

Spring 2-17-2010

Senate Meeting, February 17, 2010

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Vice Chairperson/Student Body President Matt Spialek called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2010

Motion XXXXI-64: By Senator Dawson, seconded by Senator Cedeño, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of January 20, 2010. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IBHE-FAC Report (Professor Lane Crothers)

Professor Lane Crothers, IBHE-FAC Representative: We met at Governors State on January 22nd. We are meeting at Edwardsville this Friday. The lobbyist for the IBHE to the state legislature laid out what the IBHE is doing as a communication strategy with the Illinois State Legislature in an attempt to explain what they were going to try to do to build support. They laid out a fairly conventional communications strategy...trying to involve particularly students, trying to replicate the notion of the MAP model, trying to get the appropriate lobbyist in there, trying to get parents to understand the impact of failure to pay appropriate taxes, therefore you are going to pay a much higher tuition, in a fairly understandable, straight forward political communications strategy that almost anybody who knew anything about it could have designed.

The staggering moment came when he said, 'as to the question of why', as in why they should lobby for more money for higher ed, 'I don't really know what to say'. Dan Sevener, the liaison from the IBHE to the state, couldn't understand why higher ed needed money. President Bowman at the December IBHE meeting said flatly, and I believe these numbers and dates have changed, that ISU would run out of money at the end of March. At the meeting in January, Dan Sevener said that no one had told the IBHE that they needed the money before the end of the fiscal year, i.e., the end of June, which, of course, is not true given that President Bowman, among others, said that we were going to run out well before June. Sevener sent out a survey to various university presidents asking them that question and I guess they didn't get it back to him as fast as he wanted, so I believe his answer was based on the fact that he didn't get the answer on the question at the time he wanted it because any number of university presidents have flatly explained when they are about to run out of money and what the problems are. President Peters at Northern Illinois asked the question, 'how does one shut down a university in the middle of the semester?' A number of community colleges have begun to ask similar kinds of questions.

Western Illinois has passed a positive time reporting policy. We have to fill out the card with our sick leave, etc. It turns out that that is online at Western. Now at the time that card is due, you have to fill out day by day how much you worked each individual day. It's not in 15-minute increments. It's not keeping a log book throughout the day. Either on the day you worked or sometime during that month before that card is due, you have to log in specifically how many hours you worked in that particular cycle. Aside from the kind of inherent silliness of that, you cannot report more than 7.5 hours and you cannot shift time from one day to another day should you actually work more than 7.5 hours. What staggers me about this is that they are unionized and their union signed off on this. It signed off on it to answer a question that Rod Blagojevich asked and that nobody else seems to care about very much. I can only hope that we are saner than that.

More broadly, the only kind of really true encouraging news I have for you is that the various university presidents, particularly Stan Ikenberry at the University of Illinois, have gotten very aggressive and very public about laying out the costs and consequences of no support for higher ed. The U of I has put out a document now about the actual economic impact of their spending patterns and what it would mean if those spending patterns went away. As a practical matter, I don't have any particular insights about the budget or anything else going on. All I can tell you is I will probably be equally confused Friday night after the meeting.

Senator Holland: What was the question Rod Blagojevich asked?

Professor Crothers: The question was the ethics standard—that we had to report time positively. How much do faculty work I think would be the ultimate question. If they let us report how much time we actually worked, they wouldn't believe us.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: There are no administrators here to make remarks in the next section. That is because they are all at a dinner at the President's house for our distinguished alumnus, who is going to get the honorary degree tomorrow. President Bowman did ask me to convey a couple of things. One of them is that there is a bill in the legislature right now which is going through, which will allow us to do short-term borrowing against what the state actually owes us in the event that it actually comes to that. All of the universities in the state are on board supporting that bill except for U of I and Northeastern Illinois, who are opposing it with the idea that if we are actually given permission to do short-term borrowing, then the state may actually make us do that. They would rather have it where the state actually has to give us the money in time. We will see how that one goes. At last check, with the money we have in hand, we can make it at least until the end of May. That leaves summer to get through, but hopefully in April, the state will be getting a little bit of revenue in.

Senator Wilkinson: I wanted to ask this question of an administrator, but seeing they are not here, I just want to put it out there. What kind of background checks are done on people hired lets say at Illinois State. I am thinking about the Amy Bishop situation. She killed three people at the University of Alabama-Huntsville on Friday. She shot her brother in 1986. She was suspected of sending a pipe bomb to I think her post-doctoral advisor. She was convicted of punching somebody in the head in a restaurant in 2002 and was on probation for that and she was hired by the university in 2003. Is there any kind of a background check that goes on at Illinois State University or universities in general when people are hired?

Senator Curtis: I would suggest that there aren't employee checks except for faculty members in the Laboratory Schools.

Dr. Jonathan Rosenthal, EMAS: There are security-sensitive positions that are routinely checked. Deans level and above are routinely checked. To the best of my knowledge, those are the positions that are checked.

Senator Holland: I do have one other thing. There is a committee being formed to determine what employees should be required to file as annual statements of economic interest with the Illinois Secretary of State Index Division under the Governmental Ethics Act. The rationale behind having a committee to make a determination based on the vague statutory language is to evidence to the Office of the Attorney General the university's good faith effort to comply with the law. I need two faculty volunteers for this.

Senator Briggs: Could you repeat that?

Senator Holland: Shane McCreery from the ODAA and ethics officer is establishing a committee to determine what employees should be required to file as annual statements of economic interest. It is basically outside employment or conflicts of interest, such as if you want to hire a contractor and you happen to be married to them or something along those lines.

Senator Thompson and Senator Liechty volunteered to serve on the committee.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Spialek: The art contest that we had, which was campus wide, came to an end at the start of February. We have then selected the artwork that will be displayed. We had over 230 submissions from student artists on campus. I know that artwork is already starting to be put up on the first floor of Milner and possibly the second floor, as well as the Visor Center that is in Hewitt-Manchester. There will be one that is going up in the Bone and then possibly in Hewitt-Manchester. On February 24th, Student Government will be voting on the budget review recommendations for student fees for the upcoming year. There are only three actual increases that are being proposed—a 77 cent per credit hour increase in the activity fee and that is due to new contracts for Nite Ride and Redbird Ride; a \$2.00 increase for the rec fee because this will be the first group of incoming freshmen that will actually get to use the Kinesiology and Recreation building. The last potential increase, but this has not been determined yet, would be an increase in salaries for those in Student Affairs. This year, Student Government has been having constituent contact events to inform students about this. It's been a month-long process. An email was sent out today and I am confident that students know what the proposals are and Student Government will be voting on that next week.

Administrators' Remarks

- ***President Al Bowman - Absent***
- ***Provost Sheri Everts - Absent***
- ***Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams - Absent***
- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Daniel Layzell - Absent***

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Stewart: The committee went over last minute details of the Constitution Exam policy change and we will be ready to present that as an Information Item tonight.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Senator Kalter: The committee compiled the drafts of the Presidential Commentary Report to go to the Executive Committee and then to the Board of Trustees. We talked a little about vice presidential commentaries. We also have an Information Item tonight.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Senator Liechty: We started our work on the assignment to develop a set of guidelines for the Ombudsman Policy and we are using the International Ombudsman Association Standard of Practices as the document we are working off of and trying to come up with our own guidelines based on that document. We have an Action Item as well tonight.

Planning and Finance Committee – No Report

Rules Committee:

Senator Solberg: We did meet tonight to discuss several issues. The most relevant for now is the calendar issue as to whether it should be looked at yearly by the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee or some other way of doing that. That should be ready as an Information Item at the next meeting. We also took a look at the differences in language between the 1970 Code of Ethics versus the 2006 Code; specifically one provision there was devoted to hearings and things like that. That should also be ready as an Information Item at the next meeting.

Action Item:

**12.17.09.04 Honorary Degree Recipients Selection Policy (Distributed in 1/20/10 Senate Packets)
(Faculty Affairs Committee)**

Senator Liechty: That document was in your packets from a previous meeting. Essentially, there was only a one-word change in it to make it clear that the student who is to be the representative to that committee would be chosen by the Student Government Association, but wouldn't necessarily have to already be a member of the Student Government Association. We submitted this as an Information Item earlier.

Motion XXXXI-65: By Senator Liechty to approve the Honorary Degree Recipients Selection Policy as revised. The motion was unanimously approved.

Information Items:

01.11.10.01 Context for Constitution Exam Requirement (Academic Affairs Committee)

02.09.10.01 Constitution Exam – Policy Change (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Stewart: Current policy requirements for graduation include 2.1.9, Section J, which requires all students attending ISU, in order to graduate, to pass the Constitution Exam. The requirement originated sometime in the 1950s. It was part of the Illinois School Code, which was believed to require all institutions in Illinois that graduate students to require a Constitution exam as part of the graduation requirements. Later it was found that it only applied to K-12 schools. Since that time, almost every institution of higher learning, including junior colleges, no longer require a Constitution exam as a prerequisite for graduation. We are proposing to eliminate that requirement. It does not in any way affect General Education requirements. It is only the elimination of the requirement to pass a Constitution exam. About 10% of Illinois State University students are affected by this—actually have to take the Constitution Exam—and 100% of all of those students are transfer students.

Senator Holland: So basically the idea is just to eliminate the Constitution Exam as a graduation requirement with no changes to the rest of the Gen Ed program. We have gotten supporting documentation from Ali Riaz of Politics and Government.

Senator Stewart: Actually we found a letter from Politics and Government that dates back to 1999 requesting the elimination of the Constitution Exam as a requirement for graduation.

The item will come back to the Senate in two weeks as an Action Item.

08.26.09.03 Creation of Policy Policy (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee)

Senator Kalter: It is a one sentence policy. "When creating policy that broadly affects the academic area broadly understood, the President will seek the advice of the academic community through its principle representative body, the Academic Senate." Since we are the Academic Senate, we really liked that sentence and decided to keep it.

Senator Waterstraat: What would be the process if he didn't ask our guidance?

Senator Holland: The first thing we could do would be to complain to him that he is not following the policy or the constitution of the university. We are a purely an advisory body and if he does not want to follow our advice, he does not have to take it. On the other hand, they do that at their own peril. They would get a lot of people upset with them if they made significant policy changes.

Senator Cedeno: This policy pretty much seems to indicate that only the President can initiate policies.

Senator Holland: In the end, it's the President who must sign off on changes in policies. He has final authority on everything. Even the Provost is advisory to the President.

Senator Stewart: But the initiation of policies can take place in the Senate, correct?

Senator Holland: Yes.

Senator Stewart: But it has to be signed off on by the President.

Senator Holland: Yes, nothing that we do is completely finished until he signs it.

The policy will return to the Senate as an Action Item at the next meeting.

Communications

Senator Horst: There are several School of Music events that I wanted to tell you about. Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m., there is a very exciting concert with Judith and Michael Dicker. There is a chamber orchestra and choir concert on the 18th. There is a wind symphony concert on the 25th. On the February 26th and 27th, we are hosting the College Band Directors National Association. There are going to be a series of concerts. They are bands that were picked through a jury selection process that was a national selection. Six concert bands will be featured and three marching bands will be featured. There is only one institution which has a concert band and a marching band featured and that is Illinois State University.

Adjournment

Motion XXXXI-66: By Senator Bagnuolo, seconded by Senator Hoelscher, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.