

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

**February 12, 2003**  
**XXXIV, No. 11**

**Volume**

***Call to Order***

Chairperson Lane Crothers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

***Roll Call***

Senator Borg called the roll and declared a quorum.

***Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2003***

**Motion XXXIV-82:** By Senator Gaylor, second by Senator Fowles, to approve the Academic Senate minutes of February 5, 2003. The minutes were unanimously approved

***Chairperson's Remarks***

**Senator Crothers:** There will be a Faculty Caucus meeting after this meeting to discuss what statement we wish to develop for the Board of Trustees regarding the qualities we would like to see in an interim president, as well as another governance matter. Next week is the special meeting on the budget. Thank you for your indulgence in having three meetings in a row.

***Student Government Association President's Remarks: No Remarks***

***Administrators' Remarks***

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

· ***Provost Al Bowman:*** We were informed today that an unfair labor practice complaint has been filed against the University regarding President Boschini's announcements of various initiatives that we would like to proceed with for nontenure-track faculty. We categorically deny that that activity will in anyway interfere with the organizing efforts that are underway. The University's position is that we have been working on improving working conditions for nontenure-track faculty for at least the last six years. The current activities that are underway this fiscal year are in response to the recommendations from a committee of non-tenure track faculty delivered to the Provost's office in December. The President has agreed to move forward to implement some of those recommendations.

**Senator Razaki:** Does the administration have an official position on the question of unions?

**Provost Bowman:** Our official position is that it is solely up to employee groups to decide whether or not to organize. If they decide to organize, we will work with them as they go forward.

**Senator Reid:** Does this unfair labor practices suit relate to which constituencies among nontenure-track faculty can be included in the union?

**Provost Bowman:** No, there are two parts to the complaint. One was that the recent initiatives that the President announced several weeks ago were designed to interfere with the organizing efforts underway.

The second portion of the complaint was that the administration has interfered with the hiring of Dr. Gretchen Knapp.

**Senator Deutsch:** Is a hearing going to be held in the near future concerning the constituencies?

**Provost Bowman:** Yes, Thursday and Friday in Springfield. The issue on the table is which individuals among nontenure-track faculty will be allowed to vote.

**Senator Deutsch:** What is the University's position on that?

**Provost Bowman:** Our position is that employees who have been at the institution for three semesters and who are at least 75% time should be allowed to vote.

**Senator Kurtz:** What percentage of nontenure-track faculty on contract fit those criteria?

**Provost Bowman:** I believe that the number is about 250 out of just under 400 nontenure-track faculty.

**Vice President of Student Affairs Helen Mamarchev:** Now that the portal is active for all of our students, we are looking forward to having our elections online. We are also looking forward to the arrival of our Minority in Scholar in Residence, Dr. Dana Brooks, professor and dean of the School of Physical Education at West Virginia University. His research, publications and professional presentations have focused on the African American student athlete experience in intercollegiate athletics. There will be a reception for him on Tuesday, February 5, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Office of Intercultural Programs and Services. He will be giving a public presentation here in the Old Main Room on Wednesday, February 26, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. His topic is the "Rise and Fall of the African American Athlete: Selective Untold Stories".

**Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg:** The first round of appropriation hearings will take place in March in Springfield. Illinois State University will appear before the House Appropriations Committee on March 6. We have been asked to comment, not only on the impact of the past budget cuts in 2002-2003, but to comment on administrative costs, tuition trends and what the likely impact would be of a 5 and 10% cut in fiscal year 04. Don't assume that we will get such a cut; they are simply asking us to comment on what the impact might be. February 20 is Founders Day. The University will be celebrating its 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Friday morning, the Board of Trustees will meet. It has a very full agenda. We will be hearing from Jack North, Co-Chair of the Comprehensive Campaign, as well as have a presentation on bond refinancing.

**Senator Brasseur:** Will you be able to share with us next week some of the ideas that you are working regarding the budget?

**Senator Bragg:** On the 19<sup>th</sup>, I will outline the context of the current budget. It will give you an idea of what the University's finances look like and some idea of the potential impact of a 5 or 10% cut. I doubt that we will have any information about appropriations.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Academic Affairs Committee**

**Senator Lindblom:** The Executive Committee has assigned to us redefining standards for the school-

department designation issue. The committee did not meet this week.

### ***Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: No Report***

### ***Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report***

### ***Planning and Finance Committee***

**Senator Kurtz:** We are working on finalizing our report to the Senate on our opinions regarding prioritization of the action items in *Educating Illinois* within the context of designing budget processes that would more fully incorporate shared governance units.

### ***Rules Committee***

**Senator Reid:** The faculty members of the Rules Committee finished our proposed revisions of the Faculty Ethics Code. The code will be discussed in the Faculty Caucus after the next meeting.

### ***Educating Illinois Update***

**Dr. Joe Rives, University Planning:** It is a pleasure to present to you the second *Educating Illinois* update. This year, 25% of our action items are complete. You can see more of the details on the *Educating Illinois Report Card*. There are six major themes that the institution is experiencing as a result of *Educating Illinois*. The first theme is “Are we becoming the first choice public university in Illinois?” One way to operationalize that is by looking at faculty and staff salaries as a tool of recruitment and retention. ISU is below the peer group median for faculty salaries, but we have made progress since 1999. That progress that was made by internal reallocation and participation in statewide matching programs. Another item to look at in regards to becoming the first choice is student recruitment. We have advanced to a new ACT interquartile range and a new cohort.

The second theme concerns intensifying our recruitment efforts. Redefining Normal has generated \$6.2 million in endowed scholarships for high achieving students. Minority admissions have increased by 39%. Applicants are now able to gain more information on the academic programming at ISU through the campus portal system.

The third theme involves our infrastructure developments. This is evidenced by our new Center for Performing Arts, the relocation of the University farm in Lexington and improvements to Milner Library. Our new College of Business building is coming to fruition quickly.

The next theme is faculty and staff accomplishments. Before *Educating Illinois*, faculty generated approximately \$12 million in grants and contracts. It continues to grow. We have now surpassed \$20 million in this activity.

The fifth theme calls for asserting our national prominence. We advanced in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings last year. One area we fall slightly short on is enriching educational experiences. It may be a question of student awareness as opposed to student dissatisfaction.

The last theme asks, “What are the next steps for *Educating Illinois*?” *Educating Illinois* must guide our accreditation self study. As the NCA steering team works on documenting the outcomes of the past self-study, we must demonstrate how *Educating Illinois* advanced our self-studies of 1993. *Educating Illinois* needs to be updated and the Senate’s Planning and Finance Committee is working on what it perceives as priorities in *Educating Illinois*. It has been a successful year with more to come.

**Senator Lindblom:** Have we gained on the median salaries in our peer group?

**Dr. Rives:** Yes, we have gone from 92% of the median up to approximately 96% of the median.

**Senator Deutsch:** How was this progress achieved?

**Senator Bragg:** The primary means for closing the gap was the IBHE's recommended salary enhancement programs in FY00, 01 and 02. In each of those years, they recommended a base salary increase and then recommended an additional amount from the state if institutions would match that amount.

**Senator Brasseur:** How do you integrate faculty and staff accomplishments that are not specifically quantitative?

**Dr. Rives:** In future presentations, I will include such measures as the fact that our perceived academic quality has gone up in *U.S. News and World Report*, a true testament to the quality of our faculty and staff.

**Senator Jerich:** How might the targets in *Educating Illinois* be redesigned due to budget constraints?

**Dr. Rives:** That will occur in a number of ways, the first being the Planning and Finance Committee work that is going on now. Additionally, it will occur through the conversation that Senator Crothers will initiate with the campus community next week and through the NCA Accreditation Self-Study process.

#### ***iCampus Portal (Dave Williams, Technology)***

**Dave Williams, Associate Vice President of Technology:** We set up a committee to start looking at what we wanted in a portal and to develop different solutions from what was available. We chose a product that started in collaboration with several universities called UPortal. It was free to us by joining the consortium. It allowed us to do our own in-house development of the portal and customize it to our needs. Students have access to information about their classes and other services through the portal. Our target is to provide an online voting and registration capability. Our next step is to open the portal to faculty and staff.

**Mark Troester, Director of Institutional Web Support:** The iCampus Portal contains intelligent web pages. That means that when someone logs on, we not only know that they are a member of the ISU community, but we know a few other things about them, such as their major and year in school. We are able to respond to that and can actually put up messages relevant to their major. Students are able to get their schedules online and have access to their grades for any semester. This is all mainframe data that we get from Administrative Computing. Without that database, none of this would have been possible.

**Dr. Williams:** The new challenge is to open this to faculty and staff. We need to look at the types of channels that faculty and staff would like to see.

**Senator Fowles:** With this portal, I have a concern that there will be problems with book orders—having to order books before we know what the numbers are.

**Dr. Williams:** The portal provides the technology but will not change any guidelines or procedures.

**Senator Mehta:** I would suggest that faculty place their syllabi online so that students can have access to them at anytime.

**Senator Jerich:** To what extent would the services offered in the portal interfere with colleges who provide these types of services already?

**Dr. Williams:** I don't see any issue of duplication.

**Senator Jerich:** When it comes to academic affairs, such as posting of grades, these things should go through the proper subcommittee, such as an internal committee of the Senate, before they are institutionalized. I am also concerned about the sensitivity of certain types of activities being suggested.

**Senator Landau:** Is research participation potentially an announcement that would be considered viable as a channel?

**Senator Lindblom:** Course descriptions of higher-level courses would be great as an addition to the portal.

**Senator Brasseur:** The department web site already has extensive descriptions of all graduate courses.

**Senator Maroules:** Will there be any student input when you decide on the different things you will have for the faculty on the portal.

**Dr. Williams:** Yes. The way that we did it for the student portal was through a system of focus groups. I assume that we would use the same system.

**Senator Fowles:** With the increased traffic, have you gotten any response about slow connections from off campus?

**Dr. Williams:** It has been designed to be extremely robust to network demand.

**Senator Reid:** I think it would help greatly if there were a link from a course directory to a course description.

**Dr. Troester:** We will look into that.

**Senator Virgil:** There are many graduate students who teach courses. What would their relationship be to the faculty and staff pages?

**Dr. Troester:** We are putting pieces in the database so that we will be able to sort out whether you are using the portal as an employee or as a student.

**Dr. Williams:** I would ask that the Academic Senate look at ways in which it might find it valuable to use the portal as a communications channel of its own.

***Information Item:***

***02.05.03.03 Blue Book Revisions***

**Senator Reid:** I would urge chairs of committees to get back to me with their comments on their present Blue Book descriptions. I have sent the descriptions to the chairs of every external and internal committee. Tonight, we are looking at the first eight pages of the Blue Book. There is a major change in the responsibilities of the Senate. The old Constitution text said that the Senate "determined" many different

things and the Board of Trustees insisted that we just “recommend”, so we had to change the Blue Book. On page 4, we just have simply changed the voting membership. Beyond that, the numbers of members on committees are changed.

**Senator Crothers:** Senator Borg pointed out that last year we agreed that the Secretary of the Academic Senate would also be a member of the Planning and Finance Committee.

**Senator Reid:** I will make that change.

**Senator Boser:** This is just updating. There are no additional changes?

**Senator Reid:** It is all updating with the exception of some wording on the first page.

**Senator Deutsch:** On page 5 at the top, “by” should be “be”.

**Motion XXXIV-83:** By Senator Reid, seconded by Senator Maroules, to move the Blue Book revisions to action. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Motion XXXIV-84:** By Senator Reid to approve the revisions of the first eight pages of the Blue Book. The revisions were unanimously approved.

#### ***Communications:***

##### ***02.07.03.01 NCA Accreditation Self-Study Process***

**Senator Crothers:** This memo is simply to inform the Senate of what is going on regarding accreditation. This will be coming back to us numerous times in the coming years.

#### ***Black Heritage Ball***

**Senator Virgil:** The ISU Black Student Union invites all faculty, staff and students to their Black Heritage Ball, which will take place on February 22 at the Holiday Inn in Normal. This is a formal event. It will comprise of dinner and dancing and there is also a speaker and program involved.

#### ***Pentecost***

**Senator Hampton:** I would like to invite everyone to our production of Pentecost, which is opening on February 20 in the new Center for Performing Arts. This is a play that involves nine different languages, eleven accents and is a very wonderful play.

#### ***Library Presentation***

**Senator Burk:** Milner Library and the library at Wesleyan are sponsoring Joyce Carol Oates on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in Braden.

#### ***Adjournment***

**Motion XXXIV-85:** To adjourn. The motion was approved by standing vote.

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