

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2006
(Approved)

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Senator Crothers called the roll and declared a quorum.

Attendance and Motions

Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2006

Motion XXXVII-47: By Senator Hampton, seconded by Senator Riegle, to approve the Senate Minutes of January 25, 2006. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Crothers: Ira Schoenwald, Director of Human Resources, was quoted as being among the first faculty ombudsmen in an article in the *Chronicle* about the cutting-edge universities that are now creating faculty ombudspersons.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Garrison: Student Government has filled its last Senate vacancy with Jessica Brinton, who is a returning senator. Today, SGA held a realtor forum in which we invited 15 realtors to discuss open leasing. Though only one realtor attended, it was a positive discussion. It appears that they are making positive headway on open leasing, but it seems that they will be doing that on their own without student input. I hope that the students and the university will somehow become involved with that. SGA has also started discussing the Bloomington/Normal proposed smoking ban. We debated how we would address this issue and it was decided that it will go before the students, during the next election, as a referendum. Students at that time can vote in favor or against a comprehensive smoking ban.

Administrators' Remarks:

· ***President Al Bowman – Absent***

· ***Provost John Presley – Absent***

· ***Vice President of Student Affairs Helen Mamarchev***

Senator Mamarchev: We have received a three-year reaccreditation from AAAHC, which is the Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Health Care. There are about 157 colleges and universities that have this accreditation. It is similar to the concept of the Good Housekeeping “seal of approval”. It involves an extensive self-study and an external review by people from other student health centers across the country. So, to receive this reaccreditation is very important for our university.

· ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg***

Senator Bragg: The Illinois Board of Higher Education met yesterday and approved budget recommendations for the 2007 fiscal year. Those recommendations are forwarded to the Governor and to the

General Assembly for deliberation. The recommendation is significant in that they are recommending a 5.3% overall increase for higher education. Most of that represents a mandatory contribution to the retirement system. The overall operating increase for the different sectors of higher education is only 1.4%; Illinois State University is at 0.9% or about \$742,000. That would pay for about one half of a 1% salary increase. It is significant, however, in that it is not a cut or even holding the line on the budget. The Governor will give his budget address next Wednesday and we look forward to hearing his comments about the IBHE's recommendations and whether or not he will be able to support them.

On the capital side, monies for new buildings, we requested that the Board of Higher Education substitute our highest priority project. We asked them to substitute the renovation and the replacing of the Fine Arts Complex for last year's number one priority, which was a satellite power plant. They very graciously in doing so and put it on their priority list to the State. It is, however, the last project on their list of 27, so we are not likely to see funding this year. The significance is that it is on the list and it will move up the list. Meanwhile, we continue to work on funds on our own.

At the last meeting, I reported that we had conference calls with the two bond rating agencies, Standard and Poor and Moody's. We received the results of their deliberations and I am happy to report that both Moody's and Standard and Poor have reaffirmed our credit rating with them. That is significant because the State has been downgraded twice since our last bond issue and we were very concerned. In many states, the public university's credit rating is tied to the state's. Moody's even went so far as to change its long-term outlook for the university from stable to positive. Next Friday is the Board of Trustees meeting at which we will ask the Board to approve a \$47-48 million bond issue, a borrowing issue for the university. About \$7 million of that will be used to refinance previous bonds. About \$40.5 million will be used for new projects. The bulk of that will be to continue the long range housing and dining upgrades, about \$31 million. About \$7 million will be used to build another parking deck. \$2 million will be used to start the planning of a student recreation center and about \$500,000 for reconfiguration and renovation of the Bone Student Center. We are hopeful that the Board will approve that next Friday.

Senator Crothers: Is this the first year in several years that the IBHE has recommended any increases for the universities at all or is it consistent with past practice?

Senator Bragg: They have made recommendations that have not been supported for the past four or five years because there have not been any state funds for it. The question this year was whether they were going to make any recommendations for higher education, given that state revenues, though not declining, are not increasing. I think that it is significant that they recommended even a small increase.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Borg: The committee discussed catalog revisions having to do with reinstatement and dismissal policies. We will bring that forward at the next meeting. We discussed revisions to the CLEP Policy that were forwarded to us. This evening, we will bring forward the Baccalaureate Degree Document as an Information Item.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee

Senator Smith: The committee discussed the annual commentary on the President. We will present it to the Executive Committee on Monday. If they are satisfied with it, we hope to have that finalized very soon. The other issue on our agenda is the Academic Calendar and we will be discussing that at our next meeting.

· *Faculty Affairs Committee*

Senator DeSantis: The committee continued its discussion on the results of its survey on faculty retention at ISU. The survey generated an incredibly large and important body of information and we are in the process of distilling that information into specific recommendations for presentation to the Senate and to the administration.

· *Planning and Finance Committee*

Senator Burk: The committee discussed its report from the delegation that interviewed the VPs and two deans about their planning and priorities. We also discussed some internal enhancements to our committee processes. Our next step will be for the subcommittee to start writing our yearly priorities document, which will eventually come to the Senate for discussion and approval.

· *Rules Committee*

Senator Holland: We met this evening and discussed the comments we received, only three, about the ethics document. We will be forwarding that to the faculty as a whole for comments and hopefully it will be back as an Information Item reasonably soon.

Action Item:

01.10.06.01 Honorary Degree Committee Election

The Senate elected Senator Larry Alferink, nominated by the Faculty Caucus, and Senator Angela Marotta, nominated by the Student Government Association, as representatives on the Honorary Degree Committee. The full Senate also ratified the election by SGA of Senator Ross Richards to the committee.

Information Item:

01.27.06.02 Baccalaureate Degree Document – Revised (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Borg: The Academic Affairs Committee sends to the Senate a revised version of the Baccalaureate Degree Document. This document was developed while we were implementing the new General Education Program. It was designed to be a location where one could find all manner of information on undergraduate degrees. It has needed editing for some time. The original document was done before the installation of Mennonite College of Nursing, so there was considerable revision required. We have had some wonderful help in dealing with this. You may recall that the Senate did adopt last fall an amendment to the document having to do with the procedure for requesting an exemption from the 124-hour limit in credit hours for a baccalaureate degree. That has been incorporated into this revision. The first of the documents in your packet, document 01.27.06.02, is the readable version of our final draft. The second document, 10.25.05.01, was what we were working with, which is the strike through edit version. The changes were mostly editorial, but there were significant areas of rearrangement of sections within the document. The Academic Affairs Committee has endorsed it and recommends its approval by the Senate.

Motion XXXVII-48: By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Richards, to move the item to action. There was no debate and the motion was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXVII-49: By Senator Borg to approve the Baccalaureate Degree Document.

Senator Garrison: I have a question about the requirement for the University Writing Examination. What is the reasoning behind that? Is it just following historical precedent or is it state mandated?

Senator Borg: I can't speak to the origins of that, but it is a requirement that has been a part of the degree

requirements for many years. The purpose of revising this particular document was not necessarily to revise elements such as that, but to state what the current practice is.

Senator Crothers: If there is an objection to any part of this document, it is appropriate to send a proposal to the Executive Committee to suggest that the Academic Affairs Committee look at that question specifically.

Vote on Approval of Baccalaureate Degree Document: The Senate unanimously approved the Baccalaureate Degree Document, as revised by the Academic Affairs Committee.

Communications:

01.20.06.01 *FY07 Academic Affairs Planning Presentations*

Senator Crothers: In March, the Academic Affairs presentations will occur. They are presentations by deans and other administrators of the various units within Academic Affairs concerning their plans for their units and where the money is. It is an opportunity to learn a great deal about what is going on in the various units; it is an open process and everyone is entitled and encouraged to attend.

***Documents Pending Approval by President Bowman:
(Submitted for Approval on January 27, 2006)***

09.14.05.01 *University Commemorative Day Policy – Deletion*

09.23.05.03 *Creation of Academic Policy Policy*

Additionally, the Senate approved the following curricular proposals on its web-based Consent Agenda:

Organizational Leadership Minor Proposal

Academic Senate Approved on the Consent Agenda on January 25, 2006

Business Teacher Education Program Proposal (125 hours)

Academic Senate Approved on the Consent Agenda on January 24, 2006

Disability Studies Minor Deletion Proposal

Academic Senate Approved on the Consent Agenda on January 24, 2006

Curricular proposals are available on the Senate website at: </consent.html>

Adjournment