

Spring 4-25-2012

Senate Meeting, April 25, 2012

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 25, 2012
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2012 and April 11, 2012

Motion XXXXIII-66: By Sen. Dawson, seconded by Sen. Stewart, to approve the Senate Minutes of March 28, 2012 and April 11, 2012. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Sen. Holland: Thank you very much to the outgoing Student Government Association, especially Sen. Owens.

Student Body President's Remarks

Sen. Owens: We had our Passing of the Gavel Ceremony last week. I would like to wish them luck. Ed Gallagher was elected Secretary of the Assembly. Emily Gibbons was elected Vice President of the Student Senate. Ben Adams was elected President of the Student Senate. They will make up next year's Executive Committee. It has been a pleasure working with everybody.

Administrators' Remarks

- ***President Al Bowman - Absent***
- ***Provost Sheri Everts - Absent***
- ***Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Dietz - Absent***
- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Layzell - Absent***

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee: No Report

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: No Report

Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report

Planning and Finance Committee: No Report

Rules Committee:

Senator Fazel: I wanted to thank the committee members again for their wonderful contributions. I want to congratulate the Student Government Association and Zach Owens, in particular, for the active and productive year.

Action Item:

01.02.12.01 Final Course Grade Challenge Policy (Academic Affairs Committee)

Sen. Stewart: Nothing has changed since it came as an Information Item, but there were a couple of changes that I verbally alerted you to. One was the composition of the committee, which would be three faculty members and two students. The students have at least ten working days at the beginning of the semester after the grade was issued. That does not preclude them bringing up the challenge before then.

Motion XXXXIII-67: By Sen. Horst, seconded by Sen. Kalter, to change the committee membership back to two faculty and one student. The main idea was to streamline the process, so the less committee members, the better. This committee might meet over the summer when faculty are not on contract.

Sen. Owens: The current policy for the Grievance Committee is two students and three faculty and that has never been a problem. In the summer when we needed to meet, we easily found the members.

Sen. Kalter: I am concerned about a majority vote of two students and one faculty against two faculty. Academic concerns should be decided by a majority of faculty.

The motion did not pass.

Friendly Amendment: Sen. Kalter: I would like to add as a friendly amendment, “Care shall be taken that no member of the committee knows either party in the appeal”.

Senator Stewart accepted the friendly amendment. The amendment will be placed on page 2 as the second sentence of number 5.

Friendly Amendment: Sen. Owens: On one draft SGA recommends the students to the Provost. On the draft that I am looking at now, it does not have that language in there. Number 5, right after “appointed by the Provost or designee”. I would like to add as a friendly amendment that, “The student members will be recommended to the Provost by SGA”.

Senator Stewart accepted the friendly amendment.

Friendly Amendment: Sen. Kalter: We are going to need to change the Student Code of Conduct so there aren't two policies. In the absence of being able to put those two documents through at the same time, I would like to add a rider that says “This policy supersedes any other provisions in the Student Code of Conduct.”

Senator Stewart accepted the friendly amendment.

The policy was unanimously approved.

Information Items:

03.30.12.05 Alcohol Policy – Revised (Executive Committee)

Sen. Holland: The current Alcohol Policy provides for the consumption of alcoholic beverages in Cardinal Court and Shelbourne Apartments. The proposal on the table is because of the demographics that will be in Cardinal Court such that alcohol not be allowed there. The change in the proposal is the removal of three words “and Cardinal Court”.

Sen. Weeks: What is the rationale for excluding Cardinal Court?

Sen. Holland: Cardinal Court was predominantly for graduate and married student housing where a significant fraction was over 21. The new Cardinal Court is going to be almost exclusively sophomores.

Sen. Woith: How is this going to be monitored?

Sen. Holland: I assume the same as it is monitored in all of the dorms—remarkably ineffectively.

Sen. Woith: The setup is going to be different than an actual dorm. I think it would be difficult to implement this.

Sen. Holland: If you drink alcohol in the dorms, you don't have to present id to show that you are 21; it's just not allowed.

Sen. Ford: It seems it would be better to come up with a totally new policy that encourages responsible drinking instead of completely banning it.

Sen. Fazel: The Rules Committee considered this. It was a proposal by student government to allow alcohol consumption in Cardinal Court for people over 21. We discussed it and gathered lots of information when VP Dietz mentioned that they are going to look at the entire Alcohol Policy next year. That is why student government withdrew that proposal. It is probably something that will come to the Senate in the next two years.

Motion XXXXIII-68: By Sen. Horst, seconded by Sen. Fazel, to move the item to action.

Sen. Gizzi: I am not in opposition of this motion, but this is about the third time this semester that we have done this.

Sen. Hunter: Given that we have three words that are changing, and it was debated a lot in committee before it got here, I think we are safe to move forward.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXXIII-69: By Senator Holland to approve the revised Alcohol Policy.

Sen. Owens: SGA voted to allow alcohol in Cardinal Court for those 21 and over. SGA still supports that, but we decided to withdraw the amendment to coincide with the alcohol review that will take place in spring 2013. Looking at the data, I don't think banning alcohol is very effective.

The policy was approved by a majority vote.

04.11.12.01 Institutional Priorities Report (Planning and Finance Committee)

Sen. Rich: When this report is adopted by the Senate, it goes to President Bowman, who sends it to the four vice presidents. Those vice presidents are required to submit reports in the fall in response. Those reports then flow back to the Planning and Finance Committee. That becomes part of the ongoing discussion of the committee. Meanwhile, the committee is entertaining guests typically from administration on issues they want to focus on that year. That leads to the report for the following year. The committee kept in mind resource constraints and trade-offs-- feasible opportunities.

We thought and agreed with the administration that we don't have enough merit scholarships as part of our recruitment process. Not to substitute for the scholarships that we currently have at the junior and senior level, but add to our collection of scholarships. Item two is the promotion of success of transfer students. We were able to identify a couple of issues that were bottlenecks to their success. On page 2, the entire list of resources at the department level, members of the committee raised questions with almost all of our guests about department level operations.

An area of increased attention had to do with issues identified with research and sponsored programs and additional support for the development of grant applications. Following that, graduate assistantships are falling from general revenue and the only way to stabilize those tends to be from external funds.

Sen. Cedeño: In Part B, promote operational excellence in terms of research, were their talks about intellectual property?

Sen. Rich: It did not come up in our discussion with research and sponsored programs.

Sen. Kruger: We are looking at the intellectual property and tech transfer issue in RSP at the moment. We have an IP committee. We are doing some outsourcing to get legal advice when cases are brought to us. It is on our radar.

Sen. Kalter: You mentioned the graduate assistantships and that we have to go to external funds. I assume that that is made up largely of tuition.

Sen. Rich: Yes, external funds, grants and contracts are funding graduate assistant position. Those are restricted funds so even if a department holds on to the same number of graduate assistants, if they are funded through restricted funds, then those particular assistants assigned to a project, that changes the graduate support for the faculty in their general research and teaching.

Sen. Kalter: So you're saying that it is not being heavily funded by tuition dollars; it's being funded by grants and contracts more?

Sen. Rich: Yes, the part that is being funded by tuition is shrinking.

Sen. Kalter: Under refinement of summer school, are online courses in demand by our students?

Sen. Rich: We did not have a discussion on a session of summer school this year. We did two years ago. This is kind of the ongoing conversation and several of us were there for that. A large percentage of the students are not here during the summer. Expanding online opportunities during that time period would be a complement to our efforts to serve that population. It has been suggested that we put that on our list next year as a priority.

Sen. Horst: Could you give a little more detail about the merit scholarships?

Sen. Rich: Our four-year scholarships are based on need; yet our merit, which would include presidential scholarships, are typically not four-year scholarships. They are not ones that could be offered to incoming freshmen; you have to have a record of achievement.

Sen. Holland: I think the presidential scholarships are four-year scholarships.

Sen. Weeks: Under investing in human capital, you mentioned a number of programs. Did you discuss the relative cost effectiveness of these programs?

Sen. Rich: That is a question that we did not discuss. The conversation with the Provost is something that we definitely want to encourage.

Sen. Owens: Is there a way of directing some of the financial support that student athletes receive toward other scholarships?

Sen. Rich: There was no interest in substituting from current sources of support. There was a desire to add to our portfolio of support for students.

Sen. Owens: Students that came in in 2008–2009, we paid \$14 per credit hour for athletics and grant and student aid is only about two dollars and that is what our merit scholarships are.

Sen. Rich: I am open to proposing that we adopt this tonight for continuity. If there is anyone uncomfortable with that, it would be best to postpone it.

Sen. O'Rourke: I would like time to read the document.

Sen. Holland: I think that there have been enough questions asked that we can vote on it next time.

04.13.12.06 Academic Impact Fund - Recommendations and Statistical Data Revisions (Administrative Affairs Committee)

Sen. Holland: There is the possibility that we may want to do that for this one also.

Sen. Cedeño: The administrators are not here to clarify questions. The Provost is an indispensable person to discuss this as an Information Item, so I would propose to postpone it until the next meeting.

Sen. Fazel: Sen. Cedeño will not be here for the next meeting.

Sen. Holland: But we do have some Administrative Affairs Committee members returning.

Sen. Horst: Can we invite him as a guest?

Sen. Cedeño: I would be willing to come as a guest.

Communications

Adjournment

Motion XXXXIII-70: By Sen. Dawson, seconded by Sen. Woith, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.