

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 26, 2008
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Secretary called the roll and declared a quorum.

Attendance and Motions

Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2008

Motion XXXIX-55: Senator Graham, seconded by Senator Thorgesen, to approve the Senate Minutes of February 20, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IBHE-FAC Report

Senator Holland: We have Distinguished Professor Curt White with us to give us an IBHE-FAC Report. I am guessing that since this is the end of your fourth year, this is probably the last one we are going to get from you.

Professor White: I may need to come back to you again about something I am going to talk to you about this evening. As I told you about a month or so ago, through the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Faculty Advisory Council managed to claim a spot on the Governor's task force for the Master Plan for the Board of Higher Education, which is called *The Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education: Planning for Career and College Success*, and the Faculty Advisory Council designated me as the representative on that body. The task force has received a draft report of this public agenda created by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, which is a nonprofit group and does a number of these kinds of studies for states. We had our first meeting on the March 20th up in Chicago and we were allowed to make observations and suggestions about this document.

Basically at this point, this part of the draft document is a demographic of the state and sort of extrapolates some demographic trends to consequences for higher education. The more familiar I get with this document, the more startled and a little depressed I am by it. It is basically describing a state in which there are two states, and that has probably been the case for some time to some degree, but that situation is increasing. It's also a state with two, maybe three, distinct cultures that don't have the same futures. They have a list of primary observations and one is that the population growth in the state will be basically flat for the foreseeable future in most parts of the state, with the exception of the northeast, so the Chicago area is going to continue to grow. Most of that growth will be among minorities. The

only demographic group in which the white population will be growing faster than the general population will be among retirees, people 65 and older.

There is, and will continue to be, a substantial difference between the races, with whites being considerably better educated than their minority counterparts. You will be interested to know that McLean County and Champaign County, that corridor, largely because of the presence of major educational institutions, will basically share the fate of the northeast. That is to say, growth in high status jobs and with the potential for economic growth will continue to be the case for our area of the state, but their picture of the rest of the state is kind of depressing. As we know, many of the traditional, established jobs that were linked to factories, etc. in the downstate region are gone; they haven't been replaced and one of the things that they observed is that the process of retraining has not happened. So they are predicting an increasingly greater gap between income in the northeast and the part of the state south of I-80.

Because of the fact that the state is not really making any efforts to provide the fastest growing part of the demographic with the educational opportunity that it will need in order to replace, largely, the white workers of the state who are retiring, the state will become increasingly dependent upon immigration of college graduates and high-skilled workers. They also draw attention to the highly noticeable region-to-region variation and lack of opportunity for emerging companies. So there is no new kind of economy emerging, especially in the downstate region. They also observe that Illinois has a somewhat higher tax capacity and a lower tax effort, which is not really news to us. What that means basically is that we are about 3% behind many states in the rest of the country in terms of the level at which we tax people. They say that the likelihood of tapping tax capacity, specifically for higher education, is probably not high. Largely, what they are saying is, 'we are looking at higher education, but we are not anticipating new money in the future going to higher education, even if there is a tax increase'.

They have identified some emerging themes, which are that the state needs to reduce and eliminate disparities between whites and minorities in high school completion, college participation and college completion; it needs to reduce geographic disparities in college participation; it needs to more strongly link the innovation assets of the state to economic development, especially in regions outside of the major metropolitan areas. In other words, it needs more McLean County/Champaign County economic centers in the state. It also needs to address issues of affordability.

My comment to them was that I did not see how they could address any of these problems without addressing tax and funding policies for elementary and secondary education. They said basically, 'we can't talk about that'. I don't know why they said that, because I don't see any way to address those problems without talking about the money, because it's the money that determines all of those issues and determines the ability of the state to respond to those

problems. It is really kind of perplexing; I can't imagine what kind of policy issues that they are going to be able to identify that are going to make a difference in the absence of certain raw facts like the poorer people in this state are not prepared to go to college and find it increasingly difficult to afford to go college, yet they are asked to subsidize higher education in the form of taxes. That is just a fundamental given for this state and that is very difficult to get people to address honestly. I don't see, in all frankness, that this group is going to be willing to step up and do that, especially since it is the Governor's task force and when I started talking about, 'let's talk about tax policy in this context', they got up and left the table. That may not be why they left the table; I just don't know.

I think that the draft version of the report is on the Board of Higher Education's website where you can take a look at it. It is really interesting and I think that they have done a pretty good job of taking an outsider's view on demographics. There are aspects of this report that are really honest about things that we need to be aware of and there are also aspects of it that are puzzling.

The other thing that I need to talk to you about is the document that I circulated through Cynthia to all of you. The Board has asked its various advisory groups to make a sort of feature presentation once during the course of the year and, at this coming meeting, the April 1 meeting, which is here at the university, the Faculty Advisory Council has been asked to make a presentation. That document that I circulated to you is our attempt to take advantage of that presentation to make a certain kind of case for higher education.

One of the things that we have really been trying to do is find ways of talking about higher education that go beyond the economy, beyond an economic justification. So early in the year, we did a paper on higher education and the public good. In this particular paper, I think what we are doing is saying, essentially, 'ok, if the only possible justification for higher education in the minds of so many is economic, let's talk about the relationship of higher education and the economy in a knowledgeable way' instead of just assuming what many, unfortunately, including members of the Board, are all too tempted to do: to talk about economic efficiency within higher education as simply a matter of a waste among administrators and laziness among the faculty. Believe me, the lingua franca of many representatives in Springfield, some members of the media and, to some degree, members of the Board, is that the problem is a matter of local efficiency.

So we tried to point out in this paper, and I hope that you will have a chance to read it and maybe come to the meeting, is that, in fact, if you look at the work that has been done by a professional economist on the relationship of higher education and the economy, you find that, in the judgment of professional economists, higher education is already far more efficient in economic terms. That is to say, higher education provides far more return on an invested dollar than virtually any other aspect of the economy that you could name. We used the work of Walter McMahon from the University of Illinois so extensively because he shows

that short-term returns on state investment in higher education is around 10% and, in the long-term, is as high as 35%, which is a phenomenal return on a dollar invested. So the process of the kind of starvation that higher education institutions are experiencing is not a mark of efficiency nor a stimulus to the institutions to become more efficient; it is, in fact, a kind of downward spiral in the economic capacity of the state as well as the standard of living for citizens within the state. A large part of what we hope to accomplish, in the most simple of terms, is to provide a different vocabulary, a different framework within which to talk about issues related to higher education and the economy.

Senator Borg: Would you tell us when and where the meeting on April 4 will be?

Professor White: The IBHE meeting will be here in the Old Main Room at 9:00 a.m. It will be a pretty long meeting, I think. We are going to have the mental health and security task force reporting to them as well.

Senator Wilkinson: A very obvious thing that jumps out from this is the prosperity of the Champaign and McLean Counties corridor, which are the only ones comparable to the northeast and which have two large universities.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: Congratulations to both the men's and women's basketball teams; it certainly made for an exciting week last week. During the last two days, the university budget hearings were held, which have been absolutely fascinating. I learned huge amounts of information by being there. We had our Provost-To-Be, Sheri Everts, here for the budget hearings; it was delightful to have her on campus with us. Finally, we have a note from the Provost's Office for the Senate in that they are announcing that we are going to be starting a search committee for the Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology. That should start up fairly soon. Along those lines, I believe that we are still looking for a few members for the Panel of Ten to head search committees, so please inform your constituencies that we need a few more candidates for the panel.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Horstein: We in the last few weeks of winding up our term, but we have a lot going on. This Sunday, April 6, at 2:00 p.m., we are going to go out and fulfill our obligation to the Adopt-A-Street Program. Immediately after that on April 6th, we are going to have an "ISU Day of Service" working with our leadership and service unit. We are trying to get about 200 off-campus students into the neighborhoods here to begin working on residential projects as an outreach to neighbors in the community to show that we do care and also to help students learn that they do make an impact on this community.

On April 9, we will have Lobby Day. We will be sending our External Relations Director, Tyler Clark, to Springfield, with a few other representatives from student government, to

check in with some of our local administrators. That same day at 5:00 p.m., we will be presenting our constitution to Dr. Bowman for his signature; this will officially establish our document as university policy. The event will take place in the Bowling and Billiards Center Activity Room. Immediately following, I will be giving a State of the Student Body Address; you are all invited.

On April 15, both police chiefs from Normal and the ISU Police Departments will be here, along with a panel of lawyers from local firms in the area, to address student rights. That event will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Room 375 of the Student Services Building. Student Government elections are taking place on April 1 and 2, so we will find out on the night of April 2nd who our successors will be. Then on April 13, we will have the Passing of the Gavel. Our Budget Review Commission recommendations will be voted on in our upcoming assembly. Some new initiatives that the recommendations will include are the addition of a case manager for Student Counseling Services and some additional monies for Diversity Advocacy to bring more programming and education about diversity issues to campus. We are recommending more funding for the Dean of Students Office to consolidate their entire office into the Bone Student Center and we recommending that we allocate funding for a new graduate assistant for the Student Involvement Center. With that, our program fund has officially wrapped up, distributing \$180,000 to student organizations this year.

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman

President Bowman: Probably the most important bill that we are watching in Washington, D.C. right now is the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. House and Senate staffs are meeting to reconcile differences between the two bills. There is some language in the bill that is favorable to higher ed and there are also some things that we are concerned about. We are, as a number of other institutions around the country, members of the American Council on Education, and that group is lobbying on our behalf. The accreditation language is actually very good. It limits the authority of the Department of Education to use accrediting agencies to regulate our affairs and the language actually virtually halts the Department of Education's efforts to try to use that process to control some of the activities of colleges and universities. There is some language within the bill on peer-to-peer file sharing and there is an attempt to shift the burden for enforcement to institutions. One section would require us to offer an alternative to illegal downloading, as well as technology-based deterrents to illegal downloading. The recent studies show that campus networks only account for about 3% of the losses that are associated with illegal downloading. Another concern is that there is some language about campus safety in which we would be required to notify the campus of emergency within 30 minutes. I can think of a number of emergencies where it may not be possible to know what alert to send to the campus within 30 minutes, so we are working hard to change that language.

The Pell Grants have been increased from \$4,050 to \$4,300. That will go to \$5,400 by 2012. That was funded with a \$20 billion cut in federal subsidies to loan companies. There is the expectation that student loans will become more expensive and also, for some students, harder to get. Some banks have stopped offering loans to students who attend for-profit career schools and some community colleges. The good news, especially for our students, is that students who attend institutions that have high graduation rates and low default rates among their alumni will still be able to get low-cost private loans.

Dr. Shane will talk about the application cycle. I will just briefly mention that the applications for the freshman class are up 10% over where they were last year. I think we are up to 13,800. The pool is of high quality, it's diverse and it is on target with where we were last year.

Fundraising is doing extremely well. We have raised nearly \$6 million this year to date and we are on track to raise anywhere between \$8 million and \$10 million before the fiscal year wraps up. The capital bill is the subject of much discussion in Springfield. It is hard to know where it will go. There is increasing pressure on the General Assembly and the Governor's Office to do something. There are federal funds that will be lost to the state if they don't move forward with some form of a capital bill this year.

I want to compliment Steve Bragg and his staff for their work on our bonds. Many hospitals and institutions are facing very large increases in their interest payments because their debt was financed with variable rate bonds. Steve and his staff over the years have been very cautious and we do not have any auction rate bonds or variable interest rate bonds. All of our debt is fixed rate and there are a number of institutions that are looking at increases in their debt service payments of several millions of dollars.

I want to compliment the students from the College of Business who organized Business Week. It is a student-run event. We had Ed Rust here this afternoon and some of his staff from State Farm Insurance. State Farm employs almost 4,000 ISU graduates in Bloomington-Normal alone and is a great supporter of the institution. It was nice to have him on campus and be able to thank him again for all of the things that his company has done for Illinois State.

Acting Provost Jan Murphy

Provost Murphy: We held our budget presentations for the Division of Academic Affairs during the last two mornings. I would like to encourage everybody in this room to put this on your calendar for next year. It is an amazing two mornings to find out what all of your colleagues on this campus are doing. You can really get a sense of where colleges are going and where our departments and schools are going. Each of our deans presented some of the best presentations I have seen. They did an outstanding job of highlighting the successes of our students, our faculty and staff in the previous year. They set visions and goals for the

upcoming year and they talked in very great detail about the resource needs.

You get a real sense of how much we have accomplished and also a real sense of all of the collaboration between our units. They were some of the best presentations I have seen because what I have started to see is that our units, and particularly our colleges, are really maturing to where you see thoughtful, strategic planning. That strategic planning moves from the faculty up, so this is not top-down strategic planning. There are pretty honest conversations about work that still needs to be done in some areas and about the resource needs.

I have worked in the Provost's Office for six years, but it's been an interesting three months as Acting Provost. I have had for a number of years the opportunity to work with deans, chairs, directors, faculty and students throughout this university, but this is the first year, because of my position as Acting Provost, that I have had the opportunity to work with the vice presidents from the other units. One of the evidences of how much those other divisions work on our behalf is the fact that in those budget presentations, half of the people in the audience came from other divisions. In attendance were our colleagues in Finance and Planning for the budgets and Planning and Institutional Research for facilities planning. In attendance were our colleagues in Student Affairs and in Advancement. They were there for both mornings, the entire mornings, to get a sense of where we are going, what we are doing, and what our needs are. I think that that was some of the best evidence that I have seen of a campus that really does understand that what we are trying to do here is provide quality undergraduate and graduate experiences, quality in research and scholarly and creative productivity.

We already have those dates locked in for next spring and I would encourage you to come and watch some of those presentations. Very shortly, we will put on the Provost's website the power point portions of the presentations, as well as the actual budget documents, which are the annual report and the budget requests from each college. I think that it is very important that we are very transparent about our budget presentations; it is important to know about the kinds of enhancement and personnel requests that are made and to make that information available to our campus.

The other piece of that is that we were really thrilled to have Dr. Sheri Everts there. There couldn't have been a more perfect time to have her here on campus. I want you to know that she had done her homework. She had read all of the budget documents; she had been on the web; she really understood some of the issues out there. She understood kind of what we are trying to accomplish and I think that what she left with was some of what I mentioned: that sense of partnership and collaboration that is really important on this campus, that sense that we have a vision and that, to the best of our ability, we are moving toward that vision, a vision based on the mission of the university.

We are initiating a search for the Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology. We are in the process of forming a search committee. We are waiting for the faculty and student elections for the committee to be completed. Our goal, in terms of the general timeline, is to have advertisements out for that position in the spring with the idea that applications will come in and start to be reviewed once Dr. Everts is here. She needs to be very involved in that process, but we wanted to get that initiated so that we are kind of up and running when she comes. Our goal is to have a January 1, 2009 start date.

We will also soon be initiating a search for the Dean of the College of Business with a little bit of a later timeline on that. We are looking at a July 1, 2009 start date, but in the College of Business, we have some very, very early conferences for which we need to at least have advertisements ready. They have some late summer and early fall conferences and it is going to be essential that we are ready to move. So although we have a later start date, we are going to start to try to get that going in the next month. Although I have not officially let the Senate know that, the President and I will be working on that and we will let the Senate know in about a month.

We have completed our review of the Academic Impact Fund; that is something that the Provost's staff has been working on. We have shared that with the President and shared some of our initial findings with the deans, and we should have our final report soon. Our plan is to be on the Faculty Caucus Agenda of April 9 to share the full report with that group.

Finally, the President mentioned admissions and I don't have much to add. As he said, we are up 10% in applications. We hope to meet our goal of 3,300 first-year students and we are hoping that we have the show rate just right. Our goal is about 1,800 for transfers. We have done everything we can and now it is just waiting and hoping that they will enroll in the fall.

Senator Kalter: Would you send an e-mail out next year to remind us about the budget presentations?

Provost Murphy: We can add that to our list of all of the places that we advertise. Thank you for the suggestion.

Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams

Vice President Adams: Our men's and women's basketball teams were very successful this year with 51 victories between the two of them. I want you to know how much support those two teams got from the students this year. The Red Alert Group was just absolutely fantastic in bringing students to not only the men's games, but also to the women's games, the volleyball games and everything that has happened with other sports throughout the fall. I have to give a tremendous amount of credit to Ryan Cullen and the other members of Red Alert who have done so much to get the students' interest peaked.

I want to reiterate what Senator Horstein said with regard to the student elections, which will be on Monday and Tuesday of next week. We certainly have had extremely strong leadership this year. Dave Horstein, Kevin Martin, Ryan Cekander and other members of that ticket did a fantastic job. Allison Graham and others in the room have been a part of a group of extremely strong leaders. We have excellent candidates for the upcoming elections. Senator Ted Mason and Senator Jason Nippa are both running for President of the Student Body. We do have mixed feelings about seeing this group go, but we have very high hopes of strong leadership for the coming academic year as well.

It is always a very sad time when we talk about a student death. One of our senior students in the College of Business, Nicholas Reeves, who was 21 years old, died in a car crash over the weekend. We are saddened by his death; our condolences go out to his family, friends and classmates. It was a very tragic accident. He was a senior scheduled to graduate in May. He was right on target to do so and a request has been made to award his degree posthumously. That decision will be made in Academic Affairs, the College of Business and in the department. Today was the memorial service for Nick in Monticello and our Dean of Students, Jan Paterson, represented the administration of Illinois State University by attending that service. More than 500 people were at the service today.

On Monday, I met with President Bowman and got his signature on the new Campus Dining Plan. It has been approved and is scheduled for implementation in the fall of 2008. For their collaborative efforts, my congratulations go out to Campus Dining Services, the Student Government Association, Association of Residence and to many others who worked very hard to put this plan together. There was a tremendous amount of input from students, faculty and staff; that input was extremely helpful in creating this new dining plan. In case this plan is not to the liking of faculty and staff, you should be aware that students living in the residence halls were the top priority. Approximately 6,800 students live in the residence halls right now and over 90% of those students use residential campus dining centers. There are a number of options even for off-campus students. There are options for faculty and staff to purchase a number of meals; there are options to pay a fee at the door and the carryout option is alive and well. There could have not been more input into this plan; it could not have been more creative. I don't feel that there could have been any more options and I anticipate that it will be highly successful.

Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg

Vice President Bragg: The President mentioned the budget in his remarks. I don't think that he mentioned that, on March 6, he testified in front of the House Appropriations Committee and did a wonderful job. We have a lot of friends in the General Assembly, representatives who are supportive of higher education and, specifically, Illinois State University. They were complimentary of President Bowman's testimony to the point of actually asking us to resubmit all of the technical forms, which we have to send in every year, and ask for more money. Don't get your hopes up; before they can give us more money, there has to be more

money there and the cash flow situation is not a pretty picture. President Bowman will also testify in front of the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 4 and then the real work of starting to craft a state budget and appropriation bill will go on from there.

The President also mentioned our bond issue. While it is true that we don't have any variable rate bonds and we are not in the situation that a lot of other institutions are in, the turmoil in the credit market and in the municipal bond market did affect us a little bit. We closed on our \$30 million bond issue on March 13 at a little higher interest rate than I would have liked. We ended up with a 4.93% overall interest rate, probably about 20 or 30 basis points higher than we anticipated, largely, because the morning of our sale was when the auction market really started to tumble and, by that afternoon, was in disarray. About three or four other Illinois institutions cancelled their sales that afternoon and for the next three or four days to let the market settle down. We are reevaluating our timing on going out on the companion piece, which is the Certificates of Participation, later this month. Things are settling down a little bit and we are hopeful that they will return to normal shortly.

On the construction side, we are continuing to make progress on the Stevenson-Turner life, health and safety issue. The Capital Development Board has not issued new bonds and they have not been able to pay our contractors. One of the unanticipated consequences of the slowdown in the construction market is that the contractors that we have on our projects have not pulled their folks off the job because they don't have any other really attractive alternatives right now. So we are very lucky that they have stayed on the job despite the fact that they have had to meet their own payroll since October. We are hopeful that the CDB will issue bonds at the end of this month or the first part of next month and reimburse employers.

Decommissioning has been set for April 18 for the Walker-Dunn-Barton Residence Halls. There will be a formal decommissioning of those venerable structures and right after commencement, they will be demolished and make room for our long-awaited Student Fitness, Kinesiology and Recreation Center. We are on target for a summer move-in to the facility at 1101 North Main, now referred to as the Alumni Center. We are moving several functions from campus, which have a lot of public interaction, away from the quad and up to that facility where we have really adequate parking and meeting spaces. It will more than double the public meeting space that we have available to us. So Alumni, University Advancement, Development, Marketing, Communications and our conferencing unit will be moving there this summer.

For utilities, there is a small, bright spot on the picture. Futures of the electrical market are coming down and returning back to whatever normal is these days. That is important because next year is the last year of our three-year, multi-campus electrical contract. In fact, there was a group meeting today from all of the representative schools to start to look at a time for going out on an RFP to extend that contract, so we are hopeful that those electrical rates will stay down. On the flip side, the price of gas and other commodities has continued to rise. We

have had to reallocate about \$50,000 this year into our fleet operations just to cover the increased gas prices. We will reevaluate that program, assuming that gas rates continue to rise.

During the first two weeks in April, we will have two vendors on campus giving us presentations for a new human resource payroll system. I gave a short presentation to the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee today and I will let Senator Lonbom tell you more about that.

Finally, I would like to add my compliments to those for Academic Affairs and the budget presentations. I had an independent assessment of how valuable and how unique those are. I happened to spend just a few minutes with Provost Sheri Everts and she was very complimentary, Jan, on those sessions. She made a statement that I think epitomizes a lot of the work that we do around here. She told me that a lot of institutions talk a good game about planning and linking planning and budgeting. She said that this was the first place that she has seen an institution 'just quietly getting it done', so my compliments to you as well.

Senator Ellerton: You spoke briefly about the Stevenson refurbishment. Do you have any dates? Is that work still on target? If there are specific dates, it would be very helpful if you could provide those to us and we could then pass those on to those who are affected.

Senator Bragg: Yes, we are on target for the Stevenson project. I don't have specific dates right now, but I can get that information to you. Generally, faculty will be moving out of the first and second floors this summer. The entire building will be emptied over the summer while we work on that. We will open up the third and fourth floors for the beginning of the fall semester and the first and second floors will be worked on over the next two years.

Senator Ellerton: In particular, I think that there is concern about the length of time between the move back for floors three and four into Stevenson before the fall semester so that things can have a chance to settle down.

Senator Bragg: Let me look into that. So the concern is how early we can move back into the third and fourth floors of Stevenson?

Senator Ellerton: Yes, so that that move can be completed before the beginning of the fall semester. We know that the move out of those floors took longer than anticipated.

Senator Bragg: I will get that information for you.

Committee Reports:

· ***Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson***

Senator Waterstraat: The committee is still in a data collection mode on the decision about

allowing a time period for accepting credits for previous courses. I will be meeting with the university advisors group tomorrow to get their input and recommendations.

· ***Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee Chairperson***

Senator Lonbom: Tonight, Vice President Bragg met with our committee to talk about the human resources information system. He summarized what has been going on. It is a very old and outdated payroll system, more than 27 years old, and they have been struggling to make it work. It is about at the breaking point, if not past it. The team that is working on this has had eight responses from vendors for the RFPs and they are now at the point where two vendors have been identified, Oracle and SunGard, which will be on campus during the first and second weeks of April. There is a website that Human Resources has put up with a lot of really good information if you are interested in reading about the details of the process. Steve estimates, optimistically, that a decision will be made about the vendors late in 2008, with an estimated 12 to 18-month plan for the upgrade. Possibly, there will be a 12 to 18-month timeframe with it fully on line or running parallel to the current system in 2010.

Senator Holland: How much will this cost and will there be any cost savings, aside from us all being paid when the other system dies?

Senator Bragg: That is the most significant cost savings. We have allocated \$5 million for the entire project. That includes the cost of the software and all of the preliminary work that we have done so far, as well as the implementation process. Three million dollars of that will be internal reallocation that we have managed to scrape together since 2002 when we started the budget cuts by strategically not filling positions or delaying filling positions and moving those monies into a reserve account. The other \$2 million will come from the Certificates of Participation issue that I talked about earlier, both because we need the resources, but also because I wanted to set the precedent for the institution. We have never done a Certificates of Participation issue; it's like a bond issue, but there are some very important differences.

You can, in fact, purchase software through Certificates of Participation and I wanted to get the precedent set for Illinois State University so that future administrations can use that vehicle. I hope that we don't have to spend that. As I told the committee, I will be ecstatic if we can bring this in under \$4 million; I will be pleased if it is \$4 million to \$5 million; and I will be very disappointed if it goes above five. I can't really imagine it going that high, but the purchase price of this software alone is between \$1 million and \$2 million.

· ***Faculty Affairs Committee Chairperson***

Senator Borg: The committee finalized a report that we will be sending to the Senate outlining our activities over the past year in investigating potentials for library materials' budgets. We will be forwarding that to the Executive Committee and the Senate and hope for an endorsement of the report. We have also been fact finding on an issue that has come to our table about faculty hiring procedures, which we will continue to discuss.

· ***Planning and Finance Committee Chairperson***

Senator Fazel: The committee discussed the university's priorities for 2008-2009. We will be forwarding a report for the Senate's approval at the next meeting.

· ***Rules Committee Chairperson***

Senator Alferink: The committee completed two items of business, one of which is that the committee reviewed the volunteers for External Committees for next year and have made our recommendations for the faculty members who will be appointed to those committees. That will go to the Senate Office for the Faculty Caucus. We also completed work on the Student Grievance Committee, the other piece that comes from the Student Code of Conduct, and that will come before the Senate at the next meeting as well.

Action Item:

03.13.08.01 University Hearing Panel – Addition to Senate Bluebook - Revised (Rules Committee)

Senator Alferink: The Rules Committee was asked to consider adding the University Hearing Panel to the *Bluebook* because the Rules Committee makes recommendations for the faculty appointments to the panel. We did that by taking the language directly from the Student Code of Conduct, which is the governing document for the panel. I also talked again with Ann Newman, who is the Coordinator for Community Rights and Responsibilities, and got some additional information. In my previous conversation, I thought that I understood her to say that the University Hearing Panel Selection Committee no longer functioned, but she told me that that was incorrect. That committee continues to function, so that is back in the document. The Rules Committee also discussed the discussion by the Senate at the last meeting. Basically, we are bound by the document, but we like the language that is in that document and we are just trying to meld it with the Senate procedures. To make it parallel with the process for electing faculty members, we are suggesting that the nominations come from Community Rights and Responsibilities, go through the Rules Committee where both faculty and students will recommend to Student Government the nominees for the University Hearing Panel, just as student and faculty members do for faculty members for the University Hearing Panel. So those are the revisions that we made.

Motion XXXIX-56: By Senator Alferink to approve the proposed University Hearing Panel section of the *Bluebook*.

Senator Graham: After all of the mixed opinions coming from the students about the University Hearing Panel, I would like to propose a Friendly Amendment that this Action Item be removed and placed in another document. The unique nature of the panel, as defined by Senator Alferink, makes it inconsistent with the rest of the *Bluebook* and I feel that it should be placed in a more appropriate document.

Senator Alferink: It is not a Friendly Amendment because it does not specify (the document in which this would be placed).

Senator Holland: It is not actually an amendment. Do you have a suggestion as to what document?

Senator Graham: I don't; I just don't feel that it belongs in the *Bluebook* because it is not consistent with the rest of the *Bluebook*. I have spoken with Senator Alferink and this particular panel is so different from the rest of them that the Rules Committees feels that it needs different clarifications as to how the membership is established. As such, I feel that it does not belong in the *Bluebook*.

Senator Alferink: The Rules Committee basically likes the way it currently works, plus we think we are bound by the existing Student Code of Conduct. As you are aware, that document is undergoing revision and the appropriate time to discuss this probably would be within that document. In fact, I asked a question of our parliamentarian because Ann Newman's current title is actually Coordinator of Community Rights and Responsibilities. After checking with the parliamentarian, he stated that it should stay as "Director" as it currently is in the Student Code. Then there would be a housekeeping task to clean that up when the Student Code is updated. Either we could not do this and not put this in the *Bluebook*, which is the Senate's prerogative, or we could approve it, but the procedures that currently exist in the Student Code of Conduct would continue. The difference would be that under the Student Code, since it is not in the *Bluebook*, the students won't have a voice in the selection of the members of the panel, whereas, here, they do have a voice.

Senator Graham: It says that "12 or more students members must be nominated..." Can I change that to "may be nominated"? That gives the Student Government Association the option of making nominations. Also, the very last line in bold reads, "Students are elected by the Student Government Association based on the recommended list of student nominees." Can we strike "based on the recommended list"?

Senator Borg: This sort of discussion, 'can we do this?', is not appropriate for a debate. What you may do in this situation is propose a Friendly Amendment to make certain changes. Then, if that is challenged, it becomes a "vote-able" amendment, which may be approved or not approved by vote. A Friendly Amendment is a suggestion, normally minor, that the chairperson of the committee can agree to or not agree to.

Senator Graham: I then make the Friendly Amendment that you change it to "12 or more student members may be nominated by the Director of Community Rights and Responsibilities". Additionally, I ask that we change it to "Students are elected by the Student Government Association.", striking "based on the list of recommended nominees".

Senator Alferink: The Student Code Conduct currently states that the students must be nominated by the Director of Community Rights and Responsibilities. Therefore, changing that “must” to “may” would change the meaning of the current Student Code of Conduct and would not be a Friendly Amendment. It is also the case that the Rules Committee extensively discussed this and it was the students on the committee who proposed the “must be” language.

Senator Borg: So you are turning that down as a Friendly Amendment.

Senator Alferink: Yes.

Senator Krug: I would just like to say, as a student member of the Rules Committee, we did debate this during the last two committee meetings and we felt, all student members felt, that this was the best way to do it. The “Students are elected by the Student Government Association” and the “based on the recommended list of nominees.” were added to make sure that there were not been nominations on the floor, so that there would have already been time to have debated this.

Senator Borg: Senator Graham, would you like to make a motion for this, which would require a second and a vote on the part of the Senate?

Senator Graham: No.

The University Hearing Panel section of the *Bluebook*, as proposed by the Rules Committee, was unanimously approved without revision.

Communications:

03.12.08.01 Sense of the Senate Resolution in Support of Institutional Artifact Portfolio for General Education Program Assessment (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Waterstraat: As the Senate may recall, earlier this year, Dr. Mardell Wilson presented a program to the Senate on the implementation of an institutional artifact portfolio model for assessing our General Education Program. She made an extensive presentation, we discussed it with her in our committee and we are putting this Sense of the Senate Resolution forward to accept the institutional artifact portfolio model as our tool to assess General Education. Senator Murphy asked Dr. Wilson to come to the meeting this evening. I have asked her to come forward and answer any questions you might have.

Senator Holland: As a Sense of the Senate Resolution, all we are asking the Senate to do is endorse this. This is not ever going to be a ‘written in stone policy’, but it does give good guidance as to what we feel, as the Senate, should be done.

Motion XXXIX-57: By Senator Waterstraat to approve the Sense of the Senate Resolution in

Support of the Institutional Artifact Portfolio for General Education Program Assessment.

Senator Borg: I really think that this is a very good idea. I was part of the committee that developed the General Education Program more than 15 years ago. This seems to me to be a manageable way of trying to document progress and efficiency, which is unbelievably difficult to do for the General Education Program. I would commend the work of both Drs. Wilson and Murphy in helping cast this and would encourage the Senate to vote favorably for this resolution.

Senator Holland: I would also say that in comparison to alternatives, this is incredibly noninvasive and in many ways actually tracks better what we are trying to do, which is address the question 'Is the General Education Program presenting the information?', rather than how individual students are learning that information.

The resolution was unanimously approved without revision.

Earth Hour

Senator Krug: Saturday, March 29, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. is Earth Hour, wherein most of the lights and energy will be turned off around campus. At 8:00 p.m. on the quad, there will be flashlight tag and capture the flag during that hour. If any faculty members would further communicate this to their students, that would be greatly appreciated.

CFA Events

Senator Borg: A new play, *Bury the Dead*, in the School of Theatre opens tonight. Next week, the *Merry Widow* will open. There are plenty of student events going in the School of Music and among our MFA students in the School of Art. So please consult the University Calendar.

Adjournment

Motion XXXIX-58: Senator Cassata, seconded by Senator Horstein, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.