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Fall 11-6-2013

Senate Meeting, November 6, 2013

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Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, November 6, 2013
(Approved)

(Due to technical difficulties, approximately 10 minutes of the first part of the meeting was not recorded.)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2013

Motion XLV-22: By Senator Shapiro, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Alvarado: SGA is sending an email to students about being safe on Halloween as well as the no smoking on the quad policy. They discussed textbook affordability and a best practices campaign. SGA may soon endorse a revised Final Exam Policy.

Administrators' Remarks - Absent

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Stewart: The committee discussed the revised Final Exam Policy and textbooks.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee

Senator Smudde: The committee reviewed and began editing a draft of the deans' survey that is planned to be conducted this year. We have one more section of that survey to complete at our next meeting, when we will also begin work on the survey about the president. I also express our sincere appreciation to Senator Kalter for all her great help to me and the committee, as she had been the AABC chair for the previous few years.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Hoelscher: The committee discussed the Domestic Partner Benefits Policy, which will be forwarded to the Executive Committee. The committee will continue its discussion on financial exigency.

Planning and Finance Committee

Senator Rich: We welcomed two new student members to the committee. Our guest this week was Mark Walbert, Chief Academic Technology Officer. He gave us a thorough review of the classroom technology enhancement project. The committee talked about Reggie Net, the course management system.

Rules Committee

Senator Bushell: We were able to finish our work on the CFA bylaws. We began our work on the Milner bylaws. We will send out recommendations to them soon. In two weeks, we will begin our work on the Athletics Council bylaws.

Action Items:

01.18.13.01 Interdisciplinary Minors Guidelines-Revised (Academic Affairs Committee)

Motion XLV-23: By Senator Stewart to approve the IDS Minors Guidelines. The motion was unanimously approved.

05.01.13.02 *Baccalaureate Degree Policy Revision/General Education Program Revision of Procedures - Update to UCC Policy (Academic Affairs Committee)*

Motion XLV-24: By Senator Stewart to approve the revisions. The motion was unanimously approved.

01.17.13.05 *General Education Task Force Final Report (Academic Affairs Committee)*

Motion XLV-25: By Senator Stewart to approve the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

10.10.13.01 *Internal Committee Minutes Blue Book Proposal (Rules Committee)*

Motion XLV-26: By Senator Bushell to approve the proposal. The motion was unanimously approved.

Advisory Item:

10.23.13.01 *Athletics Council Report (Faculty Affairs Committee)*

Senator Hoelscher: The Faculty Affairs Committee reviewed the report and suggested some clarifications. The Athletics Council made those changes. I will take any questions you have back to the Athletics Council.

Senator Rich: *USA Today* has a database for subsidies to athletics. Does the Athletics Council have any comments about methodology or context?

Senator Kalter: The budget report for the Athletics Council goes to the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee, which may be more pertinent to the question you are asking than this report. That would be a good question when that report comes in in the spring semester.

Senator Rich: Could you forward my question to the council so that it is awaiting the report?

Communications:

11.01.13.01 *Sense of the Senate Resolution: Statement on Pension Reform (Executive Committee)*

Senator Holland: At the end of September, there was a meeting of the Council of Illinois University Senates (CIUS). Considering that there have been so many ideas about pensions, we thought that the only group that has all of the faculty and Senate representatives is the CIUS. We decided to write a very similar document at every campus and submit it to our individual Senates for support. The original text for this document is taken from a resolution from the UIUC Senate. It has been modified in that they specifically referenced a particular plan—the IGPA proposal. This resolution lists some priorities that we think are important in whatever decision they happen to make.

Senator Kalter: The Executive Committee, if the Senate endorses the resolution, decided it should go to the president and board of trustees. Part of the discussion with the president resulted in a slight revision right before the bulleted points because we wanted to accommodate his sense that what we are expressing are the interests of a body rather than solutions.

Senator Hoelscher: The concern expressed was if we are too forceful with the language, we will not be at the bargaining table. We did not want to appear unyielding,

Senator Kalter: We are not a political or lobbying type of body, but we do have the ability to express the interests of faculty, students and staff.

Senator Fazel: “Principles”, which is in the statement before the bulleted points, are really important. They are not up for negotiation. If we are going to leave these for negotiation, then maybe we need to change the wording,

Senator Gizzi: The IBHE-FAC has been grappling with these issues for over a year. In the end comes the question, who are you writing it to? This is an inherently political process. I don’t think the resolution will do

much because we are not the players. If President Flanagan thinks that this statement will be valuable in his own efforts, then why not.

Senator Liechty: Was there any discussion of social justice issues?

Senator Kalter: I do not recall anything under that actual designation.

Senator Liechty: If we could somehow inject that where ever it goes into the discussion, I think that that would be a good thing—the concept of seeing the value of protecting those who have the least.

Senator Kalter: I am going to suggest that if you want particular language that we offer an amendment.

Senator Ellerton: Instead of the word “principles”, we could use “points”. In the third point, I wondered about the words “normal costs”. Would it be better to delete “normal”?

Senator Rich: If VP Layzell were here, he could go into the details about normal costs in the context of the contribution that is made. It is an understood phrase.

Senator Ellerton: In the last bullet point, instead of “must involve consultations”, could the word “genuine” be inserted?

Senator Holland: I am a little hesitant because it is saying you have lied to us in the past.

Senator Gizzi: What was the president’s view as to the value of this?

Senator Holland: He was happy to have it as an additional document, but in all likelihood, it probably is not going to do a whole lot. On the other hand, he felt that it was important for us to make a statement of what we felt were our interests.

Senator Dawson: I think we are being the bigger party by saying we didn’t do this, but we have to help find a solution. We have 50 to 70 years of Springfield’s negligence that has created this. In the spirit of cooperation, I can agree with this, but I feel it is a little soft.

Senator Rich: Are we expecting to debate and vote tonight or are we advising Exec on their internal discussions for us to consider this in the future?

Senator Holland: So far, there haven’t been any really significant revisions proposed except for Senator Liechty’s on social justice. If there is a lot more discussion, then perhaps we should take it back to Exec.

Senator Soeldner: The Civil Service Council is currently putting together a letter from our council. We do mention negligence in the past. It will be sent to all of the representatives and senators that represent McLean County and also to the Committee on Pension Reform. What we are putting together is more of the human story than the points that you have made in this resolution.

Senator Rich: This does not address the specific options that appear to still be on the table.

Motion XLV-27: By Senator Liechty, seconded by Senator Stewart, to add: “Changes made in the SURS system pursuit of financial sustainability should seek to identify the most economically vulnerable segments within the system and seek to protect those segments most.” The motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Gizzi: Who is this going to?

Senator Holland: This is officially going to the president of the university and the board of trustees. That is where the one from Champaign went to and that is who President Flanagan was comfortable with.

Senator Fazel: As a member of the Executive Committee, I really didn't look at all of these concerns. I think we need to spend more time on this and forward these recommendations and comments to the Executive Committee.

Motion XLV-28: By Senator Fazel, seconded by Senator Hoelscher, to table the resolution.

Senator Eckrich: There is some inadequacy in just sending it back to the Executive Committee. There may be more people than Exec and a longer process than Exec to develop the kind of substantive letter we might want to submit.

Senator Holland: In the process, we would be happy to take any suggestions people may have. You can email them to me and I can compile them all and we can try to make changes people would like.

Senator Gizzi: I don't think it's necessary to table this given who it's going to and the political realities,

The Senate voted on tabling the resolution by roll call vote. The motion was approved by a vote of 26 to 22.

Adjournment

Motion XLV-29: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Dawson, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved