

**SENATE FACULTY CAUCUS MINUTES****September 15, 2004****(Approved)****Call to Order**

Senator Crothers called the Senate Faculty Caucus to order immediately following the Senate meeting of September 15, 2004.

**Approval of Faculty Caucus Minutes of September 1, 2004**

**Motion:** By Senator Parette, seconded by Senator Wylie, to approve the Academic Senate Faculty Caucus Minutes of September 1, 2004. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Annuitants Association Presentation (Jan Cook, Tom Wilson)**

**Professor Emeritus Tom Wilson:** We are here this evening to provide the Faculty Caucus with information on the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) and ISU Annuitants Association (ISUAA) activities on behalf of faculty and staff members and retirees. SUAA is made up of approximately 13,000 members, most of whom are retirees, but the membership includes a number of survivors and "actives" (currently employed faculty and staff). The members are from the 12 public universities in Illinois, as well as the public community colleges.

The retirement systems in Illinois have gradually improved over a period of about 60 years. However, the funding of retirement system has always been a problem. Illinois has the largest unfunded liability of any state; the extent of the liability is about \$25 billion. The retirement system should be funded at a 90% level; that is, the assets should be at 190% in proportion to the liabilities. In general, we were successful in getting the State to fund the retirement systems with the exception of the State Employees Retirement System, which was not fully funded. SUAA also focused on the Governor's proposal to merge all of the state retirement systems into one unit, which would operate under one board. We also addressed the issue of survivor benefits. Survivor benefits are usually about 50% of the retiree's benefit; our goal is to get that increased to 60%. We are also concerned with federal issues, particularly Social Security offsets.

**Professor Emeritus Jan Cook:** The ISU Annuitants Association is a dues-supported volunteer organization. We are pleased to report that out of 2,000 retirees, over 1,200 have joined ISUAA. We are able to significantly contribute to the advocacy of higher education issues. Unlike currently employed faculty, we can attend hearings in Springfield and meet with our legislators on very short notice.

At the time of the initial budget crisis, the State Universities Annuitants Association set up a list serve and provided budget proposals, as well editorial and media responses from around the state, to those on the list serve. Now that we have a budget, this particular list serve is focusing more on the state of the pension system and is monitoring proposals to reconfigure the boards and the way in which pensions are funded. You are all welcome to join the list serve. You can subscribe to the list serve by sending an e-mail message to [majordormo@eiu.edu](mailto:majordormo@eiu.edu), subject: subscribe suaatalk. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information about ISUAA at [jmcook@ilstu.edu](mailto:jmcook@ilstu.edu).

**09.09.04.01 Academic Freedom Ethics and Grievance Committee Memo: Development of Procedures for Appeals**

**Senator Crothers:** The proposed memo to the Academic Freedom Ethics and Grievance Committee is a follow up to our prior discussion of the development of procedures for the Faculty Review Committee. For AFEGC appeals, there is a standard template for the way in which results are reported. However, there is no standard template for the FRC as part of that AFEGC process. Therefore, the Executive Committee is now asking the caucus to direct the Academic Freedom and Grievance Committee to develop procedures for handling the appeals that would come to that committee from the FRC through the appeal process.

**Senator Borg:** I notice that on the last page, within the excerpt from the ASPT document, that it still refers to the

separate committees (Academic Freedom Committee and Ethics and Grievance Committee) instead of the combined committee (Academic Freedom, Ethics and Grievance Committee), so we do need to revise all such references.

**Senator Crothers:** That would be an appropriate task for the Rules Committee to address; however, we have not yet given them that charge.

**Motion:** By Senator Reid, seconded by Senator Schlenker, to approve the memo to AFEGC. The memo was unanimously approved.

***Athletic Director Search Committee - Election of Senate Faculty Representative***

**Senator Crothers:** President Bowman is initiating a search for the University Athletic Director. The Athletic Director search is not structured under the rules for the various search committees on campus. He and I discussed his desire to have a Faculty Senate Representative on this search committee.

The Senate Faculty Caucus unanimously elected Senator Crothers as the Faculty Senate Representative to the Athletic Director Search Committee. Additionally, Senator Crothers reported that President Bowman would soon announce the faculty designee to the committee.

***Academic Planning Committee - Election of Senate Faculty Representative - Term 2004-05***

Senators Borg (CFA) and Hammel (CAS) were elected to the Academic Planning Committee on May 5, 2004 for the 2004-2005 term. The committee is in need of another volunteer from the Senate at large from a college other than CFA or CAS, per the revised membership for the Academic Planning Committee; however, there were no additional volunteers to serve on the committee.

***University Anniversary Steering Committee - Election of Senate Faculty Representative Term 2004-2007***

There were no volunteers to serve on the University Anniversary Steering Committee.

**NOTE:** Senator Crothers volunteered during the Senate Executive Committee faculty meeting of 9/20/04 to serve as Senate Faculty Representative on the University Anniversary Steering Committee.

***Council on General Education Faculty Representatives Election - Terms 2004-2007***

The following individuals were unanimously elected to the Council on General Education:

Jeff Bakken – COE, 2004-2007

Annette Lermack – CFA, 2004-2007

Janeen Mollenhauer – Mennonite College of Nursing, 2004-2007

Ali Riaz – CAS (Social Sciences), 2004-2007

***University Curriculum Committee Faculty Representative Election - Term Fall 2004***

Vicky Morgan of the College of Education was unanimously elected to the University Curriculum Committee for the Fall 2004 term.

***Honors Council Faculty Representative Election - Term 2004-2005***

Kay Weir of Milner Library was unanimously elected to the Honors Council for the 2004-2005 term.

***Editorial Revisions to ASPT Policies and Procedures:***

**Senator Crothers:** I have been asked by the FRC for a ruling that I wanted to discuss with you before I made it. Essentially, it has to do with clearing up some language concerning the distinction between the ASPT document and Blue Book regarding membership on the FRC, particularly in regard to the FRC elections and faculty eligibility to vote for the nominees. In the ASPT document, it reads that only tenured faculty can vote for the FRC nominees; however the Blue Book, it says that both tenured and tenure track faculty can vote. FRC is recommending changing the ASPT

document to permit both tenure and tenure track faculty to vote in these elections. It is really just clarifying language between the two documents. Does anyone object to making these changes?

**Senator Borg:** Do we know which version is the most recently approved? If the most recently approved is the Blue Book, perhaps it might have been assumed that similar language would then appear in the revised ASPT document. would suggest that these revisions be dealt with editorially.

**Senator Crothers:** The only other minor change is to some language concerning the title of the Dean of Milner Libr Instead of referring to that individual as the Dean of University Libraries, the position is entitled the Dean of Milner Libraries.

There were no objections to the editorial revisions. Senator Crothers will communicate the caucus' decision to the F

***Adjournment***