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Senate Meeting, September 15, 2010

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 15, 2010
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senator Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of September 1, 2010

Motion XXXXI-10: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Farrell, to approve the Senate Minutes of September 1, 2010. The motion was unanimously approved.

09.02.10.01 Sense of the Senate Resolution: Statement of the Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education on Shared Governance Participation in Budget Decision-Making and Policy Implementation (Professor Lane Crothers, IBHE-FAC Representative)

Professor Crothers: This resolution was endorsed by the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council. It has subsequently been endorsed by the Carbondale Senate. Decision-making processes at a number of campuses do not have much consultation, not much discussion, nor transparency. Thus, I was asked to draft this document. It was revised several times by the FAC to essentially push those institutions to consider the practical, positive value of shared governance participation in times of difficult decision making, while at the same time reminding the shared governance systems of the real problems that exist and the real need to sometimes make decisions in a timely manner.

We are now seeking all of the Senates of the public universities, and as many of the other institutions that are willing, to endorse it so that it can speak to what we think are best practices in difficult decision making periods and at the same time responsive to the real world needs of the situation.

Senator Rich: I have a concern about item #2 about termination of the services of a tenured faculty. I am a bit troubled that if we approve this, there would be less constraint than in our current ISU university policies. The one-year notice is consistent with what we require for a tenure-track faculty member after two years of service. I would be a lot more comfortable with that particular part of the document if some statement about conditions consistent with ISU policies and procedures must not be violated.

Professor Crothers: This document isn't amendable in a fashion, but I have a way out that meets that concern. I think it would be perfectly reasonable to offer a stipulation of endorsement contingent upon whatever particular language you want to stick in. This document is not amendable, because I can't speak for the council in this context. If ISU wants to stipulate that those policies are even more stringent than what's in here, I can't imagine anyone on my body being bothered by that.

Motion XXXXI-11: By Senator McMahon, seconded by Senator Diaz, to approve the Sense of the Senate Resolution.

Senator Holland: Would you care to make that an official statement?

Senator Rich: Yes, I would if that could be accepted as a Friendly Amendment.

Senator Holland: It wouldn't actually go in the document.

Senator Rich: I understand that, but in terms of our endorsement of this, that our endorsement requires that the conditions consistent with ISU policies and procedures must not be violated.

Senator Holland: With that understanding, any other comments?

Senator Van der Laan: Does this have any power? It seems fairly soft. Is it able to accomplish what's desired?

Professor Crothers: One of the things I hate is group editing of documents and this was edited by 36 people. There are a couple of institutions where this is a real problem right now and what their leaderships have said is if we can have this endorsements we can say this is something that other institutions are doing, which is pretty much what we do—it's not even as strongly stated as what we do—we could say to the administration, this is something that works, please talk to us. It's also something that you can go to the faculty, staff and students of the institution and say this is what can happen. I perceived it more as a persuasive document than an authoritative document.

Senator Solberg: Was there any discussion about the use of the word "excuse" in the second and third paragraphs? The connotation of that is more negative than I think we are used to around here.

Professor Crothers: That was not discussed. I can see where you can justify alternative word choices there. The sense of the people that were really worried about this was, in fact, that it was an excuse. There is a very different dynamic on a lot of campuses.

Senator Van der Laan: You think that this is more than just a document that will make faculty, staff and students feel good? It will have actually some persuasive force?

Professor Crothers: I do actually. When you go to the statewide meetings, it's staggering how bad some places are doing this. It's a longstanding history of hostility. Will it have systematic effect across the board? It's politics. Sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't.

The Sense of the Senate Resolution was unanimously approved with the proviso that ISU polices trump anything it has to say or that may be read into it.

State University Annuitants Association Presentation (Larry Alferink, SUAA President)

Professor Emeritus Larry Alferink: I am president of the ISU Annuitants Association. There are many things that the Annuitants Association does. One of the things that just happened was at our fall luncheon we had a Survivors Advocacy Team that works with retirees who will face the difficulty of working their way through the SURS paperwork when an annuitant dies and the surviving spouse has to claim benefits. We also scan all of the obituaries looking for retirees, whether they are members of the association or not, who have died and leave a surviving spouse. We volunteer to help them with those efforts. If you have a colleague who dies and has a surviving spouse, please ask them to contact the Annuitants Association.

We sponsor each semester a workshop on Social Security benefits. I have tried to distribute this (flier) around. Last year, no faculty showed up. It is civil service and AP staff who show up at these workshops. Faculty are affected by this as much as AP and civil service staff. I thought that this year we would create

fliers and ask you to post them around your building. They need to know that if they are eligible for Social Security, their Social Security benefits will be cut because of the provisions of the SURS system because they receive a government pension not covered by Social Security. The WEP provision results in a reduction of Social Security benefits. The Social Security statement that they receive will not have any particular relevance to the Social Security benefits they will receive. If the spouse dies and they didn't work for the university, they would be eligible for survivor's benefits. If you work for the university for any significant period of time, you will not see a dime of the survivor's benefits because of the GPO provisions. So, we sponsor a workshop. There is a person from the Social Security office who does a very good presentation. She asks for questions and she handles individual questions until all concerns have been addressed. In special cases, you have to make an appointment. I would appreciate you informing people about these workshops.

Numerous states are struggling with budget crises. Supposedly, if you have worked for 20 years at the university, after you retire, you do not pay any health insurance costs. You hope that that stays true. It is not guaranteed. Currently, several other states that have had no cost health insurance for retirees have just instituted charges for retirees. Michigan and Kentucky are two examples. The case of Michigan is currently in court.

A number of things are happening with pensions. Starting January 1 for new employees, the pension law that affects them is different than the pension law that affects you. It will be substantially worse because it takes the highest eight consecutive years rather than four consecutive years, significantly reducing the pension. It also caps pensions making hiring of senior people for the university a problem. The *Tribune's* law firm has issued an opinion, and several others, saying that current employee's benefits can be cut, as long as it is future benefits, not current ones that you have already accrued.

The state has not funded the pension system according to the law for most of the years since it was established in 1951. SURS is currently funded at approximately 88% of liabilities. Last spring, it was down to 41%. If the state had met its level of funding, SURS would currently be funded at 107% of liabilities. You may have heard talking points that the *Tribune* and others have been using that we have a "Cadillac" pension system and that that pension system is unsustainable. I believe that the current SURS pension averages \$26,000 a year. That is not a lot of money to live on. If I am wrong and it's \$2,600 a month, it's in the low \$30,000 a year. So it's not for most people a Cadillac provision.

If you are not a member of the Annuity Association, you should be aware that all current employees participating in SURS are eligible to be members. If you want to become a member, let me know.

Senator Cox: Does the Annuity Association offer a course of action in light of this information?

Professor Emeritus Alferink: There is a legislative platform that they have prepared. If you would like, I would be happy to share that with you.

Senator Wedwick: Can you repeat again what the new law says and how that changes the hiring of retired faculty? We have some retirees who come back and teach a course. Is that going to impact that?

Professor Emeritus Alferink: I believe it does, but I am not certain about that. The new law affects individuals who are newly hired. There has been discussion about individuals coming back, but I don't know if it's in the new law.

Senator Dawson: Is there any reason to be optimistic about things happening in Washington with the repeal

of the WEP GPO?

Professor Emeritus Alferink: No, I was asked that same question last year because numerous members of congress have signed onto a bill that will never be brought up for a vote. There are reasons why it's in place and the Social Security Administration doesn't do a very good job of describing why that occurs, but with the WEP offset, if that were not in place, you would be privileged relative to people who are not working for the university. Unfortunate, the way they do, it doesn't work out, so some of you come out not so good and some of you still come out better if you didn't work here.

Senator Reifschneider: If some faculty member is participating in self-managed version of SURS, are they affected by these conditions?

Professor Emeritus Alferink: Not as much, because the legislature has pretty much left them alone in terms of what it has done so far.

Chairperson's Remarks – No Remarks

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Marquis: The SGA had its first office on the quad where we encouraged students to participate in a couple of different surveys, one being a communication survey for students and faculty so that we can improve how we communicate on campus. We also pushed the university advisement survey making sure that students participated in that as well. The majority of SGA is deputy registrars, so we are going to be going out into the community registering students to vote, but we also can register faculty members to vote. If you are interested in having one of our registrars come to one of your classes and offer their services to your students and yourself, please talk to me after the meeting.

Administrators' Remarks

· **President Al Bowman – Absent**

· **Provost Sheri Everts**

Provost Everts: Our initial cohort for the Illinois State University Pilot Leadership Initiative, that group has been selected. I would like to congratulate all of the nominees. I would like to congratulate Senator Holland who is a member of the inaugural leadership cohort. I will close with something you may have missed in the *Chronicle*. The American Institution for Economic Research has selected Bloomington-Normal as one of the 75 best cities for college students. We are number 15 in the college towns under 250,000 residents category.

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

Vice President Adams: Let me begin by addressing the Crime Alert. I think that perhaps when you receive that, you see particularly that the aggravated assaults have escalated. There were four that were reported to the Normal Police Department and all of them occurred off campus and all of them occurred between the hours of 1:30 a.m. and 4:40 a.m. I think that this is becoming a very serious situation. I want to emphasize that students must be cognizant of their physical condition, their surroundings and the time of the night. I think last year the number of Crime Alerts issued over a semester may have already been exceeded. So that means that there are some things going on out there that need to be recognized and taken care of.

The flu shots will again be offered by the Student Health Services and this 2010-11 vaccine provides protection against the H1N1 flu. Students, faculty and staff who are under the insurance plan of the

university, you can begin to schedule your appointments at the Student Health Services beginning Monday, September 20, 2010. Those who are not eligible—retirees are eligible—are spouses or domestic partners of students or faculty and staff members. We will be rolling out a marketing campaign starting next week.

The University Housing Services office staff, along with 30 staff volunteers, are in the process of conducting the annual House Calls program. They go door to door in the residence halls and talk with the residents about a number of things...trying to get feedback on move-in, the first two weeks of school and about the residence hall experience. It's a personalized attempt to give students the idea that the faculty and staff and other students do care about the experience that students are having.

The Wellness Ambassador's kick-off luncheon was held today. There are nearly 120 ambassadors for the Wellness Program. We are very proud to have the new unit for about the last nine months in Student Affairs: Health Promotion and Wellness. Wellness was in Human Resources. Health Promotion was in Student Health Services.

Senator Cox: Do we expect to have enough supply to meet the demand this year?

Vice President Adams: There's not been an issue with the seasonal flu vaccine with having enough. Last year was a different situation with the H1N1.

Senator Kalter: I saw a report on the news that students were being provoked by the people who then attacked them.

Vice President Adams: I have read all of the reports for which we issued the Crime Alerts and all of those for which we did not. There have been instances where students have been the provokers and in other cases, the thugs have been the ones to provoke it. So it's been both ways.

Senator Marquis: I would advise everyone to use STOP, the university police and the students on patrol program. It's a great resource if students are needing a safe walk home.

Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Layzell

Vice President Layzell: For FY2010, which was the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2010, we have received all but \$4.5 million from the state on our appropriation for last year and we have been assured that we will be receiving the remainder by the end of the calendar year. This puts us in a better place than at this time last year, so because of that, we will not engage in short-term borrowing. For FY2011, the university's appropriation from the state is about \$5 million less than what we received in fiscal year 10. We have not received any payments yet from the state on the operating side or on MAP. It is possible that it will be January before we do. We have been told by the folks in Springfield that following the election, it is likely that short-term borrowing legislation will be renewed, so we will have to reconsider at that point whether it's in the interest of the university to seek that out.

In terms of the Master Plan, tomorrow is the first of two public forums that will be here in the Old Main at 10:00 a.m. and there will be a second one next Monday at 2:00 p.m. at the Marriott. We also have an online survey on the Master Plan website that will be open through the end of this month.

Senator Schlessor: I received the email, but who receives the email about the survey?

Vice President Layzell: All faculty, staff, students and others on the email list as well.

Senator Tomlin: You said there have been no payments for MAP or for the operating side. Have they given any indication of when those will arrive?

Vice President Layzell: No, they are still making payments to the universities, as well as other state service providers, for the last fiscal year. I do know that the state has typically viewed reimbursements to institutions for MAP in a slightly different manner given that those are real dollars in tuition revenues, so it's possible that we will see some of those funds this fall, but there are no guarantees.

Senator Sanchez: I have had some folks say that I have already done the online survey for the Master Plan, so I am not really interested in the forums. Is it true that we are looking for some different feedback?

Vice President Layzell: That is true. The survey was asking for some detailed feedback with regard to specific recommendations. I think that this is more broad feedback that we are looking for in the forums.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Stewart: The committee reviewed the issues pending from the Executive Committee and one of the annual obligations is for us to ask for a volunteer from the committee to serve on the Academic Planning Committee. Senator O'Rourke volunteered to serve.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Senator Kalter: We went over what we will be doing for the year, the things that we do every year and the special things that we will be tackling this year. We went into subcommittees to look at policies we need to deal with.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Senator Wedwick: The Faculty Affairs Committee discussed the issues on our agenda and set a priority order for those items. We also worked on finalizing the Ombudsperson Standards of Practice and we hope to have something relatively soon to send to the full Senate.

Planning and Finance Committee:

Senator Van der Laan: We reviewed where we have been, where we are and where we are going. We have begun to set an agenda for the year.

Rules Committee:

Senator Bailey: We reviewed pending issues. We may have a few things to bring forward in the next meetings.

Communications

Senator Knobloch: Faculty, can you encourage your students to go to the off-campus housing fair on Wednesday, September 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Brown Ballroom?

Senator Stewart: We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the College of Fine Arts School of Art. In the Gallery this Saturday, there is an opening of an alumni show from 5 to 7. It is a non-juried show of alumni. There will be lots of events going on this year to celebrate the 40th anniversary.

Adjournment

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