

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 22, 2009
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

[Attendance and Motions](#)

Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2009

Motion XXXX-: By Senator Abdalla, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of April 8, 2009. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: First, I would like to thank everyone for a very good year. We have gotten quite a few things done. For those who will not be with us next year, we have certificates of appreciation. Those students who will return to the Senate next year will also receive certificates. I want to welcome Senator Spialek as the incoming Student Body President. Senator Bragg, you will be missed. The university is better for you having been here. Tomorrow and Thursday are the days that have been scheduled as call-in days for people who are concerned about the potential changes in the state pension plan.

Student certificates were distributed by the outgoing Student Body President, Ted Mason. Faculty and staff certificates were distributed by the Academic Senate Secretary, Susan Kalter. Three additional certificates were distributed by the Academic Senate Chairperson, Dan Holland. Those certificates were for Senators Mason, Borg and Bragg. Senator Ted Mason received a Certificate of Appreciation as the Student Body President/Academic Senate Vice Chairperson for "Excellence in Service". Senator Paul Borg received a Certificate of Appreciation in "Celebration of his Sesquicentennial Anniversary as a Member of the Academic Senate and in Anticipation of His of Continued Service on the Senate in Spring 2010". Steve Bragg, Vice President for Finance and Planning, received a Certificate of Appreciation for "Exemplary Service as a Member of the Academic Senate".

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Spialek: The Student Government Association voted April 15th to approve the creation of a Sustainability Secretary within the cabinet. The person in this position will serve on the Climate Task Force, which is overseeing the President's Climate Commitment and the university's climate action plan. The secretary will also work with Campus Dining, ARH and other green RSOs in ensuring that the campus community is pursuing sustainable initiatives. This past Sunday, SGA held their annual passing of the gavel. The new executive officers and the elected senators were sworn in at the ceremony. Vice President Eric Fettner and I are now accepting applications for appointed senator positions and Executive Director Jacqueline Krug is accepting applications for cabinet positions. Finally, we want to thank Former President Ted Mason and his administration for their help in a smooth transition and their year of service to ISU.

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman

President Bowman: The Association of Governing Boards of universities and colleges surveyed quite a

large number of public universities. Eighty percent of the governing boards reported that they are dealing with state budget cuts this year. The campus situation is certainly better here than it is in other states.

You may have seen a report in the newspapers about a health insurance proposal. It is a rather draconian proposal that would result in much higher monthly premiums for state employees, as much as a 4,000% increase. It is not very likely that anything quite that dramatic will pass. There are a lot of questions about whether pension annuity payments could be impacted by changes in legislation. I have lifted a line out of the Illinois Constitution, which says that "Membership in any pension or retirement system shall be an enforceable, contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired". That, of course, wouldn't apply to things like health insurance changes, but in terms of the annuity that is promised to current employees and retirees, that simply cannot change. It is hard to know where the 8 to 10% proposal for employee contributions will go. It is probably likely that we will see an increase to 10%.

Our private fundraising this year to date is pretty close to where it was at this time last year. We have about \$6.5 million in new gifts this year so far. It is within \$80,000 of where it was last year, which is just remarkable. We would like to be raising anywhere from \$800,000 to \$1 million per month. We are in the \$500,000 to \$600,000 per month range and that is pretty healthy, especially given what is going on with the economy. If you include estate gifts in our new gifts this year, we are over the \$7 million mark.

We hosted a dinner for faculty and staff who have won a million dollars or more in grants and contracts. Rod Custer and his colleague, Scott Sakaluk, organized the dinner at the Alumni Center on Monday night. We looked back at our record over the last 20 years or so. In the 1980s, we were bringing in between \$2 million and \$5 million a year in grants and contracts. In the 90s, that moved to between \$8 million and \$9 million a year. During this decade, it has hovered between \$18 million and \$20 million. In fiscal year 08, we had a record high of \$22.3 million in grants and contracts.

Provost Sheri Everts

Provost Everts: I would like to extend my congratulations and gratitude to Vice President Bragg for his many years of service to higher education at ISU. Selfishly, I wish I had a lot longer to learn with and from you. Steve, the other Vice Presidents and I consider it an honor to have known you.

The Office of Admissions' weekly application analysis indicates a continued increase over this time last year in total freshman applications received. The new freshmen academic profile is at 24.8 average ACT and I believe, President Bowman, that that is the highest ACT ever at Illinois State.

President Bowman: That is correct.

Provost Everts: Michael Beschloss, an award-winning author, will be on campus tomorrow for a question and answer session at Milner Library at 2:00 p.m. and a 7:00 p.m. speech at the Bone Student Center. Also, tomorrow, Curt White's Distinguished Professor lecture performance will begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Center for Performing Arts.

Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams

Vice President Adams: I have worked with Steve Bragg for the last 15 years and have had the honor and pleasure of working with him as vice president for the last three years. As Provost Everts and President Bowman said, the vice presidents have had a very good relationship. Vice President Bragg is someone we are definitely going to miss.

I want to congratulate Ted Mason for serving as the Student Body President and the President of SGA this year. Ted, his Vice President, Tim Flaherty, and the Executive Director, Leslie Bixby, were all recognized last Sunday at the passing of the gavel. Congratulations to Matt Spialek and Eric Fettner, as the incoming President and Vice President of the Student Body, respectively, and to Jacqueline Krug as the incoming Executive Director of SGA. Mike Spialek was named as the Student Government Association member of the year. Brandon Thornton was named the Academic Senator of the Year. So congratulations to you both. Geno Bagnuolo will be the first Student Trustee to serve consecutive terms. I think that speaks very highly of him.

There was a cultural dinner held in the Prairie Room on Monday night that featured Dr. Sylvia Earle, who is a well renowned oceanographer, a noted author, and founder of Google Oceans. Congratulations to the housing area, the dining area, ARH, SGA and many others in the sponsorship of that event. It was a wonderful program.

Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg

Senator Bragg: There are lots of things going on in the Division of Finance and Planning. We are very busy, but, with your indulgence and your permission, I would like to forego those comments and focus my remarks on something a little different. First of all, thank you all for your acknowledgements and thank you for your kind and generous words. Thank you, President Bowman, Provost Everts and Vice President Adams. It truly has been an honor to work with all of you and our colleagues on campus. For me, the past 15 years has been like a prolonged post-op experience. If you are a student of higher education, you couldn't have asked for a better position than I have had. I feel like one of the luckiest guys in the world.

Twenty to twenty-five years ago, I had the opportunity to work at the Board of Higher Education and to get a good comparative perspective on all of the public universities. I thought to myself then that the only school that I wanted to work at was Illinois State University—for lots of reason. Some of the main reasons were because of the kind of institution it was, because of the values that were held here and because of the structure and orientation of the institution. I got the chance to work here and I turned out to be right.

This institution, I think, has transformed itself more than any other public university in Illinois. That is a tribute to you and your colleagues. That came about by the labor of a lot of people, a lot hard work over the last 15 years, and a lot of vision. I will acknowledge Paul Borg. Paul, you were there at the beginning of all of this and thank you very much for everything that you contributed.

I see nothing but a bright future for Illinois State University. This economy will slow things up for a couple of years, but I think that after you get through that, there is *nothing* but good news in the future for Illinois State University and I look forward to following it. Thank you very much for everything you have done for me.

Senator Kalter: The English Department has been talking about Stevenson. I just want to bring up some concerns that are coming up. Thanks to Dr. Bragg, we have gotten the money to replace the plumbing and the windows. Our staff and faculty are concerned, of course, about how the summer is going to go. Half of us will still be in the building. After taking a poll of the nine staff members who work in English, at least seven or eight of them said, 'Please don't move us back out of the building.' So they really don't want to be disrupted in their work again, but there are concerns about the asbestos work and the noise and dust that is going to be kicked up this summer.

What they asked, essentially, is that there be some central leadership about a couple of things: having them to be able to work from home without penalty; having them always to be able to have access to a bathroom in

the building, itself; and not to get docked. Apparently, they are docked in terms of pay or sick leave or vacation time some time during the year when, apparently, some of the dust and things were causing people to go home with migraines or what have you. Some of those people had to take sick leave even though it was caused by the construction in the building. So I let them know that, as senators, we would advocate for those three things and ask you to please be gentle with us and allow us, especially our staff members, who don't get paid enough for what they do, to work from home whenever they need to this summer and into the fall semester.

President Bowman: We will do everything possible to minimize the disruption. I don't know enough about the timing of the work schedule this summer, so I can't promise that we can do everything that you have asked, but we will certainly look very carefully at what can be done so that we don't penalize the people that have to work in the building.

Senator Ellerton: Can I echo those comments as another inhabitant of Stevenson on behalf of those teaching summer school? Though we can work from home, we cannot duplicate materials, get other supplies, take books out our offices and so on, so I plead on the behalf of those teaching summer that, again, they be thought of in any arrangements for the building. If, for example, the building is not deemed to be suitable for movement on certain days, I would ask that alternative photocopying, certainly advance notice, which I gather will be given, and alternative arrangements be made for what would be routine requirements.

Vice President Bragg: I know that you are aware of the weekly newsletter that has been created and gone out now for the last three weeks that addresses some of these concerns, along with the web page that has been created. People are working on increasing the functionality on both the newsletter and the webpage so that it becomes a truly interactive document. Some of these concerns have already been addressed in the newsletter and on that webpage. They will continue to be addressed throughout the summer. Some of your colleagues are on the technical committee, which is producing those documents and addressing those concerns. As the President said, the number one priority of members of my staff and your colleagues on that technical team is to address those concerns.

Senator Klitzing: You mentioned a newsletter. Is that going to everyone who is in Stevenson? As part of KNR, we were relocated there and I don't know that I have been getting any information about any of that. Is that a newsletter that is going out to everyone in Stevenson?

Vice President Bragg: I believe it is going out to everyone whose departments are located in Stevenson. In your particular case, because KNR is temporarily located there, it may not have gone to you. I will make sure that you are added to that list.

Senator Klitzing: What is the address of the website?

Vice President Bragg: I don't have that here with me, but I can send it to Cynthia and she can send it to everyone on the Academic Senate.

NOTE: Technical updates are posted weekly at: http://www.facilitiesplanning.ilstu.edu/projects/projects/turner_stevenson_life_safety.shtml

Committee Reports: No Reports

Action Items:

03.26.09.01 2009-10 Institutional Goals and Priorities Report (Planning and Finance Committee)
(Please See Senate Packet of 4/8/09 for this Report)

Senator Fazel: At the last meeting, we presented the 2009-2010 Institutional Goals and Priorities Report to the Senate and tonight we are asking the Senate to approve the document.

Motion XXXX-: By Senator Fazel to endorse the priorities report. The report was unanimously endorsed.

04.10.09.01 Baccalaureate Degree Programs Policy – Time Limit for Courses as Prerequisites
(Formerly Presented to the Senate as the “Baccalaureate Degree Policy – Ten-Year Limit for Course Prerequisites”, an Information Item, on 2/18/09) (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Stewart: After discussion, the committee recommended setting the limit at seven or more years so as not to disadvantage non-traditional and transfer students, as well as our native students, who, for many reasons, sometimes need more time to finish their degrees. The Academic Affairs Committee strongly advises that the new prerequisite be applied only after very careful consideration.

Motion XXXX-: By Senator Stewart to endorse the addition of the “Time Limit for Courses as Prerequisites” section to the Baccalaureate Degree Programs Policy.

Senator Borg: The actual wording change in university policy is the highlighted section on page 4 and that is all that we are adopting as official language.

Senator Holland: This does not necessarily apply to every class. It is a course-by-course item to be instituted if a department feels that the information would be completely out of date after seven years.

Senator Stewart: Yes, and it is a department decision; you have to put it in the catalog.

The Academic Senate unanimously endorsed the “Time Limit for Courses as Prerequisites” as part of the Baccalaureate Degree Programs Policy.

Information Items:

03.06.09.02 College of Arts and Sciences Bylaws-Revised (Rules Committee)

Senator Solberg: There were a number of changes to the College of Arts and Sciences Bylaws and there is one new change. I spoke with the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences yesterday. Page 1 now includes non-tenure track faculty, as well as tenure-track faculty. The asterisk moves it over to page 2. The underlined language there says that from this point forward, “faculty” refers to tenure-track faculty as well as non-tenure track faculty. The major changes in the document involve the College Council’s procedures for various things.

Number 8, on page 2, refers to selecting the Research Proposal Review Committee, College Curriculum Committee, etc. When I talked to the Associate Dean yesterday, she said that this is just reflective of what is being done. In number 9, they have added “Distinguished” just prior to “Lecturers”. Item D. is ‘The College Council Chair shall appoint one member of the Council to work with the Dean’s designee(s) to select scholarship recipients.’ That is there because there are typically rules that donors have for our various scholarship recipients. That, again, is reflective of what is going on now. They have struck “designing, maintaining and annually revising the College web page”. That has been reworded with the language in E.

Moving on to Article III, B.1., this simply reflects the name change of the Department of BSC to the School of BSC and, similarly, Speech Pathology and Audiology is now Communication Sciences and Disorders. On

page 3, they have added “or school” after “No department”. Item E allows students to serve consecutive terms on the College Councils. Similarly, III.F. indicates that staff and non-tenure track faculty are able to serve consecutive terms.

In Article IV.D., they have added “faculty” because that includes non-tenure track faculty and they wanted to distinguish that. There was some concern regarding theoretical things that might happen for excused and unexcused absences, so they wanted to be clear that they may declare a seat vacant if you have three consecutive, unexcused absences. Further down on the page, the language, “shall remain vacant no more than three months” was stricken. This allows for more flexibility since it is sometimes difficult to fill the vacancies. In F, they have added “if possible” to ‘the seat declared vacant shall be filled by the runner up’ since there is not always a runner-up. Otherwise, the elections committee will be directed to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

On page 4, number 5 reflects what currently happens. Elections are held in conjunction with the College Faculty Status Committee. On page 5, C.2. is where I will need to be advised about whether I need a friendly amendment. The former language was “The College Council’s Election Committee shall work with the University Student Government to devise a method for electing two student representatives...” They have done that already. So, in talking with the Associate Dean yesterday, she felt that it would be more appropriate to simply say, “The College Elections Committee shall elect two students...” and strike the language “devise a method” to make that clear. “Distinguished” has been added to item D of Article VIII. They have also added “College Service Award Committee.” They have always done that, but it was not included in the text of the bylaws.

In Item E, they have added “Elected members shall serve on at most two College Council standing committees”. They have stricken “No person except the Dean shall be a member of more than two...” because the dean is not an elected member of that committee.

On page 13, Appendix B, Item I refers to what currently goes on. It is always done at the last meeting, so to reflect that, they have stricken “first” and “Fall” and added “last” and “Spring” so the sentence reads, “Prior to the last meeting in the Spring, the College Council will solicit nominations...” In II, “the Director of the College Research Office” was stricken because there is no such person. They have opted to go with “an optional second Dean designee”.

On page 14, in Appendix E, the “College Council Scholarship Committee” was stricken because that is not the name of the committee. They have replaced that with the appropriate name, which is the “Nomination Committee”. Additionally, they have added an Appendix F and an Appendix G. They have added language for a College Teaching Award Committee and how that is to be made up. Similarly, they have added language for a College Service Award Committee and how that would be made up. There was nothing in the bylaws about the service and teaching award committees. There was an appendix for the Research Proposal Committee, so they thought that it would be appropriate to have an appendix for each of those committees as well.

Senator Kalter: I have two questions. One of them pertains to page 3, Article III.F., the terms for staff and non-tenure track faculty. I am wondering if they might want to consider an ultimate term limit on that. With the student one, it seems unnecessary because students will eventually go on to other things. I could imagine, though it is unlikely, that somebody could be elected several years in a row and that that might not be preferable, given the parallel with the faculty terms.

My second question pertains to Article V.C.2. on page 5. That is the one about which you had a question about a friendly amendment. I was wondering what method they chose. In other words, who does elect the student representatives?

Senator Solberg: Article III.B. states, “Three faculty and two students shall be elected from each of the following groups of departments:”, but to answer your question specifically, I will have to ask the Associate Dean.

Senator Borg: On page 5, Article V.C.2. states specifically that the College Elections Committee elects them.

Senator Solberg: Thanks, Paul, and it tells which groups they have to come from in Article III.B.

Senator Kalter: What is the makeup of that committee?

Senator Solberg: Appendix B, item I.A. states that the committee shall be comprised of at least three persons, at least one from each group.

Senator Kalter: The point of my question was to find out if students elect students or if faculty and staff elect students. It isn't completely clear from the description of the Elections Committee.

Senator Solberg: I will look into that.

Senator Abdalla: Students are nominated by the Chair of the Department and then ultimately (elected) in a popular election.

Senator Mallory: Do the bylaws come with some endorsement from the college? Have the faculty already had some say about them before they come to the Senate?

Senator Solberg: There was a bylaws committee and it came out of there. I believe the Associate Dean was the person most involved in that. I would assume that there was faculty input, but I did not ask specifically if there was a vote on those.

Senator Holland: This probably came through the College Council. As far as a popular vote among faculty, there has not been such an occurrence, but our elected representatives to the College Council, theoretically, did vote.

Senator Borg: “School” in “school of Social Work” should have a capital “S”.

Senator Ellerton: Is there a College Research Award Committee? If so, is it parallel in terms of the structure of the other committees?

Senator Solberg: My understanding is that the College Council wanted to reflect the process of the college service awards and college teaching awards procedures. They thought that those two items deserved a place in the bylaws to make it more official for those committees. To answer your question, I might defer to somebody in the know about research over there.

Senator Holland: I served on the Research Proposal Review Committee a number of years ago. As I recall,

one of the duties was selecting the outstanding college researcher, but the main thing was reading URGs.

Senator Solberg: Is that sufficient?

Senator Ellerton: Yes, I just wondered in terms of the visible status of those awards. There seems to be a similar status between the college teaching award and the research award, yet there does not seem to be a similar status to the committee structure that makes those decisions.

The College of Arts and Sciences Bylaws will come before the Academic Senate as an Action Item on May 6, 2009.

04.09.09.03 Proficiency Examination Policy-Revised (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Stewart: This is an attempt to bring the policy in line with the undergraduate catalog. All of the changes were made to align with the catalog or to help inform students about how they can go about taking exams to allow them to move to a higher course.

The policy will come before the Senate as an Action Item on May 6, 2009.

Advisory Item:

03.12.09.02 Academic Calendar for 2013-2014 (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee)

Senator Kalter: What you have before you is to notify you of what the Academic Calendar for 2013-14 will be. You will notice that, based on the chart on the third page, it has come down to a fine science in terms of how we determine dates. You may also notice that there is at least one typo there. It should say that for 2013, on the bottom line, the first day of fall classes is in August, not in January. That means that there is at least one more typo in here because I remember telling the committee about another one, which I can't find right now.

You have on the other page the dates of the holidays, registration, first day of classes and things like that.

As I think I said last time during my committee report, there are so many considerations that go into making this calendar: when faculty start and stop getting paid, when the holidays are, how they run grades. How they run grades is very time consuming and they basically have no leeway if something happens to go wrong with the computer. Grades have to get out for all kinds of reasons that really have nothing to do with students wanting to know if they got an A on their final exam. Examples are financial aid, graduation, teacher certification, academic probation and athletics. That's only five of I think eight things that we talked about. We did talk this year about whether we could move the calendar so that we had two weeks after Thanksgiving and, essentially, just gave it up. There was just no way without doing something like moving Thanksgiving. We really tried.

Communications:

Senator Abdalla: In spite of the recent cancellation of the Latin Program, the Classics Club on campus is experiencing a resurgence. If any members of the faculty or anyone else know of classical programs in the area, or have any interest in the club, please talk to me afterwards.

Senator Borg: *Julius Cesar* opened either last night or tonight at the University Theatre. The Distinguished Professor Lecture is, in fact, part of a concert for the University Symphony, which will be performed tomorrow night.

Senator Stewart: The Student Annual opened last week, I believe. It is an excellent show. It is still up and in Galleries II and III. Every week there is a new BFA show with two students exhibiting. There are just unbelievable works both in the Student Annual and the BFA shows.

Adjournment

Motion XXXX-: To adjourn by Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Hoelscher. The motion was unanimously approved.