officio non-voting and it got moved. So maybe that’s part of the documentation. Is there any other earlier version of the Blue Book? Because at the very least it’s left out that they’re an ex-officio position. And I’m wondering if it’s just sort of a clerical error that they weren’t listed as ex-officio non-voting.

Senator Kalter: Cera can certainly research that and see if there are any earlier iterations. We have tons of earlier iterations of the Blue Book because it changes every year or two. I’m not convinced that it would’ve been a typo. I think it’s been that way, you know, but of course I don’t look at it every single year or what have you. But I believe that it’s been that way for quite a long while, but we can look at whether or not there was ever a moment when it was either marked as ex-officio and/or non-voting.

Senator Horst: So, at the very least it should say ex-officio voting if that’s what the Caucus wants.

Senator Crowley: I think that to ask us what we think is not going to be of much value to the Rules Committee until we have some factual information to back up our decision. From my perspective, I see no reason why the chair of the chairs and directors committee shouldn’t be a voting member of the Caucus because after all they are a faculty member. If there is some kind of a conflict then they simply recuse themselves from that issue. But, you know, if there is a good rationale for having them be non-voters, then I’d like to have that clearly stated, so then I can say, all right that’s convincing. Otherwise I would say keep them voting.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. Other comments? All right. If there are no other comments we’ll see if we can provide that historical information and I’ll ask you again in two weeks. And please think about it, maybe even talk to faculty who’ve been on the Senate before and ask them their opinions about it.

***Council For Teacher Education***

Monica Noraian, HIS, to serve as 2019-2020 replacement for Dr. Sue Hildebrandt (term 2019-2022)

Motion by Senator Pancrazio, seconded by Senator Blum, for Monica Norian to fulfill Sue Hildebrandt’s 2019-2020 term on Council for Teacher Education. The motion was unanimously approved.

***Council On General Education***

Liz Sattler, KNR, 2019-2021 (To replace Anu Gokhale)

Motion by Senator Horst, seconded by Senator Mainieri, for Liz Sattler to fulfill Anu Gokhale’s 2019-2021 term. The motion was unanimously approved.

***Parking Advisory Committee***

Faculty Caucus representative 2019-2021 term

Jihad Qaddour (ITK) was unanimously elected to the Parking Advisory Committee.

***Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, Planning, and Operations Search Committee search committee nominees***

The below names were confirmed nominees for the search committee:

Dallas Long, MIL

Joe Blaney, CAS

David Marx, CAS

***Adjournment***

Motion by Senator Murphy, seconded by Senator Marx, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.