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Academic Senate Minutes

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Spring 4-20-2016

Senate Meeting, April 20, 2016

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes

April 20, 2016

(Approved)

Note: The recording for the meeting failed,
so the record below was reconstructed from notes provided by various Senators.

Call to Order

Senator Kalter called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senator Lonbom called the roll and declared a quorum.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Kalter: Welcome to new students who might be here tonight. Thanks to graduating and non-returning student Senators; and to all non-returning Senators: we had a very busy year this year and you should all pat yourselves on the back for how much we accomplished and the reigning collegiality and good humor in the way we accomplished it all. I really appreciate everyone's dedication and patience.

Senate accomplishments:

Textbook Affordability Committee

Protection of Minors policy

Intellectual Property policy

4 sets of College bylaws

Sick leave policy

Policy on the Sale and Distribution of Food on Campus

AIF oversight

ReggieNet/IT shared governance discussions

Library Committee expansion

Sense of the Senate resolutions on 1) AP credit, 2) Insurance benefits payments to providers, 3) MAP grant and higher education funding

Lots of other little policies and policy clean ups

Faculty Caucus:

Five-year revisions to ASPT policy: always a major undertaking.

Interim revisions to AFEGC policy

All:

Weathering the budget storm...or is it a massive low pressure system?

I'm so proud of all of us for all we did.

Congratulations to John Baur, our newly permanent Associate VP for Research and Graduate Studies

Welcome to Levester Johnson; thank you to Brent Paterson for his dedication and service to Student Affairs and the Senate

Student Body President's Remarks

Ryan Powers reported that student lobby day in Springfield was a great success.

Administrators' Remarks

- President Dietz thanked all senators for their service this year. He thanked students, faculty and staff for attending the higher education rally earlier in the day in front of Schroeder Hall; estimates are 600 attended. He was especially appreciative of the students who spent the day lobbying in Springfield. He mentioned recent meetings he had with House Speaker Mike Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton concerning higher education funding. He is scheduled to meet with Gov. Bruce Rauner on Monday, April 25, also to discuss higher education funding.

President Dietz also commented on several House plans under consideration: one would provide public universities with 1/3 annual funding and funds for one semester of MAP grants, another would give full funding to Chicago State, Eastern IL, Western IL, and NE IL. (see today's Pantagraph article, page 3, for details).

- Provost Krejci reported a 1% increase in enrollment. Provost Krejci also reported the upcoming annual Leadership Initiative's emphasis will be on diversity and inclusion.
<http://provost.illinoisstate.edu/professional-development/leadership.shtml>

Congratulations

Congratulations to all **483** undergraduate and graduate students that participated in the University Research Symposium on April 8th.

The *Student Annual* exhibition is on view through May 8 at [University Galleries](#) in Uptown Normal.

Reminders

Leadership Initiative - diversity focus

CTLT new faculty orientation - Monday, August 15th - focus on diversity

Success Week –

Best wishes to students and faculty for end of the semester

Dr. Rosenthal sent a message to chairs and directors about Success Week (text is below)

Chairs and Directors, please share this gentle reminder with your faculty. Thank you. –j

As we approach the end of the semester, I want to thank you for your attention to the Senate approved guidelines (as part of University Policy 4.1.5) concerning "Success Week." Here are the key features:

“During Success Week:

Tests that amount to more than 10% of the course grade may not be given and due.

Assignments worth more than 10% of the course grade, including - but not limited to - course projects, papers, speeches, graded performances, graded performance and portfolio assessments, etc., may not be due unless they have been early specified on the class syllabus distributed within the first two week of the semester.”

The entire Final Examinations Policy is linked [here](#). Best, Jonathan M. Rosenthal

Enrollment Report as of 04/18/16:

These are the number of students registered for Fall 2016.

“Total students registered as of April 18, 2016 = 12,550, which is a 1% increase over the same time last year.

(Footnote for Janet: due to the info system implementation this time last year there are some process and timing difference imbedded in the data comparisons that we've evened out as well as possible to give you this high level comparison. We have some further detail data; however, those data have limitations. Let me know if you need any specific data and we'll dig into it.)

Good news, we are up 4.5% (+134) in FTIC housing contracts with 3,083 at this time, as compared to 2,949 at the same time last year.

Preview registration numbers just came in at 9% up (+140) compared to the same date last year).

- VP Student Affairs Brent Paterson was not in attendance.
- VP Finance & Planning, Greg Alt reported:
 1. Benefit information will soon be coming out for the FY17 benefit choice period that will begin May 1st.
 - a. Because the State is still negotiating premium rates, co-pays and deductibles for FY17, the May period will not contain the new rates. It is anticipated the new FY17 rates will come out around September and potentially contain significant increases.
 - b. It is also anticipated that CMS will roll out their new online enrollment system this fall and begin requiring universities to utilize that system for faculty/staff benefit selections.
 2. Remind anyone retiring or supervising someone that is retiring, of the SURS 60-day rule.
 - a. In accordance with IRS guidelines, SURS requires a 60 day break from employment with any SURS covered employer.
 - b. This break from employment, also requires that no return to work agreement be reached prior to an individual's retirement date.
 3. Last month, I communicated our plan to refinance \$39M of our outstanding debt in order to save the University over \$7M in payments over the next 15 years.
 - a. Happy to report that we were successful in refinancing that debt at an overall interest rate of 2.99% which is exceptional and speaks to ISU's ongoing stability and strength even with the cloud of the State's budget impasse
 - b. I also mentioned that we were very pleased to have our credit ratings reaffirmed by both Moody's and S&P for this bond issue. Since that time, S&P has put public universities in Illinois on credit watch, which means an additional credit downgrade is very likely within the next 60 days. Again very relieved to report, ISU was not included on that credit watch list which means for the near term at least, we should be able to hold our current credit rating with S&P of A+.
 - c. Why is that important? The primary reason is the higher our credit rating, the less costly it is for us to manage our debt portfolio. But also very important, it is a strong endorsement to our banks, accrediting agencies and the public at large including prospective students, that ISU continues to be financially stable.

Vice President Alt also reported about the costs anticipated when the University implements federally mandated changes to the rules and regulations associated with the Fair Labor Standards Act that will raise the minimum threshold for paid overtime from approximately \$25,000 to \$50,440.

Action Items:

The following Action Items were approved by the Academic Senate:

04.18.16.01 Intellectual Property Policy (Senator Rich/Faculty Affairs Committee)

03.30.16.01 AIF Annual Report 2016 (Senator Hoelscher/Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee)

03.30.16.02 Comprehensive Report (Senator Hoelscher/AABC/Alan Lacy, Interim Associate VP Academic Fiscal Mgmt - Reference Document)

04.11.16.02 Institutional Priorities Report (Senator Marx/Planning and Finance Committee)

03.19.16.02 Withdrawal Policy (Senator Daddario/Academic Affairs Committee)

03.15.16.01 Disclosure of Economic Interests Policy (Senator Crowley/Rules Committee)

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports as committees did not meet on this date.

Communications

Senator Kalter thanked Senators Crowley, Ellerton, Rich, and Stewart for their dedication and long-term service to the Senate as well as thanking Senators Huxford, Alcorn, Beggs, Lim, and Suh for their full or partial term service as Senators. To the graduating students: You have shown leadership abilities beyond your years, so we have high hopes for our state going into the future.

Adjournment