

Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes
Monday, February 8, 2010
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of January 25, 2010

Motion XXXXI-60: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Spialek, to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of January 25, 2010. Senator Kalter submitted two editorial revisions. The minutes, as revised, were unanimously approved.

Distributed Communications:

01.27.10.01 From Jon Rosenthal, EMAS: Academic Calendar Preparation Information

Senator Kalter: After three years of hearing about the Academic Calendar on the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee, I realized that it is always the same discussion. Everybody tries to change dates and we find out we can't, etc. I wondered if it was a good use of the committee's time every year and then also have Jonathan come to the Senate and do it there. So we asked him to write up this very wonderful rundown about some of the constraints that the administration is under in terms of the deadlines they have to meet. The idea was that instead of having the calendar go first to the committee and then to the full Senate, to have it go to the full Senate first and if there is enough discussion and debate about it, to have it go to the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee. Cynthia I think sent something to Rules about changing the Blue Book and they have not come up with anything yet. So can we suspend the rules this year?

Senator Holland: If you didn't want to change the rules, as chair of your committee, you could basically say you are submitting it to the Senate.

Senator Kalter: I think I might. I will say that the committee will not spend time on this this year unless asked to by the full Senate.

02.04.10.01 From Dan Liechty/Faculty Affairs Committee: Ombudsman Position - Request for Affirmation of Procedure to Develop Ombudsman Guidelines

Senator Holland: We have a request for affirmation of the development of procedures and guidelines for the ombudsperson position. This has been a remarkably successful experiment. My understanding is that before we created this position, there were about eight to ten grievances a year and now it's two or three that actually make it through the process. Up until now, there have been no official guidelines about selecting who the ombudsperson is. We are in the process of hiring a new Vice President of Human Resources. Ira Schoenwald was in that position when we first started it and volunteered to be the ombudsperson. I went back through and looked at the recommendations for the creation of the position and there were no guidelines set forth about how to select it. Now we want to have an official university ombudsperson and two faculty to fill that role. Two would be a minimum so that there is one outside of your college.

Motion XXXXI-61: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Kalter, affirming the Faculty Affairs Committee's proposal to develop formal rules and guidelines for the ombudsperson position. The motion was unanimously approved.

02.04.10.02 From Ed Stewart/Academic Affairs Committee: Constitution Exam Policy Change – Draft 2 (Information Item 2/17/10)

Senator Stewart: There are a few minor changes since this was sent. The second line of the policy change statement should read "100% of those students", not "or those students". In the second bullet point, we wanted to add "At ISU" at the very beginning just before "The requirement". This is an assessment tool and the current policy is somewhat

misdirected in its use, so the idea is not to eliminate Gen Ed courses that deal with civics or civil justice or community involvement, just the Constitution Exam as a graduation requirement. Then there is a little bit of background information in there.

Senator Holland: I am assuming that the intention is to make this effective immediately so it will be grandfathered in for all students who are currently involved.

Senator Stewart: Correct.

Senator Kalter: I have a question about the second bullet point. Why do you only include the ICL category instead of Politics 105? Is that because Politics 105 definitely talks about the Constitution?

Senator Stewart: I think that we did it this way because we believed that it fit into the Individual and Civic Life category.

Senator Kalter: I think that people may be confused about why POL 105 is in the policy but not here, so maybe you want to add that to the ICL.

Senator Holland: So you would basically just amend that sentence to 'ICL category of general education or POL 105'.

Senator Stewart: And of all of those courses, POL 105 is the only one that deals with the Constitution.

Senator Kalter: So that one specifically deals with the Constitution?

Senator Stewart: Yes.

Senator Kalter: That may another reason why it wouldn't be in that bullet point.

Senator Stewart: We could just make another bullet point that POL 105 is another course that could be taken for a waiver.

Senator Kalter: I feel better about this after hearing more faculty talk about it, but I am still going to cast a symbolic vote against it, because, in principle, I think that curriculum ought to be changed before assessment tools are done away with. I was so uncomfortable about the way we have gone about both this and the Writing Exam, because years go by and nothing gets... Of course, that is one of the reasons to get rid of it now, because many years can go by with a bad assessment tool being used without any change in the curriculum.

Senator Stewart: If is meant to be an assessment tool and it is meant to assess how well we are doing in our Gen Ed courses, the only people we are assessing are the people who haven't taken our Gen Ed courses.

Senator Kalter: I thought you meant assessment tool assessing students.

Senator Stewart: It's supposed to assess how well our students are learning about the Constitution; it is only assessing those students who have transferred in who haven't taken Gen Ed courses here.

Senator Kalter: I think that's much clearer here when you say in that second bullet point that these classes that you can use to waive the exam don't talk about the Constitution. You were saying that but it was unclear to outsiders of the conversation what exactly you meant.

Senator Stewart: We don't want to subvert Gen Ed at all. We want those courses to continue.

Senator Kalter: It seems like most people want to have a requirement for students to learn about the Constitution and that is why I am casting a symbolic no because we need something and now what we are doing is getting rid of

anything.

Senator Bonnell: Do we know what Politics and Government thinks about this?

Senator Holland: I asked Lane last week what he thought of it and he said 'it doesn't test anything in particular; drop it.'

Senator Kalter: Can we, as a courtesy, inform the Politics and Government Department that this is happening and ask if enrollments are going to be affected?

Senator Stewart: Who is going to notify?

Senator Kalter: I believe that the Secretary of the Senate ought to do that. Shall I?

Senator Stewart: Yes, we don't want to blindside them. If they have strong objections, then we can deal with it.

Senator Fazel: My question was about who administers it and if they should be notified about this.

Senator Kalter: I think that that would be good also because there is money that comes in from this.

Senator Holland: I think that we can keep this as an Information Item and we could invite someone from Political Science to address the issue if they want to. Who is the Chair of Political Science?

Senator Kalter: Ali Riaz.

Ms. James: What is going to ensure that transfer students take something along the lines of those courses?

Senator Holland: If they are transfer students coming in with an associates, the entire Gen Ed is waived. But if they don't come in with that, then they have to follow IAI.

Senator Kalter: Is this going to make sure that transfer students who were taking the exam are now going to take the class.

Senator Stewart: If they are coming in with an associates degree, we waive the Gen Ed anyway. If they are coming in without it, they have to meet all of the Gen Ed requirements.

Senator Kalter: Am I right that I am emailing Ali Riaz and finding out the office that brings in the money?

Senator Hochhauser: Jonathan is already aware. I think he said that the \$5.00 just covers the exam itself.

Senator Holland: Should we ask the English Department if they want to create something to replace the Writing Exam? I know that Bob Broad was very interested in having something.

Senator Kalter: I will offer no objection to your tasking the English Department with this.

Senator Holland: Would it be better if I contacted the Chair of the English Department and suggested that this might be a good thing?

Senator Kalter: It would be.

Proposed Agenda for Academic Senate on February 17, 2010:

Academic Senate Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2010
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2010

IBHE-FAC Report (Professor Lane Crothers)

Chairperson's Remarks

Student Body President's Remarks

Administrators' Remarks

- *President Al Bowman*
- *Provost Sheri Everts*
- *Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams*
- *Vice President of Finance and Planning Daniel Layzell*

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee: Chairperson Stewart

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Chairperson Kalter

Faculty Affairs Committee: Chairperson Liechty

Planning and Finance Committee: Chairperson Fazel

Rules Committee: Chairperson Solberg

Action Item:

12.17.09.04 *Honorary Degree Recipients Selection Policy (Distributed in 1/20/10 Senate Packets) (Faculty Affairs Committee)*

Information Items:

01.11.10.01 *Context for Constitution Exam Requirement (Academic Affairs Committee)*

02.04.10.02 *Constitution Exam – Policy Change (Academic Affairs Committee)*

08.26.09.03 *Creation of Policy Policy (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee)*

Communications

Adjournment

Motion XXXXI-62: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Academic Senate Agenda of February 17, 2010.

Senator Holland: The AIF report was put off a couple of meetings ago.

Provost Everts: There was an embedded question for which we don't have a response yet.

Senator Kalter: We are almost there and I think we won't know at least until tomorrow.

Provost Everts: I will get back to Susan tomorrow as soon as I talk to Mardell.

Senator Holland: So that could potentially show up on this agenda. Is that for a Faculty Caucus?

Senator Kalter: I think that that is a full Senate thing, according to the Blue Book. Cynthia, how much notice do you need?

Ms. James: By Thursday.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

Discussion

Presentations

Senator Holland: I have been talking to three groups about presentations. Deb Smitley has asked to be put on the agenda for the last or next to last meeting for an update on *Educating Illinois*. There is not a whole lot going on during the last meeting and *Educating Illinois* is kind of a nice thing for them to hear about. Rod Custer has been working on a strategic plan for research and wants to do a presentation on that. The last time I talked to him, he seemed to want to put that off. Then I was going to ask Kerri Calvert to talk about what the Alcohol Task Force has been doing.

Adjournment

Motion XXXXI-63: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Spialek, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.