

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Approved)

November 8, 2000

Volume XXXII, No. 6

Call to Order

Chairperson Curt White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Senator Crothers called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2000:

Motion XXXII-46: By Senator Weber, second by Senator VanDraska, to approve the minutes of October 25, 2000. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Remarks:

Senator White: Notified the Senate that there would be a memorial service for Senator Len Schmaltz on November 20 at 1:00 p.m. in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center.

Vice Chairperson Remarks:

Senator Brown: There will be a student caucus following this evening's meeting.

Student Government Association President's Remarks:

Scott Kording, SGA Vice President, substituting for Senator Biondolillo: The Student Government Association is discussing the issue of parental notification regarding student disciplinary violations.

Administrators' Remarks:

- ***President Vic Boschini:*** Excused absence.

- ***Provost Al Goldfarb:*** The Distinctiveness and Excellence report has been revised. There is now a clearer statement about ISU's identity and distinctiveness. There was some concern about there not being a focus on internationalization and we have placed more of a focus there. There was a concern about more focus on transfer students and that has been addressed. Some people had a hard time with some of the recommendations in terms of Foundations of Inquiry as well as cluster hiring of faculty. The most unpopular part was "The Illinois State University" and that has been dropped. But we have had discussion on how we want to have a higher profile as an institution. There is a new section on communicating how we are succeeding in relationship to the report. We want to make certain that the Senate has an opportunity to discuss the report and we want to remind everyone also that all the actions in the report currently need to through whatever governance structures that are required to review those recommendations. Actions are significant but the key is how we define ourselves as an institution and that is what the committee is trying to focus on.

Senator White: The Senate's endorsement of the report would take the form of a Sense of the Senate Resolution. A vote to endorse this document as a whole in no way obliges individual senators or the Senate as a whole to approve anything within the document that will need to be approved by the Senate at a later date.

Senator Reid: In the latest version of the report, is there still a recommendation that all transfer students take FOI?

Senator Goldfarb: Yes, I have asked Senator Bragg to look at the budget implications.

Vice President of Student Affairs:

Senator Mamarchev: Reported that flu shots are being administered by Student Health Services. They began on Monday, November 6, and will continue through November 17.

Vice President of Finance and Planning:

Senator Bragg: Reported on the ability of the University to pay faculty who are on nine-month contracts over a 12-month period. I reported previously that there were some software problems with our current payroll system that prevented us from doing this on an individual basis. We have formed a task force in corporation with the comptroller's office and academic personnel to look into this issue and I think that there is a way to get this done. I will bring you some recommendations early next semester.

Senator Campbell: Commented that a short-term solution is that participants in the ISU Credit Union can have their pay distributed over a 12-month period.

Committee Reports

• ***Academic Affairs Committee***

Senator Meckstroth: The members of the Academic Affairs Committee met and discussed the proposals regarding the English Placement Test.

• ***Administrative Affairs Committee***

Senator Kurtz: Administrative Affairs discussed the proposed school designation for the Department of Social Work. We will be bringing forward a positive recommendation on that. We also discussed our major charge of the year, that is, the commentary on the performance of the President. We are discussing and beginning to formulate guidelines and procedures for that.

• ***Budget Committee***

Senator Strickland: The Budget Committee met and continued its discussion and work on the review of the Academic Impact Fund. We will meet with the Deans Council regarding this subject and we will continue our work on it through December. We should have this ready for presentation to the Senate early next semester.

• ***Faculty Affairs Committee***

Senator El-Zanati: On Monday, we will send out the survey on the use of non-tenure track faculty to department chairpersons.

• ***Rules Committee***

Senator Weber: The Rules Committee continued to discuss the changes to the Entertainment Committee's constitution. We also continued our discussion of possible revisions to the current governance structure. We will be talking about this for at least a few more meetings. We are reaching a consensus on many issues.

- ***Student Affairs Committee***

Senator Kowalski: The committee agreed to refer the recommendation of a Student Health Concerns Committee to the Student Government Association. The committee did not feel that it had enough time or constituents to form this committee.

- ***Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Committee Report***

Senator White: Senator Crothers was not available to attend the FAC meeting, so I went to the meeting in his place. The meeting began with a discussion of internal committees and their tasks. I suggested that Senator Crothers be on the governance committee. There was a panel discussion on the use of adjunct (non-tenure track) faculty nationally and in the state. We watched a video called *Degrees of Shame*. The video argued that many adjunct faculty are the equivalent of contemporary migratory workers. Several individuals shared their experiences as adjunct faculty with the committee. FAC concluded that it needs to review and revise its 1997 position paper calling for the end of the excessive use of non-tenure track faculty. No other state initiatives exist at this time. Senator White's entire report can be found at </Committees.htm>.

Senator Crothers: Asked what Senator White would like to see come out of the process.

Senator White: I just had a conversation with the Provost about how we are going to put some action behind our desire to reduce the use of non-tenure track faculty to 15%, which is what the Educating Illinois document calls for. My feeling is that individual institutions need to self empower and go after these issues. There are state-level possible responses that could make it a lot easier for individual institutions to do so. The state does not make it easier for us to respond these kinds of problems by basing our pay increases on 95% of the previous personnel dollars. Even if they just allowed us that additional 5%, this would give the institution some room to address this. I think that the IBHE should take some leadership so that we could do that.

Senator Crothers: Both last year and this year, we are pursuing 98 as the likely percentage base because a certain amount of turnover is not very likely. IBHE has committed to do a study of what the consequences of a 98% base would be and if is that adequate. They are hypothetically beginning that this year.

Senator White: I think it is possible for the institution to make a very credible case to the IBHE on this issue. That might take the form of a request for additional budget dollars.

Action Items:

09.29.00.01A Proposal Regarding Constitution Exam

Motion XXXII-47: by Senator Meckstroth, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, to approve the proposal regarding the Constitution Exam from the Council on General Education. The proposal reads as follows: "Completion of any course in the Middle Core Individuals and Civic Life Category will fulfill the Constitution Exam requirement." Senator Morgan seconded the motion. The wording would be included in the Constitution Exam section of the college catalog. Students may also still substitute Political Science 105.

Senator Reid: Dr. Perez has sent me the wording of the catalog category description: "Students will

understand the general principles and various kinds of institutions of governance and how they affect individuals." That seems to me that there is not a strong requirement that they touch on the Constitution substantially. I suggested that they add "including the United States Constitution", simply to make it certain that that would be there guidance in the future. I would be personally reassured if the Council on General Education would take that up.

Dr. Lou Perez, Director of General Education: I would be willing to make that commitment.

Senator Fowles: When will this go into effect?

Dr. Eric Thomas, Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Studies: This will be retroactive to 1998.

The motion was approved. There was one no vote (Senator Strickland) and one abstention (Senator Razaki).

03.17.00.02

Graduate School Bylaws Revisions

Motion XXXII-48: by Senator Weber to approve the revisions to the Graduate School bylaws. Senator Mushrush seconded the motion. The revisions were unanimously approved.

10.19.00.01A Senate Liaisons to Colleges

Senator White: We received some suggestions from Senator Reid for revisions to the proposed language for the Senate liaisons to each college. The revised language now reads: "College representatives will caucus each fall in order to designate at least one liaison to respective college faculty. The responsibility of the liaisons is to keep college faculty fully informed of Senate actions." This will go in the Academic Senate Blue Book and will go into effect next year.

Motion XXXII-49: by Senator White and seconded by Senator Razaki to approve the language. The Senate unanimously approved the proposed language.

Election of Student Representatives to Dean of College of Education Search Committee: This issue will come before the Senate at its next meeting.

Information Items:

05.10.00.03A Entertainment Committee Constitution Revisions

Senator Weber: The major change to the Entertainment Committee's constitution was increasing the number of individuals on the committee from 11 to 20 students, with no alternates. There were also a number of editorial changes, which are indicated on the final page of the handout.

Senator Kowalski: Do all of these positions have to be voted in?

Senator White: Yes.

Senator Crothers: In Article III, Section 4, you should specify "faculty" alternates since you have eliminated student alternates. Also in section 3, the word "faculty" should be added before alternates.

The proposed revisions will come before the Senate for approval at the next meeting.

05.10.00.01 Course Withdrawal Deadlines

Senator Meckstroth: The course withdrawal proposal seeks to change the course withdrawal date from the end of the fifth week of classes to the end of the eighth week, with a grade of WF.

The Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

Senator Crothers: One of the concerns of the IBHE is "time to degree". Has anyone looked at how having more students drop out later in the semester affects this issue? Also, as an editorial note, the language in the last paragraph should be changed to reflect the new titles of the Deans of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies.

Dr. Eric Thomas: We did not look at time to degree and I don't know if you can really assess that. It might be difficult to factor out just that one thing. We have done a lot of different things that may have effected time to degree.

Senator Landau: In the final paragraph, I would like to have some of the language changed. I believe the current licensure law regarding professional practice is not specific and it would not be appropriate to make reference to a "licensed clinical psychologist", but instead a "licensed psychologist", which may involve someone with clinical psychology training but who may involve training in other areas.

Senator El-Zanati: The cover letter states that the change from five to eight weeks reflects the policies of other universities in the State of Illinois. Could you enlighten us on that?

Dr. Thomas: We received information from eight other institutions. One has a six-week drop period, but there is a lot of flexibility. The majority of the others have eight weeks.

Senator El-Zanati: Do we expect more students to drop courses by changing this?

Dr. Thomas: I think that there is a possibility that there may be some increase in the number of drops, but when you consider that 60 to 75% of our students receive financial aid and that if they drop below 12 hours they would loose that aid, I don't think that we will see a rash of students dropping courses. Also, I think that there is an academic benefit to changing the drop date. When students are considering dropping a course for good academic reasons, they need to have the opportunity to see the Academic Progress Alert, which comes out in the seventh week, for that consideration.

Senator Meckstroth: One thing that we discussed in our committee was the importance of continuing to talk to students about the consequences of dropping courses. I know that has been discussed in FOI and I know that the University College does advise students about those consequences.

Senator Strickland: How many students drop how many courses in a typical semester?

Dr. Thomas: I would think that it is in the range of a few hundred. I will find that out and let you know.

Senator Chang: Does the grade of WX affect the student's GPA?

Senator White: No, it does not. Did the Academic Affairs Committee attempt to get responses from academic advisors, department chairs or other faculty about this issue?

Dr. Thomas: I did get input from the University College advisors.

Senator White: I would suggest to senators that they let academic advisors and department chairs know that this issue is coming before the Senate and ask their advice.

Dr. Thomas: We can put this out on the academic advisors' list serve tomorrow.

Senator White: The Senate office can send a copy of the resolution to the department chairs.

Senator Landau: I would be interested in circulating an electronic copy to my colleagues.

Senator White: The Senate office will send a copy to all Senate members.

Senator Brown: If this is passed, when will it go into effect?

Dr. Thomas: It will be implemented during the next academic year in the fall.

Senator Nur-Awaleh: Does this apply to graduate as well as undergraduate students?

Senator White: Yes.

10.12.00.01 Revised List of University Sanctioned Events for Equitable Treatment of Students Policy

Senator Kowalski: On February 9, 2000, the Senate approved the Equitable Treatment of Students Attending University Sponsored Events. The Senate asked that a list of those events be created by the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committees. This list is before you now for discussion.

Senator White: This is something that has already been voted on and we had requested that this list be forwarded to us again for information. We are not going to vote on it again. We just have the final opportunity to have input.

Senator Thomas: Under item A, Intercollegiate Athletic Competitions, does this include cheerleaders?

Senator Mamarchev: Yes, it would.

Senator Thomas: Academic Department Major, section C, refers to regional and national conferences. Does that include state conferences as well?

Senator Mamarchev: Yes.

Senator Campbell: I suggest that you just list "professional association conferences" instead of adding "state" to regional and national.

Senator Thomas: The last line says in the event of a disagreement regarding this policy, the issue will be directed to the Associate VP for Undergraduate Studies. Is that a one-person decision or is there a panel representing the parties involved in arbitration.

Senator Mamarchev: I would talk to Dr. Thomas about anything that is not on the list.

Senator Weber: With the regional and national association conferences, there are different issues involved. Some people may attend meetings; others may actually give presentations. Therefore, should any clarification be made about participating in the conferences?

Senator Mamarchev: I don't think that you should try to list everything that could possibly be; it is better to have flexibility. If professors are encouraging students to attend a particular conference, then that seems legitimate to me. The calls that are coming to my office are in regard to events that are being encouraged by the academic side.

Senator Mushrush: In the event a graduate student is going through this, will the VP of Undergraduate Studies still resolve the issue?

Dr. Thomas: If a similar situation arose for a graduate student, the graduate student would go to the VP of Graduate Studies. It is much harder for me to envision this situation occurring with a graduate student. I do want to emphasize that this policy is by no means intended to supercede the discretionary capability of faculty. The first line of decision on whether a student can be excused from a class and has justifiable reason is the faculty member teaching that class. That is worked out without any difficulty most of the time. It is only when there is a disagreement and the student is jeopardized in that they are required to participate in an activity to fulfill the requirements of another class or to retain a scholarship. That was the basis for the whole policy initially.

Senator Razaki: Did you consider class trips when the whole class is asked to go?

Dr. Thomas: My view is that it is up to the individual faculty member to work that out; that is, if it is not a university sanctioned event that a student is required to do in order to represent the university. If a faculty member wants to take his class on the trip, then I would work that out with the other faculty members in the department to make sure it did not conflict with anyone else's schedule.

Senator Razaki: But I have the right to say no?

Senator Mamarchev: Yes, you always have that right. It is the faculty member's decision.

Senator Reid: I am a little confused. Why would there be a stipulation for arbitration and appeal if a professor can say no? Clearly, you would be willing to override them some of the time if there is arbitration.

Dr. Thomas: The first judgment and discretionary power resides with the faculty member. If the faculty member decides that he or she is not going to excuse a student for a required competition, they can go to the department chair or the dean to appeal that. If it goes beyond that, the student has some recourse in those cases where a faculty member is not doing what is in the best interest of the student; they have the approved policy to protect them.

Senator Strickland: I want to register an objection to the language that invokes that the best interest of a student is a nonacademic endeavor.

Senator El-Zanati: Has this already been implemented?

Senator White: The policy was passed and this is an addendum to the policy.

Senator El-Zanati: What is the number of instances that the Associate VP for Undergraduate Studies has had to render a decision on whether or not a faculty member has acted in the best interest of a student?

Dr. Thomas: There have been a very small number of cases.

The list of Sanctioned University Events will be added to the Senate-approved Equitable Treatment of Students policy currently in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Communications:

Educating Illinois: Distinctiveness and Excellence Report - Revised. This issue will be discussed at the next Senate meeting.

Motion XXXII-50: By Senator Kowalski, second by Senator Weber, to adjourn. The motion was approved by a standing vote.

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