

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Approved)
November 29, 2000

Volume XXXII, No. 7

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 November 8, 2000:

Motion XXXII-53: Corrections to minutes: "Len Schmaltz" instead of "Len Schwartz"; "non-tenure track faculty" instead of "non-track faculty". By Senator Weber, second by Senator Noyes, to approve the revised minutes of November 8, 2000. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Remarks:

Senator White: Congratulated Senator Razaki as the recipient of the Outstanding MBA Faculty Award this year. Senator White announced that there would be a faculty caucus after this evening's meeting.

Vice Chairperson Remarks:

Senator Brown: The students have completed their governance report. Students on the SGA voted unanimously in support of it and tonight there will be a Senate student caucus to vote on the proposal. There will also be an election for the two student senator vacancies. Senator Brown welcomed a new student member to the Senate, Senator Carolyn Bathauer.

Student Government Association President's Remarks:

Senator Biondolillo: The SGA currently has several community service drives going on. There is a new student organization on campus called the Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities. SGA has given them funds to start some of their programs. Additionally, SGA has approved student fees and monies have been allocated.

Administrators' Remarks:

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

- ***Provost Al Goldfarb:*** Reported on the Madrigal Dinner and the Arts and Sciences lecture.

- ***Vice President of Student Affairs:***
Senator Mamarchev: Excused Absence.

- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning:***
Senator Bragg: The IBHE may send out their budget recommendations next week. As soon as I get them, I will share a copy with the Budget Committee. I will not be able to attend the next Senate meeting, so Senator Strickland can make a presentation on this at the next meeting.

On Monday, the President, the Comptroller and I testified in front of a legislative audit commission, the

legislative oversight of our annual compliance audits. There are two findings that I want to highlight. One finding was that we are still not in compliance with the 1998 Auditor General's audit on the way we handle and process tuition waivers. We have a group of people that are working diligently on that. We will work with our department heads to improve our procedures for tracking and providing guidelines for waivers. The second one involves Central Receiving. We are not doing a very good job of keeping track of our inventory and equipment. Therefore, I am doing some reorganization in that division allocating more human resources to this effort. We will be working with the Chairs Council and with the Administrative Affairs Committee of the Senate to develop more rigorous procedures on property control.

Senator Crothers: I attended one of the tuition waiver workshops. As it was presented, we are to turn every graduate director and anyone else doing tuition waivers into mini-compliance officers and nothing else. I came up with an alternative of a quick form to actually process that kind of thing, which I sent to Joe Rives. I realize we have to comply with the State's demands, but it is a matter of how we should do so.

Senator Bragg: Joe has forwarded that to me and I certainly appreciate your feedback.

Senator Strickland: I would like to know what the information is being collected for and how we may use the data collected to make a better case for more resources for the institution.

Senator Bragg: I can share with you the fall 1998 audit report from the State Auditor General, which laid all of the guidelines with which we now have to comply. I agree that the question of resources for student financial aid, and especially tuition fee waivers, is a legitimate resource question that we ought to be bringing up in the Budget Committee.

Committee Reports

- *Academic Affairs Committee*

Senator Meckstroth: The members of the Academic Affairs Committee discussed additional data related to the course withdrawal policy proposal, which we will bring before the Senate this evening. We also talked about some of the other issues we are going to be addressing.

- *Administrative Affairs Committee*

Senator Kurtz: This evening, we will bring before the Senate the request from the Department of Social Work for designation as a school. Also, we are evaluating the proposal to give school designations to the Art, Music and Theatre Departments. Administrative Affairs additionally discussed our ongoing plan to develop focus groups with regard to our charge to evaluate the President annually.

- *Budget Committee*

Senator Strickland: The Budget Committee met and continued its discussion on the Academic Impact Fund. We have met with the Deans Council and plan to present a report on the fund at the first Senate meeting next semester. We also discussed the Department of Social Work's proposal for school designation.

- *Faculty Affairs Committee*

Senator El-Zanati: Faculty Affairs will meet before the first Senate meeting next semester. At that time we hope to have formed the surveys on the use of non-tenure track faculty.

- *Rules Committee*

Senator Weber: Scott Kording presented to us this evening the Student Government Report on suggested changes to SGA. We hope to bring some of these suggestions forward at the next Senate meeting. We also continued our discussion on possible changes to the structure of the Senate related to membership.

- *Student Affairs Committee*

Senator Kowalski: No report.

Information Item:

10.25.00.03 Request from Department of Social Work for Designation as a School (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committees)

Senator Kurtz: In order to comply with the guidelines of the Council on Social Work Education, the accrediting agency for Social Work programs, the Department of Social Work is requesting the change in designation from department to school. The proposal has been endorsed by all of the tenure and tenure-track faculty within the department as well as the department chairperson and the college dean. The head of the school is to be called the Director and will maintain all rights, privileges and responsibilities of a department chairperson. There will be no changes whatsoever within the department that we can see beyond the name change of the department and the department chairperson.

Senator Landau: Does the change in status from department to school change the relationship between that school and all of the other departments within the college, especially regarding the budget and prioritization process?

Senator Goldfarb: The dean indicates in his memo that the name change does not imply a shift in organizational structure nor does it have any budgetary implications, so the school would go through the same budget process as departments.

Senator Crothers: I suggest that we adopt the policy, but I think that the concern regarding resources is not necessarily that there is a "resource grab", but that in the short term it may imply a priority shift of a college's allocation of resources.

Senator Strickland: I would be interested in having a list of *departments* that have MSWs and a fuller argument from the accrediting agency as to why it is necessary for it to be a school. Would you be willing to ask the department for more information?

Senator White: The Senate should be reminded that this is an information item and will not become an action item. It is not something that we need to act on. Perhaps Senator Kurtz could provide Senator Strickland with the information he has requested.

Senator Weber: I do have considerable reservations because it seems that an inconsistency is now going to develop. We are going to have colleges that have departments and schools. We should all be identified in the same way.

Senator White: Earlier in the year, we looked at the general policy of creating schools and we had an opportunity to address this. Today, we are discussing the first such program to come before us with this specific request.

Senator Reid: We have to think about a domino effect, particularly if Music, Art and others are requesting designations as schools.

Senator White: That's why there are guidelines to which each department making this request must adhere.

Senator Campbell: I am from the Department of Social Work and I know that we have wrestled with this issue for a really long time. Because of the competitive nature of the program and because of the standards that are set by the accrediting body, we felt that it was essential to move forward and request school status.

Senator Landau: The documentation before us suggests that school status may be necessary for certification. On the other hand, it is being suggested that it will absolutely have no effect, which leads me to believe that all we are talking about is something that is cosmetic.

Senator Goldfarb: I think that the key issue in terms of designations as schools is that the standards of the departments need to meet the professional norms of the discipline. There are certain departments whose norms clearly suggest that those disciplines have certain kinds of professional implied sensibilities, which indicate that they operate at the highest level, and "school" has become a very closely tied construct to those programs.

Action Items:

11.29.00.01 Student Center Programming Board and Policy Board Elections (Senate Vice Chairperson)

Motion XXXII-54: by Senator Brown to approve the slate of nominees for both the Student Center Programming and Student Center Policy Boards. The slate was unanimously approved and the following students were elected:

Student Center Policy Board

Chris Davis	2001
Kari Kesler	2001
Holly Marek	2001
Stephanie Neudecker	2001
Robyn Tye	2001
Jimmy Ford	2001

Student Center Programming Board

Scott Bright	2001
Veronica Chavez	2001
Amy Francis	2001
Wynter Jackson	2001
Stephanie Johnson	2001
Michelle Kelahan	2001
Bonnie Lessner	2001
Amy Nguyen	2001
Adam Shorter	2001

11.29.00.02 Election of Nominees to the Honorary Degree Committee (Rules Committee)

Motion XXXII-55: by Senator Weber to approve the slate of nominees to the Honorary Degree Committee. The slate was unanimously approved and the following individuals were elected to the committee:

Student Government Association

John Bussan, Mass Communication

Student Senator

Aja Holmes

Faculty Senator

Dave Weber

11.29.00.03 Election of Student Representatives to Dean of College of Education Search Committee (SGA President)

Motion XXXII-56: by Senator Biondollilo to approve the slate of nominees for the Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Education. The slate was unanimously approved and the following students were elected to the committee: Aja Holmes and Zoe Hudock.

05.10.00.03A Entertainment Committee Constitution Change (Rules Committee)

Senator Weber: This was brought before the Senate as an information item at the last meeting. I move that these changes be approved. The motion was seconded by Senator Wells.

Senator Crothers: There were some recommended language changes within the document based on the Senate's discussion at the last meeting. Have those changes been made?

Senator White: Its up to the committee to bring back a revised document. If they have not done that, then your recourse is to offer an amendment or to ask them to table the motion.

Senator Crothers: I must ask the committee to take it off the agenda and bring it back when they have made the appropriate changes.

Senator Weber and Senator Wells withdrew the motion; the Entertainment Committee Constitution revisions will be brought back before the Senate at its next meeting.

05.10.00.01A Course Withdrawal Deadlines (Academic Affairs Committee)

Motion XXXII-57: by Senator Meckstroth to approve the revised course withdrawal policy; the motion was seconded by Senator Biondollilo.

Senator Meckstroth: The revisions to the policy are as follows: in paragraph four, the time period for course withdrawals has been changed from the **fifth** to the **eighth** week of classes; in the last paragraph "clinical" has been changed to "licensed" to describe psychologists and also in the last paragraph the appropriate titles for the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies and the Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, Research and International Education have been substituted for the titles of deans, respectively.

Dr. Eric Thomas: At the last meeting, Senator Strickland asked what the current rate of withdrawal was for students within a given semester. For the current semester, there was a total of 103,691 course enrollments. The total course withdrawals for this semester was 542 courses, so we have a very low drop rate.

Senator Hampton: I read the feedback that came back from the academic advisors that was put out on line and there were only two basic reasons that came out in favor of this proposal--that it is easier for teachers and that other institutions are doing it, which don't quite constitute good reasons. I particularly noted comments

coming from Larry Quane. He stated that it would be harder for students to get courses with repeat enrollments; that it would lead to grade inflation; perhaps that it even encourages over enrollment. I believe that this proposal is not consistent with the Educating Illinois document in that it does not encourage a rigorous academy. I agree with Professor Quane's argument that students can usually tell within about three weeks whether they want to continue a course or not.

Senator Meckstroth: I did a tally of the feedback from advisors; there was one mixed vote, two people who favored the five-week withdrawal period, two people who felt that five was too early and eight too late; but 16 advisors felt that eight weeks was the preferable withdrawal time. I do believe that there were some other reasons given in the advisors' comments that also included things about students having a better understanding of where they stood in the class at a later point in time and giving faculty a longer time period to give feedback.

Senator Landau: I strongly believe that if we extend the drop deadline, we will reduce the rate of drops. There will be greater opportunities for each of us to engage in academic intervention that would encourage students to remain in the class.

Senator Reid: I think that it is incorrect that students know by the third or even the fifth week what they are going to do. They are not manipulating the system. I think that the proposal is a positive step toward working with students, so I strongly support the changes.

Senator Howard: If faculty members try to give feedback as early as five weeks, they create a mini finals week early on in the semester and create undue pressure. Also, I don't really buy into the GPA manipulation.

Senator Biondollilo: The SGA strongly supports this extension of the drop date because students would have a more informed decision. Dr. Thomas reported that 70% of students are on financial aid; if they drop below 12 hours, some of that financial aid will be cut. Additionally, we can only retake a class once.

Senator Kurtz: I support this; I have found the five-week period an enormous impediment.

Senator Noyes: I find that it is inconsistent that students have to make the decision to drop a course before faculty members give them a mid-semester grade. I also am appalled that many of my colleagues do not submit grades at mid semester. It is only when the administration holds the faculty accountable that we will have this pattern of not reporting grades changed.

Senator Brown: I wanted to address the supposed contradiction in the Distinctiveness and Excellence Report. I think that the drop policy will allow professors to be more rigorous because the students can get more substantial feedback from their professors.

Senator Panfilio: I just wanted to give a little history on this proposed policy change. Last year, Senator Biondollilo, Senator Brown, myself and others got together to talk about this issue. What brought this to our attention is that the Academic Progress Alert provided feedback at seven weeks, but the drop deadline was at five weeks. We found that the drop deadline was previously at twelve weeks, so our goal was not to manipulate grades but to achieve the right balance.

Senator El-Zanati: I understand that it used to be twelve weeks; why it was changed?

Senator Strickland: The arguments for twelve weeks were most of Professor Quane's arguments, most of

which are good for twelve weeks, but not so good for eight weeks.

Senator Fowles: Would this eight-week drop date affect registration? When would this policy go into effect?

Senator Meckstroth: That was addressed by the data that Dr. Thomas provided. The actual percentage of students that drop is very low, so it did not seem to us to that it would be a problem.

Dr. Thomas: It would be incorporated into the catalog for 2001-02.

Senator Razaki: I support this initiative because I know that the student is going to take this course again. I would much rather have the opportunity to teach them for an additional three weeks even if they drop after that because then they will come back better prepared next semester. In fact, I make an offer to my students who have dropped a course to keep coming to class through the end of the semester.

Senator Story: Someone mentioned over registration and that if a student could not maintain a class, he or she would drop it. We still have to pay for those courses. I am not going to drop a class that I paid for. This is horrible for students.

Motion XXXII-58: by Senator Thomas, seconded by Senator Panfilio, to call the question. The Senate unanimously agreed to the motion to close debate.

The Senate voted in favor of the motion to approve the proposal with the exception of one no vote (Senator Hampton).

Communications:

Educating Illinois: Distinctiveness and Excellence Report - Revised (Senator Goldfarb)

Senator Goldfarb: Last time we indicated that we would be reviewing the Educating Illinois action plan for distinctiveness and excellence at ISU. I indicated that the report has undergone a significant number of changes, not changes that transform the report in terms of major actions, but rather we tried to structure the report more logically and provide a strong statement about the institution's values and vision. There is more emphasis now on internationalization, transfer students and faculty recruitment. We added a new section on communicating our identity. We tried to clear up some of the discussion about Foundations of Inquiry. The "The Illinois State University..." was dropped from this version since it was not very positively received across campus.

Our desire is also to put together communications and implementation teams that would have on them members of all of the governance structures. Senator Bragg has done preliminary budget work with the plan also and will work with the Budget Committee. We see this as a living document that transforms as people continue to react to it. We would like to get a sense of the Senate's endorsement of the plan recognizing that anything in the plan that has to do with governance will come back to the appropriate governance body.

Motion XXXII-59: by Senator Reid, seconded by Senator Panfilio, for a Sense of the Senate Resolution endorsing the document.

Senator White: Again, the Senate's endorsement of this document is a general endorsement of the general strategic ambitions of the report. It is not an endorsement of anything specific that the Senate will need to revisit at some time in the future.

Senator Crothers: It is my intention to support the Sense of Senate Resolution. However, there are two points that I don't see addressed. The Senate was severely criticized for the way that the General Education Program was developed in that we never really worried about the actual staffing implications of some of these courses in an empirical way and now we are dealing with that on a daily basis. I don't think that the report has well addressed faculty workload. Most of what is in here is extremely time intensive for most faculty. The second concern I have is that there is an underlying notion here that incentives and other kinds of devices can be used to structure a faculty career to support this plan. I want to suggest that that notion may need to be very flexible because with more competition from the private sector, I image that there is going to be struggle to hire people.

Senator White: Let it be noted that the entire Senate was deeply skeptical about the General Education Program, but we were basically told by administration at that time that what were to do was basically approve a curriculum and that it was their job to figure out how it would be financed. We were assured by them that that would be done without having to reallocate.

Senator Goldfarb: We are going to make this a public document and tie specific costs to the specific programs. In terms of recruiting faculty, it is going to be very difficult to recruit faculty during the next five to ten years, but I think that one of the better ways of recruiting is telling people about your institutional values. Clearly we have to start looking at faculty position issues and those have now become a top priority.

Senator Campbell: In regards to recruitment of faculty for our master's program, the vision that our department had, supported by the vision that the college had for us, as well the university's vision, sold our program. I think that a lot of that is reflected in this document.

Senator Hampton: I have a two-page memorandum that was sent to me and to Senators Walker and Dicker from the College Council of the College of Fine Arts. Senator Goldfarb and Laura Pedrick have also received a copy. I just want to encourage them to make sure that these considerations are included in the continuing redrafting of the document. Perhaps the most egregious omission was that under academic culture on page 22, there are no references to the fine arts.

Senator El-Zanati: I want to congratulate the committee for adding number 44 to the revised report. In number 20 is an issue that I raised last time, which states "Keep class sizes small in Foundations of Inquiry and in other General Education courses, where appropriate." The "where appropriate" was not there the last time. I was hoping that the intent was that we would lower class size, not find a way out of doing this.

Senator Goldfarb: We are not trying to suggest that we don't won't lower numbers. What we do want to do is take a look at places where there might be structural sensibilities that work well in large lectures. We should not be making the decision that a large lecture class is appropriate for only budgetary reasons, but based on what is best for the instructional interaction of the student and faculty member. However, of course, this will have certain kinds of budget implications.

Senator El-Zanati: I did not see it the report, but I would encourage the use of visiting terminal degree faculty.

Senator Panfilio: I just wanted to say that a lot of thanks needs to go to Laura Pedrick. I have seen her diligently taking notes during every meeting. She has worked to incorporate everyone's opinion. I also wanted to thank the distinctiveness and excellence group as well as the Senate. As we grow, we have become more collaborative. I think that this is an excellent product of what can happen if we all come together and

share ideas.

The Senate applauded Ms. Pedrick's concerted and conscientious efforts in helping to create the Educating Illinois document.

Senator White: An endorsement from the Senate seems to me to also imply accountability to the Senate. Can you remind us again about your plans for involving the Senate in future updates?

Senator Goldfarb: I would like to try to create implementation teams and on those implementation teams include senators so that there is again direct feedback to the Senate itself. My assumption is that we would bring the report back annually.

Senator White: I won't ask for a Sense of the Senate Resolution on this, but I think that it is clearly the desire of the Senate that we get at least an annual report on the progress towards the goals set out in the document.

The Senate unanimously approved the Sense of the Senate Resolution endorsing the Educating Illinois: Distinctiveness and Excellence Report.

Communications Continued

Senator White: Expressed his thanks to Mary Campbell for her comments on behalf of the Senate at the memorial service for Len Schmaltz.

Senator Noyes: Reported that Senator Maitland has been ill; he suggested sending a card to him on behalf of the Senate.

Motion XXXII-60: by Senator Noyes, second by Senator Campbell, for a Sense of the Senate Resolution wishing Senator Maitland well. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXII-61: By Senator Kowalski, second by Senator Weber, to adjourn. The motion was approved by a standing vote.

Academic Senate

Hovey 208, Box 1830

438-8735

E-mail Address: acsenate@ilstu.edu

Web Address: <http://www.academicsenate.ilstu.edu>