

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 12, 2007
7:00 P.M.
(Approved)

Call to Order

Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Secretary Susan Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Attendance and Motions

Approval of Minutes of August 29, 2007

Motion XXXIX-8: By Senator Nippa, seconded by Senator Moore, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of August 29, 2007. Corrections: Insert “we”, in paragraph 2, line 1, of Professor White’s remarks. Delete “then” in the final paragraph, line 9, of Professor White’s remarks.

Presentation: General Education Assessment

Dr. Mardell Wilson, Director of University Assessment: As a part of the process that we have undertaken to develop an assessment process for General Education, our General Education Assessment Task Force came to determine that we needed a reintroduction of General Education to many of the faculty here at Illinois State. So, we are doing that this year.

The purpose of General Education Assessment is to provide the Council on General Education, an External Committee of the Senate, with sound evidence to make decisions regarding the General Education Program. This is a very timely discussion, especially with Secretary Spelling’s action plan for improving accessibility, affordability and accountability, which was released last year.

We did a thorough review of what has been done in the past with General Education assessment. We looked at what is currently being done at other institutions. Perhaps the most popular assessment tool currently is the CLA, which is the Collegiate Learning Assessment. This is the assessment tool that was mentioned in the Spelling Report. CLA, along with MAPP, which is the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress, are exams. CLA is a little more developed in terms of having more of a writing perspective. It focuses on critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving, writing and communication, while MAPP looks at reading, writing and math.

ISU participated in the CLA pilot in 2000. For CLA to provide valid and reliable results, you need to have a sample of 100 students. However, even with recruitment and incentives, we were able to ascertain only nine student participants. Also the cost was prohibitive since, over a four-year longitudinal time, it would cost approximately \$70,000.

Lastly, we looked at the Institutional Artifact Portfolio and felt that it preserved the institution as the focus of the assessment. When we look at General Education assessment, we are really not looking at individual students or faculty. We really are preserving how the institution is moving forward with its General Education Program. The Institutional Artifact Portfolio is the least intrusive to faculty and students and is comprehensive and manageable based upon a variety of resources.

The General Education Assessment Task Force decided to move forward in investigating what an Institutional Artifact Portfolio would look like on this campus. We determined, in our initial challenge, that the current 12 goals of General Education was a very large number to meaningfully assess. In capturing those

goals so that many people can understand them, we developed the Shared Learning Outcomes. The four Shared Learning Outcomes are Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving, Public Opportunity, Diverse and Global Perspectives and Lifelong Learning. By no means have we abandoned the 12 goals of General Education. We have just packaged them in a way in which we hope that faculty and students can begin to have conversations about the skills to which they relate.

We are currently conducting a pilot study using four courses in the inner and middle cores. We are able to run this pilot study because these faculty members are participants in the Political Engagement Project, for which we have received Provost Enhancement Funding. It will allow us to determine how successful this type of assessment process would be on this campus. The Shared Learning Outcome that we are currently evaluating is Public Opportunity.

Each semester, faculty are identified as to whether or not they are teaching a course that deals with the Shared Learning outcome we are reviewing for that semester. Those faculty members will receive an invitation from the Provost and memo from me outlining how to participate. Faculty will receive this information on the first day of classes and have ten days to respond.

Faculty, who want to participate, simply have to go to the General Education web site (www.gened.ilstu.edu) to fill out a very brief "Intent to Participate" form. An individual from our office will pick up the assignments, which should not yet be graded, and return them on the next business day to the department or school office.

We don't want them graded because we don't want the grades to influence the reviewer. Also, we are not grading the assignment that you have created. Rather, we are evaluating the assignments for their contributions to the primary traits of the Shared Learning Outcomes. The artifacts are reviewed based upon the parameters of the assignment, but this rubric does not provide a simple score. It actually is looking at the individual traits and where we are meeting those different areas in terms of performance. We are in the process of developing the remaining rubrics.

Fall 2008 is our official all-campus roll out. We will repeat the pilot Public Opportunity Shared Learning Outcome in the fall of 2008, with the Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving Outcome assessed in the spring of 2009.

I will be presenting information to the College Councils. We hope that they will then go back and report to their departments and schools and, if there is interest at that level, I would be happy to talk to them about the process and how they can participate.

Senator Borg: The 12 goals, as you articulated, seem relatively impenetrable. I am very pleased that you have managed to make them perhaps more understandable to a broader range. I am very happy that the intentions reflect the discussions that we had over many years in developing the program, in that it was meant to be dynamic and something that was to be reviewed. I think that this assessment process, which is also dynamic, is a wonderful attempt to make that work.

Senator Holland: I think that General Education is coming up for review by the Senate fairly soon. Do we get records back from things like the GRE as to how our students are doing as compared to national trends?

Dr. Wilson: Our office does not get that information. I am not certain if Deb Smitley's office gets that or not.

Senator Holland: They invented a pretty good tool there.

Dr. Wilson: However, as far as know, very few of our graduates actually take the GRE.

NOTE: General Education is due to be reviewed by the Senate in the 2009-2010 academic year, per section 6b, page 3, of the *Report and Recommendations on the General Education Program* developed by the 2003-04 Academic Affairs Committee and approved by the Senate on 4/21/04.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: Dr. Bowman presented a State of the University address; he answered everyone's questions extraordinarily well. I would like to welcome a new senator, Professor Joel Solberg, from Finance, Insurance and Law in the College of Business,

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Horstein: Members of the Student Government Association, Association of Residence Halls and Campus Dining Services have just returned from visiting Florida State and the University of Florida. We went there to do benchmarking and we acquired a lot of very valuable information. Both schools had some great initiatives and we will be discussing with staff and administrators, as well as our own assembly, about the different initiatives that we can take on.

Our Emerging Leader Program is finally taking shape. The committee that selected the participants selected 19 students, 18 of which are freshman and one of which is a sophomore. This is our introductory program to teach freshmen, and sophomores if there is room, about leadership opportunities on campus, with a general interest in student government. A lot of times it is the case that initiatives get lost in the transition process from one year to the next. Therefore, we are training freshmen and sophomores about the types of issues that are going on and the process for starting new initiatives and resolving issues. Therefore, the processes are not lost when they become involved in student government.

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman – Absent

Provost John Presley

Provost Presley: The official tenth day census figures show that we remain above 20,000 students, but our numbers are drifting downward. At the same time, the average ACT of our incoming students is at a record high of 24.2. The average ACT for admitted new freshmen was 24.5, which tells you that the loss of students is in the higher ranges. About the same thing happened in transfer applications.

The retention rate for fall 2006 new freshmen decreased slightly from 84% last year to 83.3% this year. The retention rate for African American students decreased from 65.9% to 63.2% and the rate for Hispanic students decreased from 79.4% to 75.4%. We will begin a consideration of this trend immediately with some analysis of the support services, intervention services and other services that we are offering to these students.

Desk and counselor contacts in Financial Aid during these first few days of the semester were down by 37%, which means that there was good communication with their student clients throughout the financial aid cycle. We have moved Foundation Scholarships to Financial Aid and made them the fiscal agents for them which, will help Financial Aid to work increasingly more efficiently with Admissions and also permit them to engage in outreach more than they have done so in the past.

Advisors across the university are doing some really good things to make the services that they offer better and to provide professional development forums for themselves. They have generated some very good connections and have won awards on this campus and at the national level for the work that they have done in those professional development forums.

Senator Stewart: On the issue of retention, to what extent is it a college problem and to what extent is it a community problem?

Provost Presley: It is difficult to say without having a focus group working on that because, typically, students do blame the community, sort of broadly and not specifically. They also will frequently blame finances, which is probably the single most common issue. To the degree that that may be real, we have to become, I think, more intervention based, rather than referral and volunteer based in some of our support

services.

Senator Holland: Based on the Academic Impact Fund (AIF) projections made last year, we were going to be able to hire new faculty so that we would almost be back to the full strength of what we were before the massive cuts. In the College of Arts and Sciences, however, I believe that we were only able to fill 14 out of the 40 open lines.

Provost Presley: The reason that we did not match the very healthy projections that I made for this year was that we had an unprecedented number of department chairs and school directors leaving those positions and returning to the faculty. The Academic Impact Fund must first deal with the salaries of those individuals, which amounted to just under \$750,000.

The AIF, from all of our planning assumptions, looks very healthy for next year. We have proposals in the budget process that can speed up the recovery of the numbers by making some pretty reasonable additions to the fund. For those who are not familiar with the AIF, it is a fund for open positions.

Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams

Senator Adams: Senator Adams: Dwayne Sackman, who has been an Associate Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, came on board at ISU last Monday as our new Director of Student Health Services.

Dr. James Terfruchte began on July 1st as our first full-time psychiatrist in the university's history. That is a victory for the students who pushed for that, so I congratulate them and I want to assure them that we are doing all that we can to build up that area in Student Health Services.

I received a report on the 10th day move-in figures. Our numbers for the overall count for the residence halls this fall is about 6,800. That is about 200 down from last year. About 60% of our students in the residence halls are freshmen and about 30% are sophomores because of the freshmen-sophomore requirement of living in the residence halls. We are down now to just over 7% juniors and just over 3% seniors. Last year, the total number of juniors and seniors was around 14%. I have a feeling that the property owners and developers in the community are attracting our juniors and seniors with some pretty impressive properties.

We are doing our very best to make up for lost time on the renovations to the interiors of the residence halls. Renovations were not made sooner because there was just not enough money. We have, however, found a way to engage in this new renovation that will continue through the year 2013. We don't have false hopes that it will increase the numbers of juniors and seniors, but are confident that the number of freshmen and sophomores will be accommodated.

Today, we made contact with a high-level executive of Starbucks. I mention this because this has been a major frustration to us. We had hoped to be able to provide the campus with a full-service Starbucks in the place where the Cage II is located now. I cannot make you any guarantees that we are going to wrap this up in any quick fashion, but Vice President Bragg and I will be meeting with Starbucks executives who can make the necessary decisions.

Senator Waterstraat: What is our vacancy rate in our student housing?

Senator Adams: There is no vacancy rate. We are about 150 over capacity. As I explained two weeks ago, with Hewitt Hall coming off line, we lose about 800 spaces there. So, we have had to reconfigure some of the spaces in the other residence halls to accommodate our students.

Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg - Absent

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Waterstraat: The committee reviewed its agenda and has started a very good discussion about

major/minor program deletions and about the topic of plus-minus grading.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee

Senator Poole: Kathleen Lonbom will chair the committee. Allison Graham was elected as secretary. We talked about the charges of the committee.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Preston: The committee elected Senator Kaesberg as our secretary. Secondly, we considered the agenda items for the semester. The committee has chosen as our primary agenda item, after discussion with Senate Chairperson Dan Holland, the decreasing number of library materials and resources. We are just beginning to develop the information and start the analysis. If any of you have any feedback, please send it to me (rlpresto@ilstu.edu) or to any member of the committee

Planning and Finance Committee Chairperson

Senator Fazel: The committee discussed the charges for the year. Senator Kukla will serve as secretary.

Rules Committee Chairperson

Senator Alferink: We reviewed our agenda, which at this point consists of only one item, the Solicitation Policy.

Advisory Item:

08.28.07.01 Proposed Policy for University Records (Charles McGuire, Assistant Provost/Interim Dean of COB)

Dr. McGuire: The State of Illinois has had a statute on its books since 1957 called the State Records Management Policy. The policy mandates that every state institution maintain an inventory of all of its records. We thought that we were in compliance, but, last year, we found that we were not.

An ad hoc committee was formed last year, which worked closely with a consultant from the State Records Commission, which was hired and paid for by the State. In the spring of this year, we submitted five applications for inventories. Those applications represented the President's Office and each of the four vice presidential areas. All five of our applications were approved by the State Records Commission, so we are now in compliance.

The other part of this was the development of a Records Management Policy for ISU, in accordance with the state policy, to institutionalize the records requirements within our policy system. The proposed policy before you this evening assumes the appointment of a University Records Officer; President Bowman has agreed to such an appointment. The University Records Officer will be charged with the annual updating of the inventories and the submission of annual requests for disposal of records. The officer will be located within the library and work very closely with the University Archivist.

This policy also advises you to consider archival disposition of almost anything you can think of. We are working very closely with University Archives to update what they do. They have been moved to Warehouse Road from the cramped, dank basement of Williams Hall.

Senator Holland: This does not apply to student papers. That is specifically in a different policy. Faculty only need to keep student papers for one semester.

Dr. McGuire: We were very careful to avoid including any faculty-based records within this policy. Records are what we say they are and student papers are not defined as records.

Communications

Fine Arts Performances

Senator Borg: I would like to invite everyone to a couple of programs that are going on this week. We have as guests, members of the Christ Church College Music Faculty, on campus from our sister city of Canterbury England. They gave an impressive program last night and will have a second series of works to present tomorrow night. I would also like to invite you to the School of Music's celebration of its only Distinguished Professor, the Panamanian composer, Roque Codero, who was a faculty member here until he retired about ten years ago. He reached the age of 90 about one month ago and we are celebrating his contributions to us with a concert on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in Kemp Recital Hall.

Senator Stewart: Tickets are on sale now for *Tommy*. The first show, I believe, is on October 5th.

Adjournment

Motion XXXIX-9: By Senator Nippa, seconded by Senator Griswald, for adjournment. The motion was unanimously approved.