**Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes**

**Monday, April 28, 2025**

**Hovey 419, 4:00 P.M.**

***Call to Order***

Chairperson Horst called the meeting to order.

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

None.

***Approval of the minutes of*** [***3-31-2025***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/SUB%20-%20Executive%20Committee%20of%20the%20Academic%20Senate/2025.04.28/mch-Minutes%20-%20Academic%20Senate%20Executive%20Committee%202025.03.31.docx?d=w6340273fb9074241a7028e6ae397ed9f&csf=1&web=1&e=bWXNWw)

Motion by Senator Blair.

Second by Senator McHale.

Unanimous approval.

***Oral Communications:***

Chairperson Horst: I received some communication from the provost this weekend about the Mennonite search. She was concerned because there was technically no department chairs in Mennonite. I did look at the language that we passed which address this very issue. It has not been signed by the president yet. The language that we passed says a current or former department chairperson or school director or other administrator in a faculty role for units without a chairperson or director, which is exactly the problem with Mennonite. We have already passed this language, it just hasn’t gone through the official channels to get to the president’s desk. I would propose that we accept this interpretation or revision for the current 3.2.13 so that the provost can find an administrator that can fulfill this role. She can’t find anybody right now from Mennonite because they don’t have department chairs.

Provost Yazedjian: Perfect, thank you.

***Distributed Communications:***

[***Academic Plan and Vidette***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:u:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/SUB%20-%20Executive%20Committee%20of%20the%20Academic%20Senate/2025.04.28/Linked%20Items/item%20for%20May%207_Academic%20Plan%20review.msg?csf=1&web=1&e=WiHGvE)

Chairperson Horst: This will come up when we do the Academic Plan. I put it on the agenda because I was in the discussions about the academic plan. I wanted to get my perspective on it before I step down. As we were reviewing the School of Communications, we noted that the Vidette had some financial troubles. Now it has been enacted that they are part of the School of Communications. They are also working with WGLT. WGLT is overseeing them now. I will have to read exactly what was in the academic plan.

This is the report from the School of Communications, “Since the last program review the student newspaper, the Vidette, officially became part of the School of Communication. Prior to that it was a self-sustaining campus media outlet. No longer being able to generate the revenue needed to sustain itself, it was folded into the School of Communication and, more specifically, the Journalism program. As such, we began the process of infusing the operation of the Vidette and the work that goes into its daily production into the journalism program curriculum, much like the operation of TV10. In the spring of 2024, Journalism faculty and staff as well as key personnel from WGLT engaged in several strategic planning sessions for the future of the Vidette. We are still in the process of assessing the results of those sessions and figuring out a course of action for the future. Further, we have begun discussions with key personnel of WGLT about establishing a partnership with them to provide cutting-edge and hands-on coursework.”

I am not saying there is necessarily a problem with this. I just noted that in the constitution we are in charge of overseeing. Here it is, “The Academic Senate shall recommend policy concerning the principles and procedures governing student publications and other campus media. Editorial freedom shall be guaranteed to all student publication and other communications media.” It might be worth a conversation given that we are officially charged with ensuring that they have editorial freedom. Given that they are now doing Vidette work for a grade, potentially.

Senator Bonnell: Illinois is one of the few states that has protections for students who write for their student newspaper. Ours is called the College Campus Press Act. It not only is protecting the students, but it is also protecting the faculty advisors. It seems like the students would be accounted for to make sure that they are protected and they can write things.

Chairperson Horst: I am curious how, with this model, are they ensuring that there is editorial freedom. They might have some quick answers, it is just we are officially charged with this in the constitution. I thought it might be something that the Senate investigate a little bit.

Senator McHale: I think that is probably a good idea. I have heard no concerns about it. I think John Plevka is retiring, who has been overseeing it. If you think there is reason to look, we could have a conversation with the editor in chief and some key members of the staff, maybe? I don’t think there have been issues raised, I haven’t heard them. I am in more mass media than journalism. There is a ton of overlap, I deal with all of those journalism students early on as they take the intro class that I teach. I haven’t heard the concerns that there is any squelching of freedom of speech.

Chairperson Horst: I am not saying there is, I also do note that there is this alternate Vidette that has popped up.

Senator McHale: It was the Indy for decades. The sad part is paper publications have gone away. Indy folded 8 years ago, I think.

Chairperson Horst: Maybe just a presentation in the fall?

Senator McHale: The editor-in-chief I think is a student. Also, certain members get aid. They have a budget because FirstSite and University Liquors spend a lot of money on ads there. I don’t know how the finances go, but they were self-sustaining with those ads.

Chairperson Horst: I don’t how it is. Are they doing work on the Vidette for a class?

Senator McHale: I am not sure. I am really not sure how they have overlapped. I know a lot of their reporters I talk to are making money off of the work that they do. I don’t know at what point there is compensation for stories written.

Senator Bever: I think they are student employees too. They are actively paid hourly, to my knowledge. I am curious to see what is going to happen with the intertwining with the curriculum.

Chairperson Horst: We might reach out to the School of Communications chair or the person who runs WGLT or the Vidette editor. We just want to have a conversation so we further understand how this is all working.

Senator McHale: Maybe a student editor in chief who probably is elected now and will start in the fall. I don’t know if John Plevka would be good, but I do believe he is retiring. He is an NTT who has been the faculty advisor. Is he still in that role? If not, maybe a student and McBride, for instance.

President Tarhule: I think the chair of Communications is more appropriate than McBride.

Chairperson Horst: I want to emphasize that I am not saying anything bad is happening. We hardly do anything in that area of our charge. Given the fact that the student newspaper just had a radical transformation we should at least know about it.

[***Support of AACU.org statement***](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aacu.org%2Fnewsroom%2Fa-call-for-constructive-engagement&data=05%7C02%7Ckpicket%40ilstu.edu%7C4aa2aee0b66949a1b4fd08dd81edc49d%7C085f983a0b694270b71d10695076bafe%7C0%7C0%7C638809580390715975%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Trl6lhxLkELquiYIUMeZiqQ624p%2FQjpvDA9YuB1gOR8%3D&reserved=0)

Chairperson Horst: The next thing is the statement that President Tarhule signed. 400 university presidents signed?

President Tarhule: I don’t know how many now. It was just under 275 when I signed it.

Chairperson Horst: I got a note from the faculty senate chair at Northern. He said, “Both of our institutions’ presidents have signed onto this.” He said he has been in conversation with his president about their senate signing this call and asking their faculty senate to endorse their institution’s signature. He was wondering if I could consider something similar. I put that on the agenda. I am not sure. It looks to me like it was presidents who have signed this, and we have already now made a statement through the McHale resolution. I am not quite sure how this would work. Do people think we have done enough on this area? We have done this resolution.

Senator Bonnell: I keep notes for Milner, so I included that link. At the bottom of that page, as of last night, it said that there were over 500 who had signed. From what I could see, they were all presidents.

Chairperson Horst: He was saying that he wanted to sign on behalf of the Senate, but I think it is really a president’s statement. People are comfortable with what we have done so far? We have the McHale resolution and then we keep the president’s signature to just you?

Senator McHale: If you want us to support it, you think we need to?

President Tarhule: I think you have supported it internally. I would say that is enough for now.

Chairperson Horst: It sounds like you signed on behalf of everybody. Thank you very much.

***\*\*Approval of Proposed Senate Agenda– See pages below\*\****

Motion by Senator Blair.

Second by Senator McHale.

Unanimous approval.

[***Internal Committee IP Lists***](https://illinoisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/AcademicSenate/Academic%20Senate%20Sharepoint/SUB%20-%20Executive%20Committee%20of%20the%20Academic%20Senate/2025.04.28/Linked%20Items/Internal%20Committee%20IP%20Lists.xlsx?d=w01e44aacce27415e8983dc93679be627&csf=1&web=1&e=IU64rG)

The committee discussed the IP lists for the 25-26 Internal Committees.

***Discussion of President and VP surveys in Executive Session***

Motion to enter Executive Session by Senator Blair.

Second by Senator Bever.

Unanimous approval.

The committee went into Executive Session to discuss the annual surveys.

***Adjournment***

Motion by Senator Cline.   
Second by Senator Blair.

Unanimous approval.

***Proposed* Academic Senate Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 07, 2025**

**7:00 P.M.**

**OLD MAIN ROOM, BONE STUDENT CENTER**

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

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

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

***Election of Academic Senate Chairperson***

Angela Bonnell, Milner

***Election of Academic Senate Secretary***

Dimitrios Nikolaou, CAS

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

Rick Valentin, WKCFA

Craig Blum, CoE

Todd Stewart, CAS

John McHale, CAS

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

***Presentation:***

***Research Programs***

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

***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)

***Chairperson's Remarks***

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

***Administrators' Remarks***

* ***President Aondover Tarhule***
* ***Provost Ani Yazedjian***
* ***Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson***
* ***Vice President for Finance and Planning Glen Nelson***

***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)

***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)

***Communications***

***Adjournment***