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Senate Meeting, November 18, 2015

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2015
7:00 P.M.
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senator Kalter: We are convening tonight for the sole purpose of hearing committee reports and going into Executive Session to consider Honorary Degree selections.

Roll Call

Senator Lonbom called the roll and declared a quorum.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Kalter: I will give the report for Senator Gizzi. My understanding is that Academic Affairs did not meet tonight. They voted by email over the last week regarding I believe it was policy 2.1.9, which is a change to...there is going to be a change to how the Illinois Articulation Initiative works with certain transfer students, so that will be coming to Exec for November 30th. We will probably have that on the floor in December.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Senator Lessoff: We had as guests tonight Bill Legett, who is the Interim Director of Campus Dining Services, and Adam McCrary from Environmental Health and Safety. We discussed the draft food service policy in some detail and we voted to approve it and send it on to the Executive Committee.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Senator Bushell: Tonight we continued discussion about the Blue Book description for financial exigency. So we have some decisions that we have come to and we will bring that stuff to Exec later.

Planning and Finance Committee:

Senator Winger: We had a meeting with Troy Johnson of Enrollment Management and learned quite a bit about the challenges ISU faces as well as ISU successes in attracting enrollment. We have larger freshmen enrollment, somewhat declined graduate enrollment. Our demographic situation is interesting. We expect declining high school classes, particularly in Illinois. We face competition from other schools, so we learned about how that works. We also learned about the importance of retention, of stacking several large freshmen classes one after another and in the future of attracting enrollment from Hispanic or Latina/Latino communities, the south, bicoastal or international students. How these are all important in an era of declining state funding for higher education basically becomes part of Finance and Planning because so much of our financing depends on tuition.

Senator Cox: Do we have any idea of a particular discipline(s) that these students are targeting or heading towards? Is there a pattern in which are most attractive?

Senator Winger: I was asking something to that effect towards the end of the meeting. It isn't clear. Some students come in very much with a certain major in mind and many students come in wide open, so that wasn't clear. I was asking the question maybe for the same reason you are because I was interested in what my department, History, can do about ginning up enrollment. But, no, I did not hear much specific about that although the enrollment office and Troy Johnson are eager to work with departments on that issue.

Senator Cox: I am also curious about the numbers that may be going up or down in regards to undecideds.

Senator Winger: I did not get clarity on that. Should I follow up on that?

Senator Cox: No, a matter of curiosity.

Senator Kalter: We might be able to get some answers to that subsequent to this meeting, but Provost Krejci asked if you wanted some response.

Provost Krejci: If I understand the question, the first is are there certain disciplines or certain areas that have increased demand. That changes from year to year, but I would say that both from domestic and international students in the most recent past and what we see coming right now, the areas of technology, business and some of the communications are probably some of the top. That doesn't cover it all, but those would be high both for domestic and international students. Both College of Business, CAST and College of Nursing are in high demand right now.

Your second question was I believe about the undecideds. We have done, the entire staff, deans, academics, chairs, Office of the Provost, have done an incredible job trying to move those undecideds down because we find when people are admitted directly into the major, we retain them and they graduate in stronger numbers and they are more satisfied. So that is why Troy has been working very carefully with departments where students have high demand because we find often that the undecideds are in undecided because they can't get into their first desired major. So until they are in a major, they are undeclared. So we are working much harder and have a trend line down for students who come in or stay in undecided.

Senator Kalter: Troy emphasized that there were sort of three categories of programs. One were the ones that were sort of bursting at the seams and they needed something more in order to be able to increase enrollments. Another was the programs that are sort of holding steady and doing well, very healthy, and the others that have had drops in enrollments. Basically what he said was that for any of those, we are working just as diligently because they all fit into the big picture of having a healthy enrollment. Just because enrollments have gone down in a particular program, it doesn't mean that there isn't a way to grow that program and get it healthy again.

Rules Committee:

Senator Crowley: The first order of business was the College of Arts and Sciences technology advisory committee addition to the CAS bylaws and it is Appendix H. Our committee was visited by Dr. Joseph Blaney and we even got to the point of moving the approval of this item to an action item. It was approved unanimously by our committee and it will be on the Senate floor next meeting. Then we had a visit from Dr. Thomas Burr who brought a revised Library Committee policy to us. Our committee approved the new Library Committee policy and that too will be coming to the floor of the Senate next meeting. Tonight, we also began discussion of the Student Center Complex Board disestablishment policy and committee. We were informed by telephone conversation with Michelle Paul, who will visit us next committee meeting, but tonight we talked about the role of student representation on that committee. We will continue our work on that item. Then we discussed the College of Education Bylaws and I had a meeting with Dr. Tom Crumpler regarding the status of that and I am going to meet with the COE Council subcommittee that is working on that. We will get that to the Senate floor as soon as we possibly can. Then we discussed the flowchart of the AFEGC and we are preparing for a big job on the AFEGC Policy, which we will hopefully bring to the Senate floor as quickly as possible, possibly during February/March of this year, hopefully. The last thing we did was an update on the items we are still working on including we are looking forward to getting the Milner Bylaws.

Senator Kalter: Just for the record, since there is a Library Policy, I think what Senator Crowley was referring to was the Library Committee Blue Book description as opposed to the policy, which I think you helped to pass last spring. Thank you for your work on both of those.

I now have the distinction of asking our guests to leave the room. We are about to go into Executive Session for a couple of minutes while we vote on Honorary Degree recipients. My apologies. We'll come get you.

According to the Open Meetings Act, we can go into Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.

Motion: By Senator Powers, seconded by Senator Falson, to go into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

Open Session

The Senate completed its business in Executive Session and returned to open session.

Adjournment

Motion: By Senator Schaab, seconded by Senator Hoelscher, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.