

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Approved)

February 21, 2001

Volume XXXII, No. 10

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 February 7, 2001:

Motion XXXII-94: by Senator Noyes, second by Senator Kowalski, to approve the Senate minutes of February 7, 2001. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator White: Welcomed Jay Groves' Communications 265 class to the Senate meeting. Senator White announced that two Senate members would be retiring at the end of the school year--Senators Weber and Noyes. He thanked them for their service to the Senate and to the University. He reported that Dr. Bill Semlak, former Senate parliamentarian, would also be retiring this year.

Senator White informed the Senate of his involvement with a number of University functions, including Founders Day, the Master Plan Steering Committee and work with the President and Board of Trustees on the Constitution revisions, which the Board approved unanimously at its last meeting. He stated that he had been working on revising the Blue Book (addendum to the Senate bylaws), as well as beginning to the schedule activities for the new state group of Senate chairs, which will meet at ISU in early April. He added that he had received enthusiastic response on his call to the Senate chairs to participate in this group. About three-quarters of the state universities will be represented at that meeting. Senator White has also been working with the Academic Planning Committee reviewing programs and working to implement and integrate the Educating Illinois document with the Mission Statement and the Academic Plan. Additionally, there have been a few ad hoc issues. Several senators have been helping with that project.

Senator White designated the information items on the agenda that would become action items. The school designation for the Departments of Art, Music and Theatre proposal is an information item that will not require action. The Senate will advise the Provost, but will not actually vote on this issue. The Academic Impact Fund report is something that is subject to a Senate vote. It was endorsed by a Senate vote four years ago and should come before the Senate for action. The Policy on Community College Transfer Students will also be an action item because it involves academic standards and admissions. The other information items are policy matters on which the Senate will provide advice only and do not require action.

Senator Crothers: At the last IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee, the representative from the University of Illinois raised the issue of the chair's committee that Senator White is sponsoring with some concern. It was his concern that the committee would be a countervailing force and usurp the authority of the FAC. Senator Crothers reported that he had disagreed with that point.

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Brown: Stated that the student government elections were underway and that she wished her best to

everyone.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Biondolillo: SGA had a meeting last evening and passed a resolution that pertains to the IBHE and the Student Advisory Committee. The resolution was in support of recommendations requesting that the IBHE do the following: define the term "student fee"; encourage colleges and universities to seek the advice of their student government before increasing fees; mandate that college and universities provide an itemized list of fees on student bills on demand. Senator Biondolillo stated that he would be inviting presidents of Student Governments at neighboring universities to visit ISU to observe the way in which we distribute student fees. All student fees are brought up to the Board of Students and the monies are dispersed that way. He added that he felt that ISU had a great model. Also, the Associations of Residence Halls won School of the Year, an award pertaining to ISU's spirit in the residence halls and the way that they conduct themselves within student life.

Administrators' Remarks:

· ***President Vic Boschini: Excused Absence.***

· ***Provost Al Goldfarb: Excused Absence.***

· ***Vice President of Student Affairs: Excused Absence***

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

Senator Bragg: Commended Senator White on founding the statewide organization of Senate chairpersons. He stated that anytime we can get the public universities of this state to share ideas, it would only serve Illinois State University well in the future.

Senator Bragg gave a brief synopsis of the Governor's presentation of his 2002 budget recommendations. He reported that we have received from the Governor another positive message for higher education in Illinois. This will be the sixth year in a row that the Governor has recommended if not the exact IBHE recommendations, then very close to those recommendations. This is important because the 3+2+1 program was our highest priority. There was some question of whether or not the Governor thought the economy was strong enough to support that program, but he mentioned the importance of faculty and staff salaries and the importance of retaining critical staff. It, therefore, appears that he supports the 3+2+1 recommendation. The Governor did not include the IBHE's recommendation for the funding of Schroeder Hall renovation. Senator Bragg reported that he would be working with the General Assembly to get Schroeder Hall included in the final recommendations. It is not a question of *if* we are going to renovate Schroeder; it is just a question of *when* we will do it.

Senator El-Zanati: Have you heard anything from our legislative liaison on the issue of extending benefits to domestic partners?

Senator Bragg: I passed that question on to Phil Adams of legislative relations and he is asking that question of our representatives in Springfield; he will be getting back to me.

Senator Poling: If Schroeder Hall was included as a 2002 budget item, what is the earliest date that renovation would begin?

Senator Bragg: I would not expect monies to be received until October or November of this year, and more typically, in early spring of next year. It is conceivable that if the appropriation was not included until 2003, we could prevail upon the Capital Development Board to release the monies early in October or November of 2002. We really are only talking about a six to eight month difference.

I have a point of information about one of the information items on the agenda. You mentioned earlier the subcommittee report from the Budget Committee on the Academic Impact Fund. Let me stress that that is a subcommittee report. The full Budget Committee has not had a chance to meet and discuss that report yet, so I would like to request that we defer action on that until the Budget Committee has a chance to meet and discuss it. Also, because the Provost is not here and this is a policy that will impact Academic Affairs, I think that as a courtesy to the Provost, we should hold off on any action on the fund.

Senator White: There is no intention that this would be an action item at this meeting. I am a little concerned that it is being brought forth as an information item if the entire Budget Committee is not prepared to discuss it.

Senator Bragg: It is a subcommittee report and I have no problem with bringing that forward for discussion.

Senator White: Then we will discuss this as an information item at this meeting.

Committee Reports

- *Academic Affairs Committee*

Senator Meckstroth: The Academic Affairs Committee met this evening and discussed the Community College Transfer Students Policy, which is an information item this evening. We also discussed a proposal for a tiered admissions program and we hope to bring that to the Senate as an information item next time. We also met jointly with the Student Affairs Committee to discuss the report of a subcommittee, which had prepared a first draft of a revision of the University's Mission Statement. We will be giving feedback to them and the Mission Statement will be revised. After we have gone through one more draft, we will be sending it out to the University community asking for input. We plan to send it to all senators, to the Student Government Associations, to department chairs, deans, etc. We hope to bring the Mission Statement to the Senate by the end of the spring semester.

- *Administrative Affairs Committee: No report.*

- *Budget Committee: No report*

- *Faculty Affairs Committee*

Senator El-Zanati: Faculty Affairs Committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting and will meet again prior to the next Senate meeting. You will see from tonight's agenda that a number of issues on the agenda come from Faculty Affairs and jointly from Faculty Affairs and Student Affairs. We are hoping to clear our agenda and move on to the issue of non-tenure track faculty.

- *Rules Committee*

Senator Weber: Rules Committee met tonight. We continued our discussions of the Executive Committee, the Faculty Assembly and the Planning and Budget Committee. For the Executive Committee, the President has agreed to become a nonvoting member, as the President makes the final

decisions on everything, and the Provost will become a voting member. At our last meeting, we discussed the Faculty Assembly. The Faculty Assembly would deal with issues relevant to the faculty and would report to the Senate, but also could give advice directly to the President as we see it. The membership would include all of the faculty senators and a faculty member from each department that is not represented on the Senate currently. We think it would be appropriate if each department had one vote, so if there were two members from the same department, then they would have to decide how to use that vote. We envision probably a monthly meeting, but it could be more frequent. The Faculty Assembly would elect a chair, vice chair, and a secretary. The Faculty Assembly would deal with the ASPT issues.

Senator Reid: We propose that all ASPT issues would now go from Faculty Affairs to the Faculty Assembly and the Faculty Assembly on this one issue would report directly to the President, so it would not go through the full Senate.

Student Affairs Committee

Senator Kowalski: The Student Affairs Committee met tonight with Academic Affairs Committee. The activities of the Student Affairs Committee were mentioned in the reports from the Academic and Faculty Affairs Committees previously.

Information Items:

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

Senator Kurtz: We looked at this request for school designation from Art, Music and Theatre last semester and our committee approved it at that time, pending any input from the Budget Committee. The procedure of requesting input from Budget was established with the request for school designation from Sociology.

The original proposal for school designations was made by the Provost and the Administrative Affairs Committee suggested that one addition, in that it they not only go to Administrative Affairs but also to Budget.

Senator Strickland: I don't recall receiving this information.

Senator White: This proposal was on the agenda for the last meeting, so instead of putting it off until the next Senate meeting, why don't I simply open discussion by asking Administrative Affairs if they have any recommendations on it and that if the Budget Committee has comments, it may bring them to the Senate at a later date.

Senator Kurtz: We had no problem with the request.

Senator Howard: I thought that at the last meeting, there was a question as to whether the Theatre faculty were really involved in this request; the Provost had that concern as well so the proposal was going to be sent back to the Theatre Department.

Senator Hampton: With great embarrassment after the last meeting I discovered that the Theatre Department had indeed voted on this issue. It was ameliorated somewhat by the fact that other faculty members also did not remember that we had voted. We did have a brief discussion on this and we need to have a lengthier discussion in my department; however, we do support the change of designation from "Department" to "School" for the Theatre Department.

Like the Art Department, the Theatre Department does indeed belong to a National Association of Schools. We have a long recognized undergraduate program. We have excellent graduate programs, which draw the best people from all over the country. We have the only professional company associated with a university in the State, which is the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. We have many noted graduates. The idea of becoming a school has the implication for many of us that it is more of a professional designation and I think that one of things that some of us feel the need to still discuss, while acknowledging as our dean told us that nothing will change with the change of name, there may be some internal perception problems that may be caused by the change in name. I am personally concerned that by going toward a more conservatory type of perception that we may in some ways water down the liberal arts connections in our departments. However, we are fully agreed that we want to go to the school designation.

Senator Wells: I have two questions that are really directed more to the general procedures than to the specifics of this. There have been two of these in the last several months and we are being told that this is an important distinction and designation that carries with it a great deal of positive value. However, at the same time we are told that it is meaningless. I have difficulty getting these two to fit--that it is very important and simultaneously that it has no effect internally. Will the administration be clarifying exactly what school designation means on the university-wide basis? Additionally, will the administration clarify those procedures and criteria by which other departments can also request school status if they should be professionally oriented and feel that this would be in their benefit? Right now, it seems to be a mysterious ad hoc process.

Senator White: Unfortunately, the Provost is not here tonight. I do sit on the Provost's Advisory Committee and I think that there are some good responses to your good questions.

Senator Kurtz: It is not a mysterious ad hoc process whatsoever. In fact the procedures for establishing such a designation came through the Senate last semester. They were not formally approved by the Senate, but we did see them and they are quite clear. I would say that one has to distinguish between external audience and the internal implications. It may have very definite implications in terms of the external audiences and constituencies. It is internally that there will be no change. These units will continue to function as do departments. That is very clear in the guidelines that emanated from the Provost's office.

Senator White: That is exactly how I understood the process sitting on the Provost's Advisory Committee.

Senator Walker: The Art Department fully supports the request for school designation. We see this for external purposes. Last spring, I looked at how departments and schools of art are designated throughout the state. It was clear to me that we should be a school. I looked at the art departments of Northern, Southern and the U of I and they are all designated as schools. We feel that what we do in the Art Department here at ISU is on professional footing with any school.

Senator El-Zanati: Is the first time these departments are asking for school designation?

Senator White: Yes, there has not been a process to be a school before this year.

Senator Landau: I don't need any further testimony regarding the excellence that transcends the College of Fine Arts. I think they represent compelling reason to support this plan. But I am somewhat uncomfortable about the future implications when it comes to budgetary arguments in the face of diminishing resources. I am worried that if we use the argument that we warrant school designation because our competitors have it

and we receive that designation, then the importance of our proposed budget may be elevated because of this new standard. I am personally uncomfortable with the process. I don't agree that the procedures were clearly established in the fall when we discussed Social Work. As I said last time this issue was discussed, there was reference to the need for accreditation for the new MSW program. Accreditation opportunities would depend in part, in fact, on the designation. Those arguments have not been expressed in this case.

Senator Chang: According to the document here, the head of the school will be called director. Is it general practice at other universities that the head of the school is called director?

Senator Walker: It is common for schools to have directors.

02.19.01.01 Academic Impact Fund Report (Budget Committee)

Senator Strickland: The Budget Committee subcommittee has completed the Academic Impact Fund (AIF) report. When the item becomes an action item, the subcommittee will make a motion that the Senate accept the report. There are two recommendations at the end of the report.

Senator White: In your report, the recommendations at the end appear to be recommendations that came from the Chairs Council. Are you going to try to formalize these recommendations into a motion for the Senate to adopt?

Senator Strickland: We phrased the recommendations that way because the recommendations were not characterized by, for example, the opinions of the Deans Council. So the Budget Committee will have to decide whether they want to propose them.

Senator White: The other issue that will very likely come up when you make your motion is whether or not this is going to be an open-ended motion to endorse, or whether there will be a sunset clause.

Senator Strickland: As you recall, with the original establishment of the AIF, the Senate placed a sunset clause on it so that it could be reviewed after three years. Last year was the third year and the chair of the Senate noted that we had not evaluated it, and so proposed an extension of the inaugural period, which the Senate approved last fall. The Budget Committee has met with various groups, talking about the needs that the AIF intended to address and the experiences various constituencies had had with the AIF. I think that the clearest sense I have of a general experience with it is that there it was a controversial proposal when it was first proposed and that it was intended to solve some problems that haven't gotten solved. Those are general personnel problems especially.

Senator Weber: I would like to commend the subcommittee on the report. I was the chair of the original committee that reviewed the original proposal for the AIF and we also had grave concerns it. In reading the report, it seems like things have really worked better than anyone could have hoped. One thing which I seem to read into this, is that it seems to be implied that funds might be actually directed more towards the smaller departments and perhaps a smaller portion of the funds are ending up with the larger departments as a mechanism associated with this funding conception.

Senator Strickland: You may have drawn that implication from what we said about the payouts, which are especially difficult for small departments, and one of the great successes of the AIF has been to prevent problems in small departments when there are several retirements. Then on the other hand, it probably has reduced flexibility for some large department. Also, it has not been able to address the need for stability in the summer programs. Whether that is the AIF's fault or general shortfalls of budgeting is not clear.

Senator Walker: I think what you see here is that there was a lot of skepticism about the fund when it was initially adopted. One of the biggest concerns was the reallocation of lines. A lot of people were suspicious of reallocation of lines and none of that occurred. We have not seen the reallocation of resources in part because there has been a shortfall in the fund. A lot of that has to do with the fact that the money has not been there because of payouts. In the years when there has been extra money, it has been spent in the way it was intended to, with the exception of summer school. It has gone toward technology and enhancement. Some of the fears about there being a lot of money that the Provost could redistribute have not come about.

Dr. Sharon Stanford: The only thing I might clarify is that at the time when we first worked the budget and the review committee on this, summer school was listed as one of the programs for which the fund would be used. Since then, there has been a separate allocation made to departments to try to address summer school programming. So, in some ways, summer school has been addressed, because there is a central fund that goes out to departments every year, not from the AIF, but from enhancement dollars.

Senator El-Zanati: I understand the need for the money for payouts, etc., but I do wonder if it is contributing to the increased use of non-tenure track faculty. We designate money toward the hiring of temporary faculty, but there are temporary faculty who have been here for 30 years, and I worry that by making this money available in a way is forcing departments to replace their faculty with non-tenure track faculty for a year.

Senator White: As we saw when we looked at the Provost's figures last year, there was in the first year that the AIF was implemented, a large increase in the total number of non-tenure track faculty, but it has been fairly flat since then. One thing you are right about is that it puts a limit on our ability to compensate those people.

Senator Reid: I don't see why it would increase non-tenure track faculty because nothing has changed with it. Even before the fund, resigning faculty could not be replaced before the coming year and were always replaced by temporary people. There was the fear of there being a two-year waiting period and that would have had the effect you are talking about. The only effect that it has had is that now the department does not have a choice about the amount of money that they can pay a temporary person.

Senator White: I think as the Budget Committee indicates, a lot of departments are finding it increasingly difficult to hire temporary faculty at that \$2,500 rate because it not really a figure that fits every department.

Senator Walker: My department being one of the larger departments has felt some of the negative effects of the AIF because we are seeing some two-year waits. We have seen a lot of retirements in the last two years and we are not getting those back right away. There was also the concern in the early report that Senator Weber made about the amount of money allocated for temporary faculty. That is something that we would like to see addressed.

Senator Crothers: I agree that the funding of temporary faculty is a big issue, but if we had not had the AIF, you would be talking about some departments being granted the opportunity to hire new replacements and some departments going years without even temporary faculty.

Senator White: One further procedural question, when you bring the motion forward for the fund, will it be as an action item or just as an information item?

Senator Strickland: I will have to discuss that with the committee.

02.12.01.05 Policy on Community College Transfer Students (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Meckstroth: You received a page that was just passed around with the second revision by the Academic Affairs Committee to the Community College Transfer Students Policy, which supercedes the one in the packets. The first paragraph is a repeat of the policy that is currently in place referring to University Studies. It applies to transfer students entering Illinois State University under catalogs from 1980 through 1997. The second part of the policy is for transfer students entering ISU under General Education and applies to students entering under the catalogs from 1998-1999 and on. There are in fact three different cases related to General Education and each one of those is covered in a paragraph in the General Education part of the policy.

Senator Walker: Are we now allowing students to complete their I-Transfer program at the receiving institution? If so, is this a state policy with the IAI or is that our policy?

Senator Meckstroth: Yes, students are allowed to complete their I-Transfer program here after they start it somewhere else. The proposed new wording does not represent a policy change. All it does is describe accurately what happens now that we have General Education.

Senator Reid: What is the rationale for allowing some students who come here with some credits to not necessarily enter the Gen Ed program, which we feel is a superior program? Would it not make more sense educationally to say that those students could transfer some of their credits into the General Ed, but require them to take the Gen Ed program?

Dr. Eric Thomas: What you would be requiring is to literally have the student start over again. Our goal was to have students retain the credit from another institution. What is we have done here is not to change a policy, but to update a policy that is dated. This is already how we are operating.

Senator Reid: I understand why with students who have taken half their credits already, you wouldn't want to have them to have to start over again. But does "some" mean one course? What if a student has just taken one course at another university or college? Do they still have the option of not taking the General Education Program?

Dr. Eric Thomas: In most instances, we would prefer to put the student in the General Education program, but they have the choice. However, IAI is not used as the first option. It is used in those cases that clearly don't fit Gen Ed well.

Senator Reid: I had heard that there was consideration of requiring transfer students to take FOI. Was any such discussion ever held?

Senator Meckstroth: I know that in the past there were some tentative discussions about if we should offer transfer students an equivalent FOI in that it would address some of the skills they would need for other courses. That has been discussed by faculty, but I don't know what has happened with that recently. It is not part of this policy.

Also, when you were talking about program choices, there are advisors who deal with these students when they come in, so it is not just the student making the decision without having some advice and background about the Gen Ed program.

Senator Kurtz: I wanted to speak to the point that was just alluded to by Senator Meckstroth. I don't have an enormous problem with this; this is an attempt to include in the policy what our current practice is, but I do note that one of the action items of Educating Illinois is for the University to consider mandating some FOI type experience for all transfer students to make sure they are up to speed with the students in the complete Gen Ed program. I want to make sure that this revision to the policy does not preclude one of the tenants of Educating Illinois and a very important action item.

Senator Meckstroth: That is correct. This is just a description of policy that currently is in practice.

Senator Campbell: I just wanted to reinforce the comment that this is an unusual situation, not a typical student situation. If you look at the requirements for students to take advanced level classes here, you could not have a student come in with one course from another institution and then begin to take all of our advanced level classes.

This issue will be an action item at the next Senate meeting.

11.28.00.01 *Sale of Instructional Materials Policy (Student Affairs and Faculty Affairs Committees)*

Senator Kowalski: We reviewed this policy and we had no suggestions for changes.

Senator El-Zanati: This is one of the policies that was approved in 1983 and which is on a cycle to be reviewed. My committee talked about the policy and we had no problem with it.

11.28.00.02 *Classified Research Policy (Faculty Affairs Committee)*

Senator El-Zanati: This is another policy that is up for review to see if it is still relevant. The committee had no recommendations for changes.

11.28.00.04 *Term Paper Sale or Solicitation Policy (Student Affairs and Faculty Affairs Committees)*

Senator Kowalski: We did have suggestions for the Term Paper Sale or Solicitation Policy. Those suggestions from Student Affairs Committee have been forwarded to the Provost's office. We suggested that electronic advertising and sales need to be added to the policy, like email advertisement. We also thought that ISU student web pages should not be allowed to have links to term paper selling sites, since they are the property of ISU.

Senator El-Zanati: One thing that came up at our meeting was whether or not the Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 144, Section 219, are still relevant or whether there are newer statutes on this topic. We asked the Provost's office to look at this and they have agreed and will get back with us. Basically, we have no problem with the policy. Regarding Senator Kowalski's suggestion, if your web site is not on the "ilstu.edu" University servers, then this policy does not apply.

Senator Kowalski: We did not talk about that. It could be a University issue, but not necessarily. The servers we discussed are those that ISU owns.

Senator White: It might be handled through student or faculty ethics.

Senator Brown: I was just unclear if the sale of the term paper is illegal or just the solicitation and advertising. It appears from the policy that the only reference is to the advertisement or solicitation, but nothing about the actual sale.

Senator Story: I think that what Senator Brown is referring to is that if she were selling a paper, it would be illegal for her to advertise it. But if she sold it without advertising, then it would not be illegal according to this policy.

Senator Landau: If one gives the appearance of being in the business of distributing term papers for sale, that would be addressed by this policy. Additionally, I do feel that even off campus web sites, those that have no official affiliation with the institution, should still be regulated by this policy, because what we are talking about is a policy designed to address conduct, not setting.

Senator Panfilio: My understanding is that we were to give a brief cursory review of this policy, with the understanding that we would mention it tonight and then bring it back and review it because I think that there are changes to be made. More so, I would not limit this to term papers. I don't understand why this would not be applicable to graded exams and other such materials.

Senator White: Since we don't act on this, it is not clear why this would come back to us unless we ask explicitly that you revise it and bring it back to us. Lets assume since there are a sufficient number of recommendations about rewording the policy that the Faculty Affairs Committee and Student Affairs Committee seek to have the input on; then both the committees should request the Provost's office to send them a rewritten version of the policy.

Senator Kowalski: Did you want the Provost to do the writing or the committee?

Senator White: Whoever is in charge of writing policies. I don't know who that is. My understanding of the situation is that the Senate is making a number of substantial suggestions for revision of the policy. Those need to be communicated to the people who are in charge of writing policy, particularly to the Provost and the President. Then they will resubmit to the Senate through your committees a revised policy.

Senator Crothers: I wanted to respond to Senator El-Zanati's point about off campus web sites. I have to disagree with Senator Landau very strongly on this point. We have no access to the people out there who have private pages. I think it is very appropriate as Senator White suggested that that be addressed as part of the student and faculty ethics policy. I agree certainly that behavior is what we are trying to stop, but the questions of capacity and power are strong. Additionally, as Senator Brown stated, this policy does in fact only talk about advertising, and if we mean sale as well, we should add that.

Senator Weber: A very minor point. In item #1, "Staff (faculty and civil service members) seeing such advertisements are authorized to remove them and report the removal of same to the Office of the Provost", 'staff' should include the Administrative Professional members as well.

11.28.00.06 Administrative Withdrawal Policy (Student Affairs Committee)

Senator Kowalski: We had comments about this policy, but nothing major. The policy should be updated with the correct administration names. The Student Judicial Office needs to be updated to Student Dispute Resolution Services. That is all that the committee suggested and felt that the remainder of the policy was accurate.

Communications:

02.16.01.01 Sense of the Senate Resolution - Faculty Member on Board of Trustees (Faculty Affairs Committee)

Motion XXXII-95: To approve the following Sense of the Senate Resolution:

Faculty Member on Board of Trustees Sense of the Senate Resolution

Inasmuch as the proposed new statewide organization of academic senate chairpersons was recommended by the Illinois State University (ISU) faculty as a means of garnering ideas and support toward the placement of a faculty member on the ISU Board of Trustees, we hereby urge that this issue be moved to the top of the agenda for the proposed new organization.

Senator El-Zanati: This came up in response to the issue last year of placing a faculty member on the Board of Trustees. We approached the administration about this and you will recall what President Boschini's comments on this were. As a way of dealing with the issue, we thought the solution for it is a Sense of the Senate Resolution. We do recall that at one of the meetings of the faculty caucus, Chairperson White thought of proposing an organization of Senate chairs and the motivation for it was dealing with this issue. So, we felt that a Sense of the Senate Resolution encouraging the Senate Chairperson to do just that is in order.

Senator White: In my memory, the faculty caucus during which we were discussing placing a faculty member on the Board of Trustees was the time when Senator Reid brought up this idea, and I responded very enthusiastically to it. The issue that you have here is a very important one that this organization might take up, but the way you have it phrased here makes it sound as if the principle purpose for the organization will be putting a faculty member on Boards of Trustees and that is not my understanding at all.

Senator El-Zanati: That's not our intention, however; we are open to friendly amendments.

Senator White: This is an organization that does not yet exist and the ability of our Senate to influence it is as yet untested. If this is a resolution that the Senate thinks is important as a way of directing me and my participation in that group for the remainder of this year, then that is fine with me.

Senator El-Zanati: I suggest adding "proposed" new organization.

Senator Reid: This seems to also assume that Senator White is the person deciding whether it's going to be moved to the top of the agenda. It doesn't sound like there is even a structure, let alone an existence, of this new organization. Also, I am wondering whether if at this time it might be more appropriate just to get this organization together and working together rather than pushing for a particular agenda. I support this idea enormously of putting a faculty member on the Board, but I am not sure if this is the time to do this.

The Sense of the Senate Resolution was approved by the Senate, with no votes from Senators Kowalski and Sass, and abstentions by Senators White, Reid, Weber and VanDraska.

02.16.01.02 Sense of the Senate Resolution - Benefit Equity (Faculty Affairs Committee)

Motion XXXII-96: by Senator El-Zanati to approve the following Sense of the Senate Resolution:

Benefit Equity Sense of the Senate Resolution

The Academic Senate of Illinois State University expresses its support for extending employee benefits to the domestic partners of all state employees. This act is necessary to end an unfit discrimination against our fellow human beings, specifically the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Currently, public institutions of higher education are only legally permitted to extend fringe benefits to domestic partners of their employees. However, the Academic Senate of Illinois State University recognizes every employee's partner as both equal and deserving of benefit extension.

Be it resolved that the Academic Senate of Illinois State University requests that the State of Illinois General Assembly take action capable of extending all employee benefits to the domestic partners of state employees.

Be it further resolved that the Academic Senate of Illinois State University humbly requests that the Academic Senates, Presidents, and governing Boards of Trustees of fellow Illinois institutions of higher education provide additional public support by issuing a similar request to the State of Illinois General Assembly.

Senator El-Zanati: Last year, the Executive Committee of the Senate received a letter from the English Department from approximately 30 to 40 faculty members and/or graduate students inquiring about what the Senate could do to encourage the State legislation to extend benefits to domestic partners of State employees. Senator White passed it on to the Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Panfilio wrote the proposed resolution and the Faculty Affairs Committee is happy with it.

The Senate unanimously approved the Sense of the Senate Resolution regarding the extension of benefits to domestic partners of State employees.

Legislative Update

Senator Reid: The legislature has passed as a law now that anyone outside or inside the university can speak at a Board of Trustees' meeting. According to the present law on Boards of Trustees, it is up to the chairperson to decide who speaks or not. The new law simply says that you have a right to speak.

Constitution Amendments

Senator Walker: Commended President Boschini on getting the Constitution amendments passed by the Board of Trustees so quickly. The Board had to suspend their rules a bit to get that done. I know that President Boschini did some work behind the scenes helping the Board members to understand the importance of the amendments.

Retirement

Senator Noyes: Reported that Norma Honn, the Executive Assistant to the President, will be retiring soon. Her retirement reception is on Friday in the Circus Room from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Motion XXXII-97: To adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved by standing vote.

Academic Senate

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