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Fall 8-31-2011

Senate Meeting, August 31, 2011

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Recommended Citation

Senate, Academic, "Senate Meeting, August 31, 2011" (2011). *Academic Senate Minutes*. 829.
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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, August 31, 2011
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Sec. Susan Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2011

Motion XXXXIII-2: By Sen. Hoelscher, seconded by Sen. Cedeño, to approve the Senate Minutes of May 4, 2011. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks – No Remarks

Student Body President's Remarks

Sen. Owens: We have two new senators. They are Abbie Elliott and John Olszewski. We still need three undergraduate senators as well as one graduate senator. The application can be found on the front page of our website. We have lent out all of the clickers, but we still have graphing calculators. Students can rent those calculators out. SGA has opened up the RS0 media lab.

Administrators' Remarks

• ***President Al Bowman***

President Bowman: We have a slightly larger than usual freshman class. Our enrollment right now stands at a point higher than any time since 1992. I believe it's 21,100 give or take. The General Assembly cut public higher education. We lost 1.1%. That is far less than we anticipated. That put our FY 12 appropriation at \$78.8 million and around 21% of our total budget. The residence hall work--for Watterson-- we are into phases four and five. Cardinal court is right on schedule. It will open next August. We opened a new clinical simulation for the College of Nursing. No word on the new College of Fine Arts project. Our grant and gift activity have been very good. For the year that ended June 30, the campus received \$33 million in grants. That is an all-time high. Our fundraising ended the year with \$13.5 million. In July, we had the largest single total in history--\$3.4 million in cash. The debt ceiling bill that President Obama signed included \$17 billion in supplemental funding for Pell grants. That bill eliminated the interest exemption for student loans for graduate students.

Sen. Olszewski: In regard to the high admissions we're having, I read something about the residence halls not having enough space.

President Bowman: With a higher than expected freshman class and too many commitments to students last spring, they were short rooms. So it required the addition of supplement housing. We think that that will go a lot smoothly next year as we go into it with a different set of operating principles.

VP Dietz: Many times housing gives preference to students returning the next year. We turned that business plan upside down. We said we're going to house all freshmen. We are still currently using a little bit of lounge space. We also created an incentive program for upperclassmen, who had the signed contracts. We said we will give you your money back and create a housing incentive grant program of a modest amount. We asked them to help us out by finding a place to live off campus.

Provost Sheri Everts

Provost Everts: We are at 21,100 students, which translates into 18,569 undergrad and 2536 graduate students. The average ACT score of incoming freshmen was near 24 and a GPA topping 3.3. Talented transfer students also continue to add to our enrollment. New students are also more diverse than last year. The largest gains were made with African-American students with 26% more than this time last year. President Bowman and I welcomed 39 new tenure-track faculty to campus on August 15. We have approved 53 fiscal year 12 searches for fiscal year 13 hires. We will be doing a national dean search this year. Dean Deborah Curtis from the College of Education announced her retirement at the College of Education fall meeting. Dr. Kathleen McKinney from the Panel of 10 has agreed to chair the committee and Associate Provost Jan Murphy has agreed to serve as secretary to the search committee. Formal letters will go out to all constituency groups tomorrow asking for additional members according to Policy 3.2 .13.

Gregg Simpson has joined us as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Sam Catanzaro has joined us as the Assistant VP for Academic Administration in the Provost office. Dr. Rod Custer has taken a position as Provost of Black Hills State University, so we welcome Dr. Darrell Kruger .He is the Interim Associate VP for Graduate Studies and Research. Dr. Rita Bailey joins us as the Assistant Provost.

Sen. Kalter: The president was talking about subsidized loans for graduate students. How much will this change affect the average student and the ones who are most dependent on loans?

Provost Everts: There are no changes until July 1, 2012. At that time, subsidized loans (no interest charged until 6-months following graduation) will be discontinued for graduate students. The current maximum subsidized loan is \$8,500. The current unsub interest rate is 6.8%, so presumably interest on that sum would start accruing at about \$580 annually when the new rules go into effect. I've asked Jana for average loan information for our grads. A great many are on GA-ship, so our average sub and unsub loan should be well below the maximum. 858 grad students took out subsidized loans at an average amount of \$6324.

Sen. Kalter: Did the number of Native American students drop?

Provost Everts: Of the 50 registered on-campus Native American students for fall 2011, 12 are new. This compares to 11 new in 2010 and 22 new in 2009. The apparent decline is due to the federally mandated category of "two or more races" that went into effect in 2010.

Sen. Ford: Do you have the current number for veteran students?

Provost Everts: 499 in fall 2010.

Sen. Holland: We have been hovering around an all-time high for faculty. How many tenure-line faculty do we have?

Provost Everts: I believe we're at 728 and that is an all-time high.

• ***Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Dietz***

Vice President Dietz: Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here. Tomorrow will be three months for me here at the institution. I am very impressed tonight looking around the room that the institution has for shared governance. I also want to say what a delight it is to join a team of VPs who are committed to working together. This is a very special place.

Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Layzell of

Vice President Layzell: Our long-time director of Facilities Planning, Dick Runner, has retired after 25 years. We will be doing a national search process later this fall. The State of Illinois approved an extension to all of the current health insurance contracts through June 30 of 2012. There will be a special enrollment period, for healthcare changes only, between October 10 and October 28. You will do that through iPeople. If you do make changes, they will be effective as of December 1. Many discussions are ongoing in Springfield about possible changes to SURS. No solutions have gained any traction.

Sen. Kalter: Dr. Bowman announced during the summer that we would be getting raises. But I understand there is a problem in the articulation between the new iPeople system and the raise structure.

VP Layzell: We have to develop a new salary incrementation model with iPeople, which we are in the process of doing. We are working with an outside consultant to develop that. We are making good progress. The actual salary increases will not take effect, the process will not be complete, until the payroll paid at the end of October. They will be retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year.

Committee Chairpersons:

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Stewart

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Cedeño

Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Kalter

Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Rich

Rules Committee: Senator Fazel

Communications:

Sen. Solberg: I just wanted to inform you that they do an amazing job for weddings and receptions here at the Bone Student Center.

Senator Weeks: There will be a series of presentations devoted to the European Union from September 12-15.

Sen. Stewart: There is a great exhibition at the University Galleries. Also the Illinois Art Education Association annual conference will be held at the Marriott and on this campus. That will be in November.

Adjournment

Motion XXXXIII-3: By Sen. Hoelscher, seconded by Sen. Dawson, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.