

Fall 9-24-2014

Senate Meeting, September 24, 2014

Academic Senate
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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 24, 2014
(Approved)

Call to Order

Chairperson Susan Kalter called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Secretary Ed Stewart called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2014

Motion XLV-86: By Senator Powers, seconded by Senator Lessoff, to approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument Request for Endorsement (Jim Jawahar, Associate Provost)

Motion XLV-87: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Bantham, to endorse the assurance argument.

Senator Crowley: We appreciated the openness with which the document was distributed and feedback requested. We spent some good time on our committee with it and we feel that our comments are being taken very seriously.

The motion to endorse the argument was unanimously approved.

Open Access to Research Articles Request for Endorsement (Jim Jawahar, Associate Provost)

Motion XLV-88: By Senator Horst, on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, to endorse the request and the direction of the taskforce report.

The motion to endorse the direction of the taskforce report was unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Kalter: Good evening, everyone.

Well, it's that time of year again. The time when all professors become cruel and unusual and punishing, the time when all students become sleepless and overextended. Midterm examinations time!

One of the unwelcome phenomena that I have observed over the last decade and a half here is that this time of year is also often the start of diminished resilience among some students. As human beings, when we get feedback that we did not do as well as we expected (which nowadays seems to be equated with an A or A+) or that we did not do well, period, we have a tendency to globalize that feedback, make it what they call in psychology "pervasive, permanent and personal": if I can't do well on this one assignment, I must be bad at X: writing itself, statistics itself, economics, physics, whatever it may be. I will always be bad at X. Even: there is something wrong with me.

Fight that tendency.

Few weaknesses pervade all areas of your studies; most are temporary; none indicate an irremediable flaw in your soul. And, in general, "hard" grading and rigor also does not indicate a flaw in your teachers, or overly high standards, or sheer meanness, but a sincere push toward excellence. Of course there are exceptions to this rule. ☺

Remember that your instructors are—as the Provost likes to point out—maniacally committed to student success. They give you critique and even criticism because they want you to get better, not because they don't like you, or because they want you to fail, or because they think you cannot succeed. The best, most resilient students ask for and expect constructive criticism from their faculty. Lots of it. As student leaders, be a model & guide in this for your fellow students. Don't shrink from it, or wilt under it; don't take it personally, don't take it as a sign of your incompetence or inability. Few people get really good at what they do without lots of practice.

Senator Krejci has a much nicer term, but for now, I still think about it as constructive criticism, the term I learned. There is a difference between criticism and constructive criticism; if you are in doubt whether the critique that you receive back on your midterms, projects, assignments, etc. is constructive or whether it is just criticism, ask forthrightly during office hours. If you do not feel that feedback was delivered respectfully, assert your right to respect, calmly, politely, but clearly. But above all, whichever kind of feedback you get, be resilient, remember that it is always there to make you better (whether intentionally or not) and it always has the power to make you better, if you only can figure out how. And that is half the fun. Few things worth learning are EASY to learn.

Now, getting down to a bit of business, I would just like to remind all of our committee chairs and other Senators and constituents: please send to Cynthia by the Thursday morning after full Senate meetings any items that you would like to see on the Executive Committee agenda for the following Monday. If a full Senate meeting is canceled for any reason, the deadline remains the Thursday morning after that meeting had originally been scheduled; often internal committees will meet even on nights when the full Senate does not.

Also to committee chairs: please recall that we are all under the Illinois Open Meetings act; you may send Cynthia your minutes, once approved; it will also be helpful to copy Cynthia on your agendas when you send them to your committee members, for the same reason. Please send your agendas to your committees at least 48 hours before your committee meeting.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Joyce: Last year, the Student Government sponsored a sustainability program named Reggie Ride. This program allows students to rent bikes from the recreation center. Last year, we had 907 rentals and this year, we have already had over 500 rentals. Another big initiative that Student Government is undertaking is the registration of students for the upcoming general elections. SGA is currently using a system called TurboVote, which simplifies the registration process, and we have three registration events planned. The first was today and we had great success. Last Monday, about 40 students attended a meet and greet with the town council. It was a great chance to further build our connection with the town. The Student Government plans on working more in depth with the town in the near future on town-related issues that affect students. Lastly, with Homecoming quickly approaching, the Student Government is busy at work preparing for festivities. At this time, we have three open positions on SGA. One is east campus, which is Hewitt-Manchester; one is west campus, which is the tri-towers; and one is the College of Arts and Sciences. If you know any students that live in those residence halls or are under CAS, please refer them to me or any of my executive members.

Senator Eckrich: Is there information online about where to find the bikes, etc.

Senator Joyce: I am not entirely sure on that. If you go under the campus recreation site, I imagine that they would have a paragraph referring to it. If you want, I can send you all the information I have on it.

NOTE: More information can be found at:

http://sustainability.illinoisstate.edu/efforts/transportation/reggie_ride.shtml

Administrators' Remarks

- ***President Larry Dietz***

President Dietz: I appreciated the opportunity to work with Senator Kalter and give the State of the University Address. Reactions to that have been positive. People have been taking me up on my offer to talk to me about the diversity issues. The address held no surprises. It was looking at the values and goals we have in Educating Illinois and trying to make progress towards those. Regarding the search committee for the provost, it is my understanding that we are looking for three more members to fill out that search committee and we should have those names by the end of the month. We are already working with Witt Kiefer, our search firm, to establish some dates that they can have a meeting with that search committee and myself. On Saturday, there will be a brief Board of Trustees meeting, mainly about the budget. Tomorrow, I will be talking to Rocky Donahue, Chair of the Board of Trustees, about this general informational meeting.

Senator Winger: What do you get for your money by hiring a search firm? Can't the committee just run the search?

President Dietz: One of the things we get from search firms is a huge networking opportunity. They do a lot of the logistics once individuals are identified. I think it is important for the vice presidential positions to have national searches and to develop as a diverse pool as we can.

Senator Kalter: Has it been the practice of the chair of the board of trustees to meet that much on a regular basis with the president?

President Dietz: The practice is relatively common. In my short tenure with Mike McCuskey, he wanted to meet on occasion as well. It's really informal; it's just trying to keep the pulse of what is going on on campus and it is a good time to answer some questions.

- ***Provost Janet Krejci***

Provost Krejci: I was able to visit the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council and I was thrilled to see the very positive response from faculty advisor reps from across feeling and echoing our pride for ISU. Several asked me, can you tell me how ISU is doing what it is doing? The VPs welcomed Pat Vickerman to the VP group. We are all working very hard to be the best group we can be to work through the transition. Dr. John Baur will be kicking off the search for the grad school. There will be no search firm; that will be a search committee that John is working on putting together. I want to thank Jim Jawahar for his tremendous work on the HLC and open access. Dr. Troy Johnson gave an updated Community Partners Breakfast this morning to the entire community leader group hosted by President Dietz. He updated the community about the big class and what that means. I think it was very well received. We continue to work with Senator Kalter, who is providing great leadership in terms of looking forward. We are meeting pretty regularly. She has had some requests and I think we are meeting those requests pretty well in terms of trying to look at some processes that we can improve over the year. We had a great meeting today with Senator Lessoff in terms of some of those similar questions about how we might move forward to make some of those processes clearer and more supportive to the Academic Senate. Nancy Hiltibidal has been the assistant to the last eight provosts for the past 49 years, so for any of you who know her, her last day will be Tuesday, September 30th. Don't hesitate to drop her a note to say good-bye and good luck to her.

- ***Vice President of Student Affairs Brent Paterson***

Senator Paterson: Senator Eckrich, that information is on the Campus Recreation website and the Office of Sustainability. We had a very successful Family Weekend. I want to thank those of you who sponsored programs for families while they were here. This is the time of year that we kick off two very important committees: the Student Fee Review Committee and the Room and Board Review Committee. The fee committee is charged with reviewing those areas that receive student fees; to consider those strategic needs for

those areas; and make recommendations for fee rates for the upcoming year. That committee is co-chaired by the Student Body President. The other co-chair is the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Danielle Miller-Schuster. The recommendations go to the Student Government Association in early spring where they get to review and discuss them. Then they make recommendations that come to the Vice President of Student Affairs and then on to the president and board of trustees. Very similarly, we have a room and board review committee that is student and staff driven. They are charged with looking at the room and board rates, looking at the upcoming needs, listening to students. The facilitator of that group is either the Director of University Housing Services or the Director of Campus Dining. They switch back and forth every year. The recommendations go to ARH for review and then those recommendations come to me as Vice President of Student Affairs and then to the president and the board. We highly involve students in this process and we appreciate their involvement.

Senator Kalter: If a student is taking 15 credit hours, what percentage of their total cost goes to room and board?

Senator Paterson: I have to look that up and share it at the next meeting.

- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Greg Alt***

Senator Alt: To answer that question, it is actually 45%. It's about \$10,000 a year for room and board and about \$12,000 a year for tuition and fees. Last Friday, we received 100% of our FY14 state appropriation. For the state, that is progress. We are on schedule for receiving payments in the same manner we did this year with the one reservation that if the state income tax increase, which expires December 31st, is not renewed, that could possibly impair that schedule. At the last meeting, there were a few comments about the availability of parking for commuter and faculty. Parking services surveyed parking utilization between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. September 8 through 14 to identify areas with tightest availability during peak parking times. Those counts are still being reviewed, but indicate high utilization of some faculty-staff and commuter lots in the south campus area during the 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. time period, which is typically the peak hours. Utilization in the South University garage differs some from that during that time with general availability during the peak hours in the pay spaces, reserve zone and green reserve zone areas. Last winter, there was a concern noted about the availability on the south part of campus. As a result of that, some additional spaces were converted to faculty-staff parking at that time. Also during FY14, parking did convert 176 pay lot spaces to faculty-staff surface lots. Other progress that has been made is that the university has recently taken possession of two property acquisitions on the perimeter of campus. One of those is the Weaver Rent All facility. The university has acquired that so we have already added 10 commuter spaces from that. In the short term, we will be able to add at least 10 or more. We don't know what the future of that facility is. The university acquired property at Kingsley and College this past month. That space just off of Main Street, which a good part of campus where there is a lot of activity, and that was acquired for the purposes of parking. Right now we are still awaiting the results of the engineer to facilitate the planning to convert that into parking. The previous owners had used that space for student rentals. That will yield 70 or more parking spaces there for faculty-staff or commuter parking. Parking is continuing to look particularly at the south part of campus where parking utilization seems to be the tightest to identify areas that can potentially be made available.

Senator Kalter: Do you have any advice for faculty and staff who have the kind of permit that is sort of a hunt and peck permit as opposed to a reserve spot while we are waiting for these other spaces to open up?

Senator Alt: The problem is during the peak time. I think mostly during the day, that is not the issue. There appears to be on the south end of campus some metered space. I know that is not the permit space that they have paid for. We have to just continue to look for solutions to offer more parking. I think it is a challenge to have as much convenient parking as possible and I don't think we are any different than other universities. The two properties that I noted are for the growth of the campus, but in the short term, it gives us the ability to try to open up some more spaces in those areas of campus that have a lot of activity.

Senator Crowley: Is there a kind of brainstorming committee happening to come up with some interesting ideas that might be an ease to this big problem? For example, the space at the alumni center—I'm sure it's not all filled that often. Would it be possible for a person who was in a bind for a spot to get the ISU bus to pick them up?

Senator Alt: That's one way to attack this problem. I think that has been going on within even parking services. For example, one of the ideas that they came up with was to make a park and ride spot on the parking surfaces by the parking facility. I think for \$28 a year a student can park there and then commute into campus. They had three takers of that. So there is parking space available there, but no one is taking that. The other strategy that is being pursued is can we somehow shift the parking in the south end of campus that is not immediately needed, more of the storage type parking, can we shift that more to the underutilized space on the north end of campus to open up more of the daytime parking. There is some information in the parking services survey that there is some underutilization in the paved spaces in the parking decks as well as some of the green reserve spaces. I know that is a different cost structure, but there is some underutilization of those spaces.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Crowley: I want to thank John McHale, who will be our Academic Planning Committee liaison. We are working on two open forums—one on Writing Across the Curriculum and another on Global Studies. We are working on policy on granting of two degrees here at ISU. We are working on analyzing the extent to which course management software is doing what people need it to do. We are revisiting the Reading Week Policy.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Senator Lessoff: We had our annual joint meeting with the Planning and Finance Committee. Senator Alt and his colleagues did their annual presentation of budgets.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Senator Horst: We met with Tammy Carlson, Director of Human Resources, and we discussed the impact of sabbaticals on retirements. We developed some strategies for educating the faculty on this topic and we will have further conversations with Tammy. We reviewed the Athletics Council Report and we will be forwarding that to the Executive Committee. We reviewed the Honorary Degree Policy and we will be forwarding that to the Executive Committee. We had a discussion about the issue of a spousal hiring policy and I am going to be sending a separate note to the Executive Committee about some of our conclusions about that.

Planning and Finance Committee:

Senator Rich: I want to thank all the VPs and staff for helping us fill in our fall information sessions. Tonight's session included Vice President Alt and Sandy Cavi. It was an excellent presentation and question and answer session following.

Rules Committee:

Senator Bushell: During our last Senate meeting, I told you that our policy on policies was coming to you tonight. It had a little glitch so we are looking at it again tonight and we will send it to Cynthia and Exec and it should be on our list for next time. In addition, we talked about guns and alcohol, so there is a document that is coming—the Concealed Carry Policy and also the Alcohol Policy has been rewritten and reworked, so we will send those three documents and see those later as Information Items.

Communications:

Senator Schneider: I have two questions. Why isn't the VP for Advancement attending for administrators' remarks? The second is, in the spirit of transparency, can the Executive Committee begin giving reports so that we can be informed on what is actually happening.

Senator Kalter: Sometime in May when I first stepped into this role, I had a meeting with all four of the vice presidents, one of whom now is actually no longer here and that is the Vice President of University Advancement. Traditionally, the Senate has not had a report from that vice president for no particular reason except the role is a demanding role in terms of travel, so a regular report might be somewhat difficult. We were meeting to set up biannual reports before she left. I have not had a chance to talk to Interim Vice President Vickerman and since we are thinking about running that search fairly soon, I wanted to give him time to ease into his role. We may have another change before the end of the year. I think that there is no reason not to have all four of the vice presidents report. It's a proposal that anyone could make to the Executive Committee, etc. With regard to the Executive Committee, the minutes and the agendas are open so they are generally posted on the website. Cynthia has had a very busy beginning of the fall, so there may be a little being behind there. I am not sure exactly that we would report that is not in the minutes.

Senator Schneider: Just to save time and effort, all of our minutes are going to be available to everyone, but I am just curious about what the Executive Committee is talking about and discussing and what reports they have requested from the Provost's Office. I think in the spirit of transparency, it would be nice to have a brief overview of what the Executive Committee is working on.

Senator Kalter: The Executive Committee, according to our bylaws, works on taking in requests from the campus, from the Senators, from the committees and then figuring out where to send those out. We also discuss things, for example, Senator Dietz was asked a question about search firms. We had a good discussion about the pros and cons of using a search firm. Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings. They take place the Monday when the Senate does not meet at 4:00 p.m. If you are intrigued by what we do, you are welcome to come.

Senator Schneider: I would like to have a report at Senate.

Senator Kalter: We can send that request to your committee, the Rules Committee, and have it debated.

Senator Horst: I would like to agree with Senator Schneider. Last year, the Executive Committee was working on the open carry policy that was a special kind of situation that had to go through the Senate so quickly. It would have been nice to have been hearing about that before so when I have a report to the college council, I can say this is happening, as opposed to that two-week window where it is an Information Item and an Action Item. It would be nice to hear a little report from the Executive Committee so that we know that kind of item is coming down the pipeline.

Adjournment

Motion XLV-89: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Gizzi, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.