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Academic Senate Minutes

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Fall 8-29-2012

Senate Meeting, August 29, 2012

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Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

(Approved)

**Due to a technical error, the meeting was not recorded.
Comments provided by speakers.**

Call to Order

The Senate meeting was called to order by Senate Chairperson Dan Holland.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2012

Motion XLIV-4: By Sen. Dawson, seconded by Sen. Stewart, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of May 9, 2012. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IBHE-FAC Report (Sen. Gizzi)

Sen. Gizzi: I attended the May meeting of FAC in Carbondale. Focused on end-of-legislative session issues. Generally not a very productive meeting.

IBHE has had considerable staff turnover this year including Dr. Robert Blankenberger, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, who left to take a teaching position at UI-Springfield. This is a loss for IBHE.

IBHE-FAC has representation on an ISAC Task Force on MAP Funding. Steve Rock from WIU will represent Illinois faculty on the task force.

The next meeting of FAC is in mid-September at Moraine Valley Community College.

President Al Bowman's Remarks

1. Freshman Profile & Applicant Pool & Enrollment

- a. 3100 freshman, down 3% compared with 2011. We admitted 4% fewer freshman this year in order to let our enrollment gradually settle into the target range of 20,000 to 21,000. Last year, we enrolled 3,321, which was 121 over our target of 3,200.
- b. Freshman applications: 12,397, down compared with 2011. While we expected the applicant pool to decrease as the pool of 18-year olds shrinks in Illinois, the decrease in the size of our pool is slightly larger than we would like and we'll work hard to reverse that trend next year.
- c. The good news is that our ACT profile is stable and the admitted ACT average was 24.2, which is the same as last year. The other piece of good news is that our total enrollment will likely land pretty close to our ideal target of 20,500, give or take a few.
- d. Enrollment at other institutions: Downward trend expected at SIUC, WIU, EIU, Governor's State, and NEIU.

2. Where are we today:

a. Budget

- i. FY12 \$78.8 million – 1.1% less than FY11.
- ii. FY13 \$74.1 million – 6.07% less than FY12 or \$4.8 million less.

1. Our financial position continues to be stable because of low debt, and income from tuition, grants, and gifts is very strong. The state still owes us \$23.5 million from the

FY12 appropriation, but we expect to receive those funds by December. As of today, state support is approximately 18% of our total budget.

2. State revenues between FY10 and FY12 grew by just over \$8 billion, with about \$7.5 billion of that growth due to tax revenues from higher personal and corporate taxes. Unfortunately, little growth is expected in FY13 because of the slowing economy. The state still has a backlog of unpaid bills: \$8 billion. The good news here is that the backlog of unpaid bills is not getting any worse, but unfortunately, the state is just treading water.
3. The state's pension costs continue to escalate as a result of its failure to make full payments in previous years. The cost of pensions is increasing because of a 1995 law that ramps up the amount the state has to contribute. In FY12, the state spent \$4.2 billion from its general revenue fund on pensions. This year in FY13, the state will spend \$5.1 billion, but because they're also making payments on pension bonds sold in 2003, 2010, and 2011, the total pension bill this year is \$7.5 billion. It's estimated that by 2017, total pension spending will be more than \$8.4 billion and since the growth in pension payments is rising faster than the state's revenue, we should expect the state to continue to cut spending on services and education.
4. We are watching closely any legislation that might shift the state's employer pension contributions to universities and local school districts.
5. Given the uncertainty in the state's fiscal condition, we'll postpone a decision regarding FY13 salary increases until later this fall. Providing a competitive compensation package continues to be one of my top priorities and I'm cautiously optimistic that we'll be able to provide a modest, merit-based salary increase that would be retroactive to the beginning of this fiscal year, July 1st. Raises associated with promotions go into effect regardless of the schedule for merit-based raises. They have already been entered into the system, and will begin with the August pay period.

Vice President for Student Affairs Larry Dietz's Comments

Vice-President Dietz commended Senators Manno and Chung on sponsoring a Student Government Association retreat to get organized and conduct planning which will guide their efforts this year. He presented at the retreat and talked about their priorities and the draft of *Educating Illinois*.

He also discussed move-in and praised those involved, thanked the Curb Birds, and particularly the volunteers from the athletic department for their help. Despite the rain downpour, it was a successful and smooth event. Nearly 100 student athletes and staff from athletics helped students with move-in. He also reported on the opening of Cardinal Court and how positive the residents were with their newest addition to the Housing offerings. He indicated that Housing would start with 103% occupancy overall but already were moving students out of lounges with the highest priority for returning lounges to their primary purpose being those on living/learning floors. He thanked Vice-President Layzell and his staff for their assistance in making the improvements needed on the Fell and School properties and reported that they were also full.

He also reported on a successful Passages program including the Convocation which had more attendees despite fewer freshmen than last year, about 1,500 student attendees at the Up Late At State Glow Fest late night event, and great attendance at practically all other events.

Dining Services has been inundated with requests for meal plans from residents at Cardinal Court and students residing in off-campus apartments. The percentage of students living in Cardinal Court who would purchase a meal plan was estimated at 30% and nearly 80% purchased meal plans. In addition, with all of the renovation of rooms completed in Watterson, another 450 students have housing there and is added to the number of students using the dining halls. In addition, 1,935 meal plans were purchased by students living off-campus. This represented an increase of about 400 students. With the removal of one dining hall as a result of the decommissioning of South Campus, the increase in the percentage of students from Cardinal Court students, and the increase in the number of off-campus students who purchased meal plans, the start of the year has been very busy for Dining Services.

It has been difficult to plan for Housing and Dining because of the renovations, taking units off line, adding new units, and some changes in emphasis areas. Vice-President Dietz indicated that this year will become the baseline for planning for the future in both Housing and Dining.

Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Layzell's Report **Educating Illinois**

- During his State of the University address last September, President Bowman called for a review of the University's strategic plan, *Educating Illinois*. Following an extensive period of consultation during the past academic year, the *Educating Illinois* Task Force developed and has now released a draft of *Educating Illinois: Individualized Attention, Shared Aspirations*.
- Over the course of the next two months, the Task Force will visit with a number of University groups to solicit comments and questions regarding the new draft. We are scheduled to present the draft to the Senate at its next meeting – September 12th
- Two public forums also have been scheduled to give the University and local communities an opportunity to share their thoughts about the plan. The forums will be held on Wednesday, September 12 and Thursday, September 20; each will begin at 2 p.m. and be held in the Prairie Room at Bone Student Center.
- An on-line survey will be open until October 19 for people to provide comments on the plan as well. The online survey as well as a copy of the plan can be found on the Educating Illinois website at <http://educatingillinois.illinoisstate.edu/>
- Members of the Academic Senate who serve on the *Educating Illinois* Task Force – Dan Holland, Marie Dawson, and Stacy Ramsey.

Facilities Services

- **Hancock Renovation**-A fence around the perimeter of the east side of Hancock Stadium was installed on August 13 – marking the beginning of construction on this \$25 million project. Demolition of bleachers is underway this week; demolition of the concession stand area should begin early next week. The new stadium is expected to be completed and ready for the Redbird's home opening game in fall 2013. Vissering Construction Company is serving as the general contractor on this project; this company has worked with us on a number of projects, including the South Power Plant and the Center for Performing Arts.

- **Hovey Renovation – Column Repair/Vestibule.** Work to replace the column covers and develop a new vestibule for Hovey Hall is well underway. The general contractor, Felmley Dickerson, removed all the column covers on the east side of the building on June 14. New masonry is now in place on the lower sections of each of the columns, and the metal framing for the new vestibule is nearing completion. Project scheduled for completion this fall.
- **Hovey Renovation – Plumbing.** Contracts are in the process of being finalized for the replacement of plumbing; once work begins this semester, it is expected to take approximately four months to complete.
- **Hovey Renovation – First Floor.** Design work for the renovation of the first floor is complete; plans are being reviewed by Purchasing in preparation for releasing bids on this project.
- **Watterson Towers - interior renovation.** This summer, the last phase of this seven-phased project was completed; some punch list items being addressed.
- **Watterson Towers – exterior renovation.** This summer, the contractor – United Restoration – substantially completed the exterior repair work on the south and north towers.

Other Items of Interest

- Parking and Transportation has been monitoring campus parking lots to determine what changes can be made to better accommodate our campus community. Changes are being made to some parking area designations to provide more space for commuter parking. These changes include:
 - The commuter reserved zone on Main Street directly across from the stadium (lot G64) will be converted to surface commuter parking. Surface commuter parking permits, as well as faculty-staff permits, will be valid in this lot.
 - The commuter reserved zone on Locust Street (lot G86N) will also be re-designated to allow for surface commuter parking on one side and will maintain the existing commuter reserved zone on the other.
 - The lots on campus that were previously designated as surface commuter parking only will now allow for faculty and staff parking too.
 - The northernmost section of lot A67 will also be converted to surface commuter parking. Parkers can access this lot from Locust Street.
 - The large portion of the northern section of lot F93 currently designated as student storage (S103) will be changed to surface commuter parking. A large section of the southern portion of lot S103 (located at the parking office) will be changed to allow for surface commuter parking as well.
- Visit the parking web site at www.parking.ilstu.edu for more information about these changes, and for information on the Redbird Ride Transportation Program. These buses will get you from remote parking areas to the heart of campus.

- PA 97-0772-Abolished the Legislative Scholarship Program and created the **Tuition and Fee Waiver Task Force** to review and evaluate tuition and fee waiver programs at public universities by considering the following:
 - the institution's justification of the need for the program
 - the program's intended purposes and goals
 - the program's eligibility and selection criteria
 - the program's costs
 - the purported benefits resulting from the program
 - whether the program serves the public interest or advances a private interest

The Tuition and Fee Waiver Task Force will hold public hearings and submit a report before April 15, 2013 to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Board of Higher Education. Each legislative leader made two appointments to the committee, they are:

- House Democrats-Representatives Keith Farnum (Elgin) and Fred Crespo (Schaumburg)
- House Republicans-Representatives Dan Brady (Bloomington) and Mike Bost (Carbondale)
- Senate Democrats-Senators Mike Frerichs (Champaign) and Edward Maloney (Chicago)
- Senate Republicans-Nobody appointed yet

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee: Senators Gizzi and Stewart will co-chair the committee.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Sen. Kalter was elected chair of the committee and Senators Gibbons and Reifschneider will act as secretaries for the committee.

Faculty Affairs Committee: Sen. Horst will serve as chair of the committee.

Planning and Finance Committee: Sen. Rich will serve as chair of the committee.

Rules Committee: Sen. Fazel was elected to serve as chair of the committee.

Communications

Adjournment

Motion XLIV-5: To adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.