

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, May 10, 2006
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Vice Chairperson/Student Body President Ross Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Seating of New Senate

The new members of the Academic Senate were officially seated. Each received a certificate of appreciation in anticipation of their service on the Senate.

Roll Call

Senator Richards, Senate Vice Chair, called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2006

Motion XXXVII-81: By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Senate Minutes of April 26, 2006. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of the Senate Chairperson

Senator Lane Crothers, nominated by the Faculty Caucus to serve as Senate Chairperson for 2006-07, was unanimously elected as Senate Chairperson by the full Senate.

Election of the Senate Secretary

Due to the resignation of Eileen Fowles, formerly nominated as Senate Secretary, the Faculty Caucus nominated Paul Borg as Secretary of the Senate. The Academic Senate unanimously elected Senator Borg to serve in that capacity.

Election of Members of Senate Executive Committee

The Senate unanimously elected four Senate faculty members to serve on the Senate Executive Committee. Those senators were Senators Farzaneh Fazel, Nathalie op de Beeck, Peter Smith and Larry Alferink. The Senate also unanimously elected three Senate student members to the Senate Executive Committee: Senators Phillip Rodriguez, Jacob Ward and Laurel Halfar. Senator Crothers, Senate Chairperson, Senator Borg, Senate Secretary, President Bowman, Provost Presley and Student Body President/Senate Vice Chairperson Ross Richards serve on the Executive Committee as ex-officio members.

Guest Speaker: Sheahon Zenger, Athletic Director

Sheahon Zenger, Director of Athletics: Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself to this new Senate. When I first came to campus, one of the goals I had was to become acquainted with this group. The size of our institution is perfect. An enrollment of 20,000 students means that we are truly at a major university. Also, I wanted to be at a highly academic institution. Kiplinger has reminded us of that in each of the last two years.

For an Athletics Director, it is important that you have a rich athletic history. Until this last year, Illinois State had won more all-conference championships than any other school in the Missouri Valley Conference. The leadership at the top is very important. When I met President Bowman, that was the final clincher for

me—knowing we had a leader who cared about the institution and a leader who had spent so many years at the institution in a faculty role.

Senator Borg: The University underwent its NCAA review about four or five years ago. Would you comment on what was said in that report?

Dr. Zenger: I have not had a chance to spend a great deal of time with it, but I would tell you that in response to that report, we are bringing in a consultant this fall to study our Title 9 equity.

Senator Borg: One of the issues that came up in discussions on the NCAA committee was this university's commitment for a number of years to not use General Revenue funds for athletics. I am interested in your reaction to this university's commitment. .

Dr. Zenger: Several years ago, the State passed a mandate that state institutions should not use general revenue, or state funds, to fund its athletics departments. I think you have to be creative and in being creative, you have to find additional funds to replace those and I think that we are in the process of recovering. We are coming to the end of our annual fund drive and we are up \$200,000 this year.

I have inquired quite often about the change that occurred several years ago in the seating chart for Redbird Arena. Many faculty and staff have expressed displeasure with the changes. The Redbird Club Board at a meeting this morning decided that should faculty and staff want to be in the lower bowl, there will be a 20% discount on those donations and a 20% discount on the tickets. That is a 40% discount. Why 20%? Because that is all the IRS would permit. The IRS will tax you on anything beyond that 20% discount.

Senator Borg: I would also like to commend you on calling this the Athletics Council instead of the Athletic Council. That came up both in that report and I do appreciate your attention to detail.

Dr. Zenger: As a former English teacher, that is important.

Senator Crothers: Would you briefly comment on the ways in which you have sent advisors on trips?

Dr. Zenger: We have tried to do several things. Jane Fulton, who is our Assistant Athletics Director for Academic Support, in conjunction with Provost Presley's office, has worked very hard in trying to communicate with the faculty when students are going to be gone so that you get direct communication beforehand. I think that you are referring to advisors as guests. If academics is going to be important, then we have to have people on the trips who can do everything from proctoring tests to mentoring the athletes. That is important to us.

Senator Wilkinson: What will it take to restore basketball to its former glory and does that involve a serious amount of additional monies?

Dr. Zenger: In Division 1 athletics, basketball is our marquee sport. Men's Basketball, in good years, brings in enough money to fund other sports and to make up a large portion of our overall budget.

Senator Coleman: You mentioned bringing in a Title 9 consultant. What kinds of things do you want that person to look for?

Dr. Zenger: His name is Lamar Daniels and we really don't tell him what to look for. He will evaluate us,

telling us where we are strong and where we are weak. While we have a strategic planning consultant who has been with us this past year, Lamar Daniels will be with us in the fall.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Crothers: Thank you to everyone for your willingness to serve on the Academic Senate. I would remind you that you that as a member of the Senate you will receive a parking pass for free parking in the Bone Student Center parking lot. However, it is only to be used during Senate meetings.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Richards: I would like to congratulate Julie Grant and Ashley Roepke, who were elected tonight as our newest senators. At this time, we are in need of two graduate senators and one representative from the Fine Arts. It is the end of the year and students are returning their books and professors are placing their orders for books. Barnes and Nobles is putting an effort into getting all of those orders in so that students can get the most money back as possible and so that they can keep a supply of used textbooks. At this time, we have 64% of the book orders in, where as last year at this same time, we had only 54% in. Student Government will be working on that and we would like to have at least another 10% increase next year.

Administrators' Remarks

· President Al Bowman

President Bowman: I would like to thank the student senators and other new senators for joining this group. I know that it takes time out of your personal lives and I wanted to express my appreciation for this service to Illinois State.

We will have a Board meeting on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. Those meetings are open to the public. Preceding the meeting is a discussion hour at 8:00 a.m. in the Faculty Staff Commons. The agenda for the Board meeting on Friday is relatively light, although I do want to highlight one item. We will seek authorization from the Board to spend \$2.2 million to hire architects and engineers to design the student recreation building. Our facilities planning staff has been meeting with groups around campus to gather input on building design and space requirements. It won't be too many months in the future before we start putting the building up, probably about 24 months.

The General Assembly passed the budget which meant that we received a little over \$1 million in additional General Revenue. They appropriated \$1.3 billion in general funds for public higher education. That is about \$26 million more than was spent last year. If the loan portfolio is sold, the "MAP Plus Program" would provide \$500 a year to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students who would be eligible would be students who did not receive MAP grants and whose families make less than \$200,000. As far as I know, there is not a great requirement, but that whole program is unfolding. We are happy about the increase, but it is a small amount of money given that we have lost \$65 million since 2002. Hopefully, as we go forward, the increases will be larger and we will start to recover.

The increase will help us deal with some capacity issues in majors. We still have an uncomfortably large general student population. As the faculty knows, there have been long delays in filling tenure-track lines and, of course, we have salary issues that need our attention. You will notice some differences in the dollar amounts that went to specific public universities. Some of those differences are explained by which senator happens to represent the district. In other cases, it is a result of the kinds of projects that institutions were lobbying for in Springfield. We made the decision to focus on our large, long-term projects rather than lobby for small, incremental operational increases. Our top capital priority is funding the Fine Arts Complex, which

is about a \$34 million project. We are optimistic that that project will get funded once the General Assembly votes on a capital bill. That probably won't happen until after the election in November.

Senator Wang: After that infusion of dollars, what is the status of our comparison with our peer institutions? Also, what is the next step for faculty salaries.

President Bowman: We made some progress in associate and full professor salaries and, in some cases, actually closed the gap. But it will take three to four years to really get us to the median and beyond it. The three groups that were furthest behind were full, associates and non-negotiated civil service groups. Our plan is to follow the same process in the next fiscal year that we did this year. So, we will do our annual process as we always do and then we will do a mid-year process once we have had a chance to analyze the numbers. I can't tell you specifically how much and what groups, but I know that it will happen and will need to continue to happen over the next couple of years. One of the things that is discouraging is that the median is a moving target. We spent additional dollars and we brought people closer to the median, but, of course, the median is going to move again this year. In some areas, finance for example, it moves pretty rapidly. Starting salaries for finance faculty are well into six figures now, so you are going to see that number move faster than some other social science areas.

Other priorities, of course, will be our cost increases in things like utilities; we expect our utility bill to go up somewhere around \$1.1 to \$1.2 million. But, there are no budget cuts on the horizon. The frustration for most of us is that we are holding our own, but we don't have additional money to invest in the enterprise such as adding new programs or majors. Most of the new majors that we have put in place in the last couple of years involve turning sequences into majors. Our ability to respond to where the economy is going or anticipate where it might go can't happen until the investment comes back to public higher ed. Much of that is driven by the political winds in Springfield, but that too will change. I think that we will be in a good position as a stronger university to compete for new dollars once they materialize.

Senator Winter: Do you have any idea what the ASPT raises will be this year?

President Bowman: Not yet. My best guess is that they will be pretty close to where they were last year. The Board is going to vote on a tuition-fee increase on Friday and we will see where that goes.

Senator Stewart: With rising gas prices, have we considered going hybrid with the vehicle fleet?

President Bowman: I know that they discuss that in facilities all of the time. One thing that helps us is that we buy gas in bulk and it is considerably less than what you pay retail at the pump, but I will follow up tomorrow with Dr. Bragg and give you an answer. One thing that will help us a little is the additional trains that will run between Chicago and St. Louis.

· **Provost John Presley**

Provost Presley: With the last report on enrollment deposits, we are at this point receiving May 2nd postmarks, which, of course, we don't open. They have missed the boat. We are still getting some that are postmarked correctly, but that has slowed down quite a bit. We are currently at 3,357 freshmen enrollments. That is up 25 from this time last year, so we have pretty much hit the target right on the nose. There will be some melt away from that over the summer.

We have been asked to take part in the ASCU voter registration project as a part of our American Democracy

Project and Eric Rankin in Politics and Government has agreed to serve as the project coordinator. This is an all-out attempt to get our students and others registered to vote. The difference between what we did during the last national election is that at that point the ADP (American Democracy Project) was pretty much a distributor of information to students and student groups who took the initiative with various forms of voter registration drives. I think at one point, we had about 12 different versions of that going on. It was very successful; a lot of our students registered and a lot of them voted. We will meet state laws about getting voter registration materials and information to students at academic registration time, so I think we can look forward to another year of great interest on the part of our students.

I give thanks to the faculty for a very solid year of both individual achievements and institutional achievements. I know that it takes a great deal of work to make things go as smoothly and as positively as they have done this year. I also want to specifically thank the members of the Academic Senate itself, because, as Lane has said on another occasion, I think we did a lot of work this year and you are all to be congratulated.

· *Vice President of Student Affairs Helen Mamarchev*

Vice President Mamarchev: I will add my welcome to all the new student senators. I look forward to a new year coming upon us. As the co-chair of the American Democracy Project, Jan Shane and I would like to announce the following. You may recall that on March 31st, we had our civic engagement celebration at Illinois State University.. At that time, one of the people who was honored was Professor John McHale, who is active in Film Your Issue and who won the National ADP award for that. I would like to read to you some excerpts from a press release that we received today. It says, "We are pleased to share with you that the Inaugural Walter Cronkite Civil Engagement Leadership Award 2006 for Film Your Issue is being awarded to the School of Communication at Illinois State University and to Professor John McHale. The award will be presented at the United Nations during its award ceremony on June 19, 2006.

Film Your Issue has created the Walter Cronkite Award to acknowledge an institution of higher education that has exhibited outstanding initiative and commitment in encouraging and supporting student participation in using the medium of digital film as this generation's dynamic platform of personal expression. Congratulations to the School of Communication and Professor McHale."

Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg: Absent

Information Item:

Approval of Senate Calendar for 2006-2007

Senator Crothers: The Senate Calendar for 2006-07 is an information item on the agenda, but it does have to be approved by the Senate at this time.

Motion XXXVII-82: By Senator Crothers, on behalf of the Executive Committee, seconded by Senator Stewart, to move to action the Senate Calendar for 2006-07. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXVII-83: By Senator Crothers, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to approve the Senate Calendar for 2006-07. The calendar was unanimously approved without revision.

Adjournment