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Senate Meeting, November 7, 2007

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, November 7, 2007
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senator Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Attendance and Motions

Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2007

Motion XXXIX-19: By Senator Anders, seconded by Senator Stewart, to approve the Senate Minutes of October 24, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: Reminded senators to speak into the microphones to ensure that the discussion would be recorded on tape so that the minutes could be transcribed accurately.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Horstein: Last week, I attended Normal's Neighborhood Association Breakfast and talked about ways in which we could reach out to those people living in the areas immediately surrounding the campus. A small group of us from Student Government Leadership and Service and the Office of Off-Campus and Non-Traditional Students are planning a service project to target certain areas around the neighborhood to show that we really do care about the community that we live in. I am continuing to meet with property managers to talk about their relationships with the students. So far, those meetings have been positive. Our off-campus senators are designing an off-campus housing survey to gauge how off-campus students feel about the properties and their relationships with the property managers. We will take those results to the property managers early to mid-semester in the spring and then decide what actions we need to implement.

If you log onto the ISU home page, you will notice that we have a new website. It has a lot of new resources for students to access to request funding, co-sponsorships or even apply to be a part of the Student Government Association. Next Tuesday, there will be an event to address parking and transportation issues on campus. It is entitled "Race to Your Space". The overall purpose of the activity, coordinated by Student Government and the Office of Parking and Transportation, is to gauge how students are feeling about the current parking situation on campus and to find out what the issues are.

The Student Government Association is starting a new program called Random Acts of Kindness. RAs from each floor in each residence hall will nominate students who perform Random Act of Kindness and we will then acknowledge those students on a monthly basis. Finally, we are implementing student organization roundtables in which student organizations from each classification will come together and share ideas and resources. The first roundtable will target Fine Arts' student organizations and the topic of discussion will be how to better market the events that they hold on campus.

Administrators' Remarks

President Al Bowman - Absent

Provost John Presley

Provost Presley: At this very early date, we have more than half of the applications in for next year's freshman class. Things continue to look pretty good. We have a 3% increase in the number of freshman applications received and a 5% increase in the number of admitted students. The academic profile is relatively the same and it looks as though it will hold steady. Our underrepresented student applications have increased by 4%; so far, 933 applications have been received as opposed to 895 at this time last year. We have had substantial increases in the number of black and Hispanic applicants and a small decrease in other categories. The number of admitted students is up 7% and the change in number is pretty substantial there, so I think we are doing well. The admitted profile is very much the same as this time last year, so that is positive. There is a slight negative note in transfer applications. The number of transfer applications received is down 4%. Overall, however, an even larger numbers of students are continuing to apply for spots in our freshman class.

We are writing a draft summarizing the ten years plus operation of the Academic Impact Fund. While I have most of the numbers in place, we are still trying to find some of them. It is a very complex fund with dozens and dozens of transfers in and out of temporary funds and permanent funds for various purposes. The records in the early years are not as easy to find. In developing this report, we looked at the numbers of tenure-track faculty that the AIF has been able to support over the years; stabilizing that flow was one reason for creating the AIF back in 1994-95. Within this decade, the number of tenure-track faculty, not including chairs and directors, has ranged from a low of 659, which was in 1998, to a high of 697 in 2005. The average number of tenure-track faculty on campus during this decade was 679. Currently, in fall 2007, we have 668 tenure-track faculty and that number represents a trend downward over the last three years. Within these years, we have had an unprecedented turnover with age demographics and state retirement incentives contributing to the number of retirements. There is other turnover which we attribute to resignations due to other job opportunities, non-reappointments and the like.

An issue that I wanted to get at in this report, so that I can have a conversation with the deans, is the issue of instructional capacity. During FY08, the instructional capacity paid to positions by AIF to cover open positions, during the time in which planning was done for a search, reached a high of \$3.3 million. Over the course of this review, the instructional capacity paid to colleges averaged \$2.1 million, so you can see that the expenditures are up considerably and the expenditures have trended upward as the number of unfunded lines has grown. At the current rate of pay negotiated for instructional faculty, the instructional capacity allocated to colleges would staff 943 sections of course work, trending upward at the same rate as the dollars trend upward, and that does not include non-AIF funds, such as the General Education dollars that we allocate to the colleges.

During the rescissions of FY03, 04 and 05, colleges were asked to give up permanent funding and some colleges chose to permanently rescind tenure-track lines. There were a total of 18 lines rescinded and they received no instructional capacity. AIF has positively affected the starting salaries of new assistant professors. We have been able to keep them highly competitive for attracting excellent new faculty. The starting salaries for assistant professors are 105% of the median for our CUPA comparators. The midyear salary adjustment initiative has been reducing the salary lags in the upper ranks.

Another expenditure from the AIF is for our supplements to department-funded positions. When a faculty

member leaves due to non-reappointment, the line and its funding are not transferred. They are left in the department, but the department may have found that the salary remaining in the line is insufficient, so we supplement it from the AIF. At the same time that all of these good things are going on, we have to admit that, typically, the salaries of retiring and resigning faculty are higher than the salaries of new assistant professors and that is one of the assumptions behind the AIF. In recent fiscal years, salaries of new assistant professors have spiked in some disciplines creating issues of compression, actual inversion, and for the AIF account, a lack of income. These issues of compression and inversion erode the “purchasing power” of the AIF at a rate that approximates the rate at which faculty salaries are raised, 3 to 4% per year.

The main reason for starting the AIF at the very beginning, I am told, was to address the issue of payout for unused sick leave. Central funding for the payouts of unused sick leave for resigning and retiring faculty through FY07 was almost \$8 million at an average of \$722,590 annually. It fluctuates widely, but in general, this is trending downward subsequent to changes in state policy. Other expenditures that were paid for from the AIF include expenditures for promotion in rank. However, now promotions are funded centrally during the salary incrementation and, in FY06, the university transferred \$217,000 back to the AIF to offset the dollars previously spent for such raises.

Counter-offers are another source of expenditures from the AIF. In the earliest year in which there were data kept on this, FY06, we provided \$66,000 plus in permanent funding for counter-offers to keep excellent faculty here at ISU.

An additional expenditure is for the Distinguished Professor rank. When named as a Distinguished Professor, the honor is accompanied by a raise in base pay, which is paid from the AIF. The raise used to be \$2,000 until the midyear salary enhancement initiative in FY08. At this time, the base pay of each sitting Distinguished Professor has been raised by an additional \$3,000 and funding for Distinguished Professors will continue at the \$5,000 level with funding provided by the AIF.

An occasional expenditure has been for instructional faculty lines. This account was aimed at tenure-track faculty, but sometimes, after repeatedly unfilled tenure-track searches, circumstances in the discipline have demanded that we fund an instructional faculty position to have a particular subject taught.

The upshot of this is that the university has permanently lost tenure-track lines from rescissions, rising salaries and other fiscal circumstances. As salaries began to lag in the upper ranks and retiring faculty left ISU, the funding in their lines funded fewer new hires.

I have indicated to the President that the university may want to consider rebuilding the number of tenure-track faculty with a planned allocation to the AIF. I have suggested several ways that that could be done over time or all at once.

Senator Kalter: I have a question about the student numbers. Do you have specifics on the Asian American and Native American drop?

Provost Presley: There are 14% fewer applications from American Indian or Alaskan Natives; that is one category for reporting purposes. Fourteen percent, however, is really the number five. We had 36 applications last year and we have 31 this year. The Asian American applications are down 53 for a drop of 25%. The more startling and probably telling numbers are the transfer applications. While minority or underrepresented student applications for transfers are up 9%, Black/Non-Hispanic is down 6%. Asian or Pacific Islander is up 158%, but we are talking about an increase of 19 students. There is no change in the American Indian or Alaskan Native in this category of applications. There were three in fall 2007 and there are three in 2008.

Senator Kalter: The numbers that you were talking about in the last part of the AIF topic worry me in terms of going from a university that depends on tenure-track faculty to depending on non-tenure track faculty. What kinds of discussions do you think we might need to have in order to prevent a kind of shift toward dependence on non-tenure track faculty?

Provost Presley: It is a trend; we want to be careful to not call it a crisis. There is a downward trend in the numbers of tenure-track faculty that we have on campus; I do not want to misstate that. But remember that the average was 679, we currently have 678 and 18 were rescinded during those rescissions. At this time, that loss of 18 just about accounts for it; so, we need funding for 18 new positions. However, to increase in excellence, we need to add as many new tenure-track faculty lines every year as we can. In fact, the reason that we have been able to keep our faculty-student ratio at 19 to 1, which is a very important consideration for us, is that Academic Affairs has been authorizing searches for the most productive lines, measured several ways, but mainly those faculty positions that teach the most students. That also creates a 'shift', if you will.

We are beginning to see that shift in the data that we provide to national ranking systems. It is a small shift at this point, but it is a trend. There are fewer small classes and more larger classes that we report every year. With those two things, it is a trend that we must take a look at. One of the reasons that I wanted to give you these numbers was to make sure that everyone knows that it is not a crisis.

Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams - *Absent*

Vice President of Finance and Planning

Senator Bragg: Thanks to the Senate for your indulgence and the great courtesy that you have shown me these past couple of months while I have been unable to attend Senate meetings. It is very much appreciated; it means a lot to me and I am very happy to be back meeting with you. I would also like to thank my staff colleagues who stepped forward during these past months and helped you with questions and issues that you had. I would especially like to thank Barb Blake and Dick Runner for joining you at the last Senate meeting and summarizing our FY2009 requests for state operations and capital appropriations.

I think that Barb Blake shared with you at that time that we received an increase in state appropriations for operations this year between \$1.5 and \$1.6 million. That is about a 1.9% increase. While we are very appreciative of any increase and it certainly stands in contrast to the cuts that we had in the earlier part of this decade, that 1.9% increase will probably end up being a full point below inflation for this year. Again, while we appreciate the increase, we continue to lose purchasing power from state resources and have to make that up from other revenue sources.

If the President were here, he would remind you that the ongoing drama associated with a capital bill in Springfield continues. It is a little hard to keep track of the complexity of the debate, but I am told that there are some hopeful signs, that they may, in fact, embrace a capital bill late in December or January and, of course, our request for funds for a new Fine Arts Complex is high on that list. Work proceeds at pace on the Stevenson-Turner project and on the 26th of last month, the Board of Trustees approved a new Student Fitness, Kinesiology and Recreation Center project, which is something we have been looking forward to for a long time. We will complete the design on that project this year and construction will start immediately after commencement. The facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

The Board also approved a project to build a new south campus power plant. That project will develop over

several years in many phases. The first phase will be to add a chiller, which produces chilled water for air conditioning, that will largely service the new student fitness and kinesiology center, but which will also provide backup to the College of Business building and feed into the quad loop. That will complement two other chiller projects that are in progress. With the completion of these looped systems, we should be in a position to never have a significant shortage of air conditioning in the cooling season again.

Staff colleagues and I have spent the last year taking a good hard look at our procedures in payroll and Human Resources with an eye toward purchasing a new automated system for the university. Our current system is over 25 years old; it is out of capacity and we, literally, cannot add another deduction. If the federal government were to pass another deduction, I would have to come around and ask you for it personally. We decided to use this as an opportunity to take a look at our procedures and practices and how we can streamline and provide better customer service to the university. To that end, I will shortly be coming to the Administration Affairs and Budget Committee and asking for you to participate with us in some focus groups in understanding your needs in Human Resources. We do have an RVP out and we should be getting responses from vendors early next year and I will bring you up to speed on that.

Senator Kalter: We had a relatively smooth move this past summer into Williams from Stevenson. I am a little concerned about the complexity, timing and space issues that are involved in this upcoming set of moves. Will you be able to institute processes that give individual faculty direct input into the planning decisions that will impact who will have to move when, who gets office space on campus this summer and how we will avoid interruption of research and instructional activity? Are there other options being considered other than Williams on campus for surge space?

Senator Bragg: The short answer to the first question is yes, although, I don't have to initiate those processes. Those processes have already been initiated by the Provost's office and the dean's office, working with individual departments. There have been several forums that have been conducted over the past year on the general topic, not necessarily addressing the specific topic of capacity for this summer, but I checked with Chuck McGuire, the Provost's Office, Dick Runner and the college office this past week and they are very close to having a proposed solution for the moves over the summer and plan to consult with the departments and the faculty in those departments starting in December. So, the answer is, absolutely, yes.

The answer to the second question is that we are always giving consideration to surge space. The unfortunate fact is that we are overcrowded. Every space that we have on campus is commanded. The irony is that we have been approached by several people in the community offering very attractive, in terms of finances and configuration, space. The problem is that it is too far away from campus. So, there will probably not be a significant number of spaces available outside of Williams for this summer; but, again, I think the dean's office, the Provost's Office and Facilities Planning have a solution that will make that work.

Senator Stewart: The Fine Arts Complex is many, many years away, but is there any kind of plan about what is going to happen to faculty and classrooms once you start tearing buildings down?

Senator Bragg: No, we don't have a specific plan. You can imagine that the kind of space that is needed for faculty in Fine Arts is very unique. We do have a beat on a couple of very large square footage spaces in the community, but they are not close to campus. So, we are looking at transportation issues right now to see if we can work through some of those issues. It is high on our priority list.

Senator Alferink: You indicated that there is a plan that you expect will come out of the dean's office in December.

Senator Bragg: The dean's office, the Provost's Office and the Facilities Planning Office have been working jointly on trying to identify spaces and the faculty that will need those spaces over the summer and, at least in the last conversation that I had, they were going to be talking to department heads starting in December about this.

Senator Alferink: My concern is that perhaps unforeseen needs might arise during the period of the transfer from Stevenson and back from Williams. My understanding is that some faculty will not have offices during that period. Is that accurate?

Senator Bragg: I don't know the specifics of the plan, but I can ask.

Senator Alferink: Is there consideration being given to a process for presenting this to the affected faculty to see if there are any problems that would be created?

Senator Bragg: I did not mean that a plan was going to be delivered. It is the process of consultation that they hope to start in December.

Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Waterstraat: Jon Rosenthal, Assistant VP of Academic Services and Enrollment Management, came to speak to us about the plus-minus grading research that has been done in the past and about a minority recruitment issue, specifically as it relates to Native American students. On the first issue, Jonathan gave a detailed report on the work that had been done in the past both on the administrative side and on the faculty side as it related to the benefits and negative aspects of a plus-minus grading system. At this time, after further discussion, the Academic Affairs Committee felt that there is no compelling empirical evidence or research that indicates a plus-minus grading system would provide any significant benefits at ISU. Therefore, the committee recommends that the grading scale remain the same and that no further action be taken on this topic. On the second issue of minority recruitment, specifically as it relates to Native American students, Jonathan indicated that it is a fairly complex topic that is governed by federal law. After a detailed presentation of the information, we felt that it would be in the best interest of this Senate that he and his team, which would include Shane McCreary and Molly Arnold, make a presentation to this body, so we are putting forward a recommendation to the Executive Committee to allocate time for such a presentation to the Senate.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee

Senator Lonbom: The committee continued its work on developing the request for presidential commentary. We have formed an ad hoc committee that has worked outside of committee time on that also. We hope to finish the survey we are developing by our next meeting in two weeks. Our plan is to deliver it to the campus community when everyone returns for the spring semester in mid January.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Preston: We continued our considerations and analysis of the library situation. Our students conducted a preliminary survey and presented a very informative report. We are looking forward to acquiring more information in that area. We also discussed the general plan for developing a position paper in which we will summarize our findings.

Planning and Finance Committee

Senator Fazel: We discussed with Steve Bragg the alternative sources of financing for the university, since fewer resources are being provided by the state. We are looking at the feasibility of forming a subcommittee

to look into this to consider questions and alternatives.

Senator Holland: A quick reminder for those of us who are on the Planning and Finance Committee: we will be meeting in the Spotlight Room for the remainder of the academic year.

Rules Committee

Senator Alferink: The Rules Committee has the review of the Solicitation Policy on the agenda tonight as an Information Item. The committee also addressed two other items that we have been working on: the Service Awards Committee (for its inclusion in the *Blue Book*) and the review of the Disestablishment Policy. The existing policy that was approved by the Senate and the policy on the web site do not correspond. Rather than trying to figure out how that happened, we are simply developing a new Disestablishment Policy that is quite similar to the one that was approved by the Senate, but with some slight modifications. That will also be going to the Executive Committee within the next 24 hours. We also began work on the University Hearing Panel.

Senator Nippa: Would you elaborate on what you are looking into concerning the University Hearing Panel?

Senator Alferink: It is a panel for which the Rules Committee of the Senate nominates faculty members to serve on. Those faculty members are then approved by the Faculty Caucus, but that language is not in any Senate documents. It is only contained in the Student Code of Conduct and we have been asked to look at that issue.

IBHE-FAC Report

Curt White, IBHE-FAC Representative: Our last meeting was at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Our next meeting will be held next Friday at Lakeland Community College in Mattoon. We had a very busy year last year; we authored and passed four major position papers, which I am happy to say had considerable influence on the Illinois Board of Higher Education leadership and staff. All of those issues for us are still very much live issues and we continue to try to find ways to push those ideas. We have an opportunity this year, which we really want to take advantage of. The new board chairperson, Carrie Hightman, working with Executive Director Judy Erwin and the board staff, has decided that the various committees and councils, which are advisory to the board, should have at least one opportunity a year to make a major presentation to the board.

This presentation would be something more than our usual report. Along with that comes more media exposure; so, we are trying to figure out a way to take advantage of this presentation opportunity. We will probably try to use it, again, to really highlight the issues that we have been looking at in the past year. Certainly, one of those issues that the board is very interested in is student-college readiness and the way that plays into completion rates, into issues of student debt and also into the mental health of students.

Senator Borg: When you mention this issue of college readiness, do you sense any pressure for universities to become more accommodating at the expense of principles or standards?

Prof. White: In the last few months, they have had major presentations from national experts on this problem and the problem is not with the expectations of the universities; the problem is really with students coming to universities without adequate skills. The biggest problems that the board has, I think, are mostly cultural, because in order to address this problem, it has to work cooperatively with the Illinois State Board of Education, which is more possible now under its new leadership. Also, there are problems of culture that exist within universities; that is to say, the relationships between the College of Education and Arts and

Sciences.

That was a problem that we really looked at and foregrounded in one our papers last year on teacher preparation. One of the things that we are encouraging the board to do is to find ways to improve communication between the various cultures that have an interest in this issue. At present, unfortunately, the people who are really suffering because those cultures don't work very well together are the students. One of the things that Judy Erwin pointed out at the Big Picture Meeting here a few weeks ago was that student readiness is really a student debt issue, because student readiness means that it takes students longer to get through what is supposed to be a four-year degree.

One way of addressing the student debt problem is to bring students to school ready to hit the ground running and not have to spend a lot of time doing remediation. Right now, we have enormous percentages, 80% in community colleges and around 50% in the four-years, of students who basically are coming in with remediation needs. It is a very important issue and I am happy to say that the board understands this, but they are not really sure what to do about it; we are working with them to try to do something.

Senator Blaney: Was there discussion of this problem in light of the forthcoming shortage of 18-year-olds?

Prof. White: Our president was the first to put it in dramatic terms for me, but the board also understands that there are certain demographics coming down the road that are going to make life more difficult, especially for the twelve public universities. There is going to be increasing competition for a smaller pool of students and there is going to be a larger percentage of that pool that is going to be from minority groups and groups that traditionally don't go to school. So, the issue of college readiness in those groups is going to be really critical. This is something Judy Erwin is very focused on. Somehow, and this is a matter of social justice as well as practical need, those students, who traditionally have not gone to school, need to be made ready to go to school. Otherwise, we are going to have a lot of empty seats in the public universities,

Senator Alferink: It is politically very popular to allow students to enroll in college credit courses while they are in high school and often that credit counts both towards a high school diploma and towards a college degree. Has the board evaluated whether that contributes to the readiness of students who subsequently enroll in universities?

Prof. White: I really don't know. I will say that my one major source of concern is a trend for students, who are certainly admissible to four-year traditional programs, to go to community colleges first, because it's cheaper, in order to get general education credits out of the way. The board seems to think that this is fine. From my point of view, there are a lot of dangers in that and a lot of ways in which good students are disserved by obliging them to take a certain course when they are capable of taking a more challenging one. That is the one thing that I would criticize the board for, at this point. The funny thing about criticizing or not criticizing the board is that the board, itself, I think, feels kind of impotent right now.

Senator Wilkerson: We have been hearing about this decline in the number of future 18-year-olds and a shift in the demographics. Can you quote some specific numbers?

Prof. White: I think that the President could provide you with those numbers very readily; I don't have them. I am glad that you all are interested in these things because I think you really should be. I will be coming back to you at some point this year with a sort of a grassroots plea that we are trying to get moving through our council. One of the things that I would say about faculty in this state is that we are very passive. Things happen and we just observe them as if there is not much that we can do about them.

I think on this campus, in particular, since we don't have a union, we tend to feel particularly passive, but these are all things that we should take a very deep interest in because they have a huge impact on us. Provost Presley was just outlining one of them for you. The figures that he gave are alarming, if you know how to hear them, but they don't even begin to touch on the ways in which departmental culture has changed in the years since I have been here, just in terms of the richness of departmental life. I think that we have all seen that take a nosedive, never mind the nose counts in terms of tenure-track lines. There is just not any money because variance dollars are all centralized. There is not any money in the departments to do the kinds of things that we used to do, sort of routinely, in terms of bringing people in.

Senator Stewart: I wanted to address something that Senator Alferink brought up about students taking college-level classes while they are in high school. I have read a couple of articles about more and more students, especially minority students, taking advance placement classes in high school and, even though they don't do well enough to get advance placement credit, they are more successful when they come to college having taken those classes.

Senator Alferink: I specifically wasn't addressing the AP classes.

Senator Stewart: Well, it said, 'AP, honors classes or any classes with a little bit more challenge to them', and certainly classes in college would rise to that level.

Provost Presley: Jonathan Rosenthal has written a white paper on the changing demographics and the changing numbers in high school graduates that has been made available to the President. It is very specific and very well researched. It has been shared with the President's Cabinet and the Educating Illinois Task Force and is part of the usual presentation that that task force does. Jon could answer Senator Wilkinson's question by e-mail or he could be invited to speak to this group on this issue.

Information Items:

10.25.07.04 Solicitation Policy-Revised (Rules Committee)

Senator Alferink: We are presenting a revised draft of the Solicitation Policy with the strike-throughs and underlines, along with a clean copy, with all of the editorial differences included, so that it is easier to read in context. This policy came to the Rules Committee as part of the normal review cycle. It references numerous other documents, some of which no longer exist. Therefore, part of our revision was to simply remove the listing of the documents and just refer to 'all university policies'. Secondly, it seemed useful to forefront a piece from the Electronic Communications Policy that said solicitation by SPAM on campus is also forbidden by the Solicitation Policy. Finally, the existing policy does not permit solicitation that occurs on a regular basis, which is actually permitted by other policies; we, therefore, added language that states that departments and programs can do things that might be construed as solicitation as long as they are part of the university's mission.

Senator Borg: What happens if someone violates the policy and solicits using SPAM?

Senator Alferink: The Electronic Communications Policy states that that should be reported to the Associate Vice President for Information Technology.

Senator Kalter: When we erase all of the specific policies, and say, 'except as permitted by University policy', someone reading this won't necessarily know where to go to find the appropriate policy.

Senator Alferink: If you list them, they also won't know where to find them. That is the problem we are trying to address. For example, the policy references the campus' mail service regulations. You cannot find campus mail service regulations that relate to the Solicitation Policy. The *Student Handbook* does not exist as a handbook anymore. These things transform and it is not always easy to identify what they are, but the appropriate body is basically responsible for enforcing the policy within their facility.

Motion XXXIX-20: By Senator Alferink, seconded by Senator Blaney, to suspend the rules and move to the policy to action.

Senator Thompson: Is there an urgency to move this to action?

Senator Holland: No, we are just clearing things up so that we don't have to come back to it again. We are not actually suspending the rules; it is allowed as a procedure. For things that are noncontroversial, it has been fairly traditional to do this.

The motion to move to action was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXIX-21: By Senator Alferink to approve the revised policy.

There was no debate and the revised policy was unanimously approved.

10.16.07.01 Recommendation for Revision to University Mission Statement (Senate Executive Committee)

Senator Holland: The recommendation for revision to the University Mission Statement is brought to you, courtesy of the Executive Committee. This came to us from the Educating Illinois Task Force, which has recommended a very minor change. In the revisions of Educating Illinois, it became very clear that one of the shifts we are making is to place more emphasis on public service. So, the Educating Illinois Task Force has recommended to us that we insert the words, "public service", in our University Mission Statement so that it would now read, "We promote the highest academic standards in our teaching, our scholarship, public service and the connections we build between them."

Senator Borg: I am sorry that I was unable to attend the last Executive Committee meeting. The last time we dealt with the revision of our mission statement, it went through the Academic Affairs Committee. Was there a reason why this was not forwarded to that committee?

Senator Holland: The reason that it was not forwarded to Academic Affairs was because it was considered to be a fairly small modification and the Educating Illinois Task Force wants to have a version of the document ready to go by the end of November to begin discussion on it. They did say that if we don't chose to do this, they will go forward with our mission statement as it stands, but that they would like to see this revision.

Senator Gudding: I think that this is a great addition to it. Is the word "our" before "public serve"?

Senator Holland: Yes, to make it go along with 'our teaching, our scholarship, our public service...'

Senator Gudding: Would this addition modify the phrase "academic standards"?

Senator Holland: We did have a fairly extensive discussion in Executive Committee about that very thing

and the general consensus was that what we do in the context of public service, as related to the mission statement, should have fairly high academic standards.

Senator Kukla: If we include three items, and this is grammatical, “teaching, scholarship and public service”, we can’t say, “and the connections we build between them”, we would have to say, “*among* them”.

Senator Blaney: Would the placement of public service in the mission statement have any status for Faculty Status Committees and the necessity for them to place higher value on service?

Senator Holland: That would be up to your DFSC to place the appropriate weighting on what you do. The purpose of a mission statement is just to state the basic goals of the university. How people are rewarded by meeting those goals would filter down, eventually.

Senator Wang: Would you read the statement once to clarify it?

Senator Holland: “We promote the highest academic standards in our teaching, our scholarship, our public service and the connections we build among them.”

Provost Presley: Would you consider “among and between them” because we value connections between one and two, two and three, etc.?

Senator Holland: There is significant discussion, so I think that we shall send this to the Academic Affairs Committee to consider the various ideas presented.

Communications

Provost Search/College of Fine Arts Events

Senator Borg: I was reading with interest the information from the President from the last meeting when I was, unfortunately, unable to be here, about the search for the Provost position. I would encourage you all to keep the two weeks right after Thanksgiving break available for on-campus interviews. We are still aiming for that as a deadline.

I also would like to welcome you to a number of events in the College of Fine Arts. Tonight, there is a premier of the play, *Relatively Close*. It is a co-production with the Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago. They will be performing it next June making use of all of the sets and direction that are being produced here on campus right now. Tomorrow night is the opening of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in the Allen Theatre.

The University Galleries had an opening last night for a new exhibition *called Poets on Painters* and the annual BFA show has opened in the space next to the Garlic Press. It is a wonderful opportunity that we have to be involved in public service and outreach to the community. As part of the Gold Series for the School of Music, next Thursday evening, a week from tomorrow, there will be a performance by the Wind Symphony of several items, featuring solos by members of the School of Music faculty and with the invited composing guests, one of whom wrote a piece for our sesquicentennial celebration that was premiered last March.

Senator Holland: I would like to reiterate that there will be special sessions during the Provost’s search for discussion of shared governance issues. I would highly recommend that all of you attend those when they are scheduled.

Poets on Painters Event/Visiting Poet

Senator Gudding: With regard to the *Poets on Painters* event, there is another event that is happening tomorrow night in the University Galleries. Thirteen poets from the graduate and undergraduate curricula at ISU will be reading poems in an omnibus reading in the gallery based on the paintings there. On November 30th at 7:00 p.m., a very fine poet, Kristin Prevallet, will be reading at the University Galleries.

Jonathan Kozol Presentation

Senator Stewart: Next Wednesday, here in the Bone Student Center, Jonathan Kozol is coming to speak. He is a wonderful author and marvelous champion of democracy and education. He has written *Savage Inequalities* and *The Shame of the Nation*; *Letters to a Young Teacher* is his newest book.

Adjournment

Motion XXXIX-22: To adjourn by Senator Anders, seconded by Senator Long. The motion was unanimously approved.