

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**Wednesday, April 21, 2004***(Approved)***Volume XXXV, No. 13*****Call to Order***

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

Roll Call

Secretary Borg called the roll and declared a quorum.

ATTENDANCE***Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2004***

Motion XXXV-90: By Senator Rebolledo, seconded by Senator Carper, to approve the Academic Senate minutes of April 21, 2004. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks:

Senator Crothers: Thanks to all senators who are leaving us after this meeting; this is the last meeting of the 03-04 Senate. We have had a very busy year. If all goes well this evening, we will have revised the General Education Program. The Consensual Relations Policy was passed. There were changes to the Academic Planning Committee membership and functions. We had a vigorous conversation with the Green Team and members will be back to report on its activities to the Senate. The Senate was heavily involved in the presidential search and still ongoing dean searches. We passed revisions to our bylaws and endorsed *Educating Illinois 2003-2010*. The item that is now generating more interest and energy is the University Alcohol Policy, which the Senate passed. There are a few things the Senate still needs to address, including the Administrator Selection Policy and the Mass Communications E-Mail Policy. We will take up discussion of those policies again next fall. All faculty and staff in attendance at the meeting at which Representative Dan Brady reported on the state legislative agenda received a thank you letter from Representative Brady for the invitation to address the Senate. Former Senator Jack Howard is on temporary leave from active duty and is back in the U.S. for non-critical surgery. My former student, who I have reported on to you on previous occasions, has had her military term of service extended.

Senator Fazel: Professor Howard will return to active duty following his surgery.

Student Government Association President/Student Body President's Remarks:

Senator Rinker: I encourage the Senate to greet the new student senators. They reported that the Senate Orientation was very productive. SGA is actively pursuing membership in the American Student Government Association. We would have access to many resources as well as connections to other student government associations throughout the country. SGA is also considering creating its own Code of Ethics to address what we as student leaders are expected to represent.

Senator Jerich: Will the SGA Code of Ethics be parallel with the Student Code of Conduct?

Senator Rinker: We will look at the student Code of Conduct, but as student leaders, we should hold ourselves to a higher standard.

Senator op de Beeck: We have spoken about voter registration previously. Could there be a particular focus in the fall by SGA on registering incoming students?

Senator Rinker: We are looking at how best to coordinate the voter registration process with several other

organizations, including the Politics and Government Department, *The Vidette* and the Idea Group. We do plan on having something in place in the fall prior to the November election.

President's Remarks:

President Bowman: Thank you to the outgoing senators for their service to the Academic Senate and welcome to all new Senate members that will be joining us. I want to reaffirm my belief that shared governance is taken seriously on this campus. We include students, faculty and staff seriously in the policy decision-making process. We have had many contacts with the state legislature regarding our budget proposal. We are also working on the acceptance of our capital projects. There has been a lot of discussion in Springfield about raising fees and whether or not adding all of the new fees was a good idea. Also, the revenue that those fees are generating is not what had been expected. There has been a 34% increase in the amount of debt the state is carrying over last year and we now have \$51 billion of debt that the state is obligated to pay. That said, nothing has changed relative to our budget in terms of the projected 2% cut. The Student Foundation Board had a kickoff in the Milner Plaza with a goal of raising \$20,000 in the Comprehensive Campaign. I want to congratulate and thank students for getting involved in that campaign. We have begun the Energy Efficiency Fund, as a part of the Family Campaign, to which you may donate to projects that will make us more energy efficient. We are raising close to \$1 million per month in the Capital Campaign. The east side exterior walls of Schroeder Hall walls are starting to come down. Asbestos work is almost complete and a new chiller will be installed. The College of Business building project is on schedule.

Senator Fowles: Will URGs be funded? If so, at what level and when will the funds be released?

Provost Presley: We will know when we know what our final budget will be.

President Bowman: Until we know our final appropriation, it would be prudent to hold and wait.

Senator Fowles: We should, therefore, wait to begin projects until after July?

President Bowman: We should know where our budget is by the end of May.

Provost's Remarks:

Provost Presley: I want to update you on where we are in enrollments. We have received 2,362 enrollment deposits, which is 185 fewer than last year. The average ACT and academic profile are holding steady for the deposits. The average ACT is 23.9, average GPA 3.38 and a 69% average high school percentile. We have received 30 yes responses for the acceptance of presidential scholarships and 19 yes responses for minority fellowships.

Vice President of Student Affairs' Remarks:

Senator Mamarchev: We had a huge turnout for SpringFest last Saturday; students, faculty, staff and members of their families attended the event. Congratulations on the formation of the Student Foundation Board and thank you to all of the students involved. In our Division of Student Affairs, we have completed the site visit for the comprehensive program reviews for both recreation services and the golf course, as well as campus dining services. Once the final reports are written, we will be placing them on the assessment portion of our website.

Vice President of Finance and Planning's Remarks: Excused Absence

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee: No Report.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: No Report.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Wylie: One of the charges to the Faculty Affairs Committee is faculty recruitment and retention. Faculty Affairs will work with the NCA Accreditation faculty focus group on this charge. We are waiting on the arrival of the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources to assist us with the consideration of a faculty ombudsman. We will pursue this in the fall.

Planning and Finance Committee: No Report.

Rules Committee: No Report.

Action Items:

04.01.04.01 General Education Review Report (Academic Affairs Committee)

Motion XXXV-91: By Senator Armstrong to accept the report and recommendations on General Education from the Academic Affairs Committee.

Senator Borg: I would be more comfortable dealing with each recommendation separately. I have a question about a number of the recommendations, specifically, this rather lengthy discussion of admiring the goals of the three inner courses core and the suggestion they it be reduced to two new sequences. Item 6B, page 3, the end of the first paragraph, refers to the formation of a committee to restructure the program and, if at all possible, reduce credits hours. What if that is not possible?

Professor Rosenthal, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences/Council on General Education

Representative: There is a process for reviewing the three courses. We began the review process with a thorough review of all of the goals associated with Foundations of Inquiry with an idea of alternate ways of delivery. A committee is currently working on ENG 101 and COM 110. That committee includes representatives of those two departments and two representatives from the Milner Library. That committee will be expanded over the summer to include other members. It is not exactly clear, and I would work with the Senate on this, about who would be on this committee.

Senator Borg: So we are assuming that it will be two courses rather than three? Would it be possible for this committee to come up with something that is COM 110 and FOI rather than ENG 101 and COM 110 and is it necessary that these be owned departmentally?

Senator Armstrong: We ran into the problem of how many specifics to actually legislate. It is impossible to know the outcome; we are making recommendations based on what we anticipate. We are thinking of a whole new construct that incorporates all of these elements. At this point, the only feasible way to do this is to leave the two courses in the two academic departments, but there is clearly going to be a little difference in terms of the academic construct of these courses from outside of the academic departments.

Senator Borg: I am more comfortable with that than a preordained process. The entire process was designed to be dynamic when it was developed ten years ago.

Senator Reid: Professor Rosenthal stated that there is already a small committee to which people will be added. However, this proposals says that the Academic Affairs will establish a committee. Has a committee already been formed?

Senator Armstrong: The committee answers to the Academic Affairs Committee, but it is going to be in conjunction with the Council on General Education, the Provost's Office and Academic Affairs; there is no one powerhouse that will establish the committee. The committee to which Professor Rosenthal referred is a

committee that is looking at feasibility studies.

Senator Reid: When will the final committee be established?

Senator Crothers: As I recall, the expectation is that the committee would begin its work this summer.

Senator Borg: Will the new programs be brought through the Senate for approval of the new curriculum?

Senator Armstrong: Yes, there will be some restructuring that has to come back to the Senate. If there are substantial revisions, course proposals will be presented as a part of that restructuring.

Senator Swindler: The proposal has been understood pretty broadly in terms of dropping FOI, but in the second paragraph of 6B, the idea seems to be to replace FOI, ENG 101 and COM 110. So is the proposal really to drop those three courses in favor of an entirely new yearlong structure?

Senator Armstrong: Yes, we would like to see a major innovation. I would like to see two new courses incorporate the various elements.

Professor Rosenthal: We are considering a sequence, which in part would be yearlong, and part that would look a little more like an ENG 101 and a COM 110 as it exists now. But, as we move forward, we might look at a yearlong course that would not be a two-semester course.

Senator Swindler: How much coordination between the two parts is going to be needed and where will it be housed? Two separate departments trying to coordinate the sequences may get complicated.

Professor Rosenthal: The Council on General Education is responsible for the coordination.

Senator Boser: Given all of the uncertainty, how will we expedite this process to complete it before October 2004?

Senator Armstrong: The earliest the revisions to the program would go into effect would be fall 05-06. The deadline for proposals to get to the University Curriculum Committee in October and to make its way through the Senate is necessary for catalog changes in January and February.

Senator Boser: That is a very short timeline to get things done by October 1 considering we don't know what we are doing yet.

Senator Armstrong: That is one reason that discussions have begun.

Senator Garrison: To what body will the committee that is forming the recommendations answer?

Senator Armstrong: To Academic Affairs.

Senator Garrison: How will they answer to the Academic Affairs Committee this summer?

Senator Armstrong: As soon as the Academic Affairs Committee returns in August, it will be expecting a report.

Senator Garrison: So they will be working with no communication until the fall?

Senator Crothers: The structure for Academic Affairs will be set sometime in May. At that point, there will be

representatives known that that committee can began to work with, at least indirectly.

Senator Borg: With the difficulty in staffing FOI, how will that change with the new course sequences? Will the staffing of the current ENG 101 remain as it is now or will there be some expectation of staffing it with more faculty members rather than graduate assistants?

Senator Armstrong: That depends on what is actually proposed.

Senator Borg: The notion of faculty responsibility, not only for developing, but for deliver of the curriculum, is something that I feel very strongly about.

Senator Reid: The question of who is going to coordinate this is still open. We are not sure that it is going to be the Council on General Education. The problem is that not only does this call for spreading FOI duties to these courses, but it also calls for the development of critical thinking goals throughout the Gen Ed curriculum. What will have to be decided is whether a subcommittee of the Council on General Education might do this, but that is what the committee that will work during the summer will decide, as well as decide on the relationship that will exist between these two courses.

Senator Jerich: Do you see this as an opportunity for senior faculty to work more closely with NTT faculty and graduate assistance to bring a tighter coordination and conceptual framework for the curriculum?

Professor Rosenthal: When I first spoke to the English and Communication Departments about their willingness to embark on this project, their first question was about training. Certainly, I have promised some development dollars to that effect for the graduate assistants and NTT faculty who teach that course, as well as faculty development to ensure that critical thinking is an inoculation approach in the inner core and that we build on a common vocabulary throughout the program.

Senator Armstrong: It was very clear that vertical integration had not really taken place in our current General Ed Program. I do see that there is more opportunity for tenure-track faculty to develop connections between this first year program and the rest of the General Education Program.

Senator Swindler: Why was vertical integration not evident?

Senator Armstrong: That is difficult to pinpoint. We thought that resources had not been aimed at it, that is, very little attention had been paid to it was a factor. We also feel that there was some lack of communication to some extent, so student perceptions were that there was no connection between FOI and other courses. Some of that clearly isn't true; what, therefore, must be lacking is some of the common language.

Senator Swindler: Was there vertical integration evident between the other parts of the inner core and the rest of Gen Ed Program? Secondly, just having a common vocabulary might run the risk of papering over these disconnects or discontinuities in methodology between these beginning courses and other courses more closely related to the disciplines.

Senator Armstrong: Integration is a difficult job, but we found that there was very little attention paid to that subject. There is some assessment of the impacts of the writing, composition and communications in other courses and you get certain indications that these are skills that have developed.

Senator Swindler: Do we have a common vocabulary in terms of writing and speaking skills?

Professor Rosenthal: We do have an approach that is common to many courses based on portfolios, a standard language of evaluation through peer review and peer editing in the writing intensive courses. But, more broadly, I really do believe that one of the strengths of General Education currently is the interconnectedness and the vertical integration of courses in theory. My frustration is that we have devoted so much attention and so many resources to one 1/15th of our program that we have not been paid any attention to the other 14/15th. We want to make sure that integration is happening according to the original design.

Vote on Motion to Approve General Education Recommendations: All senators voted in favor of the recommendations, with the exception of Senator Borg, who voted nay. Senator Armstrong will report to the Senate on the composition of the committee.

03.25.04.06 *Blue Book Revisions: Rules Committee Response to Honors Council Student Membership Composition Request*

Motion XXXV-92: By Senator Coliz to accept the proposal from the Honors Council that all student members of the Honors Council be enrolled in the Honors Program.

Dr. Larry Alferink, Honors Program Director: There was a question from the Senate about what the functions of the Honors Council are. The functions of the Honors Council are to advise on the formulation of policy for the Honors Program; assist in the evaluation of the Honors Program; and play a very important function as the curriculum committee for the Honors Program for the recommendation of the addition and/or deletion of honors courses. The request from the Honors Council for the student membership to be composed of honor students only was made because members of the council felt that honor students can best advise and form policy for the Honors Program; they are the students who are affected by those policies and the addition or deletion of courses. Additionally, I believe that the Honors Council is the only council that is connected with a program to which the membership of such a council is not restricted to individuals in the program. Part of this is to seek a parallel process to other councils on campus.

Senator Ghrist: Have you had difficulty recruiting students outside of the Honors Program?

Dr. Alferink: As interim director, I have not spent a lot of time trying to recruit students outside of the Honors Program.

Senator Ghrist: If there is no problem in the past with students who are not in the Honors Program serving on this council, why are you asking for this change? I know that the Athletic Council has student members who are outside of the Athletic Program.

Senator Coliz: The types of questions and details about how the courses and policies work within the program are best understood by students who are in the program.

Senator Fazel: Are any students, other than honor students, affected by the decisions of the Honors Council?

Dr. Alferink: No, not directly or indirectly.

Senator Crothers: Does the Honors Council set the criteria by which one becomes an honor student?

Dr. Alferink: No.

Senator Jerich: How did the student membership of the Rules Committee feel about the proposed change?

Senator Coliz: There was one dissenting vote and that was from a student member of the Rules Committee.

Vote on Honors Council Proposal: The proposal was unanimously approved.

Communications:

U.S. Senate Candidate

Senator Koutsky: A tentative date of Tuesday, April 27, has been set for U.S. Senate Candidate Barack Obama to visit campus. However, we have yet to receive final confirmation. As of right now, he would be here on the 27th at 7:30 p.m. in Capen Auditorium.

Student Foundation Board

Senator Ghrist: The Student Foundation will be very active over the next several weeks at different sites on campus. I encourage faculty and student participation to help the Student Foundation succeed.

Adjournment

[ATTENDANCE AND MOTIONS](#)