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Senate Meeting, February 22, 1995

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ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Not approved by the Academic Senate)

February 22, 1995

Volume XXVI, No. 8

Call to Order

Chairperson Len Schmaltz called the meeting of the Academic Senate to order at 7 p.m. in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center.

Roll Call

Senator Susan Winchip called the roll and declared a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the minutes of February 8, 1995:

Page seven, 9th paragraph: Senator Urice's response regarding reallocating faculty lines to support the new general education program should be amended as follows: "there are no plans at this time to move lines to the general education program, but it is a possibility."

Page nine, 4th paragraph: Senator Urice's response regarding whether or not the new policy was in effect now should be amended as follows: "Senator Urice responded that only the Board of Regents makes policy; this is a procedure and details are still being refined."

Motion XXVI-27 by Senator Weber to approve the Minutes of February 8, 1995 as amended (seconded by Zervic) carried on a voice vote.

Chairperson's Remarks

Each of the senators received a memo regarding procedures for making nominations for the special committee to "review President Wallace's conduct of office." Each of the Executive Committee members received a ballot for voting on the Academic Senate office space.

A brief discussion followed concerning the procedure and deadline for making nominations for the special committee.

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Wilner encouraged student senators to take part in the University Production Board's screening process. He distributed to the student senators a memo outlining rationale for why the Academic Senate office should remain where it is.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Cowser read the following statement regarding the general faculty meeting of February 21, 1995:

Statement to the Academic Senate from Jennifer Cowser, Student Body President

I am concerned about comments that were made by a few faculty members at last night's meeting that seemed to communicate the idea of excluding students and others from the governing process of this institution. This is a profoundly disturbing idea, not only to the students -- those past, present, and future -- but also to the administration. To believe that one entity of the University should be responsible for the development and progress of the rest of the University community is inherently detrimental to the concept of community.

I have continuously been taught to keep the "big picture" in mind. The big picture in this situation is the concept of shared governance. This concept was accepted, in good faith, with the ratification of the Academic Senate constitution in 1970. The system established was to include faculty, administration, and students in the governing process of this University. I would like to gently remind the faculty of this concept and ask you to reflect on what that meant when the Academic Senate constitution was ratified, what it means today, and what it means in the future. We need to be acting responsibly together, as faculty, administrators, and students, to make decisions that are best for the future of the University and everyone that the University encompasses.

I ask that you think of this as you proceed with the committee that was approved last night. Thank you for indulging me.

Support for Senator Cowser was expressed by several of the faculty senators. Senator Wilner asked Senator Cowser if a student could be a member of the special committee to review Wallace's conduct of office. A discussion followed concerning students' involvement with the special committee, the possibility of a student committee, and students' involvement with the new governing board if the Board of Regents were to be eliminated.

Administrator's Remarks

Senator D. Strand noted that the Board of Regents meetings scheduled for March 8 and 9 would conflict with the next senate meeting, scheduled for March 8. Senator Schmaltz said the Executive Committee would discuss rescheduling the senate meeting at its next meeting.

Action Items:

1. COM Program Changes

Senator Stearns asked that the heading of the item be changed from "COM program deletion" to "COM program changes." Motion XXVI-28 to approve the program changes in Mass Communications by Stearns (seconded by Johnson) carried on a voice vote.

Information Items:

1. Senator Stearns presented proposals for the following: ACS - change in name of Technical Systems to Computer Science Sequence; MUS - disestablish Music History-Literature sequence of B.M. degree and disestablish Musicology sequence of M.M. degree; EAF - disestablish Certificate of Advanced Studies; FOR - delete B.A. in Russian Studies. A brief discussion followed, in which Senator Borg, Senator Stearns, and Senator Kaiser clarified some of the proposed changes for the senate.

Communications

Senator Kaiser said he was concerned about the time constraint in the recalling of the general faculty meeting if it is to be recalled in 70 days from the appointment of the special committee to evaluate President Wallace's conduct of office. Discussion followed concerning the deadline for making nominations for the special committee and the recalling of the general faculty meeting. Senator Schmaltz said the original legislation says the general faculty meeting must be recalled by him within 70 days; it doesn't say that he has to wait 70 days to recall it. Senator Liedtke said that because faculty were on contract until May 15, time should not be a problem.

Senator Zervic read a brief statement regarding Esperanto. He said he hoped it would some day be taught at Illinois State.

Senator Mersinger thanked Senator Walker for volunteering to read her statement at the general faculty meeting. She was encouraged by the response of supportive faculty. The objection to her speaking at the general faculty meeting was a decision by one faculty member, and she hopes that students will focus on the overall positive support she has received from the faculty.

Senator Wilner announced that the student senators would meet briefly after the senate meeting.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs - Senator Stearns reported that the committee would meet Friday in the Academic Senate office.

Administrative Affairs - Senator Liedtke reported that she had obtained information from President Wallace and from Senator Nelsen on the president's and faculty's salaries. She asked that the information be made available to the senators and be kept on file at the Senate office.

Budget Committee - Senator Nelsen reported that the committee had met that evening and would meet again sometime after the spring break

Faculty Affairs Committee - Senator Razaki reported that the committee had met that evening and would like to meet with the Academic Affairs Committee to discuss input requested by the Provost on the Faculty Roles and Responsibilities report.

Rules Committee - Senator Jerich presented two items for senate consideration: 1) as a possible information item to the senate for the next senate meeting, the disestablishment of academic units procedure; 2) as an information item for the current meeting, the Standing Order "Statement on Politicizing the University" be removed.

Senator Walker made a motion (XXVI-29) to postpone consideration of the "Statement on Politicizing the University" as an information item until the next senate meeting, giving the senators more time to read the statement and prepare questions. Senator Weber seconded. Debate followed on whether or not to postpone the item.

Senator Liedtke made a motion (XXVI-30) to move the previous question (seconded by Patel). A roll call vote followed. The motion carried with 34-yes, 5-no, 3 abstentions.

A roll call vote followed on Senator Walker's motion (XXVI-29) to postpone the item as an information item until the next senate meeting. The motion failed with 29-no, 9-yes, 3 abstentions.

The senate discussed as an information item the removing of the "Statement on Politicizing the University." Discussion included the following questions: did the Rules Committee consider retaining any portions of the statement; did they consider revising any of the wording in the statement; would its abolishment effect academic freedom. Senator Kapoor said the committee looked at the total policy and decided it should be dropped rather than make any revisions. Senator Schmaltz said academic freedom is guaranteed in the constitution of the university. Senator Strand asked if there was an opposing position on the Rules Committee. Senator McCaw responded that there was, but he was not prepared to present it at this meeting.

Student Affairs - Senator Cowsert asked that the committee meet after the senate meeting.

Adjournment

Motion XXVI-31 to adjourn made by Senator Lambert (seconded by Senator Bruzzini) carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.