

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Vice Chairperson Ted Mason called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Senate Secretary Susan Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2009

Motion XXXX-: By Senator Thornton, seconded by Senator Bagnuolo, to approve the Senate Minutes of March 4, 2009. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IBHE-FAC Report (Professor Lane Crothers, IBHE-FAC Representative)

Professor Lane Crothers presented a report on the IBHE-FAC meeting held at Chicago State University. His report will be posted on the Senate website at: </documents.html>. Professor Crothers extended his thanks for Vice President Bragg's many years of help when Professor Crothers served as Senate Chair and as the university's FAC representative.

Senate Chairperson's Remarks - Absent

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Mason:

- Student elections are well under way. The dates of the elections are Tuesday, March 31, and Wednesday, April 1. The winners will be announced on April 1. At that point, SGA will begin transitioning the new administration, and we will have our Transition Retreat on April 4. Our Passing of the Gavel is on April 19.
- We will also know the results of the Collegiate Readership Program referendum on April 1.
- Our second Diversity Week of the year will be the week of March 30-April 3. We have events on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of that week.
- Our second Pack the House event will be on April 7 for the *Evita* show. Faculty should encourage their students to pick up a free ticket before they run out.
- We had a Pack the Place for a gymnastics meet last weekend and Athletics was very happy with our turnout.
- Tomorrow night is the Normal Candidate Forum at 7 p.m. in the Prairie Room in the Bone Student Center. The candidates for Mayor and Normal Town Council will all be there. Faculty should encourage their students to go.

Administrators' Remarks

· ***President Al Bowman***

President Bowman: Steve Bragg has announced that he will retire from the University at the end of this month. He has provided outstanding service to the institution and I deeply appreciate his willingness to remain here beyond his planned retirement date.

State and National Economy:

The state's jobless rate continued to climb in February and is at its worst level since December 1991. The 8.1 percent nationwide jobless level has reached a level not seen in the last 25 years.

Higher education budget news around the country is not very good:

- Iowa State U. is facing \$41 million cut for next year (2.5%). Another challenge for the State of Iowa is that it will see 35,000 fewer high school graduates each year for the next 5 years.
- U. of Michigan is facing a 3% reduction in state support.
- UW-Madison is facing a \$63 million budget reduction over 2 years.
- IU-Bloomington is doing mid-year reductions and facing additional cuts going into next fall.
- Public universities in the state of Washington can no longer allow their employees to travel out of state.
- The University of Arizona is grappling with a \$57 million mid-year cut, and that is on top of a \$20 million cut they took at the beginning of the calendar year.
- Florida public universities are facing a \$97 million mid-year cut.

Illinois Budget Deficit Grows:

The Illinois budget deficit is now projected to be \$5.1 billion this year and \$7.3 billion next year.

- The new deficit projection numbers are putting even more pressure on legislators to scale back or even abandon the governor's proposed income tax exemptions for low and middle income taxpayers. The governor has proposed tripling the personal income tax exemption, from \$2,000 to \$6,000. That proposal was not exactly received with open arms, and the new numbers will make the governor's task all that much more difficult.

Gov. Quinn's Budget Address:

- He said that "education is key to equal opportunity and economic empowerment."
- Followed through on his promise to make higher education a priority.
- Recommended a 1.3% (\$1.1 million) increase in our operating budget.
- The Governor's capital plan includes over \$50 million for our Fine Arts complex; and
- Proposal includes \$1.5 million for deferred maintenance.

House and Senate Appropriation Hearings:

Provost Everts, VP Bragg, and I participated in budget hearings in the Illinois House on March 12th and on the Senate side on March 5th. We spent about an hour in the office of the new Senator John Sullivan, Chair, 47th district, and it was clear that he had read his material and was very interested in higher education funding challenges. The House has a new chair, Rep. Cynthia Soto, taking the place of Rep. David Miller, a Chicago dentist, who has been promoted to a leadership position.

Stimulus Package and its Impact on Higher Education:

The details are beginning to emerge.

- Student financial aid:
 - Pell goes from \$4,700 to \$5,350 – biggest one time increase in history;
 - Work study increase; and
 - A new tax credit that replaces the Hope tax credit.
- Scientific Research:
 - NSF, NIH, Dept. of Energy and NASA will see large increases in funding with most of the funds spent on college campuses.
- Infrastructure - \$1.3 billion will go to NIH and \$900 million to NSF.
- Fiscal Stabilization funds will go to state governments:
 - \$47 billion will be used to minimize cuts to K-12 and higher education;

- \$90 billion goes to Medicaid over the next 2 years.
- Job Training:
 - The Workforce Investment Act will help community colleges with about \$4 billion in job training funds.

President Obama's 2010 Budget:

Full budget will be released in April, but the summary has been released and there are some dramatic changes in store for higher education.

- Pell grants will become a full entitlement, not partial, and it will be indexed to inflation plus 1 point.
- All federal student loans will be direct and not through banks – that is expected to save billions of dollars.

Application Report:

Over 1,600 students with ACTs at 28 or above have been admitted for next fall.

· *Provost Sheri Everts*

Provost Events: Yesterday and today were the Academic Affairs budget presentations. They were a wonderful opportunity to learn about the accomplishments of the colleges, as well as for very public prioritization and for fund requests for the future. Dr. Kalter, thank you for attending all of the sessions. For those unable to attend, the presentations are available online at the Provost's website.

Also, Jack North presented in the College of Business on the "Art of Leadership" today. This event was hosted by the Organizational Leadership Institute and the MQM (Management and Quantitative Methods) Department. Dean McGuire would probably like for me to remind you that it is Business Week next week. New freshmen applications continue to trend upward, which is very good news. Total transfer applications received are down slightly (1%) over this time last year. I attended the last freshman information nights at Tinley Park in early March; there were nearly one thousand in attendance. I know this is an expensive trip in regard to time and dollars, but it is a very impressive "just in time" session for students and their families. Also, the college representatives, student speakers and Office of Admissions staff did a wonderful job of answering questions for new freshmen.

And, finally, Dr. Gwendolyn Wright, professor at Columbia, presented last evening. She is one of the academic stars of the PBS show: History Detectives. Dr. Wright, in addition to her regular presentation, offered her respect for ISU and its cross-campus teacher education program. She was quite enthusiastic in her praise and offered that "ISU does teacher education the right way."

· *Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams*

Vice President Adams:

- Plans are underway for the Bone Student Center revitalization; plans and progress will be on the Student Affairs website.
- Search is underway for an Executive Director of the new Student Fitness Center. Initial candidate interviews will occur in May and we hope to fill the position by July 1. The new Executive Director of the Fitness Center will replace the current Executive Director of Recreation Services.
- Returning vets have the option of living on the ROTC Lifestyle Floor on west campus.

· *Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg*

Vice President Bragg:

- President Bowman should be given a great deal of credit for his impressive presentations to the Senate

and House Appropriations Committees.

- The Governor is proposing an increased contribution of 2% by faculty and staff to SURS; there is no proposal for an increase in the state's contribution.
- New employees may have fewer choices about pension plans.
- IPeople is the new software to be installed by People Soft for the new HR payroll system.
- ISU is transitioning to Commerce Bank to manage its banking activities.
- Vice President Bragg and Provost Everts recently met with faculty regarding the Stevenson-Turner project; the Board of Trustees has approved a request for the installation of energy-efficient windows and upgrades to the plumbing in Stevenson.
- The church at the corner of Fell and Beauford Streets has been demolished; mixed housing residences are to be constructed there with the possibility of the creation of surge space for ISU.

Committee Reports:

· Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Stewart: The committee discussed a proposal from the Student Government Association for the inclusion of a Social Justice Curriculum as part of the General Education requirements. The committee will soon discuss a proposal from SGA about the continued relevancy of the Constitution Exam as a graduation requirement.

· Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee

Senator Kalter: The committee held an in depth discussion with Vice President Bragg concerning the budget.

Senator Kalter thanked Dr. Bragg on behalf of the committee for his years of sound budgetary leadership of the university and his accessibility in working with the committee.

· Faculty Affairs Committee – No Report

· Planning and Finance Committee

Senator Fazel: The committee will forward its 2009-10 Institutional Goals and Priorities Report to the Senate Executive Committee and present the report to the Senate as an Information Item on April 8, 2009.

· Rules Committee Chairperson: Senator Solberg – No Report

Action Items:

Academic Impact Fund Documents from Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee (Please See Senate Packets of 3/4/09 for these Documents):

- 02.17.09.01 “Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee Recommendations to the Academic Senate Subsequent to the Ten-Year Review of the Academic Impact Fund”***
- 02.17.09.02 Statistical Table for Above Report (Reference Document)***
- 06.27.08.01 AIF Guidelines and Allocations Memo/AIF Guidelines-Revised (Reference Document) (Dist. to Senate By E-Mail on 3/3/09 for 3/4/09 Meeting)***

Senator Kalter: The only change to the materials presented as Information Items on March 4 was the change in the number of faculty vacancies in Milner. That number is ten and the statistical table reference document will be revised to reflect that change. Senator Kalter summarized details of Executive Summary of the

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee recommendations for the Academic Impact Fund subsequent to the ten-year review. Briefly, the recommendations include a sunset clause that requires a decision within two years about rehiring a tenure-track faculty to fill a tenure-track line in the same department or relocating the tenure-track line to another department. Additionally, the committee made the assumption that the fund would be used more exclusively for tenure-track hiring/rehiring since summer school is no longer supported by the fund and the strain on the fund from the payouts for sick leave will gradually dwindle and, eventually, no longer exist. The committee also asked the Provost's Office to consider if the AIF was the best mechanism for the allocation of funds for tenure-track hiring.

Motion XXXX-: By Senator Kalter to approve the recommendations for the AIF.

Senator Borg: Senator Borg asked Provost Everts to comment on the appropriateness of the recommendations and if she had objections to any of the recommendations.

Provost Everts: Provost Everts responded that many of the recommendations were due process of the data analysis done by Dr. Kay Moss and that they would provide the Provost's Office with opportunities for thought. She added that she did not agree with every point, but that this was the kind of canvas to have such a discussion.

She stated, 'Though I may not agree with all the recommendations, I respect the committee and their work and I want to thank the committee for their time and effort in this regard. I also appreciate the committee's overall support of AIF.'

The Senate unanimously approved the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee's Academic Impact Fund Recommendations.

Information Items:

03.05.09.02 Athletic Council Bylaws-Revised-Draft 3 – Proposed Blue Book Revision (Rules Committee)

Senator Solberg: The changes to the Athletic Council Bylaws, which is, essentially, the Athletic Council section of the Blue Book (Supplement to the Academic Senate Bylaws) centered around changes to make the titles within the bylaws consistent with NCAA titles. The Rules Committee did not approve one revision to the bylaws recommended by the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council requested that current members be given preference for an appointment for a second term. The Athletic Council's rationale was that there were many things to learn for any new member of the Council. The Rules Committee felt that that there were many new things to learn on most of the External Committees of the Senate and that if it gave preference to members of the Athletic Council members for reappointment, it might also have to give that same preference to members of the other committees of the Senate. Therefore, the committee did not approve the Athletic Council's recommendation. Additionally, the NCAA raised the issue about the name of the Council, itself, in that the name of the Council should be the "Athletics Council" rather than the "Athletic Council". The committee will take that recommendation under consideration. The bylaws will come before the Senate as an Action Item on April 8, 2009.

03.05.09.03 Library Committee Bylaws-Revised-Draft 1 – Proposed Blue Book Revision (Rules Committee)

Senator Solberg: Most of the changes to Library Committee Bylaws were to improve the language therein. Item number three of the bylaws, "To advocate for the resources, facilities, and personnel that maintains and strengthens Milner Library's role as one of the finest libraries in the region.", was replaced with "To advise the library faculty on student and faculty needs and perspectives on library policies." Senator Kalter had previously suggested that some language remain in the bylaws about improving the quality of the library. The

Rules Committee will take the recommendation under consideration. The bylaws will come before the Senate as an Action Item on April 8, 2009.

Adjournment

Motion XXXX-: By Senator Long, seconded by Senator Preston, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.