

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Approved)

March 21, 2001

Volume XXXII, No. 12

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 March 7, 2001:

Motion XXXII-107: by Senator Poling, second by Senator Brown, to approve the Senate minutes of March 7, 2001. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator White: I have been meeting with the Master Plan Steering Committee. The Master Plan is a long-term planning process for the physical campus. I met with Senator Bragg yesterday and we arranged to have a preliminary discussion about some of the ideas in the Master Plan on May 2. The Master Plan has a lot of interesting ideas in it. The Budget Committee next year should be prepared to step up its participation in the planning process. I also attended a meeting on the budget planning process and I learned a number of things. I learned that fiscal year 02 is going to be tight and that 03 would be tighter. I also looked at many documents submitted by the colleges and other areas of the university on how they are meshing with the *Educating Illinois* document. I am pleased to say that there is a lot of attention being paid to *Educating Illinois*. Two things in particular that are in almost all of the budget documents so far are increasing the number of tenure track lines and reducing the percentage of non-tenure track faculty, as well as the need to raise the stipends for graduate students. The budget planning process is continuing tomorrow morning and also on Friday. The Budget Committee might want to send a representative there, especially someone who might be continuing on the next Senate. I have also been meeting with the Academic Planning Committee and we have finished up our work for this year and will be submitting our final report to the Senate at the April 18 meeting. A quick reminder, orientation for the new Senate will be on April 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Circus Room. Because we changed the Senate calendar, we will caucus April 18 at 6:30 p.m. to select Executive Committee members, officers of the Senate and the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee representative for the next Senate.

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Brown: Congratulations to Senator McNaught on obtaining the vacant Executive Committee student senator seat.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Biondollilo: The student government elections are complete. I would like to congratulate the newly elected members. Election for the Student Trustee will occur soon. I have invited all of the student body presidents of Illinois public universities to come to ISU for a discussion on student fees and relationships with administration and with their town on March 31. Hopefully, we will develop a plan to lobby our state legislators to see what can be done for higher education. There was a protest today regarding Disney's presence on campus. Senator Panfilio will have more to say on this subject.

Administrators' Remarks:

- ***President Vic Boschini:*** I would like to also congratulate the new members of SGA. I have spent the last couple of days in Chicago and then Monday and Tuesday in Florida working on alumni events. I want to encourage everyone to participate in the master planning process. The physical structure of our campus profoundly affects how we educate our students. There is a path across In Exchange now and you can walk across School Street again. I want to thank two senators who responded to my conversation two weeks ago about sending ideas you have about fund raising. They were both great ideas.
- ***Provost Al Goldfarb:*** I want to announce a first for the Senate. A former student senator, Chris Mushrush, is participating in a taping of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." The broadcast of the taping is April 6. There are searches going on. Two of the searches are close to the Provost's office--searches for the Dean of the College of Education and for the Director of the University College. Hopefully, we will get those completed before the end of the semester. As Senator White pointed out, we are in the midst of budget planning meetings. If you have an opportunity, please try to attend these meetings.
- ***Vice President of Student Affairs: Excused Absence***
- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning:*** On Monday, I met with the Senate appropriations staff in Springfield getting ready for the appropriation hearings later this month. We will have Senate appropriations hearings the first week in April and House appropriations will be April 24. They ask questions about our budget requests and in particular our deferred maintenance plan, staffing patterns and 3+1+1 salary enhancement program. We also talked about teacher preparation and alternative certification. We will report back to you after the hearings.

Committee Reports

- ***Academic Affairs Committee***

Senator Meckstroth: The Academic Affairs Committee met this evening and discussed revisions to the University Mission Statement and the administration of the English Placement Test. A subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Committee, along with the Student Affairs Committee, has worked on a revision of the Mission Statement. We are now at the point that we will send out to all senators the draft version. We are asking for feedback by Friday March 30. Senator Tolone is the chair of the subcommittee. He will take the feedback and come up with another draft of the statement. After that draft is done, we will talk about sending it out to the university at large to deans, department chairs and faculty to get additional feedback.

- ***Administrative Affairs Committee:***

Senator Meier: We met tonight and reviewed what we have accomplished as far as collecting commentary on the President. To date, we have conducted seven focus groups. Those focus groups have been led by Pat Grogg. We have done four with faculty, one with Civil Service, one with AP and one with students. We have had 63 people attend the first six. I am not sure how many students attended the student group. We are on schedule to have at least a first draft of that report by the end of next week and will forward it to the Executive Committee of the Senate.

- ***Budget Committee:***

Senator Howard: We have an action item on the agenda tonight regarding the Academic Impact Fund. Senator Walker will lead that discussion.

- **Faculty Affairs Committee**

Senator El-Zanati: No report.

- **Rules Committee**

Senator Weber: We met this evening. We made a tentative redistribution of faculty and students to the various committees that would be on the Senate next year and we continued to discuss the Faculty Assembly and Budget Planning Committee.

- **Student Affairs Committee:**

Senator Kowalski: The committee's and the Senate's recommendation for revisions to the Term Paper Sales Policy has been forwarded to the Provost. As soon as the Provost has had a chance to make those revisions, the policy will come back to committee.

Actions Items:

02.19.01.01A Academic Impact Fund Report (Budget Committee)

Senator Walker: In our original recommendations for the Academic Impact Fund, item number two was a recommendation that 10-20% of the Academic Impact Fund be allotted to departments in years when there is a surplus in the fund. However, after the meeting, some senators were concerned about implementation of that recommendation in that it had very little meaning, partly because to ask for money in the budgetary process really does little for department chairs since that is what they currently do. Secondly, we would not know what money would be left in the fund until nearly the end of the year. Therefore, I had discussions with several people in the Provost office to try and develop a change to accomplish returning a little more money to the departments to help them with their variance dollars. As a result, the change before you today is that the \$25,000 that is returned for hiring temporary persons for one year be increased to at least \$28,500 per position. The only concern with that is that the fund is already tight. I would like to also add that at our last meeting, some senators requested that we consider a three-year period for the next review instead of five years. I do strongly support a review in five years. The first question of course is should we continue the Academic Impact Fund.

Senator White: The Senate could ask questions during the proposed annual reporting to the Senate about the fund, so if the Provost does not follow these recommendations, we would have an opportunity to find why at that point.

Senator Razaki: My question is about the \$28,500 per position. Is that amount of money always available? Is this number dependent on good years for the fund?

Senator Walker: This is not tied to the good years.

Senator Goldfarb: If this recommendation is made, my expectation is that I would discuss what the budgetary needs are for the coming year. I would like to be supportive, but clearly this increase will depend on the overall budget needs. This does not strike me as an unreasonable request, however.

Senator Razaki: The point I am trying to make is that in some years the Academic Impact Fund would be totally exhausted and there would be a need for reallocation from somewhere else.

Senator Goldfarb: In those years if we saw that that was going to be the circumstance, I would say at the beginning of the year that there is no way we can afford the \$28,500.

Senator Walker: The reporting is the most important issue, particularly to department chairs. I think that once the chairs understood how the Provost was distributing money and the status of the fund, departments could work with it better.

Motion XXXII-108: Senator Walker (second by Senator Weber) presented the following motion regarding the Academic Impact Fund:

- 1) The Provost and the Vice President for Finance and Planning will annually report to the Academic Senate, Deans and Department Chairs the anticipated size and use of the fund early in the fiscal year.
- 2) The amount of money allotted to departments to hire temporary faculty will be increased to at least \$28,500 per position.
- 3) The fund should be reviewed by the Academic Senate in five years.

Friendly Amendment: Senator Razaki proposed changing the review of the fund from five years to three years. Senator Walker did not accept the friendly amendment.

Motion XXXII-109 - Amendment: Senator Razaki (second by Senator Noyes) made a motion to change the time period in which the fund would be reviewed from five years to three years.

Senator Razaki: It seems to me that five years is too long. It does not harm anything to review the fund after a three-year period. If something is going wrong with the fund, at that time we could offer recommendations for changes.

The vote on the amendment was taken by roll call; the vote was 19 yes, 11 no and 2 abstentions. Therefore, the second recommendation in Motion 108 is amended to "review the fund in three years".

Senator Tolone: My question has to do with the \$28,500 for temporary positions. Is that a firm number that departments can count on or is that an amount that will somehow lose a couple of bucks as it filters down to departments?

Senator VanDraska: It seemed to be apparent from meeting with the chairs that it depends on the dean. The money comes from the Provost's office, but the deans allocate it.

Senator Goldfarb: You have to give the colleges some flexibility, but I will ask for accountability reports from the deans on how the AIF money was used and make that part of the overall annual report.

Senator White: If a department receives the full \$28,500, does the department have the discretion, if it can hire at \$25,000, to take the \$3,500 that is left and use it as variance dollars?

Senator Goldfarb: Yes, but departments would have to report that back to me. Again, we want to give departments as much flexibility as possible.

Motion 108, the amended AIF recommendations, was unanimously approved by the Senate.

Information Items:

03.16.01.01 English Placement Test Proposal (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Meckstroth: You have in your packet a statement on the English Placement Exam. The Academic Affairs Committee is proposing that students with an ACT English subscore below 21 be required to take the English Placement Exam before registration. Students with a subscore of 21 and above would be required to take the test after registration. The wording does not suggest a change in the requirement itself; there is still a requirement for the English placement exam. Dr. Ron Fortune, Chairperson of the English Department, and Dr. Larry Quane, Director of the University College, can provide information and background on this proposed change.

Dr. Fortune: A few years ago, Dr. Quane brought a proposal for taking the English Placement Exam out of Preview because of some of the problems that arose with having the placement exam at that time. We explored various options available to us and the information indicated that students with an ACT subscore of 20 or below are commonly placed in English 101.10, which gives credit for English 101, but requires five days a week instead of three. In response to that, we looked at the distribution of scores and where students were placed by the ACT and the writing sample. As a compromise we said that if the preponderance of students coming into the university who have a subscore of 20 and below are placed in English 101.10, we would have them complete the exam before they register, because they would be primarily the ones for which we would be making some placement decision. Students with a subscore of 21 or above would be allowed to take the placement test after registration because, according to the information we have, there would be a much smaller number of those people who will have to be moved from one class to another.

Dr. Quane: The data seemed to show a very clear pattern that students with an ACT subscore of 21 and above were generally, almost exclusively, in English 101. The year that the General Education Program started, 1998, in the fall semester five students with an English subscore of 21 or greater were in English 101.10. So virtually no one with that subscore or higher was taking 101.10. In the spring semester, there was one student. Dr. Fortune is willing to try this in the coming year and see what kind of turbulence we get in the first few days of classes. We don't expect much changing to have to go on. We asked students last fall, who had taken the writing exam last summer, if they would have completed the examination differently if they had been in a different situation. Many of them said yes. When students come for Preview, some of them don't expect to be taking a placement exam, so their ability at the time may be a little different than it would be when classes are going.

Dr. Fortune: As a point of clarification, when we say after registration, we mean the first week of classes.

Senator White: This body is responsible for setting academic standards, so this issue will be an action item at the next Senate meeting.

Senator Brown: For those students that do take the test after registration and come out with a score that would make them be moved to English 101.10, would the exams be graded with enough time for those students to catch up?

Dr. Fortune: Yes.

Senator Walker: Those students who have English ACT scores below 21 would still be taking the exam during Preview?

Dr. Fortune: Yes, they would have been notified that they would need to come in early, before Preview actually begins, to take the exam.

Senator Howard: Is there a guarantee that there will be openings for the students you have to move?

Senator Fortune: As long as the numbers remain small, we should be able to work with that.

Senator Howard: My second question is about the SAT. I see the ACT listed here, but not the SAT.

Dr. Fortune: As far as either exam goes, it does not really affect this process because the real issue we are trying to establish is the importance of using a writing sample as a basis for making a decision about what writing class someone should be placed into.

Senator Howard: You have an ACT score identifier, but not an SAT score identifier.

Dr. Quane: There are equivalency tables that can be used.

Senator Weber: My concern is that students taking the exam before Preview have traveled perhaps quite a long distance and I am wondering if you feel that they would be at any disadvantage compared to students who had already settled in on campus and were taking it as a regular student.

Dr. Fortune: That is something we would have to watch and if a pattern like that showed itself, then that is something we would have to address.

Senator Weber: How would you see a pattern?

Dr. Fortune: If there was some falling off as a result of the circumstances under which a student was writing and that we broke away from the past pattern of what you saw, then you could see that there is a pattern as compared to what we have seen in the past.

Senator El-Zanati: What about numbers going the other way--students with scores below 21 who do well on the placement, how many of those have you had?

Dr. Fortune: The placement test plus the ACT score is how the placement resulted, so they would be placed into 101 if they qualified for 101.

Senator El-Zanati: How low a score on the ACT can they have?

Dr. Fortune: As low as 12.

Senator Poling: Did you say that you were going to use some sort of equivalency table as far as comparing the ACT and SAT scores? Have you thought about putting the comparable SAT score in this policy?

Dr. Quane: There is an equivalency table that you could use. As far as I am concerned, if students come in with an SAT and you want to use that, that would not change the work as far as the department goes. So if you want to include the SAT in the language here, it does not change a lot as far as the department is concerned.

Senator Brown: If there are not a lot of students that go the other way, moving from English 101.10 to English 101, can we have all students take this after registration so that the playing field is fair?

Dr. Fortune: Based on the data we have, the mix of 20 and below is significant enough that if you try to

delay the placement test, the amount of work you have to do would be too considerable.

Senator Kowalski: What is the major advantage to doing this?

Dr. Fortune: The problem that was brought to us was that leaving it in Preview was a problem. We looked at several alternatives. One alternative was a portfolio program, which would require that students do their writing before they came here. That was both expensive and administratively problematic so this is a compromise.

Dr. Quane: The primary concern is how full the Preview program is. In the past, it started at around 8:00 a.m. going until after 8:00 p.m. So, what we are trying to do is shrink the number of activities during the day so that the people can experience Preview differently.

Senator Walker: I am going to follow up on Senator Brown's question. If the number of students who move from one group to the next on the ACT cut off is insignificant, would it not be feasible to place those students who have ACT scores below 21 in 101.10 and then test them rather than test them pre-registration? You would go ahead and make an assumption about them as you have made about the other group; have them all take it the first week and then make the switch.

Dr. Fortune: That question assumes that there is a clean demarcation at 21--everyone 21 and above is always placed here and everyone 20 and below is always placed there. The mixture you have at 20 and below is going to be too great for you to make the assumption that they should be placed in 101.10.

Senator Walker: So what you are saying is that there is a significant number of students who move from 101.10 to 101?

Dr. Fortune: Yes.

Senator White: If there are no more questions, this will be an action item at the next Senate meeting.

Communications:

Senator Panfilio: Today, a united group against sweatshops came to ISU and helped us to do an informative protest against the Disney Company while they were doing their recruitment program for their summer training. As you might know, Disney has a prolific use of sweatshops, which are subject to abhorrent conditions. I have to ask why is it ok for Disney to come here and do an internship program and why the university would allow credit for students who go to their summer experience and basically pick up trash. If we are supposed to be intellectuals who challenge ideas, why is it ok to happen here? Dr. Boschini has been working very closely with us and we have informed him about these issues and he has informed us. We have an agreement that we want to do something to help the university perhaps develop a fiscal policy so that we are not working with these companies. What I want to share with you is the frustration about what is going on here and maybe make a humble plea for help. I think that these are issues that maybe the Senate should look at and begin to deal with.

Senator White: The Senate is always open for a Sense of the Senate Resolution.

Senator Panfilio: I really don't know what resolution to ask for. I am saying that maybe this is an issue that we can take up and investigate.

Senator White: There is nothing inappropriate about you or Senator Biondollilo asking the Administrative Affairs Committee or whatever other committee you thought was appropriate to investigate.

Senator Panfilio: Most importantly I want to do consciousness raising. In the future, I do want to go to the committees and ask how we can deal with these things.

Senator White: What I am suggesting is that there is nothing prohibiting this group from considering the issue that you are suggesting. We can make recommendations on policy on whatever aspect of the business of the university that we care to. Whether or not the President will accept our advice in all cases is another matter.

Senator Howard: I would like to see more people be more active about these things because we are talking about child labor, so I applaud your efforts.

Senator Razaki: I have often felt that the Senate should deal with issues like this beyond Sense of Senate Resolutions. I think it is an important issue and that we should take a leadership role.

Senator Boschini: I agree with a lot of what Senator Panfilio has said, but not with all that he has said. But I care about this issue and I think that what he was most frustrated about is that so many people did not even want to know what it was about. So I would just encourage us to be educated on these issues.

Senator Kurtz: I would like to ask formally that Senator Panfilio bring a Sense of the Senate Resolution to the next Senate meeting. Whether it is voted up or down, it will raise consciousness and awareness on campus.

Senator White: If you do bring a Sense of the Senate Resolution, it should include language that asks that the issues be referred to the Executive Committee for assignment to internal committees in the coming year. The committees could then study the issues in more detail.

Senator Panfilio: I will do that. I appreciate your comments and your support.

Senator White: We are ready for adjournment, but after the meeting we will have a faculty caucus to discuss salary incrementation.

Motion XXXII-110: To adjourn by Senator Sass, second by Senator Kowalski. The motion was unanimously approved by standing vote.

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Microsoft Excel
Worksheet