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Academic Senate Minutes

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Fall 12-11-2013

Senate Meeting, December 11, 2013

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Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, December 11, 2013
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Vice Chairperson Freddie Alvarado called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2013

NOTE: At this time there are no Senate Minutes for November 20, 2013. Due to technical difficulties, the recording of the meeting of 11/20/13 is barely audible. I may be able to receive an enhanced recording and therefore provide you with minutes at a later date.

Presentation: Underserved Minority Students

Troy Johnson, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management: The report has two sections to it, the first being descriptive data and the second being a reference list of some accomplishments. The news about underrepresented students is positive. Looking first at students new to campus this fall, nearly one of every four of them is from underrepresented groups compared to one of five in the previous year. The largest increases include an additional 62 African American first-year students, a 27% increase from last fall; 24 more Hispanic first-year students, a 9% increase; and at the graduate level, 12 more African American students, a 52% increase.

We are approaching an enrollment level in which one of every five students is non-white. Currently, the percentage is 18.2. From 2011, this is growth by 660 students, where today, 3,384 students are non-white. Looking at first-time students' persistence rates, the data are mixed. Overall first-time college students' persistence rates fell from 82.3% to 81.7%. This is a loss of 18.3% of the class or 565 freshmen that began with us in fall of 2012. Hispanic freshmen persistence declined from 79.3% to 77.4%. However, persistence of African American students increased breaking the 80% level at 80.2%, a rise from last year's rate of 77.9%. Looking at graduation rates, the six-year rate reached an all-time high of 71.5%, which is in the top 10% nationally. The graduation rates for African American students and Hispanic students increased as well. There remains a gap between graduation rates of underrepresented students and the overall graduation rate. Even though that gap is commonly found at national universities, we desire to close that gap.

Looking at the second section of the report, strategies and tactics, there are many in that report and please note that there are many campus-wide in addition to these. The university continues to provide extensive outreach to schools with high percentages of underrepresented students. We have added a third Chicago admissions specialist, who will concentrate on recruiting Hispanic-Latino students. In Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, there are numerous recruitment and retention initiatives that are ongoing.

Our student diversity should grow—must grow. A part of it will come by sheer force of demography. The opportunity before us is proactively to deliver a welcoming university environment and curricular experience that leads to enrolling a great mix of students. Our success attracting graduating, talented students of many backgrounds is more than a topic of interest; it is entwined with our university's prosperity.

Senator Kalter: One of my concerns, demographically speaking, is that Native American students tend not to have a very large presence in our population. Therefore, it is somewhat difficult for them to find one another on campus for us to support them. What kinds of strategies would you suggest for recruiting more Native American students and supporting them once they are here?

Dr. Johnson: Our enrollment of Native American students went up by four students; we are carefully monitoring the numbers. Unfortunately, we have a little bit of a multiyear decline in the total enrollment. It is a demography-driven question that you are raising and the accessibility of our university to large numbers of American Indian students. Being new to the campus, I have not yet been able to explore our options, but I will follow up.

Senator Ellerton: Of the increases that you noted, are those first generation college attendees?

Dr. Johnson: Those data I don't know off the top of my head. We do find with underrepresented students that there is a high rate that are first generation college students. They are very much on our radar as we build financial aid packages.

Senator Cox: Can you speak to any trends of our non-traditional students?

Dr. Johnson: I do not have those data with me, but I would be happy to research the questions,

Senator Kalter: To what do you attribute the increases in numbers?

Dr. Johnson: The university's culture of completion is very powerful. There is a student body that comes here with a desire to complete and there is the enriching education that inspires students to finish.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Alvarado: We had our Club Milner event. It was successful. We are currently planning for our executive retreat for next semester. It will give us chance to decide which way we want to go. Issues brought up by this body were the smoking ban enforcement and the student use of bicycles, so those are things we will be looking at next semester. In addition, we are forming a commission with students representing each college to take a look at the Final Examination Policy. That is to benchmark to make sure there is a student need or want or any concerns of adding a Success Week or Reading Week. That we will in the work on next semester as well.

Administrators' Remarks

- **President Tim Flanagan**

President Flanagan: I want to express my gratitude, as we near the end of the semester, to everyone who has made it a very pleasant and rewarding transition. I also want to congratulate two faculty members. Dr. Erica Hunt and her colleagues in the Center for Education Policy Studies have been awarded a \$4.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support principal training. I also want to congratulate Dr. Tom McClure of the Department of Politics and Government and his team who attended the country's oldest mock trial event at Yale and came back with a series of stellar victories over the likes of Harvard and Princeton and finished quite favorably in that event. I spent most of Monday and Tuesday at Governor's State University with my colleagues from the state universities and the community colleges talking about a variety of issues. The recently passed pension bill took up a lot of conversation. It is highly unlikely that the legislature will entertain any significant revisions to the bill because by the time the legislature convenes, the bill will be in court. On the budget front, we had a number of discussions about the projected impact of a temporary increase in the income tax and what that would mean for the budgets of state governments. We had a very positive discussion with the community college presidents about transfer and articulation and how it is working. Illinois has done a very good job of making transfer seamless for students,

The Illinois Board of Higher Education appointed a new Executive Director, Dr. James Applegate. Commencement is coming up on Saturday. We will be awarding something north of 1,350 degrees. Between the two commencement ceremonies, the BOT will hold a special meeting on financing mechanisms for the campus information project and capital improvement projects.

- *Provost Sheri Everts*

Provost Everts: The library dean search close date for the beginning of review of applicants is in December. There is a Director of International Programs search that is ongoing and a Director of Research and Sponsored programs search that is ongoing.

- *Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Dietz*

Vice President Dietz: Thank you to Troy Johnson; I look forward to those reports. One of the things we have tried to do in the Student Affairs Division is to make some special efforts with Registered Student Organizations with some summits around the retention, particularly of male African American students and Hispanic students. It has been very helpful. We don't have a contract signed yet, but we have a verbal agreement from Shaun Harper. He is a scholar at the University of Pennsylvania. He has done a lot of research on the success of African American males and he will be giving a keynote on February 14 on the topic of serving the underrepresented student.

- *Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Layzell*

Vice President Layzell: Barb Blake, who is the Associate Vice President for Budget Planning and Analysis, is retiring at the end of December. In the interim, I have appointed her deputy, Sandy Cavi. Andrea Ballinger, who is the Associate Vice President of Administrative Technologies, has accepted a new position—Chief Information Officer at the University of Illinois Alumni Association—and will be leaving around January 10. In the interim, I have appointed Matthew Helm in that area as acting. I will be working with my colleagues to determine how we want to move forward with filling the positions.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Stewart: Today, we had Rita Bailey from the Provost's Office talk to us about the International Strategic Plan. It will be coming to us in the Senate early in the spring.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee

Senator Smudde: We approved the revised survey for deans and sent that on to Provost Everts to share with the Deans' Council. We also submitted the survey about the president to the Executive Committee for its review.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Horst: We approved revisions to the financial exigency Blue Book description. I updated the committee on some conversations I have had with the provost on junior sabbaticals. We also made plans for our task list going forward.

Planning and Finance Committee

Senator Rich: Associate Vice President Troy Johnson's power point informed us about enrollment management. We discussed interactions between new enrollment, quality of enrollment and retention and completion. We talked about the intensively competitive environment that we are now engaged in. We also talked about the very large impact small changes in enrollment can make. Plus or minus 100 students equates to \$1.3 million for just the first year.

Rules Committee

Senator Bushell: We finished up our semester. We did a package of bylaws reviews—CFA, Milner and the Athletics Council. We will get those recommendations to them in early January.

Action Items:

10.18.13.02 *Concealed Carry and Prohibited Weapons Policy-Revised (Executive Committee/ Brent Paterson, Student Affairs/Wendy Smith, University Council)*

10.18.13.03 *Parking Areas Where Concealed Carry is Restricted-Revised*

Motion XLV-35: From the Executive Committee to approve the Concealed Carry Policy and Parking Areas Policy. There was no debate. The motion was unanimously approved.

10.12.13.03 *University Violence Policy-Revised*

Motion XLV-36: From the Executive Committee to approve the revised University Violence Policy. There was no debate. The motion was unanimously approved.

11.07.13.01 *Domestic Partner Benefits Policy--Revised Markup (Faculty Affairs Committee)*

Motion XLV-37: By Senator Horst to approve the policy. There was no debate. The motion was unanimously approved.

11.07.13.03 *Domestic Partner Health Insurance Reimbursement Procedures – Revised - No Markup Available*

Motion XLV-38: By Senator Horst to approve the procedures. There was no debate. The motion was unanimously approved.

Communications

Senator Alvarado: The University Programming Board will be accepting donations for the tornado relief this semester and throughout the next semester as well.

Adjournment

Motion XLV-40: By Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Schumacher. The motion was unanimously approved.