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Senate Meeting, March 7, 2018

Academic Senate
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Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 7, 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.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Kalter: All right, we have a quorum. Just a few chairperson's remarks. We're going to have a hard stop time today at 8:15 pm. Also from the action items, we are going to remove the Administrative Selection Policy from that list, because we would like to have the AP Council representative to the Senate be able to be here for any vote. So we're going to not do that part of the agenda tonight. And that's it for chairperson's remarks. So does anybody have any questions? All right. Seeing none, we'll move to student body president's remarks.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Grzanich: All right. I hope everybody's having a good night. As I mentioned in my report two weeks ago, our Diversity Week was last week. We had several different events occur over the span of the week, which were overall widely successful and well attended. I personally have been around SGA for about four years now, and I think it was one of our best Diversity Weeks yet. So thank you to Secretary Brandon Soto, as well as Senator Hale for helping set up the majority of that, as well of the rest of the Diversity Committee.

This past Monday, we had our Emerging Leaders Program graduation. For those unaware of what the Emerging Leaders Program is, it's a program that we put on for the freshman class to acclimate them to leadership on campus. So it's a year-long process of them learning leadership and how they lead, and everything of the sort, and so it was a very joyous time for them as they hopefully move into roles, potentially into Student Government and our other organizations on campus.

Speaking of graduation, I'd like to formally invite everyone to our inaugural Half-Cap Graduation, which is a celebration for sophomores in commemoration on finishing two years of college and excitement for hopefully finishing the next two. This event will take place April 28, 2018, from 4:30-6:30 pm in Capen Auditorium. Please let me know if you'd like to attend, and I'll shoot you the invite. Thank you to Senator Whitters for setting that one up as well.

After Student Government celebrates its favorite week of the year next week, Spring Break, we will begin our campaign season. This is normally one of the most exciting times for SGA, and I encourage you to watch as it unfolds. We should have another fun year of elections. With that, lastly, during the election process, we will continue our constitutional discussions and hopefully have a vote by the 21st or 28th, one of the two. With that, I can yield for questions.

Senator Kalter: Any questions for Senator Grzanich? Senator Grzanich, did you announce your new senators by any chance?

Senator Grzanich: I did not, actually. So with us today is Taylor Phillips and Senator Alex Campbell. They are both new off-campus senators. Excited to have them for the next couple of weeks. I'm very excited they're more than capable and ready to be here. So welcome.

Senator Kalter: Wonderful. Welcome. Also, we forgot to mention that there is a new Civil Service representative, Chris Roberts. Chris, why don't you tell us where you're from.

Senator Roberts: Hi. I worked with the Registrar's Office.

Senator Kalter: Terrific. I understand that you do all of the, maybe not all of it, but much of the computer support there.

Senator Roberts: I do.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. All right. Welcome. Welcome to everybody.

Administrators' Remarks

- ***President Larry Dietz***

President Dietz: Thank you, Senator Kalter. First, please allow me to say thanks to the faculty and staff for getting us very close to another Spring Break and to wish students good luck with any remaining midterms that you might have between now and the end of the week. I'd also like to say thanks to all of you who participated in the search process for the provost position and to thank and congratulate Dr. Jan Murphy on accepting this position. She's done a fabulous job as the interim, and she's really served in that role two different times and I've heard only positive comments about her appointment.

I did hear a couple of concerns about how that happened in light of the search, and before I give you some insight into that, I also want to say thanks to Dr. Brent Beggs, chair of that search committee, and members of the search committee for working diligently to bring in a good pool, and also to Lisa Mason in the Human Resources office for her good work, and to Dave Bentlin and Jay Groves in my office as well. I want to put a little context around that before I go on with a few other items of my report. While many universities, even many public universities, no longer conduct public searches for administrative position, Illinois State's culture of shared governance includes the expectation of a public search where finalist names are published and they participate in open forums, while also meeting with other constituent groups. I believe in this kind of transparency, I support it, and I try very hard to follow it, but I also know that conducting a search where finalists know their names will become public can also have a chilling effect on the number and the credentials of people who apply. In addition, these candidates are often applying for several positions at the same time and want to find a position quickly, while at the same time a public search places added time requirements on the process. This was certainly the case during a Provost search where we lost two excellent candidates to other positions where the search process moved more quickly than ours. There were other complicating facts in that search process and in the pool that I won't get into, but nevertheless it's a dynamic process to say the least. Dr. Murphy has done an exemplary job as interim provost, just as she did several years ago in that role. Before I talked with her about this position, I also talked with Tony Walesby, our Director of Equal Opportunity and Access. I had a couple of conversations with Senator Kalter. I also talked with the chair of the Search Committee, Dr. Beggs. I talked with the other three Vice Presidents, as well as General Counsel, and based upon those discussions and other feedback that I received throughout that entire process, I decided that the formal external search had been completed and we did not have a person to hire out of that search, so I did a targeted internal search in that process with the assumption that other internal candidates if they're interested in the position when it was formally announced as a national search might have participated in that search and that the committee would have vetted credentials in that process. So after thinking about this, talking to a lot of folks, and I would have talked frankly with the Executive Committee, but they had just met and their next scheduled meeting was not to occur until after the Spring Break, and I thought the timing was important to make a decision to fill the position. So I spoke with Dr. Murphy and, based upon her strong work in the past and a long conversation about her putting her retirement plans on hold, she agreed to serve in the role. So I really am fully invested in shared governance, and I believe our methodology in going through this national search is evidence of that commitment. I'm also committed to making the decisions that I think are the best for Illinois State in consultation with the appropriate affirmative action and shared governance leadership. In retrospect, perhaps I might have spent more time communicating with more of our shared governance leadership and for not doing that more I apologize, but I also wanted to give you the background about who I did talk to in the process. Going forward, I'll be fully cognizant of that, and I do believe that with Dr. Murphy

in place we're in a great position to move forward successfully. I would be happy to take any questions at the end of my remarks, but let me move on at this point and at the end of my remarks perhaps if anybody has any questions I'd be happy to take those.

Last week, I was in Springfield, and on last Tuesday night we had a legislative reception that was sponsored by all of the public universities, as well as the alumni groups from those universities, and we had well over 200 people that showed up, including about 25 different legislators, and the governor was there as well. There was a brief formal program that talked about the importance of universities having a budget and having a budget that was based upon the FY15 fiscal year and that mainly a lot of the good work that I think happened really in these kinds of settings happen one-on-one in informal settings. We had a lot of faculty and staff who were there, a lot of alums who showed up for that, and I think it really went very, very well. Having said that, the next day then I appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee and emphasized the need once again for a budget with operating back at FY15 level and capital being included as well. I also concentrated on our first student funding, vis-a-vis other institutions in the state, and emphasized that we were doing well by about every measure that one could think about in terms of doing our work and doing it well, but we're also getting the least amount of per-student support of any public university in the State, with the next one being \$2000 per student above where we are. I testified about that and that got some good discussion, and so we'll kind of see where all those things go, but I will be also appearing next month before the House Appropriations Committee offering similar kind of testimony.

I also want to say congratulations to the men's basketball team for getting to the finals at the Missouri Valley Conference. I'm sure that they will be back again. We will not lose anybody on the team. We don't have anybody graduating on the team and that's not for any academic reasons. It's because they're juniors, a lot of them, and so we'll have a full complement of the men coming back.

I also want to say good luck to the women's basketball team. For the first time in many, many years, they're not playing on Thursday, so their first game is tomorrow night at 8:30 pm, and I plan to go up and cheer them on for that game, and hopefully on into the weekend.

Next to last, the fundraising campaign is going really quite well. I've been on the road quite a bit lately and we just went over the mark of \$114 million toward our \$150 million goal, so it's going along really well, a lot of people working really hard, and so we're going to continue to do that. I'll just end by saying have a well-deserved spring break, and hopefully get a little rest and come back and we'll finish out the semester together. With that, I'd be happy to take any questions or comments.

Senator Kalter: Are there questions for Senator Dietz? All right. In that case, seeing none, we'll move to... Thank you very much, Senator Dietz. We'll move -- welcome to campus to our new provost -- to Provost Murphy for her comments.

- ***Provost Jan Murphy***

Provost Murphy: Thank you. Finding my way around campus. It's going well. Just to let you know, I'm sure you've heard in the news that the teaching grad assistants have filed a notice of intent to unionize, so at this time Payroll is verifying the signature submitted with this notice. I only say that just because we need to provide a reminder to you as faculty that we're asking you to refrain from any discussions with your GAs or answering questions regarding unionization or the process, and I know that feels hard to do because part of our role as faculty is to be, you know, to provide guidance to GAs, but in this case just legally it's important that you don't try to answer questions about unionization, offer opinions, anything like that. Just refer your students to the Human Resources website where there is information about organization of unions and any questions they have. There are contacts and resources for them. So just ask you to refer them to Human Resources.

A couple of updates. I don't think I've updated you on where we're at with faculty searches this year. So we authorized and then reauthorized 58 faculty searches this year, so to date, 36 have been completed successfully.

There are 16 still in progress. That makes us a little bit nervous. We like to see them a little bit further along by now. Six have failed for a variety of reasons. There's no one reason. It's certainly not a couple of years ago we worried about failed searches because we weren't getting our best candidates, but these reasons are just a variety of other reasons this time around.

A quick update on winter session, which was an initiative of the SGA two years ago. So this year, this 2017-2018 session, we had a total of 13 classes serving 341 students. That compares to last year, which was the first year where we had 7 classes serving 185 students. So we have certainly had more classes, more students this winter. We do surveys of students who participate in those classes, and those surveys come back very positive and we get requests for more. So for the 2018-2019 winter break, the online proposal out to departments will be available from April 2 through May 18, 2018. We anticipate being able to offer somewhere between 20-25 courses during winter session, for a total of about 800-900 student seats, so we're excited about that. Remember that the vast majority of these are online courses; the vast majority, they're all online courses or they could be study abroad, that's another option to run over the Christmas break of the holiday break. You know, a reminder that there's at least one week during that holiday break where the campus is shut down, there's not library support, those kinds of things, so that's always something we try to help make sure that faculty remember during that four-week winter session.

And then, finally, the President mentioned men's basketball, for example, and yes, it isn't that they are not graduating for any other reason than they're not ready to graduate. Just to let you know, the average GPA for our student athletes in the fall of 2017 was 3.23, and this is the fourth semester in a row that they've come in at this average, which is just extraordinary. Three hundred and six student athletes were on the honor roll. We have about 435-450 student athletes, so that's a huge percentage of our students athletes that are on the honor roll. We had 89 student athletes that are into 4.0. Yeah. It is amazing. If you happen to go to any game where we recognize student athletes, we just fill the floor, so I'd be glad to answer any questions at all.

Senator Kalter: I'm actually going to begin first with a comment that I'm thrilled with that GPA, but I also wish that we had the resources to give all of our students the kind of academic support that our athletes get, and I think we all agree about that.

Provost Murphy: I would agree. The other thing... I would agree 100%. I'm not going to disagree with that at all, but I would tell you we have far, we spend far less on our student athletes on academic study center and academic support than most of the institutions in our conference, and our athletes do far better, so I think that is just an indication of who our students as a whole, our student body is, and the athletes are just one representation of our student body as a whole. Senator Kalter, I wouldn't disagree with you. I understand.

Senator Kalter: All of you nodding your head. I just have two quick questions, then I'll go to the floor for questions. For winter session, the Planning and Finance Committee of the Senate had a year or two ago asked us to look at three-week courses, and sometimes winter's break is three weeks, sometimes it's four weeks, sometimes it's five weeks. I'm just wondering for that question how we look at those kinds of calendaring issues and if we have any three-week classes in winter session. If so, do we have concerns about those?

Provost Murphy: That is a great question. We have no more three-week summer courses, and our winter session courses are all a minimum of four weeks. They start right after finals are due, you know, they're right that same week, the same Monday that final grades are due on Tuesday, but winter session classes start Monday. Once out of every seven years, our winter break is three weeks, but we'll make provisions to allow those courses to go four weeks. We'll probably just extend them a week into the spring semester, because there is that sense from the Senate that we do not want four-week courses. So we've already planned for that.

Senator Kalter: Great. Thank you for that. Then the other one I'm not sure whether you are allowed to answer, but I just want the Senate to know that during the drive for unionization among the graduate students I did receive complaints from the students about what they perceived as unethical practices, and I'm wondering where

to send those students should they, now that the notice of intent to unionize has come out, is there a place to send them, for example, at the State level, or what have you, to register those concerns.

Provost Murphy: That is a great question. At the university level, we would have them contact either Tammy Carlson or soon-to-be Janice Bonneville, who is the director of HR, or Mike Schultz, who really handles contract negotiations for us. And, yes, this is a different bargaining unit than any of the other graduate student unions in the State of Illinois. So anytime we had those complaints, I believe they address those with the organization, but let me find out if there's someplace at the state level that those complaints can be sent to, because that's a good question. I'll find that answer.

Senator Kalter: That would be great. I'm pretty sure that one of them wrote a letter to the Pantagraph. I can't remember exactly when that was, but I can communicate that back to that.

Provost Murphy: President Dietz also mentioned that that perhaps might be something that Rob Blemler, who is our Ethics Officer, so let me work with Senator Stephens and HR to find better answers for you on that.

Senator Kalter: Terrific. Are there further questions for Provost Murphy? Who was it? Who am I pointing to?

Senator Grzanich: It was me.

Senator Kalter: Oh, you. I'm sorry.

Senator Grzanich: Not as much a question, more so a comment. I emailed you earlier, but I'd like to put it on record as well. On behalf of Student Government, we're very happy to have you back. Congratulations on your new position or permanent position.

Provost Murphy: Thank you very much.

Senator Grzanich: Absolutely.

(Applause.)

Provost Murphy: I'm honored. Do you know I love this University. There isn't much I wouldn't do for this University and for the guy sitting to my left, so I'm very honored. I'll do the best I can, you know, continue to try to do the right things for everybody who is a part of our university community, so thank you very much.

Senator Kalter: You sure you don't want to grill her with more questions? Oh, there is a question over there. I thought so.

Senator Lewis: Yeah. So my question is regarding the winter courses that will be provided in 2019. Will there be a way to have those winter courses and the payments go under the fall instead of the spring? I think right now it's only, it automatically rolls into the spring, but is there a way that you pay for it under the fall?

Provost Murphy: I'll ask that. I know that what it can't, it can't be a stand-alone, so it's not sort of our version of a J Master kind of thing. It can't be stand-alone, and so I know we do always kind of make that a part of spring, because it has to be part of a semester, which comes with some of its own issues, but I can find out if there is ever an option for it to be part of fall semester and what the pros and cons of that are, but let me, I don't have the answer, but I can sure ask the question.

Senator Lewis: All right. Thank you.

Provost Murphy: You bet.

Senator Kalter: Further questions. Let's see. Let's go, I think that LJ is not here tonight, if I remember correctly, so let's go on then 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 points brief. I'll comment typically what LJ brings up on the Bone Center renovation. The most important point, continues to be on plan and on schedule. We haven't had any issues with the contractor bringing back for any scope changes, so that's a very positive effort moving forward.

The Watterson dining project, the renovation on that project, the work should begin in the springtime as soon as the weather starts to improve, and that project is scheduled, if I'm correct, to be completed, I think it's by fall of next year, and so that you'll start to see some of that activity likely before the May graduation time frame in the end of the term.

From a state appropriation funding update, we got news this week. We've been... You may or may not recall in our last year state appropriation when the budget was passed, there was an amount of an allocation for payments for FY17 on top of the FY18 appropriation, and so there were different state funding resources that would be paid out over time to the universities. We got the news this week that all of our final payments under our FY17 appropriation came in and so that's a good sign from the State. They had been paying on kind of a scheduled basis, but there is certain resources and certain funds, so it was very nice to see that they finally did pay that off. I think that shows a commitment of things moving forward from the State. Then the FY18 appropriation has been coming through on a regularly scheduled basis, so there is some optimism there and hopefully as President Dietz speaks to earlier that our hearings that we had in March and our hearings in April that the budget process this year, you know, will be a much more positive experience than we've had in the last couple of years.

This will be the last time I will talk about this. The 2018 bond series finally last week closed. Signed all the documents. It closed on the 28th. Everything is done. There are no more outstanding actions on that. It was officially ours at the end of December, but then we had a refinancing on that debt done in February that I've talked to you before, but I'm very happy to say that major transaction is now over with and we will be able to benefit from that, from a number of avenues operationally, financially, and for the next several years, so I'm very pleased for that to be finally closed.

Last thing that may go under the radar. This is more of a point to just kind of remind people, because I actually did the preliminary test on it, just this past week you may have seen an email coming out of the Payroll Department where the new W-4 tax calculator came out, and there was a lot of information with the new tax law changes and with all of the complexity of that, the IRS said they would produce a new simplified formula in an attempt to try to estimate for people in FY18, because it relates to FY18, not the tax return people were preparing for last year, but your current holdings that you're doing to make sure under this new law with all of these changes that you don't end up with accidentally not realizing that all of the dependents on your past returns that you traditionally produced... You know, some people like to always have a little bit of a refund at the beginning of the year. Some people like to get it as close as they can. So there hasn't been a major tax law change of this magnitude in a long time. So over the weekend I actually did the test and it came back, I'm glad I did it, because it actually signaled to me that I needed to adjust my withholdings and bring them down, because if I didn't, then I'd end up likely owing a lot more tax at the end of the year. So it's not a perfect model, but I personally believe that anyone out there should make an attempt to try to do it. It's not that complicated, but my instincts tell me that if it does tell you that you may end up with a higher liability, I would err on the side of believing that, and if it's true and you like to have a refund, then the process allows you on a form, we do this, I turned in a new W-4 and I moved my deductions down one so that I'll have a little more taxes taken out for the rest of the year. So it's just a personal note, but I just wouldn't want for anyone with all of this material tax change coming on and then in a year from now there's so much complexity and concern about it that we just

don't do as much as we (inaudible) we try to educate our employees on something that at the end of the day is out of our control. If there are any questions that you have about that, our payroll website has a link to that information, and if you've got issues about that, we can't be tax advisors, but we can certainly try to offer some advice to make sure you're understanding the W-4 process in making sure that you're filling out the forms correctly so that you can at least align your taxes the way you feel you would like for them to be. Other than that, that's my comments. I'd be happy to take any questions.

Advisory Items:

Letter from Provost Murphy- College of Education Deans Search

Senator Kalter: Do we have any questions for Senator Stephens? All right. Wonderful. Thank you very much. We're going to go to our advisory item. That's just the letter from Provost Murphy announcing that there's going to be a search for the dean of the College of Education. Does anybody have any comments or questions about that one? For next year, by the way. All right. Seeing none, we'll go to the action items. The first one comes from Academic Affairs Committee and the Changes to the Structure of General Education and Graduation Requirements.

Action Items:

12.07.17.03 Changes to the Structure of General Education and Graduation Requirements CURRENT COPY (From Academic Affairs Committee)

12.07.17.04 Changes to the Structure of General Education and Graduation Requirements MARK UP (From Academic Affairs Committee)

12.07.17.05 Changes to the Structure of General Education and Graduation Requirements CLEAN COPY (From Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Pancrazio: Yes. Thank you. These are two different policies and they are part of our regular policy review. As I explained at our last meeting, they've been reviewed by Provost Murphy, by Associate Provost Rosenthal, by the University Curriculum Committee chair, as well as the Academic Affairs Committee. We have updated the link to the website, and we have... The only change to the policy is we have made a recommendation that there is a general announcement via listserv to all faculty letting them know that the process is underway. That's the same for each one. In the second policy, which is the changes to the graduation requirement, there was one slight change of wording. We corrected the global studies requirement and listed AMALI, and that is consistent with the catalogue. There are no other changes and we put it before the Senate tonight for questions and for possible approval. Thank you.

Senator Kalter: So you're making a motion to approve it.

Motion by Senator Pancrazio, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, to approve the Changes to the Structure of General Education and Graduation Requirements.

Senator Kalter: One question and one comment. Last time in the information session, there was a friendly amendment. In the places where the Executive Committee had appeared to cross out certain things, we were recommending that we...

Senator Pancrazio: That the University, that the Academic Affairs Committee would be able to send back a policy to the University Curriculum Committee.

Senator Kalter: Yeah.

Senator Pancrazio: That's true and that was a friendly amendment and it was accepted.

Senator Kalter: So the wording was, if necessary, the Academic Senate or its internal committees may send the proposed structure back.

Senator Pancrazio: I do believe that was the wording and I believe Provost Murphy also confirmed that that was consistent with other University policies and committees.

Senator Kalter: Okay. I just wanted to confirm that that was also a friendly amendment.

Senator Pancrazio: Forgive me. I forgot that.

Senator Kalter: No problem. And then before we start debate, I just want to let people know that, technically speaking, these are procedures, UCC procedures, rather than policies. It's a minor point, but you won't see them go up on the website that's the main University policy website. You might see them go up on the University Curriculum Committee's website.

Senator Pancrazio: True.

Senator Kalter: Do we have any debate? All right. Seeing none, all in favor of making these changes, please signify by saying aye.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. We have new procedures for UCC. Thank you very much. We now go to the Faculty Affairs Committee, Senator Liechty, for the Indirect Cost Policy.

12.08.17.05 Policy 7.6.3 Indirect Cost MARK UP (Faculty Affairs Committee)

Senator Liechty: Yes. This is an action item this week. You can see from the markup that basically the only changes we made, as I said last time, was just to make sure that the data in there was correct and in line with current policy. We linked to some forms and updated some of the language, and that's basically it. This is a regular... This is part of our regular review, so I'd like to move that we approve this, put it on the floor for approval.

Motion by Senator Liechty, on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, to approve changes to the Policy 7.6.3 Indirect Cost. The motion was unanimously approved.

11.29.17.01 Policy 1.18 Compliance Program MARK UP (Rules Committee)

Senator Kalter: Moving on to Rules Committee with the Compliance Program. I believe this is also not a policy, if I remember correctly.

Senator Horst: It has a policy number, though.

Senator Kalter: Oh, sorry. It is a policy. You're right. Sorry. I was thinking of the other one.

Senator Horst: Okay. This is the ISU Compliance Program Policy, and this document here includes revisions made by the Legal office, or Compliance Committee per Susan Kalter's suggestions, and I would like to make a motion to approve this policy.

Motion by Senator Horst, on behalf of the Rules Committee, to approve the changes to Policy 1.18 Compliance Program. The motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Kalter: We'll go back to Rules Committee again for both the Drug and Alcohol-Free Campus Policy and the Alcohol Policy.

02.22.18.04- Policy 5.1.5 Drug and Alcohol Free Campus MARK (Rules Committee)

Senator Horst: Okay. I'll start with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Drug-Free Workplace Act Policy. We discussed this last time with our lawyer, Lisa Huson, here. We did make a change to include the word confidential, as per Senator Smith's request, and I'd like to make a motion to approve this policy.

Motion by Senator Horst, on behalf of Rules Committee, to approve Policy 5.1.20 Alcohol Policy. The motion was unanimously approved.

02.26.18.01- Policy 5.1.20 Alcohol Policy (Rules Committee)

Senator Horst: Just rolling along. This is the Alcohol Policy being revised for many, many years in various ways. It now is more procedural as we discussed last time with our lawyer. It is conforming to Illinois State law, and I would like to make a motion that we approve this, 5.1.20 Alcohol Policy.

Motion by Senator Horst, on behalf of the Rules Committee, to approve the changes to Policy 5.1.20 Alcohol Policy.

Senator Kalter: All right. Is there any debate about this one? Always put your policies on the agenda right before spring break. All right.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Kalter: Any opposed? Not even just for the sake of it? All right. Any abstentions? Excellent. We got three new, well we've got one... four new policies and one or two new procedures. We're going to skip the next one and move on to information items, and we're going to go back again to Senator Horst to continue to help us go through the Senate bylaws and their information. Last time you might remember that we had been talking about Article V. We may or may not have ended that discussion. She can tell us and then we're going to go through the rest of that stuff.

Information Items:

02.27.18.04 New Academic Senate By-Laws Articles V (Rules Committee)

01.30.18.02 Senate Bylaws ARTICLE I CURRENT (Rules Committee)

01.29.18.02 Senate Bylaws ARTICLE V (old I) MARK UP (Rules Committee)

03.01.18.01 Senate Bylaws Proposed ARTICLE V CLEAN Copy (Rules Committee)

Senator Horst: Yes. We did somewhat truncate our conversation regarding Article V, which is the article that has been changed the most. I mentioned that the Rules Committee is adding language in the adoption stage that is a motion to rescind or to amend a previous action of the Academic Senate, which has not been enacted, requires two-thirds vote for passage. That was language that was actually in the previous bylaws. Are there any questions regarding Article V? This is the one that has been changed the most. Okay. So then moving on to Article VI. This was a previous article... I can't remember, is it II, II, I believe, bylaws.

Senator Kalter: I think so.

Senator Horst: And a lot of the language is identical. Under section 2 there's a reference to a document that was written by former Senate chairperson, Austin Lane Crothers. It was signed by President Strand and this is now sitting on the Academic Senate website. Per my colleague's suggestion, it was suggested that this Powers and Responsibilities of Committees of the Academic Senate document become an appendix to the bylaws, so we added a reference to that under section 2. This was endorsed by the Executive Committee and then President Strand. As I said, a lot of the language is the same. One place where it is different is when we described the various committee structures. I did some research in the Constitution regarding what exact committees are constitutionally specified, and I uncovered that for instance the Academic Freedom, Ethics, and Grievance Committee and the University Review Committee are in our Constitution, so we expanded this

section to include internal constitutionally-specified committees, constitutionally-specified standing mixed committees, and constitutionally-specified standing external committees. I will put in those commas.

Senator Kalter: That's wonderful.

Senator Horst: So that's another change to this particular article. Moving on, process used now, we made some language change to Section 6, Part D, the referrals to committee shall be communicated to the Senate through the publication of the agenda and minutes of the Executive Committee and shall be effective unless disapproved by the Senate. The Executive Committee may also send proposals for Senate action. This is conforming with our current procedure. Again, we're trying to line up the bylaws with what we're actually doing right now. Moving on, we included some language, the Academic Senate office shall make available on a continuing basis the committee structure of the Academic Senate of the Illinois State University, as opposed to saying it shall be made available annually because we distribute it differently. We deleted discussion of the Open Meetings Act in this article because, as we discussed last time, there was an advisory item from Lisa Madigan regarding the Open Meetings Act and that has led us to change the language in the bylaws regarding the Open Meetings Act, so we found it pertinent to delete reference to that in this article. We have included in section 7, reference to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Caucus. This is a way that we are functioning right now where the faculty members of the Executive Committee are deciding the agenda for the Faculty Caucus. We've been doing this for a couple of years.

Senator Kalter: This is actually, I believe, in the current Blue Book. I think we're just making sure that it appears in the central bylaws.

Senator Horst: Yes. Okay.

Senator Kalter: So at some point in time it was voted on and approved by, I assume, a Caucus.

Senator Horst: And also in Section 8, we are specifying that external mixed ad hoc and advisory committees can have one and only one chairperson. There have been some confusing situations where there have been two chairpeople, and there has been confusing communication between the chair and the committee, so we found it important to specify that there should only be one chair. I have nothing else to say about that Article VI. Any questions about that? Article VII contains just one language change. We're using this language, filing, review circulation, information, action, and adoption stages, so there was a change in section 1 to reflect that new language, which is detailed in Article V. Moving on, then there's now, as I said, we are trying to fold together all of the documents of the Senate into one big document and, as I said, at some time we'll create hyperlinks to everything. So Appendix I is the Powers and Responsibilities of Committees written by Austin Lane Crothers, who happens to be my husband. There. I confessed. So that's now Appendix I. Appendix II is the Blue Book, and it is the intent of the Rules Committee to spend some more time editing that next year. One change that was made is that the AFEGC was formally put under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Caucus. The AFEGC is a committee that deals with faculty affairs and grievances, and so we thought important... It also says the ASPT document is under the Faculty Caucus, so they're aligned. We also deleted Senate liaisons and we deleted the Student Center Complex Advisory Board. This is a defunct external committee, which hasn't had any members on it for quite some time.

Senator Kalter: I'm trying to remember. I believe that that particular committee is being replaced by a Student Affairs administrative committee that has to do with the Bone and sort of the Dining, in other words, having advisory committees about what dining should look like on the campus and other things related to that.

Senator Horst: Yeah. Student Government looked at it. In fact, maybe your membership numbers even went up, so it's still a fully functional committee. It's just not going to be under the Senate.

Senator Grzanich: Yeah. Dr. Danielle Miller-Schuster is in charge of that now, and so she could give you the exact name and number of it, but that is accurate.

Senator Horst: And that's all I have to report about the bylaws.

Senator Kalter: So we're in information session. Does anybody have any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions? I'm anticipating a short debate next time after Spring Break about this one. We're going to bring it all back probably on March 28, 2018, to vote, and we will have new bylaws after almost 40-some years. We haven't identified the date of the old bylaws, but we'll try to get that so that we can have a big birthday party. All right. Moving on... Thank you very much, Senator Horst. We got two more things. Let me see where we are on time. Oh, we got plenty of time. Student Leave of Absence Policy coming out of Academic Affairs Committee.

02.08.18.01 Student Leave of Absence policy (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Pancrazio: Yes. Let me see. This proposal emerged from a review of our policies regarding student mental health and any other services that we provide. There was a task force working with an outside organization that recommended, I mean the task force found that we were doing a number of things right, but it also recommended that we create a Leave of Absence Policy for those students who need to take some time off and to get their affairs in order and to be able to come back and be successful at the University. During that time, they will have the option of taking a leave of absence for six consecutive semesters, and that does include summer. During that time, they will still remain part of the Illinois State University community, and they will not have to reenroll or reregister, reapply for admission. The Academic Affairs Committee reviewed the seventh draft and we made some recommendations to clarify the difference between leave of absence and a straight withdrawal from courses. Let me see, Registrar Jess Ray, Associate Provost Rosenthal, and another colleague, Sandy Colbs were present and presented this and they came back with some new language and we're presenting that to the Senate this evening as part of an informational item.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. Do we have any comments?

Senator Tyler Smith: I have a question about this policy, because it says that you should notify that you need a leave of absence prior to the 10th day of classes.

Senator Pancrazio: Can you repeat that a little louder please into the microphone. Thank you.

Senator Tyler Smith: Sorry. I'm concerned that it says that you need to notify before the 10th day of class. I understand as far as paperwork goes and why you'd need that, but from my understanding a leave of absence policy would be there for emergencies, which the vast majority of the time I don't think would occur before the 10th day of classes' start.

Senator Pancrazio: Good point, Senator Smith. That was exactly the same question that the Academic Affairs Committee came up with and the response from the Registrar and from Associate Provost Rosenthal was that we need to make a distinction between a withdrawal from classes, which is that emergency, and a more thoughtful decision that a student wants to remain a citizen, or remain part of the community, and that would fall. So there are two separate steps and that's precisely the language we asked them to clarify and make it clear that if students needed that emergency to withdraw from campus that they were able to do that through the withdrawal from all classes that's in paragraph 2, and if they want to remain part of the Illinois State community, they would be able to have that leave of absence. Now they would be able to do it at any time, but it was preference that they would be able to do it within that 10 days.

Senator Tyler Smith: Okay. So, just as a point of information, because I don't know this answer myself, would somebody who withdraws from all classes have to reapply the following semester?

Senator Pancrazio: If they did not apply for the leave of absence.

Senator Tyler Smith: Okay. Then would it be possible to put in some sort of language that would clarify that a little more so that students are aware that they can apply after the 10th day in case of an emergency, but that it's just not...

Senator Pancrazio: That was exactly the same question that we asked, because we assumed that no one would want a leave of absence unless it really were an emergency, and they did change the language again. Let's take a quick look here at paragraph 2, the leave of absence is different from a withdrawal from all classes. The leave of absence does not cover a semester that has started, nor withdrawal from classes or any financial adjustments related to withdrawal for that semester. What that means is that there are two separate processes.

Senator Tyler Smith: Okay, so would it be possible to put in something that would clarify, for example, in case of emergency after the 10th day of classes it's necessary to withdraw from all classes and then apply for a leave of absence?

Senator Pancrazio: We could ask. If that is the will of the Senate, we'd be glad to ask them to, you know, we'll get some specific wording, but if that is the will of the Senate or if it's clear enough, let's see how others respond to Senator Smith's recommendation.

Senator Kalter: It seems advisable at least on first hearing that we ask Jonathan and the others to consider whether something like that should go in this policy, the withdrawal policy, or both to have clarity for students - - do you see what I'm saying -- so that they know what...

Senator Pancrazio: After that 10th day what are their options.

Senator Kalter: Yeah, so that they know that they can do what Senator Smith is finding out now, but that may not be intuitive. That would be my read on that. Do other people want to weigh in on that?

Senator Blum: Yeah, I'd just like... How would a student find out this information, I mean, other than like on the policy website. I mean, is there another vehicle that they would get notified or something. It just seems like, you know, when you're having an emergency in your life, okay, if you're trying to understand this language, all right, can be hard pressed. I mean is there some vehicle by which that would happen?

Senator Pancrazio: It's my understanding that if a student certainly would contact the Registrar and the Registrar would be able to explain these options. In most cases, this is not general information and that's why we have those administrators that are able to explain it when the case comes up.

Senator Kalter: Any questions?

Senator Pancrazio: I'll take more recommendations and I'd be happy to get back with Associate Provost Rosenthal and with the Registrar.

Senator Mainieri: (inaudible) so I could totally see a student who is in some type of crisis searching on the ISU website to try to find out what their options are, and so I think having the clearest language available to students would be appropriate. So I would support Senator Smith's views.

Senator Whitters: I agree with Senator Smith. Last semester I had to go through something like this and it was incredibly hard for me to figure out my options and it added more stress to the situation that I was already going through. Thank God for the Diversity Advocacy office, though, because they really advocated for me and they really helped me out. But for students that are not connected to people like the DA Office, it would be really

hard for me to still be a part of this community and finish my degree, so I do agree with like changing, or changing the language to make it more accessible to students.

Senator Kalter: We want very small spaces in our safety net so that we catch everybody. Anybody else?

Senator Horst: Yeah, I was wondering if you could comment on the sentence, students granted a leave may have changes to their plan of study due to changes in departmental policy curriculum or time to degree. I was under the impression that you were bound by the catalog you came under, so I was a little confused by that sentence.

Senator Pancrazio: The way it was explained to us was that there are, inevitably there are programmatic changes. If a course, for example, would be canceled, the student then not just a course would be canceled, be removed from the catalog and no longer offered, it would be impossible for the department to re-offer that course. In that case, they would look for waivers and other options. It was explained to us by both the Associate Provost Rosenthal and the Registrar was that this is a work in progress, that this is the first step in getting a new policy that is to benefit students and that they are trying to understand how it would actually affect. The question that we had was what happens with students that are in a lockstep major or with a cohort model and they said we'll work it out as we go along.

Senator Horst: So that's why you wanted that language to have flexibility.

Senator Pancrazio: Exactly.

Senator Horst: Okay.

Senator Kalter: I think also, Senator Horst, that there are some majors that have licensure requirements and so it may actually be in students' interest to have that change and to be moved in the catalog, so that's probably also why that's there.

Senator Horst: I have two just more little questions.

Senator Pancrazio: Sure.

Senator Horst: One, it says each leave of absence agreement is unique to the applicant's situation and is reviewed by a committee. Who's the committee?

Senator Pancrazio: That would be with the Registrar's office.

Senator Horst: Okay. So maybe it should say a committee from the Registrar's office.

Senator Kalter: We might want to say...

Senator Pancrazio: I can double check all of that. I have a list here.

Senator Kalter: We might want to say something like an administrative committee.

Senator Pancrazio: I'll ask him what he meant.

Senator Kalter: Or something like that.

Senator Pancrazio: Yeah.

Senator Horst: And then my third and final question is I was wondering if maybe with the stop the clock, you know how tuitions, there's the truth in tuition and the students are locked into a certain tuition rate, would they still be locked into that rate? Could we make a guarantee? Would that be needed, that their tuition...

Senator Pancrazio: I can ask what they had in mind. At this point, I don't believe that it was, but it's a valid point and I'm taking it now.

Senator Horst: Because that's by calendar year, right? The tuition rate is a certain number of calendar years? Is that right?

Senator Kalter: Dr. Murphy, do you know?

Provost Murphy: It depends on the major. I'm looking to the President too, so it's a timed degree. Most degree programs are four years, but there are certain exceptions to that. A lot of teacher ed programs are five years, those kinds of things. But I think in each of these cases, and I'm looking, I'm trying to decide if it wouldn't be the Reinstatement Committee that would take a look at these, but in each of these cases I think they need to be very, you know there needs to be a lot of conversation with the student to help make sure that we're leading the student in the right direction. You know, withdrawals are typically emergencies. Not every stop the... Not every... I say stop the clock like it's a faculty, but not every leave of absence will necessarily be an emergency. Sometimes there are life situations that just, you know, we want to give the student the opportunity, because of circumstances beyond their control, to put kind of a stop on their degree program without making them kind of reapply, because think about some of our majors where they're pretty competitive to get into and you don't want them to have to go through that process again.

Senator Horst: So I'm just hoping we can extend the tuition rate for them if they're going through that.

Provost Murphy: That's a good question.

Senator Kalter: That's probably not our decision, though, right? We don't have control over whether we extend that. It's the State's decision. I'm not sure, but it seems like we ought to look into that whether we even have control over that.

President Dietz: Well I think...I think we have some control in this. Obviously, the law is really not around these exceptions and we're really talking about it, so the law is pretty clear that if a student starts at a given academic year that they have four years, unless they're in a five-year program, that they have four years to go through, through all of that. I do think that we would have some internal latitude to determine tuition to be more generous than perhaps the law might allow, so I think we would want to, if we have that we would want to exercise that.

Senator Dawson: It seems to me that with the leave of absence we're formally setting the student up to give them the protection to be able to follow their original catalog and not have the rug pulled out from under them, so they're still there in the wings getting whatever they need to get through whatever. Think about major medical issues that they may need to deal with, or certain family situations, and so on. We have it through the Family Leave Act. We get some protection as employees, but I think with the students, showing them that we don't hate them. Yep, we're going to keep some of your money, you can go away for the fall, and then you can tell us when you want to come back, and oh, things might change. I think this is a kinder gentler way to work with students that encounter some of those major issues in life.

Senator Kalter: Thank you.

Senator Lewis: I have a quick question about the length of time that's covered under the leave of absence. Does it just generally vary among the different situations?

Senator Pancrazio: I don't believe that they assign any particular situation to it, but say that there was a maximum of six consecutive semesters and that does include the summer session as well. That was not one of the issues that came up in discussion.

Senator Tyler Smith: Sorry, I've got a handful of questions. Okay, first, does this affect the incoming scholarships that we get? Like, for example, most freshmen receive the Redbird Academic Scholarship and that is good for four years? Because I think that that's, for example, for me that was a huge portion of my financial aid and I think that's the case for a lot of people. In addition, do you have to apply for a leave of absence each semester that you are going to be gone or is it determined at the very beginning?

Senator Pancrazio: I think we're making up as we go along, to be all honest, but these are great questions. I'm writing them down.

Senator Tyler Smith: Okay, and then also in regards to this committee, how many people will be on this committee and is there an appeals process?

Senator Pancrazio: Absolutely no idea. Provost Murphy?

Provost Murphy: If it's a committee like the Reinstatement Committee, absolutely there is an appeals process. You know, one of the things I would caution you is to try to be too prescriptive in the policy, because being too prescriptive in the policy then doesn't allow us to set, grant a leave of absence unique to each applicant's situation, so I would be really careful about trying to delineate too many things. Again, I think the policy says it pretty well that we'll take each applicant and try to develop a program or develop a plan that works for that applicant, because we won't be able to... You know, we're just not going to be able to second guess each of the issues that are going to come up, although you've raised excellent issues, but I think we want to be careful.

Senator Kalter: Senator Smith, is that...

Senator Tyler Smith: Oh, yeah, sorry. I'm okay.

Senator Kalter: Okay. I just want to make sure... Anybody else?

Senator Horst: Yeah. I just had one other thought that this committee should have a student representative on it.

Senator Pancrazio: I'll add that. I'm up to number seven.

Senator Kalter: Anyone else?

Senator Pancrazio: I think it's a FERPA issue.

Senator Kalter: Yeah, I was going to say that. We might want to check into that. Anyone else? I have just one suggestion. I'm not sure that you even need to write it down as a question, but just maybe an insertion. In the second to last paragraph where it says, students granted a leave of absence are required to meet with the Dean of Students or a designee, I wonder if it might be advisable also to have to meet with either the department or University College advisor.

Senator Pancrazio: Good point.

Senator Lewis: What happens if their plans like I guess their undergrad plans change throughout the leave of absence, then what department or advisor would they need?

Senator Kalter: That's why I'm saying it, because I think that would be... So it would be whoever, you know, whatever the last advisor was. So if they were in University College, they would go to University College. If they were in a major already and had a departmental advisor, they would go to that, whoever that person was, even if they had changed, it would be whoever was in that department, but that's why I'm saying it, because I think you can talk to the Dean of Students, but they don't know what your plan of study is and they don't really... You know, they might be able to have access to it, I'm not sure, but it would be better to talk to an advisor who can really help to put you on the right path. Yeah. Anybody else?

Senator Pancrazio: So for routing I can go ahead and I can find out about, get all the answers to these questions and then bring it back and hopefully satisfy all of these in the next meeting?

Senator Kalter: And do not feel rushed. If you don't have all of the questions answered by March...

Senator Pancrazio: I like getting this off my desk.

Senator Kalter: All right, but don't feel rushed. As long as you don't feel rushed. Okay, I want to make sure that we get to the Guidelines for the Accelerated Masters Degrees, because we have Dr. Hurd in the audience who has been waiting with bated breath to come help us.

02.08.18.03 Guidelines for Accelerated Master's Degrees (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Pancrazio: I'd like to introduce Dr. Hurd.

Dr. Hurd: All right. You should have some information on the Accelerated Masters program, but basically this is for high achieving students. The students have to have a 3.2 GPA or higher. The main gist of the program is that we will share 12 hours between the undergraduate and the graduate program. So they will double count these courses. Okay. And they'll take these courses in their senior year and carry them over. For the application process, they'll apply in the spring semester of their junior year and then be accepted and they will start in the fall of their senior year. They'll finish their undergraduate degree and then they'll move right into their graduate degree and finish that hopefully a year later. Some programs, obviously, with the number of hours it's going to take them a little bit longer than that, but we're hoping that they'll be able to get it done in a year. Now right now we already have an Integrated Accounting program and that's a little bit different than the Accelerated Master. The Integrated Accounting program, they don't double count any hours and that's because of licensure. Okay. And the Integrated program also they end up getting their Bachelor and Master at the same time. With the Accelerated, they get their Bachelor degree and then they get their Master degree. Right now we have Anthropology and Family Consumer Sciences. They are both up and running. We have Math in the pipeline and I've had several discussions with some other majors who are interested in doing something like this. I heard today from Family Consumer Sciences. We projected that they would have maybe five students interested. They had 18 applications and they accepted 15, so I think the students are excited about this and they're feeling like this is a good thing for them. Questions?

Senator Day: I presume these are non-thesis Master degrees?

Dr. Hurd: No, not necessarily.

Senator Day: It wouldn't work in our program.

Dr. Hurd: And this is not for every program. Family Consumer Sciences, they have a thesis option and we sat down and we mapped out how it could work. The student will have to start their research. They're going to start them in the second semester of their senior year.

Senator Horst: I just wonder if you could explain the bullet point that said the student's GPA will be calculated based on the career in which the student is placed, so can you explain that sentence?

Dr. Hurd: Yeah. The career is Campus Solutions speak. So when they are an undergrad, they're considered to be in the undergrad career. So if they take some of the courses that they're going to double count, if they take it during their senior year, it's going to count in the GPA as an undergrad. They start over their GPA once we flip their career to grad.

Senator Horst: Okay, so that's what the career is.

Dr. Hurd: That's what it is. Yeah.

Senator Horst: Career is grad versus undergrad. Okay.

Senator Kalter: I would recommend maybe defining that here since it is internal speak, just briefly. Anything else, Senator Horst? Any other questions or comments or suggestions about this one? I had a couple of things. I think, very quickly, in the fourth bullet point down it says AMDs are different from senior taking graduate classes with shared hours and two semesters of eligibility, but it's not clear where the "with" is. In other words, is that modifying the AMDs or is it modifying the senior taking graduate classes, so it might be helpful to clarify which one of those has shared hours and two semesters of eligibility. I think it's the AMDs.

Dr. Hurd: Yes. Those have shared hours.

Senator Kalter: So just clarifying that sentence a little bit, so that's a small one. The second one was the second bullet point in that first list from the bottom. Students may withdraw from the program at any time by notifying the graduate program director and the undergraduate advisor. I was just going to say "of the department(s)" as a friendly edit. And then the other thing there is that that particular bullet point talks about how if they don't complete all of the years, they can have all of the graduate hours earned converted to undergraduate hours and applied towards the traditional BS/BA. I thought that some students might want instead, if they've already got enough to graduate as an undergraduate, to be able to use those as transfer credit, graduate credits, to another institution, for example.

Dr. Hurd: They could. It depends on the University.

Senator Kalter: Okay.

Dr. Hurd: ISU would most likely not take them.

Senator Kalter: Right. Right. But I'm just wondering if we can open that sentence up just a little bit to let them know that some institutions might be able to take them as transfer credits so that, you know, essentially we're kind of saying if you don't want to convert it into your undergraduate major, you still haven't lost that if like three years from now you decide to go to graduate school and you're living with your husband or wife or something, you know, in Florida, and you can't come back here anyway, or something, just to clarify for people...

Dr. Hurd: Okay.

Senator Kalter: ...that that's possible. Anybody else have any comments? I think we're blowing past our... Oh! It's 8:14 pm right now. I'm going to... Oh I'm sorry, I'm sorry, Senator Smith.

Senator Tyler Smith: Sorry, that's okay. I'm invisible over here.

Senator Kalter: No, you're not.

Senator Tyler Smith: So is the anticipated and current programs at the very bottom, is that a comprehensive list or is that just so that we know that there's interest?

Dr. Hurd: Those are ones that have shown interest so far. The only ones we actually have in place are Anthropology and Family Consumer Sciences.

Senator Tyler Smith: Okay.

Senator Kalter: And I just...

Dr. Hurd: Well, Accounting is integrated.

Senator Kalter: I'm just going to clarify also that when you said they were up and running, they just got up and running, like they were literally just approved by consent agenda about a month or two ago.

Dr. Hurd: Yes. They are accepting applications right now and the first group of students will start in the fall.

Senator Kalter: All right. Anything else?

Senator Ferrence: I was just curious, because I'm thinking of it in terms of, you know, other possible programs that could use it. So the courses that can overlap, be used for both graduate and the undergraduate, must those be taken no earlier than the senior year or could they take a course in the junior year that would count for both?

Dr. Hurd: The way we have it set up is they would take it in their senior year.

Senator Ferrence: So my concern with that is simply they didn't at least say in some of the sciences that to take all, say, science classes in the same year is overwhelming, and currently we routinely have courses that a graduate student could get for graduate credit that a junior would take in an undergraduate curriculum and it would be more feasible to adopt a program like this if we had the flexibility, because essentially what we'd want is in the senior year the students to be taking maybe a couple other gen ed to fill out the course, because you generally don't want to be taking four or five high level science classes in the same semester.

Dr. Hurd: Well, and they have three plus two programs out there, so they have the three plus two and the four plus one. We started with the four plus one, because it was more clean. That doesn't mean that I am opposed to looking at three plus twos either, so I know that the potential exists. Thank you.

Senator Kalter: Any other comments?

Senator Horst: Sometimes the course rotation is over two years, so these courses that might be double counted would only be offered every two years, so they might take it their junior year because of that. That is another thing to think about.

Dr. Hurd: It could. Yeah.

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Pancrazio

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Hoelscher

Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Liechty

Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Marx

Rules Committee: Senator Horst

Communications

Senator Kalter: Anyone else? All right. As you might have anticipated, we are going to skip committee reports. We're going to go straight to Communications. I have two to start us out. I just want to call out Senator Hale, who I heard on WGLT a couple of days in a row, and I thought he was extraordinarily eloquent. I don't know if you can remember exactly what you said, but it was something to the effect, we can't fight any of the other fights or get anything else we want unless we have an earth to live on, and I just want to sort of call that out and say yay.

The other thing I wanted to do and I didn't want to bring this up so that we wouldn't go off onto a 45-minute tangent, but right before coming here I noticed that there was a report out. I noticed it through NPR that there is a group of people who have provided a research-based eight-point set of recommendations about how to prevent gun violence, particularly with relationship to education. I'm wondering, I wanted to direct this to the President, so I would have said in my remarks or during his Q and A, but I'll just ask, if we have not already signed onto that as an institution, would you be able to look at it, consult with experts here on campus that might be in the faculty or on the staff, or both, let us know if you think that signing that is advisable. I think the point there being that research-based recommendations are something that we should probably start thinking about as a society and as institutions, rather than just having opinions on either side of the aisle about what's going on, but to come to some sort of consensus through research, which is what we're all about here. Thank you. Anyone else have communications for the Senate?

Senator Horst: Yeah. The School of Music is having a music festival March 26-29, 2018. William Bolcom is coming. He's a very famous composer. Also, I'm having a premier on the 26th, large ensemble, if you want to come.

Senator Kalter: Excellent and congratulations.

Senator Haugo: The School of Music and School of Theater and Dance joint production of the opera is moving into its second week, *Così fan tutte*. Great production. Great thing to come out and see if you want some art in your life.

Adjournment

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

Senator Kalter: Excellent. Have a great Spring Break.