

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Approved)

March 7, 2001

Volume XXXII, No. 11

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 21, 2001:

Motion XXXII-101: by Senator Poling, second by Senator Chang, to approve the Senate minutes of February 21, 2001. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator White: At the last Senate meeting a Senator asked a question of an administrator without having had that administrator provide a context for the question. I would like to remind the Senate that we have a standing tradition of giving administrators 24 hours notice of any topics we plan on addressing to them at an open meeting.

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Brown: We will be having a short student caucus after this evening's meeting.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Steve Whitmore, Chief of Staff of SGA: (SGA President Biondollilo had an excused absence.) As you may know, the student government elections have been occurring and are now complete. Also, the SGA is working with the Town of Normal on the downtown renovation attempting to have more student input on renovation plans.

Administrators' Remarks:

President Vic Boschini: We recently received the draft budget from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. We are working to change the budget because it does not include Schroeder Hall.

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

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

Senator Mamarchev: Spring break is coming up, so we are all hoping for a safe and healthy one among our student body. Also, I would like to call your attention to an opportunity to nominate students for our Annual Minority Recognition Ceremony.

· ***Vice President of Finance and Planning: No report.***

Committee Reports

· ***Academic Affairs Committee***

Senator Meckstroth: The Academic Affairs Committee met this evening and discussed revisions to the Transfer Students Policy, which is an action item this evening. We also discussed the proposal for a tiered admissions program, the English Placement Test and a draft of the University Mission Statement. We anticipate that the English Placement Test will be an information item at the next Senate meeting.

Administrative Affairs Committee:

Senator Fowles: No report.

Senator White: Where is the committee at with the annual opportunity for commentary on the performance of the President?

Senator Fowles: We are continuing to hold focus groups. We have already held the faculty focus groups and will hold ones for the Civil Service Council, AP Council and the Student Government Association. We hope to have a summary of the commentary by April 1.

Senator VanDraska: I was on Administrative Affairs for the past two years. The section on commentary on the President in the Policies and Procedures Manual states that this commentary period should be open to all members of the university community. I was really concerned about the fact that you were forming these focus groups in that it does not give the entire university community a chance to comment. I realize, having done this report twice in the past, that sending out memos and asking people to return commentary does not get a lot of response, but at least we invited the entire university to do so. Are we all going to get a chance to comment?

Senator Fowles: Because of the low return, we decided to try to establish these focus groups by getting representation by age, rank and length of service. It was a real random selection of that whole body and subsequently, we have had more input with this method. We were thinking that the focus groups would be more representative.

Senator VanDraska: The focus group idea seems good because you are going to get a better response rate, but it concerns me that the rest of the university community does not have a chance to make comments. Focus groups could be used as an augmentation to gather information, but I think there should be an invitation to the entire university community to make comments if they chose to do so.

Senator White: There are list serves that are available through the Provost's office to virtually all faculty members. A simple message indicating that commentary is open to the university community would be appropriate.

Senator Kurtz: Are there list serves for all other campus constituencies as well?

Senator White: I believe that there are.

Senator Brown: There is also a list serve to reach all of the students. I will provide the name of the administrators who have access to it to the committee.

Senator Fowles: We will try to get this done through the list serves. However, we already have an extension for the report of April 1, so it will have to be a very quick turnaround. Another concern that you had was that some of the questions seemed evaluative. When we were developing the questionnaires,

Senator Kurtz had sought President Boschini's input into the questions and he approved them.

Senator Boschini: I wouldn't say I approved them. I said that whatever the committee asked was fine with me.

Senator Razaki: Senator VanDraska's point is absolutely valid. I think if your committee did not do that, it was a grave oversight and somehow it should be remedied. I think every person on campus has the right to have input. Perhaps, you may need an additional extension of time. Additionally, I don't really like the fact that you have a list of questions approved by the President.

Senator Kurtz: The President did not approve them. They were compiled by us and simply furnished to him as a courtesy. I would also like to address the question of evaluation. I think the term evaluation would be used to refer strictly to the uses to which any particular instrument is put. We are gathering commentary, but there is no stipulation how this commentary is to be used other than it is to be forwarded to the Executive Committee, the President and the Board of Trustees.

Senator VanDraska: I can argue that, but I saw several different places where it was referred to as an evaluation and I had a problem with that. The term evaluation has a kind of negative connotation.

Senator White: It is not so much that it has a negative connotation, but that it just not what the original legislation was intended to do.

- **Budget Committee:** Senator Howard replaces Senator Strickland, who resigned from the Senate, as the chairperson of the Budget Committee.

Senator Howard: We have an item on the agenda tonight regarding our proposed motion on the Academic Impact Fund. We hope to make that an action item at the March 21 meeting.

- **Faculty Affairs Committee**

Senator El-Zanati: Faculty Affairs Committee met this evening and will meet again prior to the next Senate meeting. We have started our discussion on the philosophy and policy on the use of non-tenure track faculty. We are not sure when we will have an outcome, however, we plan to have weekly meetings for the rest of the semester.

Senator White: Will you have something before the end of the year?

Senator El-Zanati: We can make no promises.

- **Rules Committee**

Senator Weber: We have had two meetings since the last Senate meeting. We continued our discussions of the Executive Committee, the Faculty Assembly and the Planning and Budget Committee. We felt that once the Faculty Assembly was in place it would make sense for the Faculty Affairs Committee to be disbanded and similarly the Student Affairs Committee should be disbanded because those duties would largely be carried out by the SGA. We hope to have a proposal to present to the Senate at the meeting of April 4.

- **Student Affairs Committee: No report.**

Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Committee Report

Senator Crothers: The members of the IBHE-FAC met in Joliet on Friday, March 2. We had a presentation on the Illinois Virtual Campus, which is a great warehouse for online courses. Anybody using this must know, however, that it is buyer beware. They have no rules about informing users consistently whether or not courses will articulate into other programs on campuses. Also, the Budget subcommittee is writing a document concerning 3+2+1 and about the use and abuse of NTTs.

I have mentioned several times previously that the Director of the IBHE, Keith Sanders, is putting a lot of pressure on public universities to provide degree completion programs on the community college campuses. We would actually be giving students the opportunity to take ISU classes at community colleges toward graduation from ISU. What we are going to emphasize is that the number of traditional students is going up, so we have limited resources to serve these programs.

The FAC discussed an issue relevant to university ethics. All state universities are supposed to have a formal guidebook of ethics rules that govern their grant writing, grant acceptance, etc. I am not sure how ISU addresses this. The U of I at Champaign went through such an exercise recently in which the President appointed a senior administrator as ethics officer to develop the ethics policies. Faculty members found this totally unacceptable because no faculty members were consulted. The FAC also discussed the issue of city colleges of Chicago contracting out services, including educational services. We will have additional discussion on this topic.

Senator Reid: Is the proposal regarding the community colleges that students could complete a degree from ISU on a community college campus?

Senator Crothers: Yes, with ISU faculty, whether through distance education, online or by ISU faculty traveling to the campuses.

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

Actions Items:

Senator White: The Academic Impact Fund Report is going to be an information item this evening, so we will move it from the action item section of the agenda to the information section.

02.12.01.05B Policy on Community College Transfer Students-Revised

Senator Meckstroth: The copy that you have received this evening is the revised copy based on only a couple of minor changes. The date that was incorrect last time has been corrected to 1980-1997. The only other change is that now that this policy refers not only to community college transfers but to transfer students who are coming from other universities, it is appropriate to change the title. As we explained last time, this is not a change in policy, but a revision that brings the policy in line with the wording currently in the college catalog.

Motion XXXII-102: by Senator Meckstroth to approve the revised wording of the transfer students policy. Seconded by Senator Dicker. The Senate members approved the policy, with an abstention from Senator Wells.

Information Items:**02.19.01.01 Academic Impact Fund Report (Budget Committee)**

Senator Walker: I would like to present a draft of a motion, which we would bring forward at the next Senate meeting. What we are proposing to bring forward is that the Senate recommend to the Provost the continuation of the Academic Impact Fund, but with the adoption of three recommendations:

- 1) The Provost and Vice President of Finance and Planning annually report to the Senate, deans and department chairs the anticipated size and use of the fund early in the fiscal year. We found that this was reported to the Senate and the deans, but the chairs were not aware of the uses of the fund. We feel that this information should be made available to the chairs more directly and that they should be more actively involved. We feel that the communication of how the fund is used should be built into the process. Even though the current administration is doing this, we feel that it is something that should be expressed formally.
- 2) In years when there is a surplus in the fund, 10 to 20% of the fund should be made available to the departments through the budget request process. Many of the chairs are quite in a bind in many cases and would like a bit more variance money to help fund temporary faculty for the one year that they are hiring them as well as have some supplementary money for summer school.
- 3) The fund should be reviewed by the Senate again in five years. We would like to look at it again to see how the money was used when there was a surplus. We have not really had the chance to do that because we have not had many years when there has been money in the fund to redistribute.

We will make this a formal motion at the next Senate meeting.

Senator White: Sharon Stanford is sitting in for Provost Goldfarb on this issue. Does the budgetary process that Senator Walker described in relationship to the 10 to 20% sound like something that would work or do you see any problems with that?

Dr. Stanford: That would be a reasonable process because that would involve the open budget process in the March timeframe. It would give the institution a chance to look at what might be available, so I don't see it as a problem.

Senator Noyes: In item #2, are you addressing monies for temporary faculty?

Senator Walker: Not specifically. That could be how those monies are used.

Senator Weber: What is the rationale for a five-year review rather than the original three-year review?

Senator Walker: I think that five years might give us a longer time frame to make better observations about the fund because there is such a change in the fund from year to year. If the Senate feels there is a strong case for three years, we have no problem with that.

Communications:**Academic Oversight of Capital Campaign**

Senator Crothers: As a member of the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee, it has become increasingly clear to me that increased percentages of resources coming from the State are very unlikely. Therefore, meaningful new resources are likely to be coming from the Capital Campaign. Though the results of the Capital Campaign have extreme academic impact, we get only the occasional notice about what has gone on. We are

not as informed about the academic effects as I was hoping might be the case, so I wanted to begin this conversation about how we might more effectively participate.

Senator Boschini: Senator Crothers and I discussed the need for more communication about what is going on in the campaign. I think Senator Crothers' biggest concern is how we determine how the donations are used. Basically, most of the donations are donor-driven. But if, for example, someone wanted to endow a chair in Communications, we would always go back to the Provost, the dean and the department to ask if this was even a need, so there would be academic oversight in that way. Also, Senator Razaki is on the Foundation Board, which provides additional academic oversight.

In general, I will come to you more often and give you more updates on the campaign. I am willing to share as much with you as I can. One of the delicacies in this is that most of the people that you are dealing with want this to be very confidential until they are ready to make the announcement.

Senator Razaki: As Senator Boschini mentioned, I am the elected faculty representative to the ISU Foundation Board. I have often thought about reporting to this body, but we are not privy to the information about donations until it is finalized. However, as soon as any information starts coming to the Board, I will be sharing it with the Senate.

Some of us strongly believe in the campaign and believe that the Senate should strongly support it. For that, there has to be more communication and understanding as to how the monies are spent. We should start discussing these things and making some plans as to where the discretionary function can come in to play. For someone who just wants to help the university in general, there should be priorities for that kind of situation.

Senator White: I think it is important for the campaign to benefit in a more or less equal way all aspects of the mission of the university.

Senator Boschini: My first priority is building the endowment. Anytime we enrich the endowment as a whole, it helps all of us.

Senator Weber: The other side of the coin which you have not mentioned is that many times a department or college will actually take a very strong initiative on their own in fundraising and it is because of that effort that funds come into that department and so they should not be penalized because they have been successful.

Senator Landau: Senator Crothers' concerns do not altogether sound unlike some of the concerns about the U of I issue regarding its ethics policies. I don't think Senator Crothers' question was answered.

Senator Boschini: What was the question?

Senator Crothers: The question was regarding the ethics policy developed at the U of I where their President apparently simply assigned one of the administrators to develop a policy without faculty consultation. In the course of that I said I don't know what the situation is here at ISU regarding the development of the ethics policy.

Senator Boschini: I don't know that answer, but I will find it out.

Senator Razaki: At this point, I would like to make an appeal to the members of the Senate to donate some

amount of money to the Capital Campaign. It does not matter how large or how small the donation is. As I mentioned before, a lot of donors ask the question about the rate of participation within the campus community.

Senator White: The campaign actually has not formally kicked off. We have been talking in Executive Committee about ways in which the Senate can participate in the Capital Campaign. I have met with the President, Susan Kern and other faculty members who are participating in the campaign and we have a sort of timetable in place for involving the Senate. Your early appeal is very welcome.

Senator Reid: In the future if you have a donor who is unsure to which program he or she would like to make a donation, would it be possible to bring that to the Senate for discussion?

Senator Boschini: Anything I can bring to you, I will. You can also just individually send me an email. I would love to hear any ideas that anyone has.

Senator Walker: It is my understanding that there is a list of items in the *Educating Illinois Plan*. It may be a matter of going through and looking at what's included there.

Senator Razaki: But those are the broad outlines. We have to be more specific.

Senator Walker: There are a lot of ways of money can be spent within the *Educating Illinois Plan*. I would like to see that supported first.

Senator Boschini: It will be. Any money that goes into the endowment will first be spent on *Educating Illinois*. That is the agreed upon strategic plan for the university. But there are many times donors insist on designating their money and that is where additional ideas are always helpful.

13th Annual Minority Recognition Ceremony - Request for Nominations

Senator White: There will be an Annual Minority Recognition Ceremony and we have a received a request for nominations. The ceremony will take place April 8, 2001. Nominations should be submitted by March 21.

02.19.01.03 Professional Publishing Sequence Proposal - Approved by Senate via Consent Agenda as of 3/6/01

Senator White: The Sequence in Professional Publishing and Literary Arts has been approved by the Senate via the web site Consent Agenda as of March 6, 2001. If Senate members have questions or concerns about a proposal on the Consent Agenda, they should inform the Executive Committee of the Senate within the two-week review period. The Executive Committee may then make a recommendation to the Academic Affairs Committee to review the proposal.

Global Connections

Global Education: An Imperative for the 21st Century will be presented on March 22, 2001 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Stevenson Hall 401. Senator Nur-Awaleh expressed his appreciation to all of the students, faculty and staff involved in this program.

Motion XXXII-103: To adjourn by Senator Kowalski, second by Senator Razaki. The motion was unanimously approved by standing vote.

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Microsoft Excel
Worksheet