

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 6, 2008
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Secretary Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2008

Motion XXXIX-35: By Senator Broderick, seconded by Senator Anders, to approve the Senate Minutes of January 23, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendance and Motions

Chairperson's Remarks – No Remarks

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Horstein: I would like to welcome two new senators, who were just appointed to Student Government about two hours ago. They are Amanda Mason and Alisha Ray. Our legislative branch bylaws and advisor bylaws are the last two governing documents that are going through a revision. Our Policies and Procedures Committee is finishing that up, so we will have a thorough revision of all of our governing documents completed by the end of our term.

At the last meeting, I talked about the possibility of drafting some type of an ordinance in terms of off-campus housing. I had a meeting yesterday with Normal's Assistant City Manager and he is going to help us work together with property managers and landlords to try to come up with a contractual agreement that would be on record with the Town of Normal. Over the next few weeks, our External Relations Director Tyler Clark and I will meet with the property managers. We will discuss the possibility of an agreement on items such as lease re-sign dates, specifications of leases, security deposit abuse, and things along those lines. We hope to establish an agreement that will benefit the student body here at ISU; we have been dealing with the hardships from the property managers for quite a long time and we are really hoping to make a difference this year. Additionally, Kevin Martin, our Student Body President, is working with Senators Anders, Broderick and Griswold, to create the "Respect Our Neighbor" program. They will work with on and off-campus students holding sessions about learning to be better neighbors within the surrounding community.

We have wrapped up our student focus groups concerning the new dining plan. We have gathered all of the input we need, and, as of Friday, a formal recommendation from the students will be submitted to Vice President Adams. Arlene Hosea is going to continue gathering feedback from faculty and staff members to make sure that they are satisfied with the plan.

The new housing policy has everyone up in arms. Last Friday, students were notified that upper classmen will no longer have priority in the residence halls. That priority is being shifted to incoming freshmen and sophomores. This has created a hardship on the students who had planned on coming back to the residence halls as upperclassmen. We are going to be working with the Office of Off-Campus and Non-Traditional

Students to present another off-campus-housing fair this year to try to help those students transition to off-campus life. We have just begun the preliminary planning on that. It will be a joint venture between both of our branches and we will pull this together as quickly as possible. We have answered countless e-mails from students on this topic and are trying to work with University Housing Services to clear up any questions that students have. I think that we will be able to make our way through this smoothly.

Lastly, Student Government has begun an “Adopt A Street” program. We will begin that program this month and continue it monthly.

Senator Fazel: What is “Adopt A Street”?

Senator Horstein: Adopt a Street is a program in which any type of group in general works with the town to clean up a two-block area of a street. Once a month, the groups pick up litter in these areas; basically, it is a beautification program.

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman

President Bowman: I wanted to make a few comments to follow up on the housing issue. I, too, was very concerned about the communication from housing to the student body regarding the changes in the housing policy. We have known for years that Walker, Dunn and Barton would be demolished and students really should have been notified early in the fall about how that reduced availability of rooms would affect various groups of students. Vice President Adams will talk a little about some follow-up communication that we hope will help to resolve some of the questions that are still out there. I do want to thank our student leaders for their help in communicating with students who might be affected by the change. The housing plan, itself, is a good one, in terms of getting rid of some of the structures and upgrading the towers that we are preserving, but we have to keep everyone informed in a timely manner and that certainly was not done.

Yesterday, the IBHE approved our Ph.D. in Nursing. It is a big step forward for us and we are very excited about it. We have asked for significant new funding from the legislature and the governor’s office to help launch the program in the fall. It is too early to predict how that will move forward, but it is a very important program. There are only three doctoral nursing programs in the state. They are all in the Chicago area—Rush University, Loyola and the University of Illinois at Chicago—so this will be the only downstate program. There is a nationwide shortage of faculty and part of the problem is that there just aren’t enough doctoral programs to qualify individuals to fill the faculty ranks, so we will be able to make a dent in that problem.

I want to compliment Vice President Bragg and his staff for their diligent work with the credit reporting agencies. Dr. Bragg will talk about our upgrade from Standard and Poor’s. That has enormous implications as we borrow money for our upcoming projects. To get an upgrade in this environment was no easy task and my hat is off to Steve Bragg and his staff.

Fundraising is going very well this year; we are just over the halfway point in this fiscal year that started July 1. We have already raised almost \$6 million so far. We would like to get to a point where we are year-in and year-out raising about a million dollars a month and eventually push that to \$15 million a year. I think that we have the ability to do that. We have a large alumni base to work from and we are searching for some development director positions. We will place two full-time development directors in the Chicago office; there is only one there now. We have over 40,000 alumni in the Chicago area and we need people working with them.

The U.S. House tomorrow will begin additional debates on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. There is a lot of support, at least in the House, to raise the maximum Pell Grants by a significant amount. It is too early to know if that would be vetoed by the White House or even if it would pass in the Senate. I just wanted you to be aware that that debate is underway. If you Google “Higher Education Act reauthorization”, you can get a lot of information about that bill. One of the amendments that will be debated tomorrow is a plan that would require university foundations to spend at least 5% of their endowments every year to reduce the cost of instruction. The proposal is in reaction to the publicity surrounding universities with very larger endowments like Harvard, which has over \$30 billion. While it seems reasonable on one hand, it actually would cause enormous problems for every university endowment. The core problem is that there are some years in which we would not want to spend 5% of the endowment because of market conditions, but also because most of the funds in endowments are restricted and the money has to be spent on the donor’s purpose. There are lots of other problems with it. We have been in communication with our lobbyist in Washington, as well as the Illinois delegations with whom we have good relationships, so I am optimistic that that will not pass.

· *Acting Provost Jan Shane-Murphy – Absent*

· *Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams*

Senator Adams: I want to reflect on what President Bowman talked about. As Vice President for Student Affairs, it is my responsibility to oversee the housing operation. It has not been a pleasant week and I will say, for the record, that I truly regret the events of the past week, which have resulted in the concerns and consternation for some of our students in the residence halls. It is primarily those in the senior and junior classes and for those who will be moving up from the sophomore class up to the junior class next year and desire to live in the residence halls.

I certainly agree with President Bowman that the communication was not effective and was not timely. I will also agree with President Bowman that the plan that this university put into effect nearly five years ago is a good plan. It is a necessary plan that is long overdue. It is in the fifth year of a ten-year run. By 2013, we will see significant changes in the housing operation on this campus.

That being said, I will say that housing based its estimate for available beds for the fall of 2008 on data which was derived from the fall 2007 occupancy numbers. Those numbers became available in the early part of the fall. There was discussion as the fall semester progressed as to what some of the options would be because some of the beds would be lost. This year is an anomaly for other years in that Hewitt is offline now, though it will come back online, and we will take Manchester offline as well for renovation. Additionally this year, Dunn, Barton and Walker will be demolished and we will lose somewhere around 1,000 spaces.

I am confident that as we look at the housing plan over the next few years, and the next year in particular, that we will come very close to being able to house most of the students who want on-campus housing. That includes new freshmen; I would guess that our freshman class will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,200 to 3,300, but about 3,000 will be living in the residence halls. There will be about 1,800 new transfer students and I would guess that no more than 1,000 of those would be required to live in the residence halls, so we will have some spaces to work with. So, it is not as if all students who live in the residence halls right now, who are in the sophomore-to-junior, junior and senior classes will not have the opportunity. It is, however, the timeliness of the decision as to how many spaces will be available that is causing the problem.

Again, we take full responsibility for that announcement being late. We take full responsibility for the ineffectiveness of the communication and I want to commend, as President Bowman did, the members of the Student Government Association, particularly Student Body President Horstein and Vice President Martin, for the work that they have done and for the work that Off-Campus Senator Allison Graham has done. I can tell you that we will continue to work with that group to make sure that those students who are affected by this situation for next year will get all of the help that they need by either getting a residence hall room as soon as possible or by being provided with the opportunity to search for off-campus housing.

We have been doing a lot of work with the Student Government Association and the Association of Residence Halls on a new meal plan for next year as well. We will be rolling out the details publicly very soon, but I do want to say that there have been an enormous number of opportunities for students and others to have input into what that plan will bring. It has been discussed at the administrative level as well and we will soon be letting other members of the faculty and staff know what the dining operations will look like for next year. We will make sure that you get all of the details as soon as they become available.

Senator Gifford: I have had a number of questions about the housing situation from transfer students. Is there somewhere we can send them to get answers? I have been trying to send them to different groups within the department, clubs, student bodies, etc.

Senator Adams: Send them to the University Housing Services and try to refrain from sending them to other offices around campus. The central responsibility rests with UHS and that is the place that would have the answers to their questions.

Senator Nippa: As far as the timeline goes, when did UHS first talk about this possibility? I have worked with UHS for awhile and usually when they are looking into something like this, it would have been brought in several of the committees I have been able to serve on.

Senator Adams: Are you talking about the housing process change?

Senator Nippa: Right. When was it decided versus when were people made aware of it?

Senator Adams: I had discussions with Director Maureen Blair and Associate Director Mindy Mangialardi in November about different possibilities and there were probably ten different scenarios that we laid out. It has taken some time to try to determine how the existing spaces could be reconfigured and also to sort out those students who would be seeking exemptions, knowing that the original policy of freshmen and sophomores being required to live in the residence halls was going to remain in existence. So, I felt at the time that I was discussing the plan with them, in November and December, that freshmen and sophomores should receive priority. It seemed to me that we had an obligation to those two groups to provide housing spaces for them. What I wish had happened was that we had expanded those discussions to the Student Government Association, Association of Residence Halls and others to lay out what those alternatives could have been; but, instead, the decision was made in January and communicated in February.

Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg

Senator Bragg: President Bowman mentioned that the Board of Higher Education met yesterday and approved our Ph.D. in Nursing Program. The Board also approved its fiscal year 2009 budget recommendations; those are recommendations that are sent to the Governor and to the General Assembly. I wish I could report to you the number that they recommended for Illinois State University, but, in actuality,

they recommended five numbers for ISU. They adopted a new approach this year; they recommended several levels of investment for the different universities. I guess the idea is to generate discussion during appropriation hearings about what the different levels of investment would return to the state. Those five levels range from no new support, which I think is a highly unlikely scenario, to a high of a 7.2% increase, which is probably not likely either. Somewhere in between, we hope, will be the final number. As you know, these go to the Governor and to the General Assembly simultaneously. The Governor will be giving his budget address on February 20th of this year; and then it goes into the appropriation process. On the capital side, our Fine Arts Complex is again recommended for approval; it actually moved a level in the recommendations and we are confident that should a capital bill be passed in the next year, that project will be in that bill. Much depends, however, on the state revenue picture.

I mentioned last time that we are starting to see some slow down in state revenue, a slow down on the state's part in paying bills. It still has not affected us directly, but we are starting to feel it indirectly. Some of the contractors that are working on some on the facility projects, Stevenson-Turner and others, have experienced a slow-down in being reimbursed for their expenses. We are working very closely with the Capital Development Board to ensure that we can keep those contractors working at full speed. We are on very tight time schedules on all of those and it is imperative that they keep a full contingent on the job. Again, much depends on the state revenue and, as the President indicated, with the financial condition of the State of Illinois, it makes the context for our credit rating upgrade even more significant.

The President mentioned that Standard and Poor's, one of the two rating agencies that we used to rate our upcoming bond issue, came to visit on campus a couple of weeks ago and were very impressed, not only with our financial situation, but with the overall campus performance. The President was very gracious in extending congratulations to my staff, but I would like to extend them to the entire campus. It really is the fundamentals behind this campus that impressed them the most: the high quality of our student body, the high demand for enrollment at Illinois State University, our strategic planning efforts, the fact that we followed through on our strategic planning efforts, our fundraising capabilities, as well as our underlying sound financial condition. So, Standard and Poor issued their press release yesterday upgrading us from A to A+, with a stable outlook. That is second only to the University of Illinois in the state.

Moody's kept us at the same rating as that they had before. They were also very impressed with the fundamentals of the university, but they gave a little more weight to the tenuous financial condition of the State of Illinois and kept us at an A2 rating with a positive outlook. Let me add a little footnote to that. Moody's upgraded us in each of our last two bond issues, so it is also not unusual for them to take a little breather. I think that it is a case of if they raise our rating every time they come to visit us, we come to expect it, and so they tend to hold back a little. The practical implication of this is that we should get much more favorable interest rates on bonds.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Waterstraat: The Academic Affairs Committee had a special guest this evening, Mardell Wilson, from the University Assessment Office. She took time to reorient us to the General Education assessment plan that her office has put together. Essentially, there are three approaches to assessing General Education on university campuses, which Mardell indicated may be required by the IBHE within the next couple of years. Those three approaches are standardized testing, which she believes will become a fact within the next couple of years, student portfolios and institutional artifact portfolios. The least intrusive of those and the easiest of those to implement and maintain, from her perspective, was the institutional artifact portfolio. She provided a

detailed presentation on what her office would like to implement and how they would go about implementing it. The members of the committee asked several questions about the assessment process and we are going to put forth a recommendation to the Executive Committee in support of the University Assessment Office's plan to implement the assessment of General Education utilizing an institutional artifact portfolio model.

· *Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee*

Senator Lonbom: The request for Presidential Commentary officially closed last Friday, February 1st, and our committee is in the process of analyzing all of the data that we have received.

Senator Horstein: How many responses did you get this year?

Senator Lonbom: Our totals came out to just a bit over 1,000 and that was almost evenly split between students and faculty/staff.

· *Faculty Affairs Committee – No report.*

· *Planning and Finance Committee*

Senator Fazel: Tonight we met with Dr. Dianne Ashby, Vice President for University Advancement, and we had a very informative discussion about the activities of the University Advancement Office, the Foundation and our benchmark institutions. We discussed what has already been done and what the next step will be.

· *Rules Committee*

Senator Alferink: The committee completed our review of the revisions to the bylaws for Milner Library and found those to be in order. We approved those and they will be going the Executive Committee, as submitted. We completed the final clarification for establishing the University Hearing Panel (UHP) as an External Committee in the Senate's *Blue Book*. The UHP will report to the Academic Affairs Committee. Looking at its parallel body, the Student Code Enforcement and Review Board (SCERB), which is the appeal body for the University Hearing Panel, we discovered that in the *Blue Book*, SCERB was reporting to the Academic Senate, so we will also be submitting a change to have SCERB report to the Academic Affairs Committee as well.

Action Item:

01.24.08.02 Service Awards Committee – Revised Addition to Blue Book (Rules Committee)

Senator Alferink: The Rules Committee was asked to consider making an addition of the Service Awards Committee to the *Blue Book*. The service awards were established a few years ago by the Rules Committee to parallel faculty awards for teaching and research and the language was probably modeled after those documents. The committee discussed the language for such an addition to the *Blue Book* and the proposed addition was an Information Item at the December meeting. At that time, Provost Presley noted that the committee reported to both the Provost's Office and to the Rules Committee. Therefore, the Rules Committee clarified the reporting function. It now simply says that the Provost's Office is informed, because the Provost's Office has to, in fact, get the checks written, etc., and the committee will report to the Faculty Affairs Committee. I discussed this with Senator Borg, the current chair of Faculty Affairs, and he thought that that was a very good assignment. This is now an Action Item before the Senate.

Motion XXXIX-36: By Senator Alferink to approve the University Hearing Panel as an External Committee of the Senate and, therefore, as an addition to the Senate's *Blue Book*. Since the motion comes from the committee, no second was required. There was no debate regarding the document and it was unanimously approved.

Information Item:

01.24.08.03 Disestablishment of Academic Units Policy-Revised (Rules Committee)

Senator Alferink: The Rules Committee was also asked to review the Disestablishment Policy, which has been in existence for a number of years. When the policy was last revised, the Senate approved a document that included the word, "program", in the "Proposal to Disestablish an Academic Unit" section. However, "program" was not included in the policy in the Policies and Procedures Manual on the web. Rather than try to decipher how that occurred, we simply revisited the policy and put the word back in. Also, the current policy allows anyone in the university community to initiate a proposal to disestablish an academic unit—that could be a student, faculty member or civil service employee who is not doing well in that department or someone who is angry for other reasons. Once the proposal is initiated, a considerable amount of work on the part of many people goes into play and we thought that that was perhaps not the best idea. So, we have indicated that only certain individuals can, in fact, initiate a proposal for the disestablishment of an academic unit and those are the individuals who have the academic and fiscal responsibility for those programs. That includes the President, Provost, college deans, department chairs and school directors. We also defined what a program consists of and we deleted the term "center", because a center is not an academic unit, but rather an administrative unit. We also added the term "affected" academic unit because it is probably not a good idea to allow, for example, the Psychology Department to disestablish Speech Pathology and Audiology. Finally, we clarified the language in the "Further Investigation" section. For programs that are jointly undergraduate and graduate programs, which involve both the University Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Curriculum committee, we clarified that it should be all members of both committees, rather selected members.

Senator Kukla: I was wondering if this has occurred in the recent history of the university.

Senator Alferink: Have units been disestablished? Yes, on a regular basis. The document covers both hostile disestablishments and those that are initiated by the units themselves. On the Senate's Consent Agenda on the web, there are number of curricular changes that occur; for example, the deletion of sequences occurs on a regular basis.

Senator Holland: We can either move this forward as an Action Item or bring this back in two weeks.

Senator Alferink: I am not sure that there is any compelling reason to move rapidly on this and I think probably allowing more opportunity to reflect is not a bad idea.

The policy will come before the Senate as an Action Item on February 20, 2008.

Communication:

Senator Holland: I received a communication today on CFA events. There is a faculty biennial going on through the 10th in the University Galleries. There are several theatre and dance performances coming up this month. There will be a General Choral Showcase on February 10th and faculty recitals on the 12th. There are quite a number of very nice events going on. I also had a communication from Barbara Todd about three events that may be of interest to the faculty. On February 26th, there is a program on "How to Enhance and Protect Your Retirement Nest Egg". These are lunch meetings, which are free; you just need to call and let

her know. “Retirement Planning 101” will be on Tuesday, April 22nd and, finally, “The Pros and Cons of a Living Trust”. These are all 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Senator Kukla: The College of Fine Arts is having a wonderful fundraiser on March 1. Anyone in the community is welcome. It is called “Postcard Art” and famous alumni and artists from around the US, as well as our local students and faculty, have all made 4 x 6 inch original artwork. It’s all going to be on display at the University Galleries on March 1. It is \$60 per person; obviously, this is a fundraiser. Students from Theatre and Music will be doing things to make it a beautiful, artistic, fun-filled, food-filled event.

Senator Stewart: I would like to add that that \$60 gets you a postcard

Senator Kukla: Yes, that includes an original work of art.

Adjournment

Motion XXXIX-37: By Senator Graham, seconded by Senator Stewart, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.