

Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 2009
(Approved)

Call to Order

Academic Senate Vice Chairperson Matt Spialek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Seating of New Senate

The new membership of the Senate becomes official at the last Senate meeting annually in May. The new members of the Academic Senate were seated and acknowledged.

Roll Call

The Senate Vice Chairperson called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2009

Motion XXXX-: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Holland, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of April 22, 2009. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of the Senate Chairperson

Dan Holland, PHY, was unanimously elected as the Academic Senate Chairperson for 2009-10.

Election of the Senate Secretary

Susan Kalter, ENG, was unanimously elected as the Academic Senate Secretary for 2009-10.

Election of Members of Senate Executive Committee

The following faculty members were unanimously elected as the faculty representatives of the Academic Senate Executive Committee:

Farzaneh Fazel, COB

Linda Wedwick, COE

Ed Stewart, CFA

Angela Bonnell, Milner Library

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: Welcome to the Senate. I think that you will find this a very interesting experience. You will learn a lot about how the university operates. You are doing very valuable service for the university. The parking permits you received are only valid during scheduled Academic Senate meetings. With the permit, you may park in the Bone Student Center Parking Lot for free.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Spialek: Last Monday, Senator Katie Colaric, along with the ISU Police, held an informational meeting about the Students on Patrol Program. The program will allow students to essentially act as the eyes and ears of the campus. They will patrol specific areas in and around the quad at night and hopefully, with their presence, deter criminal activity. Students will also be able to have members of this organization walk them home at night to the residence halls.

Our on-campus senators worked with Arlene Hosea of Campus Dining to inform students about the upcoming Watterson dining center renovations. Some of these same senators met with Health Services to

reestablish the Student Health Advisory Board. Some of our off-campus senators met with Michael Zajac of Off-Campus Student Services yesterday. I think that this reflects that our administration is committed to making outreach to all different units on campus, sustain relationships we already have, and build some new ones.

The Student Government Association elected our Assembly Officers. They are Mike Carnahan, President of the Assembly, Alexandra Hochhauser, Vice President of the Assembly, and Mary McMahan, Secretary of the Assembly. The Assembly Officers, along with the Student Body President, also serve as the student representatives on the Academic Senate Executive Committee.

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman

President Bowman: In Springfield, the Governor continues to push for a tax increase, capital bill and the ethics reforms that were recommended by his commission. But today he backed away from the proposal to ask, at least teachers, to pay an additional 2% towards their pensions. Now whether the term “teachers” includes university faculty, I don’t know. Still on the table is a two-tiered pension system that would involve a new “deal” for new employees. Another item still on the table is a plan to cut some of the public employee health insurance costs. There is a third plan to skim literally billions of dollars from the pension funds in order to patch the hole in the budget. If they go to a two-tiered pension system, that will provide the door that would allow them to reduce the state’s contribution.

The Republicans are saying that it is not fair to raise taxes without cutting spending and streamlining state operations. Senator Cullerton is saying now that he is open to a temporary tax increase. Senator Cullerton has also been pushing gaming as a way to help close the budget gap. Yesterday, House Speaker Madigan closed the door on gaming and said that he would not move any gaming bills forward. So that effectively closes that door, at least for now. Speaker Madigan has been quietly meeting with small groups of members and telling them that a tax hike is eminent and that state budget cuts are unavoidable. He has been asking members to prioritize state programs. Again, it is too early to tell where it is all going.

The Governor’s proposal for us is a 1.3% increase that would take us up to \$86.2 million. For people that are new to the Senate, in 2002, our state appropriation was \$92 million, so we have fallen and, from our current state appropriation, we pay \$3.2 million in group health insurance on behalf of our employees. That is an expenditure that was picked up by the state until 2002.

The Board of Trustees meeting on Friday will include a couple of items that have been talked about in the press. We decided to postpone tuition rate increases until the July meeting. It gives us a chance to see exactly what the General Assembly is going to do. The Governor has made a commitment to higher education and we would like to do everything to keep our tuition increases as low as possible. A new building is being constructed on North and Fell Streets, where the former church was located. If the Board approves, we would like to lease significant space in that building that could be used for surge space. We are assuming that at some point there will be a capital bill that will allow us to renovate the fine arts space. We have other capital projects on the horizon and we will need a lot of space to house faculty and staff.

Yesterday, Vice President Ashby took the total emersion method in Finance and Planning with a conference call with Moody’s credit rating agency. As you know, the State’s credit rating was downgraded about a month ago. As a result of that, they are looking at public university finances. They did not single us out; they are doing this for everyone. They were interested in our cash liquidity, our balance sheet, tuition revenues,

enrollment, etc. We have a very good story. They have seen our numbers and they have a lot of confidence in us. So it was a very positive meeting. They ended with, 'Everything looks good. You are very strong. The only problem is that you are located in the State of Illinois.' We expect to hold onto the current credit rating, but we think we may lose the "positive outlook".

We have another very strong pool of freshman and transfer applicants. We had 1,800 students apply who had ACTs of 28 or better. It is a very diverse pool. There is a 22% increase in admitted African-American students and a 33% increase in admitted Latino students. We are hoping that those turn into enrolled students. The fundraising efforts are very strong this year. We have seen virtually no impact on private fundraising by the economy. The search is going on for the Finance and Planning Vice President. There is a lot of interest in the position. We are getting recommendations from both in state and out of state. People are nominating some very strong candidates.

Senator Borg: Who is on the committee for the Vice President for Finance and Planning search?

President Bowman: The Chair is George Rutherford from Physics.

Senator Borg: The Caucus nominated six faculty members, of which three were to be selected.

President Bowman: Lane Crothers was selected, but I can't remember the other two.

Senator Kalter: Can we assume that they have already started dipping into our pension funds?

President Bowman: That was a Blagojevich strategy in 2005. They sort of came up with a two-year plan to reduce their contribution to patch the hole in the budget. This time around if they agree on a two-tiered system, which I think is a foregone conclusion, then they legitimately can say that their future obligation is lower; 'therefore, we will take the savings now and use that to fill the \$11 billion gap'. The piece that I don't know a lot about is what will happen to the proposals to increase our contribution to our health insurance.

Senator Holland: If they do go through with increasing our healthcare contributions, would that be for this year? That could make a significant impact on which health plan we choose and we only have until June 30th to do so.

President Bowman: I believe that they are looking to add a second benefits choice period. They must be looking down the road at the possibilities and giving people a second chance to choose.

· ***Provost Sheri Everts***

Provost Everts: In regard to an enrollment update, the fall 2009 freshman applications are over 14,000, which is a small increase over this time last year. The increase in the applicant pool has allowed us to increase selectivity, as shown by the admitted student profile of 24.8 ACT and 3.49 GPA, which is the highest ACT ever at Illinois State. As the President mentioned, the number of applicants with an ACT of 28 or above has increased 18% over this time last year. Applications from new transfer students have increased 1% at over 4,500 and the average transfer GPA is 3.16, which is absolutely identical to this time last year.

Senator Kalter: Do you have the numbers for admitted Native American and Asian students?

Provost Everts: I don't have those with me, but I can certainly get those. They were not in the enrollment

report this week.

· ***Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams***

Vice President Adams: The residence halls are emptying right now. Move-out continues in earnest this week. We had 6,100 students in the residence halls this fall. That number will increase to around 6,700, with space reconfigurations, when Manchester Hall comes back online in the fall of this year. The residence halls close officially at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, but those individuals who have requested extended time will be granted that for commencement and so on. The reopening of the residence halls is next Sunday. About 200 students will be moving in and starting classes on Monday. It is a challenge for the residence halls staff, as well as Facilities Management, to turn those rooms around. There are two commencement ceremonies on Friday, one at 4:00 p.m., Mennonite College of Nursing, and then another at 7:00 p.m., the College of Arts and Sciences. There are four ceremonies on Saturday, the College of Education at 9:00 a.m., the College of Applied Science and Technology at 12:30 p.m., the College of Business at 4:00 p.m. and the College of Fine Arts at 7:00 p.m. I think that there is somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,100 undergraduate and graduate students who will be going through commencement.

This building has seen the opening of a new space that had previously been opened, but not for a long time. That new space now is the atrium lounge. There will be grand opening in the lounge in the fall. It is a really neat area and I think it is going to become very popular for our students and our faculty and staff. The Executive Director for the Student Fitness and Kinesiology Building search is getting down to crunch time. We have narrowed the final six down to three. Those interviews will take place in May and June. We are looking forward to having someone on board by this summer or early fall. It will be about a year and a half before the building is completed.

· ***Interim Vice President of Finance and Planning Dianne Ashby***

Vice President Ashby: I have learned a few things in my few days of doing double duty. One is that the responsibilities of the Vice President for Finance and Planning are very complex. Second, no matter how much energy I have or how fast I work, I cannot do two jobs in the time that it took me to do one.

Yesterday, I had another emergent experience besides Moody's. All of the Vice Presidents for Finance and Planning from around the state met at our Alumni Center, along with representatives from the Board of Higher Education and three representatives from the Governor's office. We spent a great deal of time talking about the federal stimulus money that would be coming to Illinois and the amount of that would come to education. I am cautiously optimistic about President Bowman's prediction of at least even funding for us for the next year and maybe a little bit more because apparently in order to accept stimulus money, the state has to guarantee to not cut jobs in education. A whole lot of money is going to K-12 education and a little bit of money is coming to higher education. If they do figure out how to hold us harmless for the next year, it will be in thanks to the stimulus money that is coming our way.

The state is counting on tax money coming in from whatever the new tax package is in order to fill the hole that might be left from stimulus money holding us harmless for a year. They are also counting on some bonding that they are going to be doing in the meantime to help pay the bills for the state. They are currently four months behind on our bills. We have just hit the four-month mark. I have heard the same thing about the health insurance—that there will be second benefits choice period. The capital bill is still looking likely. We still don't know the contents or the specifics, but we have a lot of reasons to be optimistic.

Regarding gifts and giving, I keep going into President Bowman's office and saying, 'I thought I was going

to be bringing you bad news about giving, but I am not.' In FY08, new gifts to the institution were slightly over \$10 million. We are sitting at about \$8.5 million now, which puts us on track for somewhere between nine and ten or possibly a little over ten in new gifts. People really do believe in us and it is also a credit to the development directors who are out there talking to people at a time when investments aren't so good. It is also partly a credit to our own faculty and staff with the Gladly We Give Campaign. We would like to get to a point where we have 40 to 50% of our faculty and staff giving. Those numbers are coming up. It is actually the number of people who give that helps us communicate to foundations and corporations that we are worthy investments. Caterpillar is likely to come through with another gift for us, though probably at less than the past. They have a very generous matching gift program; we hope that remains. ADM continues to give. State Farm has just announced a significant two-year gift to us and Country Companies has also come through this year at level funding.

I know that issues about Stevenson and Turner are big deals here. I have a quite of bit of detail in front of me. The work on the restrooms on the first and second floors has begun. Asbestos abatement will begin next week. The restroom rehab will be phased, but there won't always be a restroom open on every floor. The Capital Development Board has recorded three vendors on window replacement, which has slowed that down a little bit. As soon as we can get through the bid process, the work on replacing those windows will begin. It will be started this summer and hopefully completed in the very early fall. The process for replacing the windows in the curtain walls, those are the walls in the stairwells, means that we have to remove the entire exterior wall. That means that some people are going to have to move again and all of the furniture will have to come out of the room. The process of replacing the remaining windows means replacing the old windows and patching, painting and plastering around the windows. That will be a three- to four-day process in each case, which means that some people are going to have to pack up and move, at least temporarily, or have things covered during that period of time.

We have committed to have facilities folks and BSWs to doing the packing. We will pay for the boxing. We are committed to having Building Service Workers come in and clean before people come back into to their offices, to having technology folks take apart the technology and put it back, to do everything we can to make this unpleasant moment as comfortable and convenient as we possibly can. There is a website linked to the Media Relations website called "Building Updates". You can also submit questions at IllinoisState.edu to get more details.

In terms of Turner, some modular facilities are being brought in. They will be in the parking lot at the corner of Locust Street and Normal Avenue, directly across from the Bone Student Center here. The facility will have ADA access. There will be windows on all four sides and that will be ready for occupancy shortly after the Fourth of July. Modular furniture has been ordered for that space and we will start moving people out probably the week of July 6th from Turner.

President Bowman alluded to the fact that we have identified and will hopefully get permission to lease some surge space in Uptown Normal so that as we continue renovations around campus, we will have places to move people. We certainly learned from this project. It is harder to remodel around folks than we thought so we are going to try to not have to do it this way again.

Senator Stier: Does the move out of Turner still involve modular buildings?

Vice President Ashby: Yes, it does.

Senator Stier: That is not the latest I was told.

Vice President Ashby: Well, it was the latest I was told right here in black and white. I actually saw a map this afternoon of where those modulars will go.

Senator Stier: Are they moving faculty into those modular buildings?

Vice President Ashby: According to what I have, we have people going to several places...some people going to Williams, some to modular faculty office buildings, some to the Bowling and Billiards Center. There are two little houses up here on North School in North Normal where some folks will be. It is possible that we will be actually moving people, and I don't think it's faculty, into the Campus Religious Center. One person is moving into the Ropp Ag Building and possibly one person is moving into the College of Business. According to what I have in front of me, 24 people are moving into a modular facility.

Senator Stier: Would we have been notified if we were going to the modular facilities.

Vice President Ashby: I would assume so, yes. You should know if you were one of those folks.

Senator Stier: The last I was told, I was going to Williams.

Vice President Ashby: Yes, it looks to me as if there are 30 people going to Williams.

Action Items:

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

04.23.09.02 *CAS Bylaws - Editorial Revisions Discussed at 4/22/09 Senate Meeting (Rules Committee)*

Motion XXXX: By Senator Solberg to approve the revised College of Arts and Sciences bylaws, with the additional editorial revisions noted in document 04.23.09.02. The bylaws, as amended, were unanimously approved.

04.09.09.03 *Proficiency Examination Policy-Revised (Academic Affairs Committee)*

Senator Stewart: The policy was revised to bring it in line with the undergraduate catalog and to make clarifications.

Motion XXXX: By Senator Stewart to approve the Proficiency Examination Policy, as revised. The policy was unanimously approved.

Information/Action Item:

Senate Meeting Schedule for 2009-2010

All meetings were scheduled to be held in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center, with the exception of the February 17, 2010 meeting which was to be held in the Bowling and Billiards Room. Since that space will be used to house faculty from Turner Hall, the secretary for the Academic Senate will arrange for an alternate meeting location for February 17, 2010.

Motion XXXX: By Senator Fazel, seconded by Senator Stewart, to move the meeting schedule to action. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXX: By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the meeting schedule. The meeting

schedule was unanimously approved with the exception of the meeting location for February 17th.

NOTE: Following the meeting, the secretary for the Academic Senate arranged for the February 17, 2010 meeting to be held in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center.

Advisory Item:

04.29.09.01 Academic Plan 2009-2014 (Associate Provost Jan Murphy)

Associate Provost Jan Murphy: The Academic Planning Committee is an External Committee of the Academic Senate composed of eight faculty members. Two of those faculty members are Senate representatives. The other six are college representatives. There are two student members on the committee and then three Administrative Professionals. We have had a busy year, though it has not been as busy as some years. We have an NCATE year in about three years and we may need two Academic Planning Committees that year.

It has been an outstanding committee to work with. I want to recognize the members of the committee. We have had Dan Holland and Frank Waterstraat serving as the two Academic Senate representatives. Margo Coleman, CAST, Mohamed Nur-Awaleh, COE, Linda Willis-Fisher, CFA, Nathalie op de Beeck, CAS, Edgar Norton, COB, and Ted Schwitzner, Milner, were our college faculty representatives. Chelsea Merth and Stephanie Winzer were our undergraduate and graduate representatives, respectively. Kimberly Nance, Mardell Wilson and I serve on that committee as well.

The table of contents kinds of gives you a sense of what the committee does in terms of pulling together the Academic Plan. The first two or three sections really deal with planning documents. Section four represents the bulk of the work that the committee conducted during the course of the year and that was looking at the program reviews that departments submitted. We have approximately 165 degree programs in 35 academic units at ISU. Those programs are on an eight-year cycle of program review as mandated by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The departments provide the program reviews to the Academic Planning Committee after a year of self-study. The committee spends a year reviewing those reports, interviewing department chairpersons when necessary, asking questions if there is something in the reports that don't quite make sense, making recommendations, writing summaries and then presenting to the Senate the summaries of those reports and the recommendations. This year, there were nine full reviews. We had outstanding reviews this year. Those departments that submitted reports this year did an outstanding job of doing very thorough and solid self-studies of their programs. You will see in the Academic Plan the summaries, but the full 20 to 25-page full documentations of the self-studies remain on file in the Provost's Office

It is very common for us as a committee to require follow up documents from a department. This year, we reviewed 17 follow-up reports. Most of those deal with assessment. We are still a work in progress when it comes to developing assessment plans for each of those degree programs. Also, we have to do a three-year progress report whenever we develop a new degree program.

Senator Borg: I noticed that in the recommendations in all but one case there is a recommendation for elements of diversity either for student and/or faculty. How is that supported at the university level?

Associate Provost Murphy: In general terms, we don't tie dollars to our program review processes. Most of those recommendations come from the departments, themselves. We are kind of affirming those recommendations. When it comes to recommendations about diversifying our faculty and our student body, most of our programs are continuously working toward that. In terms of diversifying our student body, that is

something that Enrollment Management and Academic Services does. Jon Rosenthal might be better at reporting that to you. I am going to look to the Provost in terms of recruiting a more diverse faculty.

Provost Everts: There are a number of activities and processes in place and ongoing discussions in regard to how we can ensure that. I look forward to additional conversations about that. There are some national models for ideas that have worked that we want to bring to ISU.

Adjournment

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