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Senate Meeting, December 7, 1994

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ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Not Approved by the Academic Senate)

December 7, 1994

Volume XXVI, No. 5

Call to Order

Chairperson Len Schmaltz called the meeting of the Academic Senate to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center. Schmaltz yielded to Senator Wilner who introduced and welcomed new student Senator Jeanne Schultz, graduate student in History. Schultz was seated as a new senator.

Roll Call

Secretary Susan Winchip called the roll and declared a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the minutes of November 9: excused absences for Senators Thomas, Lind, Liedtke, Strand D., and Pereira. Motion XXVI-15 by Lind to approve the Minutes of November 9, 1994, as amended, (seconded by Zervic) carried on a voice vote.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senators Schmaltz and Winchip will take minutes for the meeting. Linda Wellenreiter has an excused absence. A new secretary will begin working in the Academic Senate office on January 3, 1995. The secretary position is for the academic year at 3/4 time. Her work schedule in the Senate Office will be distributed in the next senate packet.

The Administrative Affairs committee has asked that Action Item 1 (the election of members to a search committee for Associate Provost position) listed as tentative, not be included as an Action Item on the agenda.

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Wilner acknowledged and thanked Senator Kyle Lentz who is graduating and will be going to graduate school. Senator Wilner submitted a list of volunteer organizations which could use some help over the break if anyone is interested.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Cowsert expressed a long-time concern of the Student Government Association related to book buy-backs. As of today, the manager of the book store has only 50% of the faculty book list. Cowsert asked the faculty for suggestions on what can be done to improve the timely participation of faculty in the book buy-back process. Schmaltz suggested that Cowsert's concerns be made known to the Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Liedtke suggested that students, in many cases, should keep textbooks for future references.

Administrator's Remarks

Senator Urice asked for an executive session to consider the nominations for selection of faculty to the rank of distinguished professor.

Senator Strand had no remarks.

ACTION ITEMS

Senator Jerich introduced guests Dean Schollaert, Dean Pancrazio, and Dr. Barbara Nourie to address the action items related to proposed changes in college bylaws.

1. Senator Jerich made a motion that the revised bylaws of the Council for Teacher Education (9.6.94.2) be approved (as amended with an editorial change suggested by Senator Walker). Motion XXVI-16 (seconded by Wilner) carried on a voice vote.
2. Senator Jerich made a motion that the revised bylaws for the College of Arts and Sciences (10.14.94.2) be approved. Motion XXVI-17 (seconded by Lind) carried on a voice vote.
3. Senator Jerich made a motion that Rodger Singley be named as chairperson of the Academic Standards Committee (11.22.94.2). Motion XXVI-18 (seconded by Zervich) carried on a voice vote.
4. Senator Lind recommended agenda Action Items 5, 6, and 7 be a combined action item. There were no objections. Senator Jerich made a motion that students Jack Niemi, Melanie Ward, and Don Spaniak be named to the Athletic Council (11.22.94.2). Motion XXVI-19 (seconded by Weber) carried on a voice vote.
5. Senator Wilner made a motion that Rosalie Fall and Allison Kukla be appointed to the Library Committee Motion XXVI-20 (seconded by Weber) carried on a voice vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no Information Items.

Communications:

There were no communications to the Academic Senate.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs: Senator Stearns reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met before tonight's Senate meeting to discuss the proposal for changes in the Communications program. A meeting will be scheduled in the first week of classes in January for the committee to take action on this item.

Administrative Affairs: Senator Liedtke distributed minutes from the December 1 meeting of the Administrative Affairs Committee; nominations for the associate provost search committee; and two organizational charts for the office of the Vice President and Provost, dated 1993-94 and 1994-95.

Added to the list of names for consideration for the Associate Provost Search Committee are Allison Bailey, Philosophy; Richard Payne, Political Science; and Rati Ram, Economics.

Senator Liedtke expressed a concern of the committee that the position announcement for the associate provost was advertised before the search committee was constituted. The position has not appeared in the organization structure of the provost's office in the last two University Fact books. The constitution of the University requires that the president of the university inform the academic senate of recommended changes in the organizational structure prior to the changes being made. Provost Urice sent information related to the position to the Executive Committee in November but that information had not yet reached the Academic Senate, thus precluding the Provost's ability to go forth with the search and the change in structure. Senator Liedtke has in hand an e-mail message to Senator Schmaltz from Provost Urice (dated 12/7/94) indicating that he intends to go on with the search even if the senate does not elect members to the search committee. Liedtke cautioned Provost Urice that it would be a politically unwise move to continue with the search. Liedtke referred to the December 1 minutes of the Administrative Affairs Committee which detail the concerns of the Committee.

Senator Walker asked if the position was replacing a position in the Provost's organizational structure. Liedtke replied there was no indication of that. Chairperson Schmaltz indicated that the Executive Committee met on October 31, and at that time there was no request from the Provost to appoint a search committee. The request from the Provost to the Senate was dated November 2, 1994. The Senate met on November 9, and the request from the provost dated November 2 may have been received in the Senate office on November 3. The request was logged in on November 10 which was the day after the last Senate meeting. Chairman Schmaltz assured the Provost that the delay was not intentional and that he did not know about the request until November 10. The request was submitted to the Executive Committee at its November 28 meeting, and the committee voted to send the request to the Administrative Affairs Committee.

Senator Liedtke noted that D. Strand and Amster had excused absences from the Administrative Affairs Committee meeting on December 1.

Senator Urice indicated that he was not trying to circumvent the processes in place, although he had not seen the documents detailing how a search committee was to be constituted. Urice assumed that the campus was ready for change and that he had the latitude to make changes. Provost Urice is trying to restructure the office to the good of the University community. He is sorry that the time line and absence of secretarial help caused the delay. Provost Urice stated again he was acting in good faith and not trying to circumvent the process.

Liedtke said that while the campus appreciates change, they just want the rules of the Senate to be followed and to be informed appropriately. After further discussion from the floor, Schmaltz indicated that the Senate will be informed about further responses from the Provost. Provost Urice asked whether it was a punitive desire to delay action on this at tonight's meeting. Senator Liedtke responded that the committee voted against it before discussing other issues. Urice said that it is his intention to increase diversity and to fill positions rapidly because it is disappointing if we miss good people. Liedtke indicated that we need to know something about the faculty candidates for the Search Committee prior to voting. Urice responded that the next Senate meeting is January 25, 1995, which puts us at a competitive disadvantage. Senator Razaki appreciates the speedy hiring activity and the need for diversity but we must retain the rules.

Senator Walker asked if the committee could, via letter, ask that the search be delayed. Senator Liedtke responded that the decision to do so would come from the Administrative Affairs Committee. Liedtke concurs with the Provost that a delay may result in competent individuals not being considered to fill vacancies.

Senator Stearns asked if there is a procedural way that we can proceed to elect this committee prior to the January 25 meeting. Parliamentarian Cohen responded yes, it is possible by calling a special meeting. Senator Amster asked if a mail ballot was possible. Senator Schmaltz responded that it is a possibility. Senator Jerich expressed a concern that a mail ballot would take too long.

Budget: Senator Nelson reported that he will be able to present to the Senators, at the next meeting, the budget materials of the IBHE report for the next fiscal year. For JUAC, Nelson reported that the Board of Regents is forming another task force to consider the possibility of developing a 4-year plan for tuition. Amy Mersinger, our student regent, will be on that task force. Nelson encouraged Senators to submit suggestions for developing the plan. Wilner asked if the plan would be a firm one, i.e., result in a "tuition freeze" for the duration of the contract. Nelson responded that those kinds of questions are yet to be answered and the committee needs input from all interested populations. Senator Schultz asked if the tuition plan is available anywhere else in the state. Nelson said it is not in the state but all state systems are operating under the same general recommendations. Senator Cowser pointed out that tuition policy is tied to the Consumer Price Index.

Faculty Affairs: Senator Razaki reported the committee met with Provost Urice and Sharon Stanford. The Provost is considering offering an option to the faculty to receive their salary either on a 9- or 12-month basis. The committee will meet after tonight's Senate meeting.

Senator Liedtke asked whether the Faculty Affairs Committee will investigate the trend of an increase in temporary and adjunct faculty and a decrease in full-time faculty. Razaki said several concerns related to this issue have been expressed by a number of people and will be brought before the Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Wilner asked if there was any way of knowing if students will suffer adverse affects by hiring temporary faculty members compared to tenured faculty. Razaki suggested volumes have been written on this issue and he thought a few years ago the University was committed to increasing tenure-tract faculty. Jerich asked what the implications are for teaching assistants, that is, the quality of supervision in the development of teaching assistants. Razaki responded that for a long time Illinois State has been known for the amount of time and effort full-time faculty spent with students. Senator Nelson asked the Committee for clarification of the categories of instruction.

Senator Urice stated that the options for faculty pay were to expand on the pay policy now in place. Senator Urice asked if the committee could wait until there is a "draft" of recommended options detailing procedures for replacing a retiring faculty member or a faculty member who resigns from the University. Razaki said he read that the policy would go into effect January 1. Urice responded that this was not the case. Senator Insel said he was disappointed that he learned about this entire issue in the Vidette. He continued that temporary faculty replacements cannot replace senior faculty members in terms of effective teaching. Liedtke asked if the \$12,500 was assigned per year or per semester. This amount of pay is unreasonable. Razaki said he has received several calls expressing concern about the changes. Senator Urice noted that the article in the Pantagraph did contain some errors and that faculty should not rely on news articles.

Rules: Senator Jerich had no report.

Student Affairs: Senator Cowsert reported the committee will reconvene next semester.

Adjournment

Motion XXVI-21 to adjourn made by Jerich (seconded by Kaiser) carried by a voice vote.

