

Fall 9-9-2009

Senate Meeting, September 9, 2009

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
(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 August 26, 2009

Motion XXXXI-9: By Senator Thornton, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of August 26, 2009. The spelling of Senator Cedeño's name was corrected as was Mark Vegter's. The minutes, as amended, were unanimously approved.

Annuitants Association Presentation (Larry Alferink, Annuitants Association Representative)

Professor Emeritus Larry Alferink, Annuitants Association Representative: I am representing the local chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association. Chris Schwelle, who is President of the ISU Annuitants Association, and I met with Senator Holland this summer. One of the issues we need to address is the not to good budget news. We have seen unprecedented efforts to modify, attack and do whatever they can to the State University Pension System and every other pension system in the state. One of the things that we are concerned about is that all of you who are employed by the university are potentially affected by various changes. Just recently we were notified of a change in the benefit package for retirees. All annuitants, as of October 1, will begin paying for dental insurance. Previously, dental insurance was applied to annuitants without charge. That was applied unilaterally by the Governor. They are looking through the state laws to identify other things that could be done.

Many employees don't understand that they can be members of the Annuitants Association because they may assume they have to be annuitants. In fact, anyone who contributes to SURS can be an annuitant. I invite you if you interested in joining to contact me or Chris Schwelle or go to the ISUAA website to pick up a membership form. Let people in your departments and offices who don't know that they can join, but who are concerned about what is happening, that they can join the association.

The numbers that we have are important with respect to our conversations with state legislators. We have about 1,300 members in the ISU chapter and about 15,000 members statewide. Those numbers carry an impact when you walk into a legislator's office and talk about issues that are important to current employees and annuitants of the university. The more members we have, the better off we all will be.

In attending the State Board meetings this summer, I discovered that there is an advisory board to SURS and each campus that participates in SURS can provide two representatives to the SURS-MAC Board. We provide two members. One of them is to be a staff member and one is to be faculty member. On our campus, the current representatives are Jim Carlson representing staff and John Lust representing faculty. It seems to be, in our discussion this summer, an advantage to having Senate participation in the selection or ratification of the SURS-MAC representatives or at least inviting the SURS-MAC representatives to provide an annual report to the Senate or to the Faculty Caucus, to the AP Council or the Civil Service Council, about things that are happening.

The faculty representative from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana happens to be on the Senate on that campus and SURS-MAC prepares a variety of resolutions about issues that are facing the SURS pension systems, annuitants and future annuitants. He brings those resolutions to the Senate on the Urbana campus and they modify them and sometimes enact them. Having those connections between issues that face annuitants and potential annuitants and the Academic Senate strikes me as something worth this body considering. I have asked Senator Holland how those individuals are appointed on campus. I know the request comes to the President's Office and the people we have are excellent people, but I wonder, if they are supposed to represent staff and faculty, if it would be useful to have some process of involvement in that selection process.

Senator Borg: You have asked my question. How are these people selected now? I do like your idea of at the very least having a report to the Senate.

President Bowman: I can't recall, but at the next Senate meeting, I will bring forward the process that we use and we can have a conversation about any changes we would like to see. I would like the group to be as responsive as possible to the campus.

Senator Kalter: One of the things I was concerned about last year was the apparent impression that we get "Cadillac" pensions, particularly on a campus where people make the median income, many people make below it, and not many people make very much above it. I am wondering what the Annuitants Association and the administration is doing to educate the legislature and the public about the realities.

Professor Alferink: The average annuitant across the state receives slightly more than \$2,000 a month in a pension, which is not a lot of money. It is the case that there is a group that desperately wants to change the pensions way down from the "Cadillac" version to a "Yugo" version and like to cite the extreme case.

President Bowman: The average non-university pension is \$18,000 a year. People who tend to criticize pensions are editorial boards and various pundits, but when you look at the numbers, the pensions are actually quite modest. I hear virtually no criticism of SURS and other state pension plans when we are in Springfield giving testimony. Everyone in Springfield knows that the core problem is that the state hasn't been doing its match and, year in and year out, funds have been diverted. Now they are in a situation where they are playing catch up. Unfortunately, they are playing catch up in a year when they don't have the revenue, so it becomes more of an issue. For the people who are in the system now, including non-retirees, people who are working for the state now, the current annuity is guaranteed by the Constitution and could not change. Dr. Alferink's concern is well founded because the benefits can certainly change. There is a lot of fear that the change in dental insurance is just simply one step toward a major change in health insurance.

Senator Dawson: It looks like the effort to fix things isn't going away. Maybe we have our best chance ever, particularly with the House.

Professor Alferink: What Senator Dawson is referring to... Many of you may not be aware of this, but if you have paid into social security through other employment, you will get statements every year estimating what your social security benefits will be when you decide to retire. Those statements will not apply to you if you draw a university pension. There are two offset programs that are in effect that substantially reduce those benefits relative to what you would receive based on those statements down to pocket change in many cases. Given that the average pension is \$2,000 and people are not getting much or maybe nothing from Social Security, this is a real problem. I have not heard of any likelihood of that (changes to the offsets) being successful. Those efforts have been around for a long time. We do, as an association, hold periodic

workshops where we invite the representatives from the local social security office to talk about social security benefits. We have scheduled such an event on October 27 in this room at noon. Many people that attend are surprised that those offsets exist.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: There is a good bit of work going on on the campus about bringing alcohol awareness particularly to the students. There was a very good meeting last night. I heard a report on it this morning from the Alcohol Awareness Task Force. Over 300 students showed up so congratulations to everyone involved in that.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Spialek: I want to thank any faculty member that spoke in their classes about the Students On Patrol informational meeting. We had 20 more students attend, so we are keeping that program alive right now. The main part of my report focuses on the Monetary Award Program Grant and what Student Government is doing for that. We started a petition drive two weeks ago. So far, we have collected 1,876 signatures. Those signatures were not online; we made face-to-face contact with all of those students. It is a good start. We are over half way to our minimum goal, which is 3,600 because there are 3,600 students who receive the grant. Once we hit our minimum goal, we are going to set a new one before we plan to go down to Springfield on October 15. That is our ideal date to go down there. Next Wednesday at our Student Government meeting, we hope to pass a formal resolution encouraging the Student Government to go to Springfield. The schools that are supportive of this and who would like to attend the lobby day with us are Southern at Carbondale and Edwardsville and Western. An email is going out tonight to the student body and it mentions that we have a petition going around and that you can download a letter from our website to send to your legislator. We are asking for compelling stories from students that are personally affected by the MAP Grant because we want to be able to put a face on the students that are affected by this. If you would like a member of Student Government to speak to your class, speak with me after the meeting. We can guarantee you a Student Government member to speak about it and to pass around a petition.

Senator Briggs: Will there be a petition in the Student Government Office? Can we send our students there?

Senator Spialek: Yes, we also have petitions there.

Senator Stewart: Can only students sign this petition? Can faculty sign it?

Senator Spialek: We wish that faculty could sign it, but it says that you are a student that would like to see the MAP Grant funded.

Senator Holland: Are there any other locations where you will have petitions that students can sign?

Senator Mackey: In the UPB Office.

Senator Marquis: They are also available in the Dean of Students Office.

Administrators' Remarks

· President Al Bowman

President Bowman: The state has begun to work through some of its backlog of unpaid bills and we were on the list to be paid. We have been paid almost two-thirds of the amount that we were owed as of June 30th. The

state still owes us a couple more million dollars on the last fiscal year. We have never waited this long to be paid for the previous fiscal year's reimbursements. Clearly, the state has every intention of making good on those obligations. The expectation for the future is that their unpaid backlog will grow to \$4 billion by November. Needless to say, we are not being paid for this year's reimbursements yet.

On the capital side, they will release a small number of projects, less than \$100 million, fairly soon. That is just a drop in the bucket out of \$31 billion worth of projects. The projects that they will release in higher ed are just those where the design work has been done, so it will be awhile before they work their way down to Fine Arts. We are optimistic, though, that we can move the Fine Arts project along once the revenue streams begin to kick in from the various taxes that will fund the capital program.

I want to thank all of the students for getting involved in trying to convince the Governor to address the shortfall in MAP funding. It affects over 3,000 ISU students. Those students received about \$12.5 million last year. It is clear that all of the attention this is getting has been noticed by the Governor. He was on a Chicago television station on Monday talking about the MAP program. He knew what the shortfall was. He knew how many students were affected. It was clear that it is on his radar screen. He has met with some of the presidents. Not only his staff, but various members of the General Assembly, are beginning to receive the letters that many of you are writing. If you are not a student, there is certainly no reason why you, too, couldn't write a letter to your member of the General Assembly. For our area, that is Senator Brady and Representative Dan Brady. They both would be happy to receive letters. There are over 2,000 MAP recipients that are located in this district, so it definitely has an affect on our local members of the General Assembly.

At least right now, the Governor's solution is to raise taxes on cigarettes by a dollar. That would make a pack of cigarettes in the Chicago area just under \$10. The Illinois Cigarette Tax out of that \$10 is 98 cents. The Governor's defense was that the state tax in Wisconsin on cigarettes is \$2.52 a pack. It would actually be enough to completely cover the MAP shortfall, plus an extra \$100 million. It is hard to know at this point where this is going to go. The Governor does have a large pool of discretionary funds that could be used, but this unfortunately, may become part of a political process. The university in terms of responding to this and budget strategy is thinking very carefully and looking closely at all of the students who are affected, at each individual case and what their needs are. We certainly are in a position to alleviate at least some of the shortfall.

Private fundraising is another bright spot. I mentioned this at the last Senate meeting. It continues to move forward in a strong fashion. We just received another six figure gift this week. Dan Layzell, our new Vice President for Finance and Planning, was on campus today. We are interviewing candidates for the Human Resources Director position and Dan has been involved in that. He starts on September 15. The search committee for the Milner Library Dean is moving forward. That group has already had its first meeting. The committee has reviewed with the search firm the process and talked a little about the characteristics for a new dean. The ad will be in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on September 18 and the search firm has already received a number of nominations from around the country.

Senator McGinty: When you say that the school is in a position to alleviate some of the MAP funding, does that mean that if it doesn't end up being funded at all in the spring semester that the school, itself, would help those students financially?

President Bowman: Absolutely. The amount we can cover depends on what happens to our budget this year, but we have been extremely conservative with obligations that we have taken on this year so that we can do as much as we can. I don't believe that it will be zero funded, but I do think it will be used as a political

football for a long time, so it's possible that students won't know what their state portion would be until early in the spring.

· **Provost Sheri Everts – Absent**

· **Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams**

Vice President Adams: Last night's Alcohol Awareness Forum was held in the ballroom with a crowd of over 300 students. Senator Spialek was the master of ceremonies and did an excellent job. We hope that the outcome will be to learn more about the consequences of alcohol abuse. We continue to monitor the campus situation concerning H1N1 on a daily basis. As of yesterday, approximately 35 students have come to Student Health Services and presented with flu-like symptoms. They are not being tested, but there is the likelihood that the flu going around the country right now is the H1N1 flu. The cases that we have seen have been mild to moderate and have not caused any significant problems.

Senator Carnahan: Why are people not being tested?

Vice President Adams: The testing is very expensive and it takes at least two days to find out if it is the swine flu.

Senator Carnahan: So it is the norm not to test?

Vice President Adams: Correct.

Senator Borg: I have noticed the appearance of the hand sanitizers around campus, although by Friday, the one in our building was empty. What is the process of keeping those filled?

Vice President Ashby: It is part of the work of the building service workers. They don't know how often they need to be filled. They have a routine, but if it is getting used faster, then let us know.

Senator Borg: I think that that ought to be looked into.

Vice President Adams: The seasonal flu vaccination will be available next week from what we understand. It will be available at a number of locations around campus. It includes students, faculty and staff at no charge. Faculty should probably go to Student Health Services. For students, we will be going to the residence halls and to some of the dining centers.

We are now turning our attention to Watterson Commons Dining Center for renovation. We are in phase two of six phases of this project. It began last summer, so we should see the dining center completed by the end of 2010. Then we move on to Watterson Towers. The exterior component begins in March of 2010 and the interior component will begin in May of 2010. It is impossible to close down that residence hall so it will be phased in to a 2013 completion.

Senator Kalter: I noticed that Walgreens had come out with a seasonal flu shot early. I called Carle Clinic to find out when I could get it for free instead of the \$25 Walgreens is charging. They said not until mid October because apparently the flu shot does not last for more than about six months. If you get it too early, it might not last all the way through the flu season. Can you find out about that on your end?

Vice President Adams: I will do that and send it to Chairperson Holland.

President Bowman: I would encourage faculty and staff to use their own medical provider for the H1N1 shot primarily because it is quite possible it will be in short supply. Any supply that comes to the institution would have to go first to those who are most at risk. That would be people who are between 18 and 24. People over the age of 50 are in a low risk group and would not be at the head of the line.

· ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Dianne Ashby***

Vice President Ashby: The state owes us a remaining \$4.2 million for FY09. We do have signals that tell us that we are likely to receive that by the end of the month. We have not received anything for FY10 yet. Our bigger concern is FY11. Five million dollars of our FY10 appropriation is federal stimulus money. It would be nice if the state would find a revenue stream that would ensure that we would be held even next year. If not, FY11 could be a bigger challenge.

For Turner renovation, we are doing asbestos abatement in two phases. The first phase is finished. That is everything on the first floor south of the main east-west corridor and we have begun abatement on the first floor west of the main north-south corridor. The student fitness building is going along very well. The building should be enclosed in plenty of time for winter so the contractors can work inside the facility.

Water coolers are going to be installed by the end of the week in Stevenson. We are trying to figure out the best places for those. We are trying to figure out the best way to maintain those to make sure that they remain full and tended to. The west curtain wall has been completed by East Moline Glass, our contractor who is doing window work. They are completing some trim work this week. Demolition of the south curtain wall began on September 8th. That small south entrance has been blocked. I do think this afternoon we worked out a way for a series of steps to be opened from the south garage and into the south side of Stevenson, but we do have to close that entrance while that south side is being worked on. There is just not enough room to get people in and out and keep people safe.

We are also working on what's called the punch-out windows on the first and third floors. The first and third floors are completed. The second floor is a little more of a challenge because of the number of classrooms on the second floor. All that work is being done on three consecutive Saturdays. The fourth floor windows began last week. The general contractors are working on the returns to the windows. I also understand that there were four offices on the third floor that weren't painted the first time around. I learned today that those will get painted before faculty are moved back in. The hardware installation on the ADA doors will be in by Friday. The first and second floor bathrooms are roughed in and ready for tile. The tile has been shipped and we are awaiting its arrival. The third floor restrooms have plumbing roughed in completed and the walls are framed and ready for drywall.

Senator Kalter: Thank you for your responsiveness over the last two weeks in getting the water and responding to other issues that people have brought up. Did you say that the federal stimulus was \$5 million?

Vice President Ashby: It's about \$5 million.

Senator Kalter: How has that been worked into this budget?

Vice President Ashby: The state pays us approximately \$85 million. The \$85 million would have been our held harmless. They held us harmless by shorting us \$5 million in state money and backfilling that with

stimulus money.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

Chairperson Gudding: We assessed our issues pending and prioritized our agenda. We generated five action items. We will know by tomorrow who our Academic Planning Committee member will be. First on our agenda next week will be a report back from Senators Spialek and Carnahan about forming an SGA committee to assess textbook affordability issues and strategic ways forward.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Chairperson Kalter: We went over the agenda for the committee and talked about our scheduling. Routinely, we meet with Facilities Planning to discuss our budget and then after that the operating budget going into the Board of Trustees meeting.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Chairperson Liechty: We prioritized five agenda items. We also spent some time talking about the Information Item, the University Professor Designation.

Planning and Finance Committee:

Chairperson Fazel: We discussed the committee's charges. We also discussed the status of our recommendations of last year.

Rules Committee:

Chairperson Solberg: Senator Mackey agreed to be our secretary. We went over the pending issues that we will be addressing and set up a timeline for those.

Information Item:

08.13.09.01 University Professor Designation Proposal (Executive Committee)

Senator Holland: We have a proposal for a University Professor Designation. This is being brought to you from the Executive Committee. This is a proposal to create a new honorary title. It is not at the Distinguished Professor level, but it will aid us in recruitment for very highly qualified people we would like to bring in at the full professor level. For the Distinguished Professor Designation, you have to be at the university a certain number of years. You have to be selected by the other distinguished professors. So this would be a recruitment tool to bring in very highly qualified people. It could also be used to reward people who have been here a long time and done very good work, but are not potentially distinguished professors.

Senator Borg: Why didn't this go through the committee process?

Senator Holland: It was requested to bring it here via the Executive Committee with the hope that we could announce it during the State of the University Address.

Senator Liechty: Our committee was asked to look at this a little bit today and our sense of the committee is that we are very much in favor of this. We think that it is a very good idea. We would underscore a couple of things—that there would be checks and balances in the selection process. That is one thing that we would really like to make sure happens. It says in our handout that the Provost shall develop a uniform policy for nomination and documentation and we would like to see the Senate in some way review that policy. As it's being put together, we would like to see Senate review and possibly even Senate input. The third thing we

would like to make known is that we would request President Bowman to explore ways of beefing up the actual award. There is a \$1,000 one-time award.

President Bowman: Yes, \$1,000 really doesn't do it.

Senator Kalter: You mentioned checks and balances. Where is the checks and balance paragraph?

Senator Liechty: That was not specifically in reaction to the document, itself, but we just want to make sure that this is a university designation.

Senator Kalter: So that it goes through a shared governance process?

Senator Liechty: Yes.

Senator Holland: If we want to be able to have this announced during the State of the University Address, we would need to take this to an Action Item this evening.

Senator Borg: I would not be in favor of that until the wording can be crafted that would ensure the Faculty Affairs Committee input. I would suggest that it could be announced that it is in process, but I would be a little reluctant to just assume that these things would be taken care of editorially.

Motion XXXXI-10: By Senator Hochhauser, seconded by Senator Owens, to move the item to action.

Senator Brown: I would like to concur with Senator Borg's comments. It seems to be a very interesting and wonderful thing to pursue and I am very much in favor of it, but at the same time I think the language of it would take a little bit more time to craft.

Senator Fazel: Is there the possibility to approve this in concept and then work on the details?

Senator Borg: I believe that the Senate could craft a Sense of the Senate Resolution endorsing the principle pending acceptance of this as a policy recommendation. If we defeat the motion to move it to action, then someone could make a Sense of the Senate Resolution that we could endorse saying that we are in favor of the notion and that we look forward to the creation of such a policy in the near future.

Senator Fazel: And that would be acceptable to President Bowman?

President Bowman: Absolutely. There was never any intention of developing a nomination process and specific criteria without Senate input, but it seemed reasonable to have the Senate endorse the concept first before doing all of that legwork.

Senator Kalter: I would like to speak in favor of what Dr. Borg and Dr. Brown have said. I regret that I did not say this on the Executive Committee when it came forward, but I do think that it's better to go through the normal committee process. People are on board with this, but would like to have this worked out, so I would urge you to not send it to action and then move to a Sense of the Senate Resolution.

The motion to move the item to action was not approved.

Senator Holland: We will not move this to action, but send it to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Motion XXXXI-11: By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Gudding, to move a Sense of the Senate Resolution. The resolution was that the Senate endorse the idea of creating the University Professor position, that the Senate will work with all haste to enact the policy recommendation, and that we encourage the President to announce it with our general support in a week's time. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Communications:

08.18.09.01 Student Counseling Services Awareness Campaign

Senator Holland: We have one communication coming to us. It is the Student Counseling Services Awareness Campaign.

Vice President Adams: Student Counseling Services has been very active in trying to reach out to the faculty to help identify those students who are in need of help. This is not a new outreach program, but something that is done on an annual basis to try to enlist the faculty's assistance.

Senator Day: Does this require permission or do we have to have a departmental chairperson sign the form to set up a stand?

Vice President Adams: The answer is no. There is no committee; there is no chairperson. This is just an individual faculty member making that determination and trying to help students.

Senator Solberg: So the second page, which reads, "yes, our office would like to participate..." The "our office" refers to individual faculty members, staff members, departments?

Vice President Adams: Yes.

Other Communications

Senator Borg: On Sunday, the Music Faculty Showcase will occur at 3:00 p.m. in the CPA. I invite you to Tuesday, September 22nd, when I will be performing with a couple of our colleagues on a remarkable work. It is a sonata for percussion and two pianos. To mark the closing of the art exhibit honoring Emeritus Distinguished Professor Harold Gregor, there will be a reception for him tomorrow between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the University Galleries. *Equis* will be the first theatre performance. It should be an exciting season.

Adjournment

Motion XXXXI-12: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Bagnuolo, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.