

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 29, 2006
(Approved)

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Senator Fowles called the roll and declared a quorum.

Attendance and Motions

Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2006

Motion XXXVII-57: By Senator Dagggers, seconded by Senator Winter, to approve the Senate Minutes of March 8, 2006. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Guest Speaker: Representative Dan Brady

Representative Brady: Thank you for the opportunity to be here this evening. The last time I visited with the Senate was about a year ago and some things have changed in that timeframe. Dr. Bowman asked me to talk a little about the landscape of Springfield right now.

We were set to adjourn April 7, but we have been advised that maybe we should plan on staying until at least April 12. Yesterday after the Democratic House members caucused, there is now reason to believe that the proposed budget from the Governor's administration is in trouble and that Speaker Madigan will be running a flat-line budget of his own. This means that the spending that was proposed for higher education, about a 1.4% increase, may be in jeopardy. The dynamics have changed from the standpoint that we were operating under the assumption that the budget would be supported and driven through by the administration. So, this latest development is something that we will have to certainly keep our eye on and are quite concerned about.

As of yesterday afternoon, the Latino Caucus has gone a different direction as well, indicating that the \$1,000 tuition tax credit that was proposed should be done away with and that proposed \$90 million should be directed into the MAP grant funding formula. Another area that we should talk about is a proposed capital budget. The Governor had proposed approximately a \$3.2 billion budget. As of today, I would be hard pressed to say that there would be the votes to support a capital bill. We have not seen, neither the Republicans nor Democrats, the actual bill itself. The question is not only where those dollars would come from but also that it is basically \$3.2 billion of unaccounted for, unchecked funding, which bothers us in Springfield greatly.

The next issue, which was predicated on this budget, was the sale of Illinois State Students Assistance Commission (ISSAC). The loan portfolio of ISSAC is \$3.5 billion and is estimated to raise anywhere from \$300 to \$500 million. Other states have done something similar along these lines. Our concern in the higher ed arena is that if that is going to be done, we don't want to see the proceeds from the sale of those loans end up in General Revenue Funds. We want to see it in higher education and we want to make sure that the rates of those students who have existing loans are protected in any type of sale that would occur. Morgan Stanley has been retained as the firm to analyze this and is due to forward a report to us by March 31st. The higher ed committee, of which I am a member, is going to have a special hearing on April 5 regarding a number of

questions that we will have after this report comes out.

Another new development is that the 07 budget severely under funds the Illinois Veterans Grant and Illinois National Guard Grant programs. In essence, that means that the universities and community colleges are going to have to absorb \$15 million across our nine state universities if we don't create a source of funding for those programs. That is extremely concerning as well.

Quite frankly, everyone in Springfield is focused on the development of the budget because it is changing quickly. As President Bowman knows, things are very fluid right now and will change day by day so it is very hard to give any more exacts other than what has developed so far. What we thought was a budget headed in the direction to be approved has suddenly changed. This was probably the first time in three or four years that there was an increase and some hope for higher education in the funding aspect. We will stay in touch and we will continue to advocate to the best of our ability on behalf of the university and you as my constituents.

Senator Borg: I hope other people share my disappointment that you could not bring us more positive news. Can you perhaps, even out of the flurry of activity over the past couple of days, share what you think is positive in terms of higher education, both this year and also projected into the next couple of years?

Rep. Brady: What I think is positive is the 1.4% increase for higher education. What I think is positive is the \$7 million directed to the MAP grant. What I think is positive is that our continuous attempts to shed light on investing more into higher education in this state is finally starting to pay, at least minimally, dividends. If another budget comes forward, making sure that we can protect some of those things in the Governor's budget is extremely important. One thing that is important to remember for a capital budget in the 11th hour is that it will take a three-fifths majority to pass; it will take seven Republican votes for the administration to get it at least in the House and that may be very difficult to do. Just a few short years ago, when things did not go as planned, it forced the Republicans and Democrats to put together a coalition to work together. Better things came out of that scenario. So those are the positives that I see. The unknown variable is the way in which the political winds are changing.

Senator Borg: I realize that things are focused on the budget completely, but if you take the color of money away from the consideration of higher education on the part of politicians, how would you assess the way in which we are viewed?

Rep. Brady: I know that many of my colleagues and I view higher education as an intricate part of the budget process and of the state that we have not adequately invested in during the last few years. It is going to be up to all of us, whatever districts we represent, and nine of the state universities lie in Republican districts, that we try to put any partisan politics aside and make sure that some of the dollars that we are talking about in the proposed budget are salvaged. How you are viewed is that your work is extremely important to the future of Illinois and we haven't invested enough in higher education.

Senator Crothers: In the sale of the student loan portfolios, you are talking about selling \$3.5 billion in loans for \$300 million. That sounds like a good deal. However, does the legislation not include rate caps to protect students in its current form?

Rep. Brady: We have seen no such wording in legislation and that is why after the analysis is done by Morgan Stanley, the Chair of Higher Ed, Representative Kevin McCarthy, informed us all today that we will

have a special hearing to get our questions answered more directly. That specific question has not been answered clearly enough for the majority of us who serve on the Higher Education Committee.

Senator Preston: What is the status of the pension situation?

Rep. Brady: Last session, there was a \$298 million raise for the retirement system for the administration to fill the budget gap and roughly a billion dollars in new spending. The status of the pension system is that we are trying to guard against anything like that happening again. The damage has already been done, but there is legislation trying to protect the pension system. That legislation has not moved forward, but I don't see anyone trying to go back and do anything with pension dollars. I think what has resonated and that the administration now understands clearly is what you did was wrong and you don't touch those pension dollars.

Senator Mwilambwe: Could you explain the budgeting process? You talked about the Speaker of the House taking control and proposing a flat-line budget. Can you explain how that happens?

Rep. Brady: The administration, under the Constitution, has the responsibility to present to the House and the Senate a budget proposal, which has been done. We have not seen all of the details, but I believe that that proposal, some of the new dollars and the priorities in that budget, have now been called into question. What has happened in the past with the pension situation and the borrowing that we have done has come home to roost. The Speaker has said that this budget proposal is much worse than he thought it would be and that he would not sign it. So, that is what changed things.

Right now, we borrow from Visa to pay MasterCard and we borrow to pay the interest on the money we borrow. So, I think that the political winds have shifted in that respect calling more attention to those facts. I think that the Speaker is going to try to take a different approach from the budget standpoint. I don't believe that the administration would have the votes right now for the present budget and I believe that the Speaker thinks that he will have less of a difficult time getting a Democratic majority to support his budget.

Senator Crothers: As there are no additional questions, we thank you, Representative Brady, for coming to see us for four years in a row. We appreciate your support very much.

Rep. Brady: Thank you very much. I appreciate each and every one of you for what you do and we will certainly be advocating on behalf of higher education and, in particular, Illinois State University.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Crothers: We need to extend our welcome to the new President of the Student Body, Ross Richards. I want to turn my comments over to Senator Burk who volunteered to attend the Council of Illinois University Senates (CIUS) meeting in Springfield on Tuesday in my absence.

Senator Burk: About a dozen people attended the CIUS meeting. It was an all-day event with a wide-ranging conversation. The first person that spoke to us was Rick Shoal, a U of I Executive Director for Governmental Relations. He has noticed trends in the state that he thinks will affect education. The one he mentioned the most was a sense of disenfranchisement in the state. He said some portions of the population feel disenfranchised, although this is changing. The Black and Hispanic Caucuses are becoming more powerful on a state level as a result of an increase in population. Also, the downstate areas, the people there in poverty, figure into this mix. The pressure from these groups could have a significant impact on higher ed. He thought that the pressure would be to provide education that does not require full-time school. He sees that as a coming trending. He is afraid that the high tuition and high aid mode of higher education is going to

be moving us into a place asking, "Is higher education worth it?"

Mr. Shoal also said that salaries for administration in higher education are causing some states to place caps on administrative salaries. He said that universities are beginning to be looked at as a major economic engine for the state. The good news is they are starting to value us more. The bad news is they are going to expect more for their money. Looking at universities as a major economic engine works really well in the sciences, probably, but it does not fit as well in the humanities. So, we had a long discussion, essentially, in defense of the humanities.

We talked about virtual education. The University of Phoenix has 120,000 students who are all virtual. The speaker was very concerned about that and said that the campus experience is so much more important than people are giving it credit. There was talk about the states using universities as their ATM machines.

We had a discussion in the afternoon about the difficulty and importance of passing on institutional memory. Two of the schools had chancellors who were very resistant to being reviewed by the Senate. They do it every five years and there was only one person still on the Senate who remembered the process and knew that that was the norm. We talked about training people who are going to follow us in shared governance and also writing down standard operating procedures. My overwhelming impression was that shared governance is working well at Illinois State University, better than it is at other places in the state, and that they all hold us up as an ideal. They did hand out one document that I will send to you if you wish called, "How to Demoralize the Faculty: A Six-Step Program That Works."

Senator Crothers: I am pleased to hear that it is not just me who thinks that Illinois State University's shared governance seems to be working pretty well, though it can be quite a lot of work, as we all know. However, it is work that seems to pay off.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Richards: The Student Government is going through its annual transition period. This past Saturday, we had our transition retreat at which time the current senators helped to bring along our new senators and they have been continuing to do that all week long. On Sunday, we had our Passing the Gavel Ceremony at which time all of the newly-elected senators were sworn into office. President Bowman was kind enough to be our keynote speaker. This coming Wednesday, we are going to have our first assembly for all of the new people, some of whom are here tonight.

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman

President Bowman: I would like to thank the students, faculty and staff who have started working on planning the new recreation building. There is a lot of work ahead and I know that group will put in a lot of time. I also want to congratulate the business students who planned Business Week, which included a lecture on the founder of J.D. Power and Associates. One of the Vice Presidents of that company is a very loyal Illinois State graduate and our development staff is working on some internship opportunities with that company.

I met recently with the dining staff to review progress on the new dining plan and I think that they are making good progress. There are still some issues that need to be addressed before the plan is ready for another campus rollout, but I think that we will see the plan before the end of the semester. The third candidate for the General Counsel position is on campus tomorrow and there is an open forum at 1:45 p.m. in the Faculty/Staff

Commons. He is serving currently as the

General Counsel at New Mexico State University. The Diversity and Affirmative Action position is going to be searched and the search committee had its first meeting last Monday.

· ***Provost John Presley***

Provost Presley: I would like to follow up some of the data that I have been providing to the Senate throughout the year. We had a record number of applications from new freshman for fall 2006, up 13%, and every single academic preparedness indicator for that freshman class was up, some of them significantly, such as the percentage in the top quarter, which was up by almost an entire point. The number of people showing up for freshman information nights was very even with last year, which was good, since last year it was up 1,500 over the previous year, almost a 50% increase.

We are now getting to the point where I can report to you about deposits received and give you more specific details about the kinds of students we can expect. We have now received 2,277 deposits and the academic preparedness indicators for those students who have made the deposits, once again, indicate that we have a very highly prepared class. The average ACT is almost the exactly the same, but we expect the ACT and other indicators to go up even more. The average GPA is up slightly. The average class rank is up slightly. For minority students, the number of deposits received is almost identical to last year and last year was a record year. There, the academic preparedness indicators are up by quite a bit.

As a result of all of this interest, 32 of our majors and minors are closed to freshmen and transfers both because we have so many students indicating interest. We have the strongest field of presidential scholars every at this point. We have made offers to a number of those perspective students and have heard from the majority of them in the affirmative. The Honors Program grants first-year scholarships of \$2,000 to selected incoming students who have been admitted to Honors and many of these recipients are people who did not receive presidential scholarships. Only a few of them had applied to the Honors Program, but those who did not receive presidential scholarships have an average ACT score of over 30 and the average GPA is essentially 4.0, so you can imagine how strong the applications for the presidential scholars were. It is shaping up to be a very strong year for us academically.

On the University's website, there is a news story about a ceremony next week, a screening of student films, as a part of the American Democracy Project and part of the Film Your Issue initiative. The ISU team that competed in that last year won. In other news regarding the American Democracy Project, of over 220 AASCU institutions that are participating in the American Democracy Project, Illinois State University was listed as being among the top eight, partly because of our students performing so well in the FYI contest last year and certainly because of the hard work of the task force. Because we were listed among the top eight, we were invited to participate in the Political Engagement Project under the umbrella of the American Democracy Project.

The PEP is sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation and the New York Times. Jan Shane and I will be working with a group of faculty to emphasize four pedagogies related to political engagement in some relevant Gen Ed courses. Then we will be testing the students' political engagement that results after exposure to those pedagogies in those classes. Some of the preliminary findings that are already being published by the Carnegie Foundation indicate that the pedagogies do not move the students' positions on political perspectives one way or the other, it just makes them better citizens.

· *Vice President of Student Affairs Helen Mamarchev*

Senator Mamarchev: To follow up on what Dr. Presley talked about in terms of the American Democracy Project, I would like to remind everyone that we will have on Friday, March 31st, at 10:00 a.m., our Civic Engagement Kickoff. We are going to be honoring a number of faculty, staff and students who have been very active in terms of civic engagement and also, in the concourse, we are going to have displays of some of the work that people have been doing over the last year.

I want to follow up on discussion of a couple of weeks ago about the waiting list at the Counseling Center. We have 12 full-time professional staff in Student Counseling Services. There are 8 licensed psychologists at the Ph.D. level, 3 Licensed Professional Counselors at the Masters level and 1 Licensed Clinical Social Worker at the Masters Level. We have 7 part-time professional staff, which add up to an FTE of 2.57. There are 5 part-time Masters level counselors for an FTE of 1.95. We have a .2 psychiatric FTE and a .6 psychiatric nurse FTE.

In terms of psychiatric services, our plan is to begin a search sometime this fall to hire a full-time psychiatrist to begin in July 2007. Our funding will come from various reallocations of resources within Student Health Services to accomplish this. We have some people who are retiring from a couple of positions and we will have to look at using some of our reserves as well. This is important because 53% of Student Counseling Services' clients come to us having had a previous treatment history. 21% of the current clients are on medication for some type of psychological condition. It is important to note that these numbers are very typical; we are right in there in with most colleges and universities on this issue.

The national average for psychiatrists for universities with 20,000 or more students is 1.5 FTE and as I indicated, we have a .2 FTE, so this is certainly an area that we need to work on. During our budget review process, which is part of our overall student fee process, we talked about this and the student leadership was very supportive of us moving in this direction.

Our comprehensive programs reviews this year are for Student Counseling Services and Student Health Services. We have placed the self-study CPR reviews on the Vice President for Student Affairs website under "Assessment".

Senator Fowles: I would note that there are psychiatric nurse practitioners that do have prescriptive authority as well. They work in collaboration with psychiatrists, but they may be a little more cost effective, so you may consider that as another source.

Senator Mamarchev: We are exploring all avenues. There is a shortage of psychiatric services in this community in general, considering the size of the population. It is very difficult to attract individuals with that kind of background here because they can make anywhere from two to four times more money by working in Chicago or St. Louis.

Senator Fowles: I think that you will find that the nurse practitioners at the Masters level are in the community right now.

· *Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg*

Senator Bragg: We are beginning to fill our chillers and evaporators on campus and that means that all of

your offices and classrooms on campus will either be too hot or too cold for the next six weeks. We ask for your indulgence while we try to get this as fine tuned as we can, but our aging infrastructure presents challenges to us.

The capital budget that Representative Brady talked about is very, very critical to us, not only for the new appropriations for new projects, but for the release of funds for projects that have already been appropriated. We have been waiting for the release of the construction funds for the Stevenson-Turner project for some time. If we do not get word that those funds are going to be released in the next couple of weeks, we are going to have some very serious decisions to make about whether to proceed with that project this coming year or postpone it for a year. So, we are working very hard with the Capital Development Board in the Governor's office to get release of those funds. During the past week, representatives from Facilities Planning attended an awards ceremony in Springfield. Our Schroeder Hall project received the top award for capital renovation in the State of Illinois.

Committee Reports

· Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Borg: The committee met to consider changes to the Administrative Withdrawal Policy based upon the Senate discussion three weeks ago. The Classroom Disruption Policy has been withdrawn from the agenda. It is perhaps not beyond repair, but was certainly not reparable in the timeframe that we had, so we will consider bringing it back later.

· Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee

Senator Smith: The only item for discussion on our agenda was the Academic Calendar. We did discuss a couple of issues pertaining to that.

· Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator DeSantis: The committee did meet. We don't have new business to report, though we continue to discuss the report on the survey on faculty retention, which proved to be a bit controversial, judging from the discussion at the last Senate meeting. We are still talking about the best way to present the results of that survey and hopefully we will have something back to the Senate before the end of the semester.

· Planning and Finance Committee

Senator Burk: The committee continued its discussion of our annual Institutional Goals and Priorities Report. We plan to have that ready for the Executive Committee in two weeks and for the Senate shortly thereafter.

· Rules Committee

Senator Holland: We had a very productive meeting with Jan Paterson, Dean of Students, about some proposed revisions to the Student Center Complex advisory boards and hopefully we will have something to you in a couple of weeks.

Action Items:

11.10.05.04 Classroom Disruption Policy (Academic Affairs Committee)

The Classroom Disruption Policy was withdrawn from the Senate agenda and will be discussed by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

03.20.06.01 Administrative Withdrawal Policy (Combines the Administrative and Involuntary

Withdrawal Policies) (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Borg: The committee brings forward the Administrative Withdrawal Policy, with revisions after the last Senate meeting, as an Action Item this evening. Dr. Brent Paterson took the lead on dealing with the issues here and did a stellar job in accommodating language that dealt with many of the issues that were brought up at the meeting three weeks ago. He is here to help interpret anything should you need further interpretation. On the second page, wording in the first paragraph was designed to allow the potential of notification by e-mail and to eliminate some of the concerns about the basis for disciplinary actions. The policy includes the presentation of a recommendation to the President as the action of the committee. The second paragraph under Evaluation on page 2 deals with issues of what sorts of information the committee might possibly receive. These are, of course, suggestions, allowable if the student grants the request for obtaining certain information that might bear on the case. The statement still exists that in the absence of that permission, the committee will make a recommendation without the benefit of that information. Additionally, on page 3, since we are not considering the Classroom Disruption Policy, the sentence that ends, “Application of interim sanctions may be in addition to procedures under the Classroom Disruption Policy” needs to be eliminated or revised until such a policy is approved.

Senator Crothers: I suggest as a friendly amendment of simply adding, “pending its adoption”.

Senator Borg: That is acceptable.

Motion XXXVII-58:

Senator Crothers: This is now moved for action. Are there any questions about the changes that the committee has accepted within the last three weeks?

Senator Tolchin: Senator Borg, I asked a question at the last Academic Senate meeting concerning the Interim Sanctions section. Throughout the entire document, we refer to the idea of a “direct threat” to university activities. However, in the section, Interim Sanctions, letter C, it reads, “if the student imposes a threat...” That takes on a different standard for the university than a “direct threat”.

If we are going to have continuity in the document, we need to specify “direct threat” in that section. The argument could be made that as soon as a student walks into a classroom, there is a threat of disruption, not a direct threat, but certainly a threat. Using this language as it is currently construed opens us up to possible litigation. I would simply make the argument that for the sake of continuity and possible legal action, we insert the word “direct” before the word “threat”. However, I am not a voting member of this body, so I can not propose an amendment to the document.

Senator Borg: As I understand the discussion from last time, there was reason that the language was cast in this fashion in this section, so I would not agree to that as a friendly amendment.

Senator Crothers: Dr. Paterson, do you have any take on this in terms of the language used nationally?

Dr. Paterson: I would need to defer to the President’s office in that that office stipulated the language for the interim sanctions.

President Bowman: I don’t have strong feelings either way.

Senator Crothers: There appears to be less substantive reason behind using “direct threat” than we thought.

Senator Borg: If the issue of consistency is that important in a legal sense, and I am not competent to judge that, I would not object to adding the word “direct” in item C in the list of Interim Sanctions, which would then read, “If the student poses a direct threat of disruption or of interference with the normal operations of the university...” Unless my committee advises me otherwise, I will accept it as a friendly amendment.

Provost Presley: Technically, Senator Tolchin cannot offer an amendment.

Senator Borg: I will make the friendly amendment based upon the comments brought forward by Trustee Tolchin.

The policy, as amended, was unanimously approved.

Information Item:

03.27.06.01 Faculty Code of Ethics and Related Policies (Rules Committee)

Senator Holland: We bring for you a draft of the Code of Ethics, which we have been working on for several months. We brought it as a Communication Item earlier; we had a number of very good suggestions and have incorporated most of them into the document. Most significant is that we have included proposed policies with the Code. It was brought to our attention by members of the Chairpersons Council that if we passed it in the previous form, there were a number of ethics violations, such as not meeting your classes, which would not have been covered. Anything that was actually covered in the previous ethics document is now covered in the current ethics document, except they have been put in as separate policies. Language in all three of the policies is virtually taken word for word out of the old ethics document.

The old document is somewhat a mixture of statements and policies. We have attempted to make it a very concise statement of what we all believe to be ethical behavior and separated the policy statements out into the three additional policy items. You will notice that item number 14 states that to be ethical, you do have to comply with university policies. I would like to point out one additional thing. We are currently looking at potentially revising two of the attached policies, the Relationship with Students, which is policy 3.3.15, and Involvement in Political Activities, which is policy 3.3.16. However, it wasn't clear whether we would be able to finish that this year. So, rather than addressing that at this moment, even though the wording in the old policies is a little awkward, we wanted to bring everything forward right now just to try to get this done this year.

Senator Crothers: The committee deserves a great deal of commendation, as does the Assistant Provost Chuck McGuire, for the hard work involved in getting this done this year.

Motion XXXVII-59: By Senator Holland, seconded by Senator Fowles, to move the item to action. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXVII-60: By Senator Holland to approve the Faculty Code of Ethics. The document was unanimously approved without revision.

Senator Crothers: The only thing that we ought to specify is when we want this to go into effect.

Senator Holland: Our intent was for it to go into effect when the President signs it.

Senator Crothers: That is perfectly acceptable.

Communications:***03.21.06.02 College of Fine Arts April Events***

Senator Borg distributed copies of a document listing the upcoming arts, music and theatre events in the College of Fine Arts for the month of April.

Spring Opera

Senator Borg: Senator Hampton regrets not being here, but invites all of you to the spring opera, *Die Fledermaus*, which will take place April 7 through 9. She is the stage director for that production.

Adjournment