**Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes**

**MONDAY, December 2, 2019**

**Approved**

***Call to Order***

Academic Senate Chairperson Susan Kalter called the meeting to order.

***Oral Communications:***

***SURS: publicize the importance of employees gathering enough information to make an informed decision about how best to invest their savings***

Senator Kalter: So, Oral Communication is actually kind of a written communication. I’m going to have to read you all some of this. We got an email, Cera and I received an email from Jay Rich over in the Department of Accounting. The first email said, “I am one of ISU’s two representative on the SURS Member Advisory Committee (SURS MAC).” Love that name. “My responsibilities include communicating with the Academic Senate to (a) provide information we are provided by SURS and (b) communicate anything Academic Senate may have back to SURS.” Right. So, he says, “Can you tell me if there’s a Senate committee with which I should be communicating?” So, that’s question number one, for us. And I said back to him, “It would either be Faculty Affairs Committee or Faculty Caucus. We’ll ask the Senate Executive Committee if they prefer one or the other,” and then I asked him if they have other faculty reps, other reps on SURS MAC. And then I asked him if he or somebody that he knew might want to be on the SUAA Executive Committee, since we haven’t found a volunteer for that. And so he’s getting somebody.

So, then, he wrote us back responding to a question that Cera asked him, saying… she had asked him, I think, something like do you want to come to Senate and present, or something like that, and he said there’s nothing… he started out by saying there’s nothing that needs to be communicated, and then saying, yes, there is stuff that needs to be communicated, right. He says, “I guess to the extent the Senate has questions or concerns, it will help me suggest agenda items for the SURS MAC. For example, we have been working with SURS to address…” SURS, by the way, I don’t know if you know SURS, the State University Retirement System. So it’s where our pensions and stuff come out of, and are managed by, and all that. So he says, “We’ve been working with SURS to address the danger that many employees appear to have suboptimal investment allocations, for example, a fair number of employees state wide have all of their self-managed assets in money market accounts earning essentially zero percent return.” Boy, is that scary. That’s super scary.

So, when I came to ISU, there were three different plans, the traditional, the portable, and the SMP. And what the SMP, the self-managed plans, were, where you go with like TIAA or Fidelity or like an outside company to have you manage their stuff. So, it’s the difference, well, it’s…anyway, that’s what that is, I won’t go into all of that. He says, “Investment advisors are now more frequently on campus and available for appointments, but very few employees take advantage of these counseling sessions. Now that I’m writing that, I guess that I would like to publicize the importance of employees gathering enough information to make an informed decision about how best to invest these savings.” And then I had asked, he said that Jean Ann Dargatz actually had been the other rep and now it’s somebody else, and I think he didn’t know who that was or something. So.

The last one was me back to him, and I said “It might be worthwhile for us to schedule you to come either to a Senate or a Caucus meeting to talk about these issues,” and I wasn’t sure whether Senate is best, whether AP and Civil Service Council wanted to have their own event and, if so, would they want the faculty member to conduct that one? And then, whether we should do it annually? And how full are our calendars? So, that’s the whole… how’s that for a lot of questions? And we’ll go back to the first question, which was, is there a Senate committee with which I should be communicating?

Senator Horst: I recall an item on the Faculty Affairs Committee list about sabbaticals and how to count sabbaticals or something and it crossed over with SURS somehow, and so I’m thinking… I don’t know, I’m thinking…

Senator Kalter: Oh, I remember that. Okay.

Senator Horst: I’m thinking Faculty Affairs might be a good place.

Senator Kalter: Might be a good place, okay.

Senator Mainieri: I think maybe if there was an action item Faculty Affairs seems to make sense, but for something like communicating updates, I think maybe, just going to Faculty Caucus directly might be the most…

Senator Kalter: And then if something comes up, then we could…

Senator Mainieri: Right. Because then we’re not waiting for it to go through the committee structure or anything like that.

Senator Kalter: Okay.

Senator Ferrence: I would king of agree with that, unless the students for some reason wanted to be more educated on that side of things, but I don’t see that as necessary. I think it would be useful to have a larger body like Caucus because, you know, what’s suggested in that memo is that the landscape has changed dramatically from well over a decade ago was the last time I had a conversation, and the conversations I had were so infernal that I just… Because every question I asked, they said it’s against the law to answer this, you can go look it up on the web. I’m like I wanted to know… you know, I said, where do I sign up for this, look it up. And I was like, it was completely useless dialogue with the people because I wanted to say, well, do you have recommendations for investments and they would… we can’t give you any recommendations, all we can do is… Like, well, I know what my options are, right. What I’d like to know is what… if I go to my, you know, my regular bank with my own personal thing, my financial advisor can give me suggestions and they don’t. And so I’ve always found it very difficult and so that’s where the dialogue with more people, because if it’s still, they’re just going to tell us, well, there’s a website that you can go to and change your allocation… Now I am surprised with the money market, but that may just be whatever they defaulted into is where it goes.

Senator Kalter: Yeah. Well. I mean, they’re not defaulted forever and ever, they’re defaulted into the SMP forever and ever, but not into any particular allocation, that’s…

Senator Ferrence: No. Well, you set at one point and unless you change it, the allocation ratio never changes, I think.

Senator Kalter: Unless you change it.

Senator Ferrence: Unless you change it.

Senator Kalter: Right, but you can change it any day. You can change it every day. So, that’s about people not being educated about how they’re about to go into retirement with almost no money. And then before I ask Sami about it, Dimitrios, what do you think?

Senator Nikolaou: I would say that Faculty Caucus, and then, do we want to have the Civil Service and the AP, see if they want to attend it as well.

Senator Kalter: Right. And Sami, I’m wondering, do you think the students are interested in the sense that we would want to bring it to Senate ever?

Senator Solebo: I mean, I don’t think so. I think like maybe if you mentioned it like during your report, like something brief, that would be best.

Senator Kalter: Like, you’re welcome to stay after for Caucus to hear the SURS MAC stimulating conversation…

Senator Solebo: Yeah.

(Laughter)

Senator Kalter: For all of that money that you’re saving as student employees.

Senator Solebo: Yeah.

Senator Kalter: Okay. Are we… did you want to say something Dr. Dietz?

President Dietz: No. You covered my concern about the staff interface.

Senator Kalter: Gotcha. So you’re thinking that the AP/ Civil Service Senators would want to be there for that presentation, rather than having their own presentation for more of the AP/ Civil Servants?

President Dietz: If this person is coming on as the official rep, representing this topic to everybody, there’s obviously more Civil Service and AP than there are faculty. So, I don’t know if they want their own, but they should at least have an opportunity to say they can either attend this, or have their own, or whatever they want to do.

Senator Kalter: Yeah. Yeah. Maybe attend it as a preview to whether they want their own and all of that.

President Dietz: Yep.

Senator Kalter: Okay. Let’s see. So, we’re saying Faculty Caucus, for now at least, even if Faculty Affairs might eventually get something. And yeah. Okay. So, we’ll just schedule that sometime for the spring. Does that sound good, with all of the free time that we’re going to have in the spring in the Caucus. Okay. Great. Oh, I know what the other question was. It had to do with Caucus having its calendar full in the spring, so should we just deal with that when we come to it? (Pause) If we have a lot to do in the Caucus, it might be easier to have the presentation in the Senate itself. So, maybe we should just, you know, cross that bridge when we get to it, if we get to it. Okay. So, that’s that one.

***Distributed Communications:***

***11.20.19.01 From Senator Lahiri: Developing Global Perspective in ISU students***

Senator Kalter: The only other one is Senator Lahiri’s Distributed Communication. You have that, so I won’t read those out loud. Pleasurable as it is.

Senator Mainieri: I’m sorry, do we know the pronouns of Dr. Lahiri?

Unison: He.

Senator Mainieri: Thank you.

Senator Horst: It seems as if the concerns are being addressed by work that’s being done in Academic Affairs or Gen Ed task force.

Senator Kalter: I hadn’t even thought about Gen Ed task force, but that’s a good point.

Senator Horst: I can convey that if it comes up. On the Gen Ed task force, I’m a member.

Senator Kalter: Oh, I see. Right. In other words, taking what he has said here, and saying, you know, we got this, these concerns were raised, how can we address them?

Senator Mainieri: You had indicated it’s come up in the past. How has it come through Senate in the past? Has it gone out to a committee? Has it gone to OISP?

Senator Kalter: All kinds of things.

Senator Mainieri: Okay.

Senator Kalter: The last I recall was with Dr. Pancrazio, and at one point, he came here, right. He was interested in things that are related, not necessarily exactly the same things, because obviously his concern is that people have foreign language, whereas it seems like Dr. Lahiri is sort of like, they need more than just foreign language, right. So, it’s come through Senate, you know, with the International Studies Strategic Plan a couple of times. I think that’s why it was here at Exec, if I remember correctly. There have been various agenda items in the Academic Affairs Issues Pending list, like having… things about fairness in how student abroad pay is allocated and all of that. Yeah. So, those are the ones I remember. Does anybody remember anything else?

Senator Nikolaou: Yeah. Last year it was brought up in Academic Affairs for the pay outs, and how, is it centralized? is it more decentralized? and we had someone from OISP come and say it is hard to actually centralize it, because different departments are going to have different needs. So, we don’t want to go in that direction. It was just in the information session to tell us what’s going on, it’s not that we made any decisions or anything.

Senator Horst: I have it in my packet, we have an Inter… we had an International Strategic Plan from 2013-2018. That’s now expired.

Senator Kalter: As I remember with the meeting with Dr. Pancrazio that was here, we were talking about how that needed revision, right. That the Strategic Plan needed to…

Provost Murphy: And I believe they’re working on it. And I don’t know if it’s ISAC that’s working on it, but they are trying to do a more holistic international plan for the institution.

Senator Kalter: Great.

Provost Murphy: So, I mean it might be worth having Luis or Ani or somebody come in and talk a little bit about that process, and who’s helping, and how they’re approaching that. So.

President Dietz: I think one of the complexities of that also is that toward the ending of that plan we were also in the midst of the INTO…

Senator Kalter: Right.

Provost Murphy: Uh-hum.

President Dietz: Project, and so that’s a whole new dimension of our international initiative. But I am glad to see the interest in the internationalization across the campus, and he’s hit on several important areas. I am pleased to say that I know specifically that the number of students who are studying abroad has gone up pretty dramatically, and that’s not necessarily a whole semester, it could be a short term study. But I think when I first came here, we only had about 250 students that were going abroad, and we had, I think, close to 700 this last year.

Senator Kalter: That’s good.

President Dietz: So, it’s a significant increase. His concern about the money to do that is always a concern, but I also know from working with some donors that we have some new programs to support study abroad that as a result of the Redbirds Rising. There’s some donors that have written checks to support that. Now, they’re not huge checks, but I know that we have at least two or three endowments to support travel abroad.

Senator Kalter: That’s great, because that starts to address what I had said back to him about, you know, you come to a certain level and then you have economic issues with students needing to stay for jobs, even if they can give up the job they can’t afford to go, or what have you.

President Dietz: Right. Correct.

Senator Mainieri: It seems to me that the Gen Ed taskforce would be a great place, but then also just an update with where we are with that strategic plan could be good next step too.

Senator Kalter: Is there good timing on that? Like, is that timing for this year or next year, given that they’re in the middle of it?

Provost Murphy: That’s a great question. So, would that be a good question for me to check in with Ani and see…see where they’re at with that, so?

Senator Kalter: That would be terrific, thank you.

Provost Murphy: I’ll do that.

Senator Kalter: No. Whether or not… when they would come to Senate to give us an update on where the new…

Provost Murphy: I’ll see what their timeline is. I can double check.

Senator Ferrence: I do think it’s also worth putting out there that there, in some disciplines, particularly like the sciences, for study abroad, unless it’s going to be the freshman year, it gets very difficult, because during the later years, the advanced course work, unless you’re going to go to a foreign country that teaches at the US level and in English, it gets really hard to do our advanced work elsewhere. And so, I know, like in Chemistry, we rarely get students abroad, unless they can come in with enough AP credit to open up a semester. Now, if we were willing to move to a five year program instead of four, but when you’re trying to get people out in four years, and get them taking their advanced course work, it’s really hard to have them do that.

Provost Murphy: That’s where good study tours, like a good educational tour that might be two to three weeks in the summer.

Senator Ferrence: Yeah. Yeah, so there’s ways to do certain things.

Provost Murphy: There’s ways to still help them.

Senator Kalter: I like also this model that I’ve heard of where they do a lot of instruction here, and then go abroad for a week and have it, not exactly applied necessarily, but they’re doing some other component of it on the study abroad, but it’s not a full semester study abroad. I think that’s an interesting model. And obviously there are a lot of English speaking countries where, you know, in Europe, Australia, Africa, where you could go, or India, where you could potentially find those connections, but you wouldn’t get the foreign language component of it. But it’s still a study abroad.

Senator Ferrence: It’s hard because often times their levels are so different, because our junior year is sort of akin to their freshman year in many of those countries, because the level that they come out of high school is so much more advanced than ours. And so, that’s what we’ve often seen is that when our students do go abroad they do stuff other than sciences.

Senator Kalter: Interesting. Hmm. All right. Anything else on that one? This is a really busy meeting. (Laughter)

***Proposed* Academic Senate Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

**7:00 P.M.**

**OLD MAIN ROOM, BONE STUDENT CENTER**

***Call to Order***

***Roll Call***

***Chairperson's Remarks***

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

***Administrators' Remarks***

* ***President Larry Dietz***
* ***Provost Jan Murphy***
* ***Vice President of Student Affairs Levester Johnson***
* ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Stephens***

***Advisory Item:***

***Honorary Degree recipient***

***Action Items:***

***09.25.19.01 Repeat policy Current Copy (Academic Affairs Committee)  
11.13.19.01 Course Repetition(s) AAC Mark Up (Academic Affairs Committee)  
11.13.19.02 Course Repetition(s) AAC CLEAN COPY (Academic Affairs Committee)***

***Information Items: None***

***Consent Agenda Items: None***

***Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Nikolaou***

***Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Marx***

***Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Crowley***

***Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Mainieri***

***Rules Committee: Senator Seeman***

***Communications***

***Adjournment***

Senator Kalter: Let’s see. So, approval of the proposed Senate Agenda. I will say that we checked about the Honorary Degree this year, we probably will not have one, but we’ll let you know if anything comes across the desk.

Provost Murphy: I think you’re going to have one.

President Dietz: I think we’re going to have one.

Senator Kalter: Oh, you think we’re going to have one.

President Dietz: Yes.

Senator Kalter: All right. Well, something’s going to come across the desk.

Provost Murphy: We’re working on the letter right now, so, to you.

Senator Kalter: Okay, great. So, we’re going to put that on the proposed agenda.

President Dietz: Good.

Senator Kalter: And we’ll do it in Executive Session, I believe, we’ll check, but I think we’re doing it as an Action Item. I can’t remember how we do that.

President Dietz: Hopefully so.

Senator Kalter: What’s that?

President Dietz: Hopefully so.

Senator Kalter: Yes. Hopefully so.

President Dietz: We need a little time to prepare for that.

Senator Kalter: Usually, as I remember, you or Jan or somebody comes in with a stack of stuff, passes it out by hand to keep the whole thing confidential, and then gathers it back by hand after we’ve done the voting on it, and all of that. Is that right?

Provost Murphy: Um-hum.

President Dietz: Yeah.

Senator Kalter: Okay. I’m glad to hear that there is some… there’s not… this is good. Yes.

Senator Solebo: Is this the agenda for the 18th?

Senator Kalter: For the 11th. For December 11th.

Senator Solebo: Oh. Oh. Okay. Yeah. I was looking at the wrong week. Yeah. Okay.

Senator Kalter: And again, in case you’re not aware, the Honorary Degree Recipient is somebody who gets like an Honorary PhD, or an Honorary whatever, like an MFA, or something at Founders Day. They’re usually awarded at Founders Day, so we try to go into executive session to keep it quiet, especially because we’re not always sure whether the person can show up to the Founders Day ceremony, and if they don’t, they won’t get the award, as I remember, and so that’s why we have to go into executive session about that. Oh, you have it here as Advisory Item, so we’ll just change that to Action, and put it under Executive Session.

Senator Horst: And Founders Day is happening.

Senator Kalter: I hope so.

President Dietz: February 26th sticks in my mind for some reason.

Senator Kalter: Was there a question whether Founders Day would occur?

Senator Horst: Maybe it was that the awards are being taken… moved out.

President Dietz: It was the awards have been moved.

Senator Horst: Okay. I understand.

President Dietz: Because we just had so many of them.

Senator Kalter: Thank God.

President Dietz: Frankly, we weren’t getting the crowd that we had hoped, and so we thought it would be a good idea to change it. So, we ran it around the cabinet and some other places, and decided to change it for this next year.

Senator Kalter: So, where will that occur?

Provost Murphy: I got to think about this. There’s the Bell Ringing, and then we’re going to have that be a little more ceremonial with the Honorary Degree there. So, we’ll have a… and then there’s also the Faculty/Staff luncheon.

President Dietz: Right.

Provost Murphy: Right. But no Convocation.

Senator Kalter: Okay. And so then, where will like Distinguished Professor and…

Provost Murphy: Those we are not, so… UP we’re going to have a luncheon for UP. DP are going to get their medallion at their ceremony, because we always kind of made them give us the plaque back and give it again. Like teaching awards, those will all be given at the Symposium.

Senator Kalter: Okay.

Provost Murphy: Right. There are a few awards that’ll be given during week… I’m sorry.

President Dietz: Well, no, I just think one of the reason the attendance has fallen off with what is traditional with the Convocation with all the awards, is that the folks that got the awards have already been honored in the various locales that they would get the award, and so a lot of people are like, well, I don’t need to go see Frank or Freda get their award again. And so, if you’re around the stage or anywhere near the stage, it was a long… and it’s wonderful that folks are getting awarded and rewarded for all of that, but it made for a very long, long program.

Senator Kalter: It seems as though the number of awards has grown a lot since whenever this started.

President Dietz: Yes, it has.

Provost Murphy: Very much so, yeah. So, we tried to look at the full list of all the awards given at Convocation, and see which awards already had an obvious home, like the teaching awards. Because I just read the same exact thing at Convocation, I had just read at the Symposium, right. So, let’s give the award at the Symposium. There’ll be some that’ll still be given at the Bell Ringing, Honorary…we’ll do some awards there. And then, some others, like, for example, research awards, we’re going to take and in the spring, there was always kind of the research reception, we’re going to combine, and have the reception, and then give out University Research awards, and I think do the Fisher Award at the same time. So I think they’re trying to do kind of a “celebration of” for all research and scholarly and creative artist awards. I’m trying to think of… so there are a mix of a few, but we tried to make sure everything had a home.

Senator Kalter: So, there won’t anymore be an event where all of the faculty chairs, etc., put on their cap and gown and stuff like that at Founders Day.

Provost Murphy: At Founders Day.

Senator Kalter: Okay.

Provost Murphy: Right.

President Dietz: They can still do that if they want. (Laughter)

Provost Murphy: You can wear that regalia anywhere you want.

Senator Horst: So, we’re still having Founders Day, and we’re still ringing the bell.

Senator Kalter: Yes. Let’s see. So, I forgot, I don’t think I did a motion to approve the agenda. Do we have a motion to approve the agenda?

Motion by Senator Mainieri, seconded by Senator Horst, to approve the agenda.

Senator Kalter: So, we already have the Honorary Degree Recipient under Advisory Item but we’ll just change that to Action Item, and put executive session and that’s it, except for the Repeat policy and everything else. And we do have to have this meeting, because we are by… our Constitution says we have to have a meeting every month during the academic year. So, we have to have the December meeting, regrettably with so little activity, but luckily since we have to vote on Honorary Degree. Anything, anybody see anything else?

Senator Ferrence: Have holiday cookies there.

Senator Kalter: For $500. (Laughter) What was it? I thought it was a lot. It was a lot. Yeah. We’re not going to have cookies for a while. We blew our stack on the October 9th.

Senator Mainieri: Tapped our cookie budget.

Senator Ferrence: Wow.

President Dietz: You had your one cookie.

Senator Kalter: Yeah, one cookie. All right, so all those in favor of this agenda please signify by say ay.

The motion was unanimously approved.

***Adjournment***  
Motion by Senator Ferrence, seconded by Senator Mainieri, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.