

**ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**  
**(Approved)**

**February 7, 2001**

**Volume XXXII, No. 9**

***Call to Order***

Vice Chairperson Cori Brown 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 January 24, 2001:***

**Motion XXXII-83:** by Senator Weber, second by Senator Fowles, to approve the Senate minutes of January 24, 2001. The minutes were unanimously approved.

***Chairperson's Remarks: Excused Absence***

***Vice Chairperson's Remarks:***

**Senator Brown:** Senator White could not be here tonight so I will be serving as the chair of the meeting. The students will caucus after the meeting to have an election for a student senate seat.

***Student Government Association President's Remarks:***

**Senator Biondolillo:** The student referendum regarding the revisions to their constitution has passed. SGA has moved forward on the process for new elections for next year's Assembly.

***Administrators' Remarks:***

- ***President Vic Boschini:*** I attended the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) meeting for the last two days. One of the big issues that IBHE talked about is that ISU came in number one in the nation. The IBHE has appointed a committee of five presidents from all of the colleges to study completion rates in Illinois. That was the one area of the report card in higher ed in which we did, in their opinion, the worst. I was appointed to that committee so we will be studying graduation rates. We actually have the second highest graduation rate in Illinois. What they will spend the next few months on is answering the concerns in that report. There was also a lot of concern about Governors State University's problem in the Master in Social Work Program, but the university has come to a resolution with those students and they will be working to ensure that the problem does not occur again.
- ***Provost Al Goldfarb:*** We are putting together implementation teams for *Educating Illinois* and we hope to begin working on many of the actions within the plan. I hope that people continue to respond positively as they are asked to serve on those teams. There are a number of searches going in the areas under the Provost's office in Gary McGinnis' area and in Eric Thomas' area. There is also a search for an Assistant to the Provost to replace Laura Pedrick, who just accepted the position of Executive Assistant to the Provost at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. We are doing an internal search for that position. We are also in the midst of the *Global Connection Series* with lots of events going on such as film series and lectures.
- ***Vice President of Student Affairs: Excused Absence***

- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning:***

**Senator Bragg:** Thank you for efforts you have made to conserve energy. We actually did see a slight leveling off occur in consumption in January. A couple of you have called in and reported buildings and room areas where there was too much heat. Please continue to do that and encourage your colleagues to do so.

***Committee Reports***

- ***Academic Affairs Committee***

**Senator Meckstroth:** The Academic Affairs Committee met this evening. We are working with the Student Affairs Committee on a revision of the University's Mission Statement. We also have discussed a revision in wording for the Transfer Student Policy. We will be bringing that to the Senate as an information item next time.

- ***Administrative Affairs Committee***

**Senator Kurtz:** Announced that she would no longer chair the committee. Senator Meier will serve in that capacity instead.

**Senator Meier:** We examined three items this evening: the academic calendar, for which our committee is recommending approval; the requests for school designations for Art, Music and Theatre, for which we are also recommending approval, and the President's period of commentary. We will make a formal request to the Executive Committee that the due date for the report on the commentary be changed from March 1 to April 1, 2001.

- ***Budget Committee: No report***

- ***Faculty Affairs Committee***

**Senator El-Zanati:** Faculty Affairs met tonight and will meet again tonight. We are presenting you, along with the Student Affairs Committee, the University Policy on Violence. This is only an information item. It is not something that will move to an action item before the Senate.

- ***Rules Committee***

**Senator Weber:** We met last Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. with the Provost and again tonight at 6:00 p.m. One item we discussed was the proposal for the revisions to the University Constitution. This will be introduced this evening as an information item and there are a few small changes that I will note at that time. We continued our discussion on the make up of the Executive Committee. We also talked about developing a Faculty Assembly. This would include all of the faculty senators and there would be a faculty member from each department who is not a member on the Academic Senate so that all departments in the University would be represented. This caucus would meet regularly and discuss matters that would affect faculty only. Additionally, we talked about a Planning and Budget Committee that would take the place of the Budget Committee. This committee would include the Vice President for Finance and Planning, a Civil Service representative, an AP representative, three students and five faculty. Nothing at this point has been finalized.

- ***Student Affairs Committee***

**Senator Kowalski:** The other committee chairpersons have referred to most of what we have done. Additionally, we are working on three or four policy reviews that will come before the Senate as information items.

***IBHE-FAC Report***

**Senator Crothers:** The Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Committee (IBHE-FAC) met last Friday at the University of Illinois. The IBHE has recommended that the State do a statewide facility evaluation to find out what the needs are. We spoke with the Provost of the U of I, Richard Herman. He was very frank about what their priorities were going to be and justified their tuition increase. One really interesting part of the conversation had to do with the business relationships that U of I has developed with various private industry areas.

We then had an opportunity to talk with the staff representative to the Faculty Advisory Committee. He raised some questions about access and diversity. The two major areas that they are working on is how do you guarantee access for diversity sake and at the same time deal with the political context in which Affirmative Action is a difficult issue. In prior versions of this report, it was clear that they were going to defend Affirmative Action aggressively. It is now clear that they are going to advocate Affirmative Action, but step back a little to come up with ways to create the same results, such as reducing financial barriers for certain groups and helping with college prep criteria in the high schools.

I think that the Capital Campaign is going to be extremely important if it is successful. The IBHE is currently making a decision that they are operating more or less as a consumer advocate organization. Most people in Illinois want a college education and they want those college educations in places proximal to where they are. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the IBHE is going to compel colleges to provide distance education and completion programs on community college campus. I think that their budget priorities for the last several years have been pushing for these initiatives.

Senator Crothers' entire report can be found on the Senate web site at: . Click Committee Sites and go to the IBHE section on that page.

**Senator El-Zanati:** Did you say that there was no problem with the University of Illinois raising its tuition?

**Senator Crothers:** Their Provost argued that it was legitimate for a number of reasons, including retaining faculty. He said that they believe that they have 60 to 70 million dollars of capital improvements to do in the next decade and this will only generate 16 or 17 million dollars.

***Action Items:******02.02.01.01 Student Election to Honors Council***

**Motion XXXII-84:** by Senator Weber to elect a student to the Honors Council. Mona Bormet was unanimously elected.

***Change in Agenda***

**Senator Brown:** We also need to have an election for a student to the University Forum Committee. Since this is a change in the agenda, we need to have a two-thirds vote of approval to add this to the agenda.

**Motion XXXII-85:** by Senator El-Zanati, seconded by Senator Reid, to change the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Motion XXXII-86:** by Senator El-Zanati to approve the nomination of a student to the University Forum Committee. Colleen Clark was unanimously elected.

**Information Items:**

**02.01.01.01 Proposed Revisions to the Constitution (Rules Committee)**

**Senator Weber:** There are a few small changes to the revisions to the Constitution contained in the Senate packets. In the first paragraph, Article 5, Section 1, Part A, "29 elected" should be in bold and "one-tenure track faculty member" should also be in bold because these are changes and additions. Article 5, Section 1, Part B, Elections, at the end of the paragraph, we want to add "The elected students will also serve as student representatives to the Academic Senate."

**Motion XXXII-87:** by Senator Weber, second by Senator Biondollilo, to move the Constitution revisions to an action item. The Senate unanimously approved the motion.

**Motion XXXII-88:** by Senator Weber, second by Senator Reid, to approve the Constitution revisions. The Senate voted in favor of approving the revisions, with one abstention by Senator Thomas.

**11.27.00.01 School Designation for Departments of Art, Music and Theatre (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committees)**

**Senator Meier:** The Administrative Affairs Committee recommends the approval of the requests for school designations for the Departments of Art, Music and Theatre.

**Senator Landau:** Having read the documentation regarding this item, it seems to me that a compelling justification rests on the perceived excellence of these three departments. As such, they are deserving of school designation. Are other departments at ISU going to seek school status?

**Senator Goldfarb:** The key is with the professional norms of the discipline involved. Certainly the title school has become an accepted norm for programs that are a certain size and stature. In other disciplines, the term is not an issue. As we said with the School of Social Work, there are key issues in terms of recruitment; there are issues of how the program is perceived by the accrediting agency.

**Senator Landau:** As I remember our discussion of the School of Social Work was focused on that school's hopes of getting accreditation, but that is not the argument in this case.

**Senator Campbell:** The School of Social Work has been accredited for over 20 years.

**Senator Goldfarb:** That may be the issue though. Some of the accrediting agencies prefer the school designation. The other issue is that is it consistent with the discipline and is the program of the stature of other programs within that discipline.

**Senator Crothers:** Are there any criteria that other programs at ISU can look at to understand how they would go about requesting this designation?

**Senator Goldfarb:** In terms of Theatre, I think that the key issue is the comparison of those other programs in which there are similar size programs and similar stature. We have not set up a clear process to determine which departments should be designated as schools. The key would be to go back to administrators and ask how this fits with the discipline. I am hoping that this will become a part of their overall planning process.

**Senator Campbell:** I would like to clarify for Senator Landau that the issue regarding Social Work had to do not with the fact of accrediting the program, as that would happen anyway based upon the merits of the case, but that when a program reaches a certain status within certain disciplines, the common designation for that program is school. That has to do with when you recruit people and they look at your status and compare it to others around the country. If you are referred to as a school, that holds certain merit. I don't think that that is the case in other disciplines. I also had a question about the procedure. We will not vote on this, correct?

**Senator Goldfarb:** You could have a Sense of the Senate Resolution or I could simply listen to the comments and make a recommendation to the President.

**Senator Campbell:** When does the program become a school?

**Senator Goldfarb:** Once the President signs off on it, it will be official. It does not require approval by the Board of Trustees.

**Senator Weber:** I am still troubled by this. Have these departments achieved now a status that makes it appropriate to designate them as schools and will these schools be looked upon in the University as being entirely comparable units to other departments or will the designation as school in some way distinguish them from other departments?

**Senator Goldfarb:** It does not designate a difference in terms of relationships with other departments on campus. It does designate a difference to off campus constituents about the place of that program in relationship to other national programs. In the College of Fine Arts, it will clearly not make a difference because all three departments are asking for this designation.

**Senator Razaki:** We should allow departments that will benefit from the designation to do have it for two reasons. First, it might be an incentive for them to strive for excellence. Secondly, for departments in Fine Arts, it might be a good tool for getting external funding.

**Senator Hampton:** I have some concerns about this. Is there any down side of this designation? Also, I don't recall my theatre faculty ever having voted on this. We have had a struggle to cement ways of interaction of the departments within the college and I have some fear that the designation of schools may in some way make it more difficult for the departments to interact. I am also concerned that if the stress is put on professional conservatory, the undergraduate emphasis on liberal arts education will somehow be watered down. I wish that I could go back to my faculty and discuss it again.

**Senator Goldfarb:** In terms of conservatory, there are many programs that have fairly strong liberal arts components that are entitled schools, but I am concerned that procedurally it requires all tenure and tenure track faculty vote on it. I would like to ask Administrative Affairs to go back and make certain that that was taken care of.

**Senator Brown:** Senator Meier, would you like to remove this item from the agenda?

**Senator Meier:** Yes I would.

**Senator El-Zanati:** So it is no longer possible to ask questions about this?

**Senator Brown:** It will be brought back later for further discussion.

**10.30.00.05 University Violence Policy (Faculty Affairs Committee)**

**Senator El-Zanati:** We have before us the University Violence Policy that came from the office of the President. We do not need to vote on this policy, but they are requesting comments from the Senate. I found in the part referring to the definition of "threat", in the line second from the bottom of the policy, that "following" someone is too general a term. I would be more comfortable with deleting "following" unless it is justified beyond just following.

**Senator Boschini:** This is a policy that was suggested to the Provost and me and I had an agreement with the Senate last year that we would address it. I will note all of your comments.

**Senator Crothers:** I think it is very important to note that the term "reasonable person" is included in the definition of threat, so it means under the law that an ordinary person looking at the same circumstances would have the same opinion as you would.

**Senator Kurtz:** Did the University Legal Council draft this document?

**Senator Boschini:** I am sure she did not. I think she looked at it after a group of students studied this issue. It has been about a two-year old process.

**Senator Biondollilo:** Would "stalking" have the meaning of following someone with intent? Perhaps that would be a good substitution.

**Senator Razaki:** Perhaps there should be a qualifier like "malicious" following.

**Senator Howard:** You have to look at violence as not just the actual use of physical force, but also as the intention, because sometimes what happens is not always what is intended. You also need to look at explicitly stating perceived reductions in security, because that affects how people operate. Additionally, it does not have to be on University property; it can be in a totally unrelated area.

**Senator Hampton:** Where in this policy do we find a way of preventing people from building bombs and coming in with guns?

**Senator Reid:** I believe we find this included in the definition of threat, which in part reads "an expressed or implied statement or action".

**Senator Razaki:** Are we talking about physical safety or psychological safety?

**Senator Boschini:** I have noted your concerns and will follow up on them.

**Communications:**

01.19.01.02 Disability Studies Minor Program Proposal - Approved by Senate via Consent Agenda as of 2/2/00.

**Adjournment**

**Motion XXXII-89:** by Senator Biondollilo, seconded by Senator Campbell, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

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