

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 28, 2007
(Approved)

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Senator Borg called the roll and declared a quorum.

Attendance and Motions

Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2007

Motion XXXVIII-38: By Senator Nippa, seconded by Senator Horstein, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of February 21, 2007.

Senator Crothers: Two corrections need to be made to the minutes. In the Provost's remarks, the Provost has indicated the correct acronym for AASCU and in the remarks made by Senator Adams, the word "exist" should replace "exit".

The minutes, as revised, were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Crothers: Technically, by the end of April, any new business needs to be finished on this Senate, so if you have anything pending, please get that to us as soon as possible. The Council of Illinois University Senates meeting scheduled for Monday, March 26, has been rescheduled for April 30 at the University of Illinois in Champaign. This is a body made up of all of the other Senate Chairpersons/Presidents of the other public universities. Technically, by April 30. I am basically on my way out; thus, I would like to take anyone thinking about running for chair with me to that meeting. I will introduce you to the members and you can get a sense of what is going on.

I can report that we are now known, at least regionally, as a place where shared governance involvement in planning and budgeting is a model for others to follow. I know this because I have been invited to the Academic Senate at Indiana State University in Terre Haute on Tuesday, April 24, to talk about how to get shared governance involved in planning and budgeting. If anyone would like to accompany me, that would be appreciated.

You have in your packet the memo that I wrote to the governor to accompany the Sense of the Senate Resolution concerning the ethics testing implementation. On Monday, April 16th, at the University of Illinois in Springfield, there will be a meeting with the Office of the Executive Inspector General, shared governance representatives and managerial leadership to talk about better ways to administer the ethics test. I will be out of town at a conference, but if anyone is interested in being the Senate's representative to that meeting, I can give you the relevant information.

Last week, the Provost's budget hearings occurred. Student Affairs is will hold its budget presentation on Monday, April 9, at 2:30 p.m. in the Circus Room. Also, University Advancement will present its budget on

Wednesday, April 4, at 9:30 a.m. I have not heard anything about Finance and Planning yet. This is the last night that Senator Richards will serve as the Student Body President and the first night for the new Student Body President, David Horstein. I want to send my personal thanks and congratulations to Senator Richards and a personal welcome to Senator Horstein.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Richards: This is my last Academic Senate report. It has been a pleasure serving over the past year as Student Body President. On Sunday, Dave Horstein was sworn in as the 2007-08 Student Body President and I have full confidence that he and his administration will do a fantastic job in serving the university. The Academic Senate student senators have two more meetings left after tonight before the new senators begin. However, the Student Body President takes over immediately as the Vice Chairperson of the Academic Senate. I would like to thank the entire Academic Senate for their work over the past year and a special thanks to Lane, Cynthia and Paul for all their work to ensure student involvement in the shared governance process. Please join me in welcoming Student Body President Horstein for his first report.

Senator Horstein: I am looking forward to working with the Senate over the next year. I know we only have a couple of meetings left with the current Senate, but we are bringing on board some good people. Our office has been very busy this week with transition taking place. The past administration is transitioning in our new senators. We will be holding the Assembly officer elections next Wednesday, which will determine the student composition of the Academic Senate Executive Committee. On Friday, the *USA Today* readership pilot program will be wrapping up. We are going to have students conducting interest surveys throughout the day with their representatives. I will have more details on the program at our next meeting. Finally, I have appointed Ross to fill the vacant Senate position and he has graciously accepted.

Administrators' Remarks

· ***President Al Bowman – Excused***

· ***Provost John Presley***

Provost Presley: As Lane said, Academic Affairs held its annual budget presentation talks and I wanted to thank the members of the Senate who attended those sessions. I take no credit for them because they were present and operating when I arrived here, but I think that they are a really wonderful model and I am glad to see some of the other divisions on campus beginning to follow in those footsteps. It is not just requests for money, it is priority setting for each of the academic units that report to me and it is accountability for the way in which they used their money last year.

I wanted to let the Senate know that I will be forwarding to the President's Office some very minor changes to the Distinguished Professors Selection Policy. These are editorial emendations. The last time I spoke with the Distinguished Professors on campus, we talked about issues and questions that had arisen during the nomination and selection process. Therefore, I suggested a way to deal with them by removing the ambiguity in some sections of the policy. I discussed these revisions with Senator Crothers and he agreed that these were purely editorial changes. In the first section of the policy, paragraph three will be separated into paragraphs three and four to give it a bit of emphasis. On page 2, under procedures, I will move the words "all nominations", which appears at the end of the document now, to number one of that section, so that the sentence reads, "The deans shall forward all nominations, with recommendations, to the Provost." That is purely editorial because the number below that says "The Provost shall evaluate all nominations." The Distinguished Professors, as a group, agree with this procedure. Also, I will be changing, very slightly, the letter that I send out at the beginning of each fall semester asking for nominations for Distinguished

Professorships to reflect this and to emphasize the fact that all nominations will have to come forward to my office for their examination by a review panel of Distinguished Professors.

- *Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams - Excused*
- *Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg - Excused*

Committee Reports

- *Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson*

Senator Borg: The committee has an Information Item on the agenda this evening. At our meeting this evening, we discussed two other items for which we will be forwarding recommendations for consideration by the Senate at our next meeting. With that, we will have dealt with all of the sustentative recommendations that need action by the Senate for this year.

- *Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee Chairperson*

Senator Kalter: Before spring break, the committee met with Amy Roser from Enrollment Management and Academic Services about the Academic Calendar. The committee did not make any recommendations for changes, although we did press them a little on the grade submission deadline for the end of the semester. The many tasks that need to be completed after grades are submitted, including loading grades, updating transcripts and degree posting, this year done prior to the institutional shutdown, helped us to understand why the grades needed to be submitted within a certain timeframe.

Senator Mallory: Is it faster now with the online submission or has that made things more difficult?

Senator Kalter: My impression was that it is slightly faster and that may be one of the reasons why they were able to load the grades on time this year.

- *Faculty Affairs Committee Chairperson*

Senator Preston: We considered a brief written report from the Ombudsman, Ira Schoenwald. I understand he is on the agenda to speak to us and the full Senate at the next meeting to report on his activities. We also continued our work on the white paper deriving conclusions from the retention survey that was done last year.

- *Planning and Finance Committee Chairperson*

Senator Parette: The committee briefly discussed *Educating Illinois*, specifically, the conversations that have been conducted on campus from which additional values have emerged. Those values were civic engagement and innovations, values that might be considered for inclusion in *Educating Illinois*. Then we focused on a strategy for the process of long-range financial planning, that is, developing a subcommittee once the Planning and Finance Committee is appointed for the next academic year. The committee would work over the summer and identify questions to be asked regarding the process of long-term financial planning and additionally provide some recommendations regarding a process to answer those questions. That proposal would then be submitted to President Bowman for consideration.

- *Rules Committee Chairperson*

Senator Holland: The committee discussed the two remaining items that we have, one of them being the CAST Bylaws, which we sent back to them in October; they have not sent them back to us yet. Secondly, we would like to thank everyone who gave us comments on the Blue Book revisions; they were very helpful. We have gone through those and, hopefully, this will go to the Executive Committee on Monday.

Information Item:**02.23.07.01 Plus/Minus Grading Memo – Recommendation for Task Force Formation (Academic Affairs Committee)**

Senator Borg: Among the tasks that the Academic Affairs Committee had this past year was looking at the desirability for adopting a plus and minus system over the standard system of grading that we have. It has been an interesting and difficult task. The committee recommends the creation of a task force that can report back to the Senate with a definitive answer on whether the campus desires to change to such a system, as well as charging the task force to provide a recommendation on how that system should operate.

In our discussion, we articulated the membership composition of the task force, basing it on the normal university's desire for representation among the academic units, the necessity for involvement of representation from the Registrar's Office, Academic Advisement and Academic Computing, as well as two members from the Academic Affairs Committee for the coming year and student representation.

Senator Peppers: Is there any space on the list of members for a non-tenure track representative specifically, rather than being just one faculty member from each college?

Senator Borg: Not specifically. Do you think that that would be advisable in this case or would it be an additional burden that would be difficult to manage?

Senator Peppers: I don't think that it would be too much of a burden and since non-tenure track faculty mainly teach, they may have certain insights.

Senator Borg: My impression is that when we say one faculty member from each college, that should be interpreted broadly.

Senator Peppers: That still probably limit's the potential for non-tenure track faculty representation.

Senator Borg: With these kinds of structures, one has to try to balance a reasonable size and distribution of membership. In this particular case, I think that the desire to have the expertise of the Registrar's Office and Academic Computing might outweigh starting down the path of designating other specific representation.

Senator Crothers: There are two options available. One, the committee may at a subsequent meeting before this becomes an action item choose to add that as a friendly amendment. Alternatively, you have the right to offer such an amendment from the floor.

Senator Peppers: I will defer to the committee. It could get very unwieldy.

Senator Borg: That is my concern, but I will bring it up at our next meeting.

Senator Kalter: I wanted to ask you about the language, specifically, "accessing campus feeling". I have some trepidation about the idea of making decisions based on feelings. I am also wondering about the collection of information, specifically, whether there is going to be the ability to study, for example, differences among campuses which do and do not have plus/minus grading and the advantages and disadvantages to both students and faculty. I also wonder whether your committee has a sense of how much disinformation there is out there about plus/minus grading and if we are running a lot on emotion, rather than on how it actually works.

Senator Borg: I feel that that very issue is one of the issues that we struggled with. In the past, there had been an external committee to the Senate, the Academic Standards Committee, that might have dealt with this in some sort of fashion that is more comprehensive than the review function of the Academic Affairs Committee traditionally allows. Perhaps I might have better stated that as “campus opinion” rather than “feeling“, but I don’t think that that would necessarily change your objection. The actual resolution in our recommendation leaves ample opportunity for the task force to investigate other systems and their effectiveness on other campuses. We are quite aware that there have been studies done. What we were unable to ascertain to our satisfaction was the informed opinion on this particular campus and that will require some sort of an educational effort.

Provost Presley: Do you think that it would be better to include someone from Administrative Computing rather than Academic Computing since the grades are on the mainframe and that is done by Administrative Computing, paradoxically.

Senator Borg: Yes, that would be appropriate because it was from you that I received this recommendation at the Executive Committee meeting.

Senator Crothers: We will take that as a friendly amendment.

The plus/minus grading system recommendations from the Academic Affairs Committee will come before the Senate as an Action Item on April 11.

02.28.07.01 2007-08 Institutional Goals and Priorities Report (Planning and Finance Committee)

Senator Parette: You have before you the end product of the Planning and Finance Committee’s work this year on our priority task. The information presented herein is based on careful examination of a series of documents that are noted on page 3 of the report, including *Educating Illinois*, ISU’s Academic Plan, NCA Self-Study and numerous conversations conducted campus wide. Administrative units have responded to questions that the committee posed to those units, so there was a great deal of information that came to the committee for consideration in putting together this priority report. There are four priorities with requested administrative action. We requested that the university respond to each of these and if an administrator rejects any recommendation, we are requesting that they explain that position. In addition, we are recommending that the President report to the Senate on the university’s progress in each of these areas no later than March 1, 2008. I want to offer one friendly amendment that is clerical in nature. On page 3, line 2, it should read “in the recommendations below” instead of “above”.

Senator Alferink: Would you clarify the requested administrative action? The actions of the Senate are advisory and are forwarded to the President for the President’s action. I am puzzled by the request for vice presidents and deans to sort of approve this separately from the President.

Senator Crothers: I can tell you about the past practice. We are asking the President to charge them, so if the President endorses this, then the President is then managerially responsible for the charge, not the Senate. Since we have in the past actually solicited information from each of the four vice presidential units as well as some deans, school directors and department chairs, etc., we wanted to continue to get that feedback. We did receive such communications this year and it seemed to work reasonably well.

Senator Alferink: My question is more about clarification because the report does not specify to whom they make the written report, whether it is to the President or whether the President is asked to share those responses with the Senate.

Senator Crothers: I think that we can work on that language. It is, of course, within the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding, but since we are making a specific managerial charge, the point is well taken.

Provost Presley: My question is also in regard to the formal, written response to the recommendations. I would like for it to be made clear whether or not a one-sentence answer is what you are looking for. If someone states that they agree with the recommendations, are they then done with this particular assignment? In fact, it was over interrupted by some and under interpreted by others last year.

Senator Crothers: We can certainly insert appropriate language to clarify that.

The 2007-08 Institutional Goals and Priorities Report will come before the Senate as an Action Item on April 11.

Communications:

02.20.07.01 Increased Adjustments for Promotion in Rank (Provost Presley)

The salary increment paid to individuals promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor has been increased from \$2,250 to \$3,000 per year and the salary increment paid to individuals promoted from Associate Professor to Professor has been increased from \$3,000 to \$3,750 per year.

03.05.07.01 Service Awards - Call for Nominations (Associate Provost Jan Shane)

Associate Provost Jan Shane has called for nominations for the University Service Awards: the Outstanding University Service Award, Outstanding College Service Award and Service Initiative Award for 2007-08. The awards honor faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in service to the university. Application materials should accompany the names of each nominee and should arrive in the Provost's Office no later than October 12, 2007. For more information about the awards, please contact Dr. Shane.

03.06.07.01 Memo to Governor for Ethics Training Sense of the Senate Resolution (Senate Chairperson Crothers)

Senator Crothers composed a memo to accompany the Senate's Sense of the Senate Resolution regarding the ethics training implementation. The memo and the resolution were forwarded to the governor on March 28th.

03.19.06.02 Program Review Reports - Summary from Academic Planning Committee

Program review reports are available at the reserve desk in Milner Library through the end of the spring semester. Program review will come to the Academic Senate in April in the form of the University Academic Plan before the reviews are forwarded to the Board of Trustees and then to the IBHE.

03.21.07.01 Student Affairs Budget Presentation Announcement

The Student Affairs Budget Presentation will be held on Monday, April 9, at 2:30 p.m. in the Circus Room of the Bone Student Center.

03.21.07.02 University Advancement Budget Presentation Announcement

The University Advancement Budget Presentation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4, in the Old Main Room.

College of Fine Arts Events (Senator Borg)

The College of Fine Arts has array of events occurring in April through July. Those events include a production of *West Side Story* April 3-7 and 12-18, the Gold Series Jazz Festival on April 14, and an opera based on the lifestyles and morals of the 1950s in America. For a complete list of events, visit the Fine Arts web site at www.IllinoisState.edu/finearts or contact the College of Fine Arts at 438-8321.

Adjournment