

Illinois State University

ISU ReD: Research and eData

Academic Senate Minutes

Academic Senate

4-11-2018

Senate Meeting, March 28, 2018

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/senateminutes>

Recommended Citation

Senate, Academic, "Senate Meeting, March 28, 2018" (2018). *Academic Senate Minutes*. 1237.
<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/senateminutes/1237>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Academic Senate at ISU ReD: Research and eData. It has been accepted for inclusion in Academic Senate Minutes by an authorized administrator of ISU ReD: Research and eData. For more information, please contact ISUReD@ilstu.edu.

Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
Approved

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Susan Kalter called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Secretary Martha Horst called the roll and declared a quorum.

Senator Kalter: Mr. Palmer, if you would like, you can come to the table. Senator Palmer is here as a substitute for Chris Roberts because he was not able to be here. All right. We have a quorum. Senate chair is here, and we're going to start right away with a presentation to the Senate on the Housing Master Plan. So we're going to have Vice President Johnson and Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Katy Killian, and I also believe that the Director of Housing, Ms. Mwilambwe is here. So, take it away, Senator Johnson.

Presentation to Academic Senate on Housing Master Planning process by Vice President Levester Johnson and Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Katy Killian

Senator Johnson: Okay. Thank you very much. This is, again, a follow-up to last year. I shared several initiatives with you all. One included the Greek Life Task Force. We talked about that at our last meeting. And a second was our Housing Master Plan for our housing facilities on campus. They included two components. One component was existing facilities and assessment of those units as well as are there gaps within our portfolio which we need to have filled as far as new styles and types of housing. We had a housing master planning team that we pulled together that was comprised of members of the campus community, which Stacey will talk a little bit about later on, as well as then we worked with a facilities assessment firm of Brailsford & Dunlavey who really specializes in quality of life type of facilities for college campuses: housing units, recreation facilities, student unions, and the like. So, I'm going to actually also yield my time later on as it relates to my report, so I won't really have anything to report at that time, to make sure that we have a chance to go in depth to this report. It's very important to make sure that this group, this body, hears about some of the exciting plans that we could have for our campus community, but I want to make sure that I frame this from the standpoint that we've shared some of this information with the cabinet and some other bodies on campus, but we've not shared a lot of the details with the Board of Trustees. So, until we do so with the Board of Trustees, these are just recommendations and some options for us to consider at this point. So with that being said, Stacey is going to actually lead the way and actually take us through this presentation. We'll have time for Q&A at the end as well.

Senator Kalter: Senator Johnson was going to tell the people who are sitting right near the screen if you feel like you want to move so you can see better, please feel free.

Senator Johnson: Yeah. If you don't want to have a problem with your neck later on – I know we might have some Nursing staff in the room – but there are some seats on the side or if you wish to just move your chairs off to the side so that you don't have to continue to turn around. But if you wish to stay where you're at, that's fine too.

Ms. Mwilambwe: Okay. So, if you didn't hear earlier, my name is Ms. Mwilambwe and I serve as the Director of University Housing Services and I've been very fortunate to work at Illinois State University in the Housing office for the last 20 years. And so I've seen a lot of changes and I'm really excited about the Housing long-range plan and being able to share it with you this evening. So, thank you so much for making time for us to do so. It's certainly a privilege. So, let's get started.

So, Dr. Johnson mentioned that we brought in Brailsford & Dunlavey (we refer to them as B & D, and I'll do that for the rest of the presentation) as a third party group, to come and evaluate our housing processes, housing

in general, and to give us feedback, but also these are the goals that we wanted to accomplish. So certainly, you can read them on the screen, but certainly the ones that we wanted to get their perspective about all of these in general, but wanting to understand what student housing preferences and behaviors are. I will tell you, preferences are much different than when I was in school here. So, I ate at a certain time in the dining center because that's when you were supposed to eat. I couldn't eat all the time. I lived in a double room. My roommate was assigned to me. I didn't necessarily have a fitness center that I needed to go to. So a lot of things have changed. I will say even for my own daughter who is a second year in college, she didn't really share a room and she much less barely shared a bathroom, and those are who a lot of our students are who are attending and so their preferences are a lot different than what they were when I was in college and maybe, perhaps some of you. So as you can see... So let me keep going here.

So I want to talk to you about some of the methods that B & D used to accomplish some of the goals and certainly the first one I would talk about is wanting to do a tour of our campus and so we did a very extensive tour. You wouldn't be surprised that they were surprised about Watterson Towers and me trying to explain to them, okay, it stops on the third floor of every house and you walk up two floors. The students are nodding because they understand. So we walked all over campus so they could see our housing stock, our different room types, and for them to do an assessment. Also, they looked at our historical occupancy data. And so they wanted to see what has enrollment been with Admissions for ten years but also what has Housing's occupancy been. They also did a facilities condition report. And so when they were looking at our room types, they were also looking behind the walls (a cursory view) because we haven't had a condensed, really in-depth facility assessment for the last ten years. And so we wanted to fold that into this overall assessment. So, in addition to that, we did some benchmarking, which won't surprise you. You want to be very thorough when you're looking, and so these are schools that we benchmarked against. And so, something that I would want to highlight is that some of these schools that we benchmarked had been building as well. And so specifically, let's see, Ball State built in 2010, 2011, and 2014 for Bowling Green. Miami of Ohio built in 2014. And so a lot of these schools that we are competing with are building, and they are changing and trying to adapt to what the student needs are and what their expectations are. Some of the takeaways that we found from some of this benchmarking were that our rates are pretty comparable. We also found that we depend a lot on Illinois students for ours more so than these other institutions. They have more students that are coming out of state, and we have more in state. And the other takeaway that we had is their style of units, they have more diversified units. So, we have more traditional style and apartments. They had more semi-suites, apartments, singles, and that kind of thing. So their units were a little bit more diversified than ours. So those are some of the takeaways. And certainly don't let me forget, but off campus housing market analysis, that was also done and we'll say a little bit more about that later.

So we also had some focus groups, and man, I have to give a shout-out to the students because we had over 100 students attend for focus groups. Now, we did give free Buffalo Wild Wings and that did help. But it was raining that day and we still had over 100 students show up and maybe perhaps some of you were the ones who showed up. And so the different groups that we had, we had international students, graduate students, first year students, sophomore students, upper class students, and we tried to really broaden that and they were in different groups. And so B & D were pretty impressed with how many people actually came out and were a part of it. So then they took the information learned from the focus groups and parlayed that into a very extensive, you might say if you received it, the students. We sent it to every student who attends ISU (the survey) and we had 1,925 students respond and that was about 9% for a response rate. And then also they did a very extensive view at our financial model and we sent all of our numbers and housing budget and that kind of thing.

So here are the things that we learned when they talked about our facilities. And so what we learned from all that input was that our facilities are well maintained. And so, I will say with the exception of Fell and School; those were a little bit lower. But all of our residence halls, we got very high marks. We also found that there is a very high student satisfaction, that students who were living with us felt good about where they lived. And so this is around assignment time where first year students and returners are picking where they're going to live,

and I've had to dry a few tears about people who didn't make it into Watterson. So, Watterson is a very popular building no matter where the elevator stops, but it's very important to them and so they're very happy where they're living. We also found that neighborhood amenities are very important to students. So, they want the dining center to be attached if it can be. They also like to have a fitness center that's close. They also want computer labs and having expanded space for them to be flexible and have meeting space for maybe their registered student organization stuff they're in or floor programs and that kind of thing. We also found that this is a big deal. Proximity to campus matters. Students want to be able to walk to campus. They want to be to the periphery. They do not want to have to get on a bus on a regular basis to get to class. And so what they consider the heart of campus is our quad. So, how fast and how long does it take to get to our quad? And so if you see where our residence halls are situated now, they're pretty much to the periphery of campus.

So, some of the challenges that they talked about were our communities are pretty high density. Now, I get, and I'm very excited. Illinois State University has been in a great position in terms of having record enrollment. That's fantastic for our campus and for all of us. But what we have had to do because of that, we have rooms that were built as triples in Watterson and they are permanent quads now. We also converted some other spaces in Watterson and we have students who are sharing those in quad spaces as well. I see some head nodding over here. So, we did a ten-year renovation and so East Campus, or Hewett and Manchester as you may know it, we had taken some of the rooms that were singles and we made them into smaller lounges so they'd be places for students to kind of go and hang out and study. Because we had such large classes, we undid all of that. So those rooms became singles again. I put doors back on. And so we took two rooms offline to add an additional lounge. That is now a permanent quad again. I put doors back on. So, that's what we had to do. It's a great position to be in. Certainly when I talked to the housing state directors, and I have a meeting on Friday, we're in a great spot. So it's a great problem to have, but certainly when we talk about high density, it makes it very challenging for students to find gathering spaces to study, to concentrate. You may have heard anxiety is probably... Well, what we've been told and what the studies have shown, anxiety is much higher than depression or anything else for our students. And so if they're trying to find a place to calm down, to relax in the day, to focus on what they're doing, if you don't have anywhere to go in a residence hall, that's very hard for you to study and to do well in your classes. And so by being so dense, it makes it really hard for them to do that and accomplish that.

The other thing which I mentioned early is the lack of diversity of our unit types. So I mentioned, we have apartments. We have a lot of double rooms. I get asked a lot about single rooms. Hey, can I get a single room? Again, not many of them had to share a room before. And then, the semi-suites. What we've also heard from students is that they like the single stall bathrooms. So, the shower is there. The toilet is there. The sink is there. You go in and you just... It's like your bathroom at home, so think of it that way. That's very popular and they're wanting that to be a lot smaller ratio. So, I don't know about when you were in school, but when I was in school we probably had about 20 women who shared the same bathroom. And so we came in and out. There were lots of stalls, lots of showers and that kind of thing. And students are telling us they want a much smaller ratio, and that's what comes down to the unit types. So, two double rooms sharing a bathroom or something like that. We don't have a lot of spaces that are like that, but we do have a significant amount of requests for that type of room type. And, as I mentioned this before, our limited common area space. And so, like I said, we've had to undo a lot of things. Our common area space has been very limited, and that can be very hard for our students and cause some challenges academically.

So, we looked at some of our peer models. Here are some pretty pictures here. And so these are what some of the newer builds that have been happening, but let me point out one specifically. So, down the road, U of I has Wassaja Hall and AVP Katy Killian and I we went to do a tour and we were like, wow! It was very nice. Very much pod style. Single stall bathrooms. They had these things. So, anybody remember what a phone booth looks like? Am I the only one? Raise your hand. Really, don't put me out here by myself. Okay. So, phone booths are back but they're called Skype rooms. And so that's what they had at U of I. So, these special rooms. They look like phone booths, but they're Skype rooms. So you can go if you want privacy to talk on your cell phone or to Skype somebody, you go in these private rooms in Wassaja Hall. That's what they have. So I

thought it was pretty clever, and I'm like, here we go. Always bringing the same trends back. They always recycle. So, these are things. And UIC, this is one area I want to point out at the bottom here. So, UIC has not always been a competitor for us for first year students. When I talked to my colleagues in Enrollment Management, we've seen more of them compete for freshmen students because their building, this is going to be opening in the fall. And so it's about 520 beds. And so they're creating more of a residential campus. And so when we talk about competition for enrollment, and we know a lot of our students from the state, it's important for us to keep in mind who our competitors are, and you can see – University of Iowa, Iowa State – all of them are building.

Okay, so what's the summary? Bottom line this for me, Stacey. What did you walk away with? And so here we go. Sophomore village. Having a place for our sophomores to have something that is more appropriate for them. So, a lot of our sophomores said, yeah, doubles are great for those first year students, but when I'm a sophomore I'd love to have something like a kitchenette where I could have my coffee maker or my Keurig, microwave or something like that. Single stall bathroom, maybe want my own room, that kind of thing. But something that's more conducive for us, for sophomores. I see some head nodding over here. Yes? Okay. And we also received some feedback from the in-depth from the residential. So, improvements. So, if you're going to make some improvements, where should you put your money? And so some of the feedback that we received is certainly create more lounge spaces. Create those Skype rooms. Create spaces that are more flexible for students so it can be this one day and then it can be very innovative. So, what they're learning in your classroom. So we have learning communities. They can come and it can be an art studio two hours later and it's a dance studio an hour before. So that kind of space, and create more of that and not take over those spaces for beds. Like, that is gathering space for students.

The other thing we talked about, I don't know if you're familiar, but about a week ago we had an open house on campus. Anybody want to take a guess how many people saw Watterson Towers? Eighteen hundred in about four hours. We cannot... They love Watterson. It's iconic, and 1,800 people came to visit Watterson and wanted to see it. Yeah, I see some faces. Yeah, that was my face too, but that's pretty common for Watterson. And when you look at Watterson's lobby, it's pretty small for 2,200 people who live there. So think, 2,200 live there; 1,800 came through in four hours. And so having a lobby... So if you've been at East Campus, Hewett and Manchester Hall, it's a pretty grand lobby. It's pretty impressive when you walk in. You walk into Watterson it's a little bit tighter. And so expanding that lobby area, expanding those common gathering spaces for students to build community, but also to do their homework. And the last thing as a takeaway here is that there is an interest in our upper class students (so, juniors and seniors and graduate students) to live with us. One of the quotes from the focus group that stuck with me when I was reviewing all of it was that, "When I was a sophomore I felt like I got kicked off campus." Like, see ya! You can't live here. And there has to be a request to live on campus because we just can't accommodate juniors and seniors as they want to live with us. And so what one of the seniors said was that, you know what? I'm going to be student teaching. It would be so convenient for me to live in residence halls or live in the apartments so that I don't have to worry about a sub-letter off campus when I go to student teach. Like, there's no financial obligation for me. I can go and student teach. I can do my clinicals. I can do my internship, and I don't have to worry about that. So there certainly is an interest from our graduate students but also our international students wanting to live in apartments that are affiliated with the university so they don't have to worry about getting leases and they know that we're going to take care of them.

So you're thinking, okay, where are we talking about, Stacey? So, here we go. We tested about eight sites with our students in the survey, and these are the ones that rose to the top. And so, for number one, that's where Fell and School are right now. The apartments that we've acquired. So it's a little bit away from Hewett and Manchester. Then for number two, number two is School Street. So that's across from The Lodge. You know where that is? I think the students do. Okay. And number three, that is by the Bone Student Center parking lot and across the street. So obviously those spaces are being used by other people right now and we would need to be strategic in how we would use those spaces in the future. But one other thing that I don't have on here, but I think I would be remiss if I didn't say, is that we didn't even have it as an option and people were writing in

South Campus where Hamilton-Whitten and Atkin-Colby used to be. And so I don't know if that's from institutional memory or that they just really want to be close to the School of Business, because we have a lot of Business majors and it would seem very convenient for our students. So I didn't even put it up here. It wasn't even an option we tested with students, but they were writing it in. And we know that certainly is earmarked for the Mennonite School of Nursing.

Okay, so certainly our conclusion is that I think there's definitely a need for high quality facilities, and our students want that. That they believe in the ISU product, that they enjoy living with us, and if we can create the variety that they need, it would meet their needs academically. The other thing that I would want to mention is that when we had South Campus, we had 51 singles on the first floor. And some of you may not be familiar with our protocol. So, if you are a person with limited mobility, you have to stay in your room if there is a fire or a fire alarm until a firefighter comes to get you. Students who have limited mobility who are wheelchair users, they cannot leave on their own and that really creates some anxiety for our students and for their parents. And so we lost that option and we don't have any first floor rooms in any of our residence halls and the only option we have is in Cardinal Court. And so a student who is in a wheelchair says I don't want to be in Cardinal Court. I want to be in one of the residence halls that are closer to campus, too. So I really think that's a need that we lost and we haven't been able to... So from a diversity standpoint, that's something that we want to address that was brought up. And also, I mentioned before, just to stay this again, certainly a diverse housing portfolio but at all price points. So we get that there are students who are putting themselves through school – I was one of them – and then there are other students who their parents are able to pay, write a check, and that's how it is. But creating price points and affordable points for everybody and to put them all over so anyone could live anywhere they want. And the last one is certainly we have a significant need for beds. When South Campus was de-commissioned we lost 1,600 beds. For those of you who might remember, Central Campus, we had about 1,200 beds there. And so we just have not been able to build enough for the demand that we have, and so certainly one of the things as a starting point that was recommended was starting at about 600 to 800 beds if we were to build. To do that as a starting point to start to meet the needs, which would just be starting to de-densify Watterson Towers and allowing more of our sophomores to live on campus who wanted to live on campus – our juniors and seniors and that kind of thing – but it's really just a drop in the bucket at this point. But we thought that would be a reasonable starting point. So before I end I'd just like to thank you so much for allowing me. And I would also like to do a shout-out to SGA. I thought that you all did a great job. I talked with Beau. He helped me get people to focus groups. We've talked a lot about housing exemptions and all of those kinds of things and the dialogue has been pretty open, so I really appreciate that. So, thank you very much for your time.

Senator Kalter: Stacey, I don't know if you can get back the slides, but before I open it up for questions I was going to ask if you could go back to the slide with the aerial on it. I wasn't quite oriented to which direction. Is north up and south down and then where we are exactly. If you can point out at least one road, because we can't read it from back here, where Beaufort is and where Fell, you know, that kind of thing.

Ms. Mwilambwe: Susan, I'm terrible at road names. All right. So, College is here. Okay, so now this looks fuzzy to me. So, South would be over here. Quad is right here. Okay? So over here would be Hewett and Manchester and so a little bit down the road here, this is Fell and School. So it's on the corner of... Katy, do you know the name of the roads? Willow. Yeah. Okay. So then you go a street over, down the street a little bit, right here. So, The Lodge is right over here. School, right here. There's about 108 beds there. It's a big, white building, and then obviously you know Bone Student Center. This is the parking lot. This is right across the street from that. So, we own a lot of the buildings. I think there's one building that we don't own it currently.

Senator Kalter: Awesome. Thank you for that. Thank you for orienting us to that. And I saw Senator Liechty raising his hand. Do you have a question?

Senator Liechty: It wasn't too many years ago, and that was in this room I'm sure (if my memory serves; I can't remember when and I can't remember exactly who), but someone was giving a presentation (this was when the dorms on the South Campus were coming down) and what they said very clearly was that it's the goal of ISU to get out of the landlord business altogether. It sounds to me like that's no longer the case. Is that right?

Ms. Mwilambwe: Right. I wouldn't have... Yes. That is not the case. I wouldn't say we want out of the landlord... We feel as though we offer a good product for our students. And here's what I will say. The most vulnerable students are living in university housing. They're first year students, second year students learning, transitioning, and that kind of thing. And so from a retention standpoint, if we can help meet their needs and support them academically, they're going to be here and they're going to be able to graduate.

Senator Liechty: So it's not everything is going to Redbird whatever. I mean, we've seen all these apartments being built all around the campus all the time now, and I just assumed that was part of that overall goal, to get ISU out of the landlord business.

Senator Johnson: I think what we've got going on, we can't at this point even live into our freshmen/sophomore requirements. And we know that by having our students in close proximity with the campus and engage with the campus community, that that directly affects retention. It's not necessarily it's all the great things that we're doing within our residential environments and that they're close. But guess what? It's the proximity that they have actually to faculty and to all those resources that assist them being retained as well. So we, at the very least, wish to live into our freshmen and sophomore requirement. And at this point, and after decommissioning South Campus, we cannot live into that because we have now to release sophomores into the community and people who are not ready, and even more so, people who know that they're not ready are being forced to move off campus. And then we have upper class students who are saying that they would like to stay on campus as well. So we're not meeting the needs of our campus community.

Senator Whitters: I don't know how far this plan is into, like, you know, with the details and stuff. But with this, would it be like more RA opportunities or are you not bringing RAs along with like junior and senior housing? Does that make sense?

Ms. Mwilambwe: I'm not sure I understand your question.

Senator Whitters: So, like, in every residence hall you have RAs and CAs and then you mentioned a little bit about junior and senior housing. Will there be RAs and CAs in those housings or would it just be like a regular apartment style type thing?

Ms. Mwilambwe: Right. We would have RAs and CAs. The ratio would vary. So, in the residence halls we're about 1 to 55. In Cardinal Court, we're 1 to 75.

Senator Horst: I live on Normal Avenue, and I'm part of the Old North Normal society and we have a ladies' club that's 75 years and that kind of thing. And there was a lot of concern in that group of people who live in this neighborhood when Lodge 2 started going up, and there's even another apartment building behind that. And it sounds like you're going to make even more of a concentration. So I guess my first comment is have you talked to people in the community that would live around there? And then, have you considered diversifying the location of the student housing just simply so there's not such a concentration of housing in that particular area now that there's two Lodges?

Ms. Mwilambwe: So, at this time we have not had a neighborhood gathering or anything. So that's great feedback to offer. And so, as I said before, we had students writing in South Campus and so I think that was a hint to us saying hey, we want to be in another area around the Quad versus one particular area. But I will say that these are the ones that rose. But we haven't landed anywhere specifically yet. This is just what came from

the survey so I'm reporting out that. But we haven't made any, like, this is throwing our flag in the sand to say this is what's going to happen. So there is still some room, certainly.

Senator Ferrence: So, I have two very different kind of comments or questions. One is, when I look at the space, there is limited sort of ground space, and you were talking about starting with something that was on the hundred or so beds but that we have a couple thousand beds that have disappeared over the years. So, I mean, how big are we looking? Are we going to building a Watterson-size tower so that we can replace those couple thousand? Because if you don't go up, there's no space to go out and be close. So that was the one question. And then the other one, I was wondering to what degree has this conversation been looking at the prospects of... We've been talking about this group INTO that is going to help recruit international students, and we're expecting to see a substantial rise in the number of international students, and are their housing needs the same? Or what is being considered for what they might need since they're not here yet? But it sounds like we're talking, again, in the thousands.

Senator Johnson: And I can tackle that one. Again, as it relates to style and type of housing, we are not down the road where we are even looking at that. When we utilize phrases like villages, that does probably indicated smaller type of facilities to that extent because I think in order to diversify the portfolio we probably don't want to go up too far with these new facilities. But again, there's a lot more work that needs to be done because we've got to look at what's the square footage of those plots that we are considering right now and is it such that you spread them out. Maybe you don't build them all on one piece of land. So there's a couple more phases that we've got to go through in order to even figure out where we're going to go. And as it relates to international students and the INTO initiative, yes. We are constantly thinking about what are going to be the needs of the students who are coming to us as it relates from that program. What is it going to be as it relates to both those who are coming in from undergraduate as well as the graduate student level as well? That's the recommendations as it relates to graduate student housing as well. And you see that we're making changes as it relates to other amenities on campus as well as it relates to Dining and things of that nature, too. So that will be incorporated into this plan as well.

Senator Kalter: I'm sorry, did Senator Ferrence get an answer to his first question? I didn't quite...

Senator Ferrence: Yeah. He basically said everything is on the table and they haven't decided how high they go. So that was the first. And how many.

Senator Baker: I know it was discussed with my time in the Association of Residence Halls that the placement of a lot of the buildings was to be closer to the dining centers. Is that still something that is being utilized or thought about? Or is there a possibility of a possible other facility being built with housing-dining options?

Ms. Mwilambwe: Right. So certainly, to piggyback off what Dr. Johnson said, we know dining would have to be considered if we were to build a facility for 600 to 800 students, that kind of thing, and we want it to be close. And that certainly came out with our students to say they love the amenity that the dining center is very close and convenient for them, similar to how it is in Watterson and in Tri-Towers.

Senator Smith: So, I know that as an on campus person, a lot of the parking needs... Students feel that parking needs are one of their biggest problems faced. So with the addition of a new on campus housing unit, would we get more parking lots and stuff like that to address those needs or would that be largely kept the same size as now?

Senator Johnson: I'm going to let our Vice President Stephens maybe address that because I think we got to approach that we're going to have to parking moving forward in that sense as well.

Senator Stephens: Yeah, obviously any facility have been working closely with Vice President Johnson talking about this in the future, and parking is certainly a very important issue. And as we begin to identify exactly

where this new housing project would be incorporated in, that would be exactly that. What would be the available parking around it? What would we need to do with our existing parking in changing zones and a number of those things? So, it's very much a very high priority for us, and we'll just work in tandem with Student Affairs on this so that we have as best of a solution for everybody.

Senator Johnson: I think I would add one of the things that probably as a campus community, as many college campuses across the country are trying to get to is actually pushing vehicles outside the campus boundaries. The proper campus boundaries. We have issues of... And actually I talked to one of the Senators at the end of the last Senate meeting. We have a lot of cars coming through and around campus traffic wise and so forth. So moving to a system by which we're pushing cars, especially if they're just being stored and you're not using them for internships and things of that nature, to more of a storage lot type of scenario is probably better for the campus community as it relates to pedestrian traffic and vehicle traffic.

Senator Dawson: Did you have any opportunity to survey the parents? The financiers? Because they've got to be happy too and I know that there's always concerns about safety and things of that nature, but they've got the money.

Ms. Mwilambwe: So, no, we didn't do a direct survey to parents, but in the survey it was alluded to, how are you funded? Is it your parents or are you funding it yourself? And so that's how I knew some of that information about some people are paying, themselves, and others of how they're funded. So, not a direct thing. We didn't put anything on the family Facebook page. I'm sure we'd have a few comments. But yes, the survey was a little indirect about that and from a safety standpoint that it certainly is very important to us, and as it is now, all of our residence halls are locked 24/7. We have staff who are there to monitor at night to make sure that students are safe as they're coming and going. And so that certainly would be a consideration moving forward as that's part of our philosophy.

Senator Johnson: Yeah, and I've been through a number of these projects as well. And again, the phase that we're in right now, that's not a population or a constituent group that we have necessarily surveyed, but later on in the process that is something that we do try to get feedback from as it relates to parents. And sometimes you can get that through – I know we don't have one here – a parents' council, but sometimes we try to get that feedback from parents and present what our more firmed up recommendations are to those individuals and costs and things of that nature for that feedback.

Senator Grzanich: Earlier you mentioned that the firm B & D was looking a little bit at the off campus market as well. I was wondering if you wanted to go into that with a little bit more in depth, their opinions of the off campus market or their understanding of it.

Ms. Mwilambwe: Well certainly, they are talking about the vacancy rates that are around campus, and so for Normal I think it's a 5.5 vacancy rate. Bloomington, they have a 7.5 vacancy rate in terms of student oriented housing. That was one of the takeaways that they had for that. Another one is comparing what our amenities were, and so what we offered in terms of fitness center, that kind of thing, and some of them had that; others didn't. I think the average price point for them is, I think, about \$600 or \$650 for rent. And so dependent on what the amenities were... If you have your own room... And there was a variation. So what we have in our outside market is we have a lot of new-new and then we have some areas that are pretty aged and I think some of the students have given us some of the feedback in the focus groups as well about that. So not a whole lot in the middle. So it's usually higher end or a little bit lower end. And so the other feedback that they received from the focus groups and also checked out was – and I think Beau, you and I have talked about this – is just the leasing piece of it. So if you lease as a group then you are as a group, but if somebody drops out you're responsible. And then they compared it to us and how many of them did individual leases versus not and then how did that compare to us that, you know, if you were to leave (I talked with you about that), other people aren't on the hook for your amount of money kind of thing. So they're looking at those kinds of things. Is there anything else?

Senator Glascock: I was just wondering, is there any plan in terms of how a residence hall would be financed?

Ms. Mwilambwe: Great question. So, financing, there's a lot of different models. So people have used a public-private partnership in the past. They have done bonding as well and financed by housing dollars. So, bond dollars. And so that's bond revenue money, not general revenue money, that would finance or that would pay for those. So that does not come from general revenue or student fees or anything like that. That is straight bond revenue money that housing has in reserves. Would you like to say anything more about that?

Senator Johnson: Again, those are the two options that are on the table. If we move into this next phase and we get a green light from the Trustees to move forth and do even more work and firm up numbers and style type of housing, location, and things of that nature and we get to a point where we want to move forward, and if we are on a time table, definitely a private partnership presents the expertise and the skills in order to get things done sooner as opposed to later as well as financing, then, in that sense. Probably a bonding type of approach. Yeah, we could probably go that route as well. It would probably be a little bit more timely and take more time, then, in that sense as well as we'd have to use a lot more outside sources then in getting the work done and trying to make sure we get the right people and the right team together in order to get the work done.

Senator Lewis: I have two questions. The first one, of the three locations, which one is the one that could be most likely? Or are you for sure going for those three locations?

Ms. Mwilambwe: I think we're still open to location. So, I wouldn't walk out of here tonight saying oh, those are the three for sure. Really what I'm reporting on is that's what rose to the occasion when students gave us feedback. But certainly we haven't landed on a specific location at this time.

Senator Lewis: And then my next question is how would... So, I'm assuming if the school is going to look into more housing and more beds and they'll be looking into doing less housing exemptions. And how would that play out with, like, transfer students or students who come in at the age of 21 and are they not given exemptions to live off campus?

Ms. Mwilambwe: Well, certainly we don't base it on age. We base it on two years outside of high school graduation date. And so some students fall into that category, but a lot of students don't fall into that category who are 21. And our transfer students are a mix. So it depends on when you're transferring. So if you're two years outside of your high school graduation date, you certainly are not required to live on, but after that... I mean, if it's prior to that then you are required to live on.

Senator Kalter: Other questions? I just had two comments. One is going back to what Senator Johnson was saying about parking. Just to put in a plug, but maybe you're already thinking this way, I hope that the parking that you're talking about moving away from campus is student parking as opposed to faculty/staff parking because we've also been having conversations about how faculty often are running to class and searching, hunting, and pecking for parking because they've been doing their prep at home.

Senator Johnson: Can I respond to that?

Senator Kalter: Absolutely.

Senator Johnson: You're correct. I think the thing that I want to make sure that people... I want to be just very up front about this, the days of building one parking space to one bed space, done. You can't do that anymore. Just can't do that. Students would love to have a parking space right next to their residential environment, and you just don't have enough surface parking in order to be able to do that for the size of these facilities, and to build a parking garage is extremely cost prohibitive these days. So I just want to be very frank and up front about that. Will there be some parking as to what was alluded to from Senator Stephens? Probably some, at

least close to the facility. But one for one, that's not going to happen. And so I just want to be very realistic and out there about that. If we want to do proximity to campus, and that's the strongest desire for our students.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. And then my only other comment was just to reiterate the importance of attending to the international graduate student. I've been attending the things that International Studies has been doing at lunch. You know, trying to start gearing us up for INTO. And some of the feedback there and in other places has been calling my attention to how we have not been paying enough attention to the international graduate student when it comes to housing and so hopefully as more international graduate students come on to campus, we will continue to survey them and ask them... But not just the ones that INTO is bringing in. The ones that have been here in various departments for a long time. So I just wanted to say that.

Ms. Mwilambwe: Yes. Thank you, Susan. Absolutely that is part of it, that we are looking at graduate student in-housing in general but international graduate students, both students that come on their own but also through INTO as well, and that's certainly one of the reasons why we had the focus group of graduate students and I was very fortunate that many of them attended.

Senator Kalter: Any other questions? All right. Wonderful. Thank you so much for your presentation.

Action Items:

03.29.18.02 NEW ACADEMIC SENATE BY-LAWS- Final Draft (Rules Committee)

Senator Kalter: We will move on to our action items. Thank you. Our first action item, we're going to move right into where we stopped last time. We were in the midst of looking at the Senate bylaws, and we had passed a new addition to the Senate bylaws in the form of the addition to the consent agenda. So we're going to start right up now into the full set of new bylaws.

Senator Horst: Yes, you were sent an executive summary of the changes that we're making. Just to summarize very quickly, we're merging several documents together. We have drafted new procedural documents including the consent agenda, new Open Meetings Act language, and this reflects more what our current process is. And I gave you another list of the changes on our executive summary and I'd like to move that we approve this document.

Motion by Senator Horst on behalf of Rules Committee to approve the Senate Bylaws.

Senator Kalter: All right. And coming from a committee it does not need a second. Do we have any debate? I had a question for Senator Horst, and it had to do with a piece where we say that in some circumstances I think it said something like we can skip the review and circulation stage. Is that right?

Senator Horst: Yes. The sentence that I believe you're referring to is in Article V, Section 1, B4. The review and circulation stage may be waived. This sentence was crafted by a committee including you, and the thinking was that there could be some sort of extenuating circumstances. For instance, the meeting after 9/11 is a memorable one for the Senate. There could be some sort of situation that was unforeseen and because of that the review and circulation stage, we'd have to do some sort of rapid alteration of a policy. So that's why that language is in there.

Senator Kalter: I think that when you and I talked back and forth over e-mail we thought that it might be advisable to add to that sentence something to the effect of "under extraordinary circumstances" or "under unusual circumstances." Is that what your recollection was?

Senator Horst: Yes. That's what I said. I started thinking about this more and I started foreseeing that, for instance, the recent conversation we had about up to ten members, and I thought of what if we were in the middle of a search and suddenly the policy was somehow constricting. There could be some sort of situation

that's not necessarily extenuating. But certainly this would have to be the will of the body, and possibly more than the majority. So maybe that's a direction if you'd like to propose an amendment.

Senator Kalter: Yeah. I wanted to say that as well, so thank you for reminding me about that part. So, generally speaking under Robert's Rules of Order, that kind of a change would need a two-thirds vote rather than simply the chair doing it or a majority vote. And so while we usually don't put into the bylaws things that are under Robert's Rules anyway, it seems advisable in this case to also say that. So, saying something like, "Under unusual circumstances, the review and circulation stage may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the body" might be an advisable friendly amendment. And I'm wondering if the committee would accept that as a friendly amendment.

Senator Blum: Yes.

Senator Horst: Any objections? Okay. They seem to like it.

Senator Seeman: I'm good with that.

Senator Kalter: Terrific. You're good with that. Awesome. Thank you, Senator Seeman. Any other debate? All right.

The motion was unanimously approved with friendly amendments.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. We have new bylaws! Thank you so much to Senator Horst, to Senator Marx, to the Rules Committee, and to everybody for getting us to this point where we have actually understandable bylaws to go by.

Information Items:

02.01.18.02: Policy 1.16 Recruitment of Service Members CURRENT no changes (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Kalter: And moving on then, now, to our information item. We're looking at the Recruitment of Service Members Policy. The Academic Affairs Committee is putting this forward with no recommended changes, but we didn't get it until after we had passed the consent agenda thing. So, Senator Pancrazio, do you want to just tell us anything about this particular policy?

Senator Pancrazio: We circulated the policy, and it is current according to the contacts in Hovey Hall. It was sent through to Jonathan Rosenthal and it circulated, and his comments were that it was currently up to law, so he didn't recommend any changes.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. Do we have any questions, comments, observations? All right. This is at the information item stage so we'll see it again in two weeks to put it to action. We're going to move now to Academic Affairs Committee and the committee reports. And just reminding everybody that I think we have about two weeks' worth of reports because we skipped them last time.

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Pancrazio

Senator Pancrazio: This goes back to February 21st. We followed up on the questions that came from the Senate floor regarding the Leave of Absence Policy. We collected all those questions, circulated those with Jonathan Rosenthal and with Jess Ray, got those answers, forwarded those to the Executive Committee, and once we have the transcript of the Executive meeting we'll be able to ask for those changes. I understand they want some of the wording in the policy. We'll probably be seeing that in, let's say, in the next two weeks I would hope. Let me see. We concluded our discussion on the UCC proposal. We finalized our discussion about the content for annual reports, received and accepted the proposal of the annual report for the Textbook

Affordability Committee, and then we have spent the last two meetings doing policy review. There were only four we couldn't get to this year. So they'll be finished over the summer.

Senator Kalter: I was extraordinarily delighted that you actually got to the policies that we had intended to just put on the books for next year. So, thank you for that.

Senator Pancrazio: Well actually, the policies that we're still waiting on are the ones that went out in September.

Senator Kalter: Oh, very nice. And by the way, just so that you know, Senator Pancrazio, and so that everybody on Academic Affairs Committee knows, the Executive Committee would have gone through those policies that you have sent to us, but we just ran out of time and so that's why they have not appeared. But none of them seemed to be of any urgency and so we weren't concerned about that.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Hoelscher

Senator Hoelscher: The Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee met tonight. Going back two weeks, we did the final conversation and preparation on the Search Policy 3.2.13, and as you remember that was passed with some amendments. And then this last meeting that just occurred, we began our conversations about the Presidential Commentary. We hope to have a report actually written in before our committee in two weeks. And we also had a conversation about a new charge that we were given, and that is to research the possibilities of coordinating the spring breaks amongst the high schools, or I should say the public schools and Illinois State University, and we are in the process of gathering data for that and we hope to have something to present concerning that very shortly.

Senator Kalter: Thank you.

Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Liechty

Senator Liechty: For the last few meetings, we've been working on Policy 1.8. That's Integrity in Research. And we met today at 5:30. I want to thank my committee for being willing to do that so that we could actually get to where I could say we finished it up. I still have a few things I need to talk to you about, Susan, but I think we can say that we got through that today by meeting early. And then at 6:00, Sam Catanzaro came in and talked with us about Sabbatical Leave Policy, which we can't do much with this year anymore, but it was very good to have him with us and clarifying some issues. It was very informative, so we were very happy for that as well.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. I'm glad to hear that that one is beginning to move forward again.

Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Marx

Senator Marx: Each spring, the Planning and Finance Committee works on the Institutional Priorities Report, and this spring has been no different. However, we've also added more discussion about the functioning of the committee and those Institutional Priorities Reports with the purposes of what we hope to accomplish with them. And I believe that the committee has come up with a methodology going forward that I think will greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of that process. It includes having multiple reports each year, more focus on specific topical areas, and then having periodic reports to the Senate about those for approval. So going forward I think that's going to be very exciting. Another thing that we've taken up recently is the policy on the Foundation, which is mostly a procedural policy. And we were looking at that and discussing it and perhaps we're going to have some more discussion sometime in the future about perhaps there should be some things added to it. So that's going to be an ongoing process. I believe that's everything that we've been doing.

Rules Committee: Senator Horst

Senator Horst: Well, I promised my Rules Committee we wouldn't talk only about bylaws. So, we've been talking about the Consensual Relations Policy, which has been a little bit more interesting than the bylaws, and we've had about four meetings on that. We've been focusing on that pretty extensively. We've been discussing

ways to merge the two Consensual Relations Policies that exist currently. We met with Tony Walesby, who is the Director of OEOA, and he gave us some input. So we hope to have some sort of draft forwarded for review at the end of this year. The other thing we've been doing, back to the boring stuff, is we've been doing the external committee slate, and we finished that this evening and will forward that to the Executive Committee.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. Glad to know that all of you on Rules Committee are having fun with the Consensual Relations Policy. Just make sure to follow the policy. So, we're done with committee reports.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Kalter: Chairperson's remarks, I don't really have many of them because I want to get to a discussion about some legislation that has come through a committee earlier, I think it was today. So I'm just going to move on to Student Body President's Remarks.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Grzanich: Two quick things from me today. I want to send out the second extension invitation for our Half Cap Graduation, which is going to be Saturday, April 28 in Capen Auditorium from 4:30 to 6:30. Please come out and show some appreciation for the sophomores in the spirit of retention. And then secondly I'd like to congratulate the individuals who have won our SGA elections, specifically Senator Mike Rubio, Senator Jack Whitsitt, and Senator Magalie Baker who will be taking over as the executive ticket for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. They're going to do a phenomenal job so I'd like to give them a round of applause. With that, I yield for questions.

Senator Mainieri: Can you repeat the date for the Half Cap?

Senator Grzanich: April 28th from 4:30 to 6:30.

Senator Whitters: The location has changed to Stevenson, room 401A.

Administrators' Remarks

- ***President Larry Dietz***

Senator Kalter: Dr. Dietz was not able to be here because of another event. So we'll move to Provost Murphy for her comments.

- ***Provost Jan Murphy***

Provost Murphy: Thanks so much. Just a little bit of information about the house bill that you mentioned, Senator Kalter, and then a couple events. So, Senator Kalter received I think by now more than one question...

Senator Kalter: At least three.

Provost Murphy: At least three, about House Bill 4956, and I think at least in a couple colleges some information has come down. House Bill 4956 would amend the school code to mandate that every university that offers teaching degrees must offer students a three-year degree completion program for every teacher education program. I don't know what to say. You know, if you could see me, I'm rolling my eyes, but I've got my glasses on. It was proposed by Representative John Cavaletto, and I think he's from a district very south, down by Southern Illinois University, which will make sense in a minute. He's from the 107th District. And although there were university representatives there, no opportunity was provided for audience members to speak. Dr. Deb Garrahy, who is our Director of our Lauby Teacher Education Center, was there. Troy Hinkel, who is the Associate Director of Clinical Experiences, was also there from ISU. They were prepared to remark, were not allowed to make any remarks, but all opponents to the bill were listed on record and opponents included ISU, the U of I system, Western, Eastern, Northern, Governors State, DePaul, the IEA (the Illinois Education Association), and then two individuals. Interestingly enough, the Southern Illinois University system

supports the bill. I can only assume that they think that might bring in some enrollment, and of course that's his district. So, now I'm being sarcastic. I need to be careful. Is this being recorded?

You know, the concern is that many have met with Cavaletto, including Jonathan Lackland who is our legislative representative, and he simply just doesn't want to hear what we have to say about this. He feels that students should be able to become teachers in three years and that – and here's the other part that you will love – students should only have to take courses in the discipline area they are majoring in. And I'm going to quote here, "English teachers should not have to take classes in math or chemistry or physical education." So, you know, we have a lot of work to do here. So what's next? So we can kind of roll our eyes but, you know, dear heavens. So it may die, and we are hoping... Jonathan Rosenthal and I were talking, and there was not even any conversation by the committee. It just passed 9-nothing in the committee. And we keep thinking we're hoping they just didn't even want to talk about it and they just want it off their plates. We're hoping they were rolling their eyes too as they passed it. There's no Senate bill as a counterpart, so we're hoping that it may die. So, Jonathan is watching. He's beginning to contact... Jonathan Lackland. There's two Jonathans. Jonathan Lackland, our legislative rep, is contacting legislators to start to provide information on the problems with the bill. You know, not the least of which is the fact that, gosh, in order to be an accredited university and provide financial aid to students, we have to have general education. Students actually have to take general education in order to get financial aid to attend a university and Bachelor's degrees have to have 120 credits. It's kind of a rule. The Higher Learning Commission likes that rule. And without 120 credits, again, you can't get financial aid for that course of study which we think will cause enrollment issues. So, you know, they're providing that information. Deb Garrahy has been registered as someone who's willing to testify as an expert witness in the committee against the bill if it makes it to the Senate. So at this point in time it is a bit of wait and see, but we have provided all the information right now that we need to do Jonathan. This is one where... There are about five things out there we're watching, but this one took us a little by surprise and we're watching this one pretty closely. That's as much as I know. It's one of those situations where it's so ridiculous that you can't imagine that it's going to move forward but yet, who knows? It is politics. So we'll watch it and we'll see what happens and we'll keep you informed. And please don't hesitate to ask questions. If we don't know the answer, we always ask Jonathan and he can ask questions. That's his job is to be there for us in Springfield and to ask those questions and to monitor these things. So, any questions or concerns? I know that information is going out, and I want to make sure that you guys feel like you have the information you need in case you get questions from others.

Senator Grzanich: So just to reiterate, the entire Southern Illinois system is supportive of this bill?

Provost Murphy: It is. It is.

Senator Grzanich: I'd like to put on record that I'm very happy I went to ISU.

Provost Murphy: Oh, thank you. You know, we're happy you went to ISU too. You know, as I said, the worst case scenario (and we don't think it'll get there) is that we could cobble something together with dual credit and AP credit and courses taken in the summer that could get students through in three years still taking 120. So we keep thinking, okay, we could try to meet... You know, we can't meet the students shouldn't have to take courses outside their major. That's crazy talk. But we could cobble something together to meet the three year, but we don't think any students would take that. Those of you that are in teacher education programs, or my colleagues here, I can't fathom someone trying to get through a teacher education program and then succeed as a teacher after three years. There's just so much that goes into that degree program. But worst case scenario is that we could cobble that together and then assume that we're just not going to have any enrollments, and this bill doesn't mandate we get rid of our solid teacher education programs. It just mandates we have that as an option. So we could figure it out, but it wouldn't be pretty and it would be a waste of a lot of people's time. Any other questions on that?

Senator Liechty: To the best of your knowledge, what is this in response to? Is there a teacher shortage?

Provost Murphy: That is a great question. There is a teacher shortage and apparently, Representative Cavaletto happened to be down in Texas where you can buy a teacher's degree for \$10,000. That is his response. So I'd like to know where in Texas you could get a degree... Did you laugh, Dr. Hoelscher? I don't know where in Texas you could get a teaching degree for \$10,000, but when he's asked, that is kind of his response – that Texas is doing it for \$10,000 so why can't we.

Senator Hoelscher: Would you all like me to research that?

Provost Murphy: He really does not believe in general education because he feels that those courses were wasted on him.

Senator Kalter: There may have been more than one kind of course that was wasted on that individual.

Senator Horst: Just to clarify, it would be for all education programs? So, Music Ed, everybody?

Provost Murphy: Yes. Every education program would need to have that option.

Senator Horst: And it would be a three calendar year plan? So it could include summer session?

Provost Murphy: Yes. And that's why we say we could cobble something together. That's a great question.

Senator Blum: Yes, to answer the Texas question. There is, not just in teaching, but there is an initiative in Texas where it's like they charge you a rate, you take seven weeks of courses and it's super accelerated and it costs \$10,000. That's where that comes in. So I think Texas A&M Commerce has done some things in the technical fields around this. And I just want to say, this is more of a comment and not a question, but I will go on record. If SIU wants to do this, please have at it. Okay? Just the level of ridiculousness of the whole thing and the whole enterprise and the discussion of, you know, if this is such a great thing, my response to it is let them do it and see who hires them.

Provost Murphy: Right. And we would agree, too. It's hard to imagine that the solid superintendents and principals out in the state of Illinois, most of whom are our own graduates, would support this and would want teachers in their schools with these credentials.

Senator Kalter: Other questions or comments? I have a couple. One is just I want to thank you for reminding the state and us that there is something called accreditation and that they might want to pay attention to that since it was one of the things reminding them of that that actually helped bring the budget crisis to a close. So they might want to remember it from year to year, that it exists. I wanted to also mention that the IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) also put themselves down as opposed to this. I want to say just as an editorial that what he says about English teachers gives English teachers a bad name, as the faculty member from English. If there is one discipline in the entire university where people benefit from knowing about almost everything else in the university, it is English. And so it's shocking to me that anybody would say that we don't need other classes because I don't know what people read or write that they don't need to know something about something other than English. And I don't know if it's just me – maybe this is crazy talk – but I feel like... I've said this before and maybe it is crazy talk, but there is this thing called institutional academic freedom, and at a certain point some of the things that the legislature is getting into start to really, really encroach on the academic freedom of all of our institutions. And I'm just wondering when one or more of us will get together and essentially say we're going to sue the State of Illinois for encroaching on this and see who wins in court because I think we have a pretty good case if something like this were to pass. That you do not have the expertise or the understanding of what education is to be able to be making these kinds of laws and mandates. And I just would love to see us engage in a little bit of civil disobedience around something like this. As Senator Blum said, if they want to do this, have at it. But don't require all of us to then be corralled into having that be a requirement

because it is not good education. So, do we have any other comments or questions before Provost Murphy goes on with her report? All right. Go ahead.

Provost Murphy: And I would add, I agree, and I believe to me that is part of the role of the Illinois Board of Higher Education – to help fight that fight and to coordinate our efforts on that. And I can think of at least one time when they did not do that, and it involved teacher ed. I feel like the ISBE has, at times, encroached a bit on our own academic freedom, and I believe the IBHE should be fighting that battle with us a little more.

Two quick upcoming events to note, but two wonderful events to note. Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Muhammad Yunus, will be speaking this Saturday night, April 14, in the Brown Ballroom. So it's not very often that you get to go listen to a Nobel Prize winner speak, so I would encourage you. So, 7:00. His talk is A World of Three Zeros: Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emission. It's free and open to the public, 7:00 over in the Brown Ballroom. And then next week is Science and Technology Week. So, Tuesday night, April 17th you're invited to attend the keynote lecture by Roy Choi (I like his name – Roy Choi), who is a New York Times best-selling author and one of Time Magazine's most influential people in 2016. He is a chef, so those of you that don't know who Roy Choi is, he is a Korean chef. And I imagine he might talk about being one of the founders of the food truck industry (something I am hardly supportive of) and opening up award winning restaurants. So kind of two ends of the spectrum, but I think they'll be two really incredible talks. And Roy Choi is speaking Tuesday night, 7:00 p.m. up in the Prairie Room. Thank you.

- ***Vice President of Student Affairs Levester Johnson***

If I heard correctly, I think Senator Johnson was deferring his report or shortening it, but I wondered if anybody had any questions about anything besides housing for Senator Johnson this week. All right. Seeing none, we'll move to Senator Stephens for Finance and Planning.

- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Stephens***

Senator Stephens: Thank you, Senator Kalter. I'll keep my comments very brief. We are, as I've said before, we are entering into a phase at the end of the term where we've got a number of construction renovation projects going on. Obviously the Watterson dining project is already underway, and we're doing some renovation effort over at Fell Hall and Williams in order to quickly get those locations available for the team involved in the INTO project. So, the INTO staff is going to be housed in Fell Hall, and there were a couple of groups that moved from Fell over into Williams in order to accommodate that. A quick point from an HR perspective, I got a note from Tammy that indicated as we enter into a new benefits plan year, there appears to be on the horizon really no material changes in the offerings there, so that's likely a good thing that the state is not messing with our benefits plans and trying to cause any higher confusion or any higher cost. And probably on the last note as we talk a little bit about parking, we've got one particular parking lot some of you may be aware of over at Turner Hall and across from the Hancock Stadium. It's a gravel lot, a fairly large lot. That one actually is on the parking plan to be paved this summer, and also what we're going to do with it from a safety perspective, that particular lot is actually... There are some concerns about patrons whenever they're parking there crossing the streets not at a precise area to be safe. So we're going to actually put a couple of fencings on the north side of Main Street and the south side of College that will circle at least a portion of that parking area that will allow more people to exit the parking lot as they're coming out of it and cross in a more safe environment. And we're planning to use the design that is encompassing the Metcalf School, so it should be an attractive... The black metal with the brick pillars. So we're trying to make sure that it also has an attractive appearance as people come into the community and recognize our campus. Other than that, it should be done – both the parking lot and the fence – hopefully should be done by the time everybody returns in the fall.

Communications

Senator Marx: I'd like to point out that the Gamma Phi Circus is next week and that if you have never gone, you ought to think about going. It's really a wonderful show put on by our students. This is the 89th year for the Circus, and the theme this year is a fairy tale experience. That's in place of saying it's a Disney show because they can't say that. But all of the stories you will recognize from Disney movies.

Senator Grzanich: I can't offer it to you, but if you wanted to extend the invitation to your students, SGA purchased a fair amount of tickets for the 7:00 showing on the 21st that we're giving out in our office. Come with a Redbird ID. We'll give them to anyone who shows up.

Senator Lewis: Hello. So, Umoja, which is a black graduation... Well, a ceremony for cultural students, one of the cultural ceremonies, will be coming up in the following weeks on May 10, that Thursday. So if you can share with your students the deadline has been extended until April 15th. The deadline to register has been extended until April 15th, which is this weekend, and we'd love to get your students out there to celebrate their accomplishments.

Senator Kalter: And do they have to register, or can they register even if they're not... You're talking about people who are graduating only, or do they have to register if they're not and can they attend if they're not graduating?

Senator Lewis: So, attendance is open to the public, so no registration. The registration is just for the graduate participants, but please feel free to also spread the word about the actual ceremony and come out and celebrate the students who will be there.

Senator Ohler: I just ran across this one recently from the Econ Department. We have the Institute for Corruption Studies and on April 23rd they'll be having a panel discussion on why is Illinois so corrupt. So you can find that information on the Econ website.

Senator Kalter: Fantastic. I love it. Further communications?

Senator Marx: May I ask how many hours they're planning on meeting?

Senator Ohler: Six. It's in the Bone Center April 23rd.

Senator Rubio: This Saturday, one of the sororities on campus is having their March Madness event. Senator Grzanich is actually one of the MCs and half of the association is dancing because it's a competition between all the fraternities and sororities for Make A Wish. Last year they raised about \$60,000, and it's at Redbird Arena this year. So, pretty fun to come see us dance and support the kids.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. And congratulations on your victory in the Student Body President election. Any further communications?

Senator Baker: If he's going to plug his, I'm going to plug my own.

Senator Kalter: And congratulations to you, too.

Senator Baker: Thank you. I appreciate it. FDMA is having a fashion show this Friday. Tickets are actually running out really, really quickly. It will be in the Brown Ballroom. Cocktail (which is Mocktail because we don't have alcohol on campus) starts at 5:00, but the show itself starts at 7:00.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. And not to be left out, congratulations to Senator Whitsitt as well. Any further communications? All right.

Adjournment

Motion by Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Whitters, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.