

Fall 11-9-2011

Senate Meeting, November 9, 2011

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 9, 2011
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2011

Motion XXXXIII-18: Senator Farrell, seconded by Senator Dawson, to approve the Senate Minutes of October 26, 2011. The motion was unanimously approved.

Presentation: Under-Represented Students (Jonathan Rosenthal, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management)

VP Rosenthal: The news on under-represented student trends is very positive this year. The diversity of new first-year students enrolled in fall 2011 increased over 2010. 18.9% of new students in fall 11 were from under-represented groups versus 17.8% the previous year. The largest increase comes with an additional 51 African-American first-year students constituting a 25% rise from fall 2010. The diversity of transfer students also increased 1.7% during the same time period.

Overall, on-campus enrollment is more diverse in 2011 than it was in 2010. In fall of 2011, 3,090 students characterized themselves as non-white versus 2,724 in 2010, a 13.4% increase and well above the 1.5% increase in total enrollment. Overall student persistence, or retention, reached a new high with 85.1% freshmen returning for their sophomore year. Retention of Hispanic students declined slightly to 80.7% from last year's record high of 82.3%. African-American retention rates also fell from last year's record of 80.5% to 76.2%. These are still quite excellent results.

Graduation rates also reached an all-time high with 70.4% of the 2004 entering cohort graduating by 2010. While graduation rates for under-represented students are increasing more quickly than the overall graduation rate, there is still a considerable gap. For the 2004 entering cohort, graduation rates for Hispanic and African-American students were 57.7%, a record high, and 51.6%, respectively. Even given the achievement gap, the overall trend in graduation rates is extremely positive with an almost 20% increase in the graduation rate of Hispanic students compared to five years earlier and a 10% increase in the African-American graduation rate.

The document you received has 11 pages of bulleted programs, activities and achievements that help the university to achieve these very good results, including programs in admissions, financial aid, housing, dining and Student Affairs. These are in addition to the efforts made by faculty every day in the classroom and in mentorship relationships as well as by student groups, whether they are RSO's or less formal associations. It is certainly all of those things and more that contribute to overall campus climate.

Associate Dean of Students Rick Lewis chairs a committee that monitors implementation of the recommendations of the Diversity Taskforce. It submitted its report to the president in April 2009. The work of that group is ongoing. The university has increased dissemination of information about diversity initiatives through the Partnership in Diversity publication and the online Identity newsletter that recently received the 2011 Clarion Award. That is a national award for communications.

Sen. Kalter: Do you know the status of the president's level for diversity?

VP Rosenthal: I do not.

Sen. Kalter: On page 4 of your report, you have the two graphs about graduation and retention rates. The reason that we can't really graph Asian-American students and Native-American students is because there are too few to have a statistically viable graph. My suggestion would be to go with the recommendation of the Native-American Advocacy Institute. When that occurs, put a footnote on the graph indicating that we can't graph this. I think it can send a message that we don't care about charting that progress.

VP Rosenthal: Thank you for that suggestion. Planning and Institutional Research does report all of those things.

Senator Hunter: I looked at the Appendix I with the goals. Are there specific goals of having percentages of under-represented students in the State of Illinois?

VP Rosenthal: Broadly, that would be the goal. It's not formal, but every year, we recruit harder.

Sen. Cedeño: In paragraph 3, I did notice that Hispanic numbers have decreased about 100 from 2009-2011. Is there any explanation?

VP Rosenthal: That has to do with the way we are required to report federally. They have changed the reporting structure and I think it's an artifact of that. The two or more race answer is interesting.

Sen. Cedeño: When they report two or more races, are they reporting which race they consider to be those two or more?

VP Rosenthal: Yes, but Hispanic is not part of the way that reporting works. There are 92 Native-Americans among the two or more races.

Sen. Holland: Our four-year graduation rate is only 45% and our six-year graduation rate is a little over 75%. Do you have any idea whether the four-years—that additional 25% increase is occurring after one semester or is it taking 2 or 3 more semesters?

VP Rosenthal: The bulk finish with an extra semester. 70.4% of our incoming freshmen graduate from Illinois State University.

Sen. Crowley: What effort do we make to follow up on the percentages when they are more troubling? When they are lower, do we follow up to see what happened?

VP Rosenthal: We do a lot of retention planning for at-risk students regardless of race. As you saw in my report, there are lots of approaches depending on the area of academic difficulty. When students leave, we ask them to say why they left us.

Chairperson's Remarks

Sen. Holland: Today, I attended the Team Excellence Award meeting, so anybody who has any good ideas for groups across campus, which have made significant accomplishments, encourage them to apply for that. There

is also the Herb Sanders Academic Advisement Award. Students, if you have an advisor who is doing well, recommend them. President Bowman is not here, but in his email he said he is off raising money. He did note that so far this year, the Foundation has raised \$7 million.

Student Body President's Remarks

Sen. Owens: I want to welcome Thanesh Rajandran and Mike Carnahan to the table tonight. They are the graduate student representatives and we now have a full student Senate. At our last SGA meeting, students approved considering the addition of genetic information into the university's Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy. At the same meeting, SGA approved a Medical Amnesty and Good Samaritan Provision. This will be forwarded to the Senate Executive Committee. SGA will be hosting a table in Watterson Dining Center on November 17. We will have a variety of reusable carry-out containers so that students can touch and feel them. We will also have tablets provided so that we can gauge student support.

Administrators' Remarks

- ***President Al Bowman – Absent***

- ***Provost Sheri Everts***

Provost Everts: I would like to give you a short update on the ISU Leadership Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to provide interested members of the ISU community to develop their leadership potential. There are 30 individuals in the cohort this year. This is the second year of the initiative. I would like to thank President Bowman for his support. He does a presentation and this year invited Dr. Kenneth Shaw, former president of Syracuse University, to open the session. Next week, they will have a vice presidents' panel. Also, the cohort will have the aforementioned conversation with President Bowman, a session addressing the importance of organizational communication, a work life balance presentation and a closing event with President and Linda Bowman.

- ***Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Dietz***

VP Dietz: I want to thank everyone involved in Family Weekend. We will have a formal debrief of that event next Friday. There were 700 tickets sold for the luncheon, 275 for the dinner, 624 for Dueling Banjos and 500 for the brunch. After the debrief, perhaps I will have some programmatic reports.

Senator Liechty: I want to open up the topic of the little occupied group we have here. I have seen that the administrative attitude is one of tolerance and benign neglect. I would like to affirm the administration in that, but I would imagine that there are some elements that are pushing for a different kind of approach. I am wondering if a Sense of the Senate Resolution supporting the use of tolerance would be useful to the administration.

VP Dietz: I think that the approach thus far, which has been one of tolerance, is the right approach. My sense is that if there was any issue of blocking of entry ways, we always reserve the right to address those issues.

Sen. Reifschneider: I heard that the university purchased some housing that is just off campus.

VP Dietz: It's called the School and Fell properties. There are two apartment buildings that were approved by the Board of Trustees. There is not a long-term plan to have those continue to be housing of students. It is predominately the land that the university is interested in in that sector. Until we are willing to tear them down and have a more specific plan, we are going to house some students there.

Senator Kalter: I wanted to thank you for the quick response to the incident at Watterson a weekend or two ago. I think about a half an hour to an hour of the news coming out, there were people who sent out information to the faculty.

VP Dietz: The staff acted appropriately and very quickly. There still have been some students visiting the counseling center about that tragedy. The police handled it well and we had the Dean of Students folks there.

- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Layzell***

VP Layzell: We are nearing the end of the fall veto session of the Illinois General Assembly. Senate Bill 512, which relates to the major pension overhaul, did pass out of the House (Pension) Committee. There is no schedule as to whether it will be brought for debate today or tomorrow, I suspect, because the House is debating the gaming expansion. I doubt that we will see any substantive action on either of these measures, which will likely be deferred until the spring.

Sen. Kalter: In the Pantagraph article about Senate Bill 512, there is an indication that Sen. Cross was unhappy that our presidents had not commented on the bill for 10 months. Did Sen. Cross' office contact any of the state universities to consult with them about creating the bill?

VP Layzell: All of the universities have been in conversation with both houses of the legislature about the various iterations that we have seen. I think what they were commenting on is this recent letter that came from the presidents which was intended to be sent to them during the veto session. There has been a free flow of information between the two.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Stewart: Most of our items pending are waiting for action from other areas, so we did not meet tonight. Instead, Sen. Gizzi and I met to talk about a Senate resolution on performance-based funding. Looking at the calendar, we have one more Senate meeting before the end of the semester and the calendar for ISBE and the other agencies—this will all be done before we meet again. So we determined that it was senseless to have a Sense of the Senate Resolution.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Senator Cedeño: We had a meeting today with representatives from the Chairs and Directors Council on the proposed revisions to the administrative policies that are part of the five-year review cycle. We had a hearing about some of the proposed changes. Next week, there will be a meeting with the Deans Council to discuss that policy. The committee will make amendments to the proposed revisions to the policies.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Senator Kalter: We have finished our revisions on the suggested best practices for faculty search committees and will be forwarding that to the next Executive Committee meeting. From that, it will not come here, but go back out to the original framers of that best practices document to make sure that we are all agreeing about how it should be revised. We will be working on equal opportunity compliance issues and anticipate the Export Control Policy will be coming to us for our December meeting.

Planning and Finance Committee:

Senator Rich: Our topic for discussion was Educating Illinois and the upcoming review of that document. Our guests were Provost Everts and Vice President Layzell, along with some of the planning and analysis staff.

There will be multiple opportunities for input from various campus constituencies throughout the spring semester.

Rules Committee:

Senator Fazel: We have been discussing a proposal from the Student Government Association to revise the smoking policy. This was our second meeting with Senator Owens and we had a very productive discussion. I think we are very close to having a document. The other issue had to do with the document we have on the agenda as an Action Item tonight, which is the (Appropriate Use) Technology Policy. The plan was to meet with the University Council, Mark Walbert, Sen. Bonnell and myself. Because of the illness of Sen. Bonnell, that was postponed, so we would like to withdraw the document as an Action Item.

Action Items:

10.14.11.06 Under-Represented Students Presentation Addition to Blue Book (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Stewart: This is an item that was suggested by the Executive Committee to have as a regular part of Senate presentations the underrepresented students presentation to be put on the docket for the Academic Affairs Committee. This would be a reoccurring issue.

Motion XXXXIII-19: By Senator Stewart to approve the addition to the Blue Book. The motion was unanimously approved.

~~***10.19.11.03 Technology Policy—Appropriate Use (Rules Committee) (Distributed by Email for 10/26/11 Packets)***~~

~~***11.04.11.01 Technology Policy: Supporting Document (Angela Bonnell, Senate Faculty Representative for Milner Library) Removed from the Agenda by the Rules Committee Chair.***~~

10.18.11.05 Student Records Policy (Rules Committee)

Sen. Fazel: We presented this policy as an Information Item last time and we are presenting it as an Action Item tonight for the Senate's approval.

Motion XXXXIII-20: By Senator Fazel to approve the document. The motion was unanimously approved.

Communications:

Sen. Stewart: The gallery has three new shows. One of them is the Art Education completers. It is a very fine exhibit in gallery 3. The other galleries are also showing some very interesting work. On the stage, The Marriage of Bette and Boo is running through the 12th. A Flea in Her Ear runs through November 12th. Three Sisters is December 1st through the 4th at Heartland Theatre. The Illinois Art Education Association conference is beginning at the Marriott tomorrow.

Sen. Ford: Friday is Veterans Day. We will again be doing a ceremony at noon here at the Bone in Prairie Room North. Pending weather, we will be dedicating the Veterans Guard outside of Fell.

Sen. Holland: November 19th, the ISU Wind Symphony will be presenting the word premier of Symphony Number 9.

Adjournment

Motion XXXXIII-21: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Farrell, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.