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Academic Senate Minutes

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### Senate Meeting, April 25, 2018

Academic Senate  
*Illinois State University*

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**Academic Senate Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 25, 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: I just want to put two things on the record. Well, three things on the record now. One, Jed Day is here. The second one is that we started exactly at 7:00, and I think that's a first. Third is that I was the one, Kevin, who got her to pronounce your name correctly.

Senator Horst: My apologies. You never told me.

***Chairperson's Remarks***

Senator Kalter: I do have some remarks. I just want to say welcome to any of the new students who might be here tonight. It looks like they were just in the other room so now it's the students from this past year. So, thank you to all of you graduating and non-returning students. And to all non-returning senators, you should all pat yourselves on the back for what you've accomplished this year, and if you've been here more than one year, in previous years. Next year we're going to be able to conduct business under a new set of Senate bylaws. We will be starting a new long-range planning process in the Planning and Finance Committee and we're going to be doing so under a new university strategic plan, we hope, and we will likely receive or at least get wind of a revised Code of Student Conduct from the Code of Student Conduct Review Committee as it makes its way through SGA towards our approval process here. We'll be doing all of this drone-free, and it's too bad that Senator Baur wasn't here to hear me say that. We're doing it drone-free thanks to the Faculty Affairs Committee's finalization of our new Unmanned Aircraft System Policy. And most importantly, Senator Pancrazio and the Academic Affairs Committee once again got through pretty much the entire pile of outdated policies that was on their tab and so fast that Exec was not able to keep up with them. And so we're going to be sending a bunch of those... No, we're not going to be sending them back to you, I hope. Probably not most of them, but we'll be sending them to the floor, most of them, next August depending on what Exec decides because we haven't even talked about them yet. We're also going to be welcoming our first group of international students recruited through INTO onto our campus and hoping to make them feel very much at home, hoping that one or more of them in some future year will join our Senate. And in Faculty Caucus, we hope to have a simple and straightforward year after spending so many long nights this year putting our new tenure line faculty disciplinary process into place and straightening out our processes for adjudication of faculty ethics, grievance, and academic freedom complaints.

So, as usual there were also a number of unsung heroes. I should, by the way, introduce to not my immediate left but my second left Cera Christensen who is one of the big unsung heroes, our Senate clerk, who did a lot of great work this year and almost all of it behind the scenes. Yes, thank you. And also the other unsung heroes. You often don't see this because the Presidential Commentary always goes straight to Exec, but the people who guide our campus-wide evaluation of administrators or who assist in that process, and Cera is one of those. So that gives me the opportunity, and unfortunately Mark Hoelscher is not here tonight. I was hoping that he would be here. It gives me the opportunity, though, to express my very profound appreciation for Senator Hoelscher. He is going to be stepping off the Senate this year after an entire decade of service, and I was going to say let's give Mark a standing ovation for that. You'll have to help me come up with some other incredibly embarrassing thing for him, but that is a formidable amount of time on the Senate, and he's been also in that

time an Executive Committee member and a chair of committees often. So, thank you to Mark, and he was feeling a little under the weather tonight.

So I also want to say thanks to all of our other faculty senators who are going to be leaving or taking a hiatus next year. Kevin Laudner, who will be joining us occasionally from the dean's perch. Kathleen Lonbom, who is a Senator as well as an honored former member of the Executive Committee. And Secretary. Yes, that's right. Gosh, that seems like a long time ago. Dan Liechty, who is a terrific committee chair and a faithfully perennial Senator, so we'll expect to see you back sometime, Dan. Jack Glascock. I don't know where he was, but I saw him come in somewhere. Jack Glascock, you're also another perennial favorite and you are welcome to take Dan's seat if you want it because it's open. It's got a vacancy in it, so if you want to re-up you know where it is. Kim Astroth. I saw her somewhere. There she is back in that corner. She's going to be keeping our Nursing students strong. And Cassandra Mattoon is also not here, but she earned our thanks last year for ushering the Lab School faculty's tenure policy through a long overdue update. So I really appreciate this year everybody's dedication, and I particularly would like to thank and congratulate Beau Grzanich for the stellar manner in which he helped to lead a transformed Student Government Association and student assembly as well as likely a soon to be transformed SGA Constitution. That is going to be a proud legacy to leave ISU with and it has been great to work with you and the rest of the students on Exec and in the Senate. And good luck in your future life and career. And that's it for Chairperson's Remarks. Anybody have any questions or ideas for how to embarrass Senator Hoelscher?

Senator Day: A gift card.

Senator Kalter: A gift card? Okay. Is that embarrassing?

Senator Day: It depends on where it's from.

Senator Kalter: All right. We'll speak afterwards. That sounds good. Seeing no questions or further ideas, we will move to Student Body President Remarks.

### ***Student Body President's Remarks***

Senator Grzanich: I have nothing to comment on tonight besides another congratulations to the individuals who will be rejoining SGA next year with the win of their elections as well as a thank you to everyone who has been impactful in regards to Student Government's successes this year. Your attention and desire for our help does not go unnoticed. In particular, I would also like to give a shout-out to Marie Dawson, who was one of the pivotal individuals in encouraging me to run for Student Government. So, thank you very much for your belief and insight as well as all the administrators and anyone else who has been instrumental as well as Susan. Thank you very much. It's been a great, wonderful three years working with you and I truly do appreciate everything that you've done for Student Government.

Senator Kalter: Likewise. Thank you, Beau. Any questions for Senator Grzanich? All right. It's always sad to see the turning over of the new guard even while it's happy to see the arrival of... Or, turning over the old guard and the arrival of the new.

### ***Administrators' Remarks***

#### **• *President Larry Dietz***

Senator Kalter: Senator Dietz is not here tonight, but he did send me an e-mail about 2:00 today. He said he has another speaking commitment tonight and appreciates if I read the following as his report to the Senate. He says, "I appeared before the House Appropriations Committee last Thursday. During my remarks, I emphasized that despite receiving the lowest appropriation per student, that the University was stable and strong mainly due to our strong enrollment, solid academic program offerings, the good work of faculty and staff, and

conservative and careful planning. I indicated that we needed a full year budget that was reasonable, predictable, and that included a full commitment to MAP funding. I also made a plea for a capital budget that included a release of funds for the College of Fine Arts and additional funds to address our deferred maintenance needs. Tom Cross, Chair of Illinois Board of Higher Education, Al Bowman, Executive Director of IBHE, and I met yesterday with Speaker Madigan, Senate President Cullerton, Leader Durkin, and Senator Brady. We are scheduled with Governor Rauner on Monday. We delivered, and will deliver to the Governor, a similar message as indicated above. We were somewhat heartened by yesterday's message in that there seemed to be support for a full budget, no drastic cuts, a full MAP with perhaps an addition for a merit scholarship program to help stem the outward migration of bright students from Illinois, and opposition to the notion that community colleges might offer four year degrees in Nursing. The latter issue has gained some support among legislators, but the leaders seemed to think like us in that it is potential mission creep and not in the scope of community colleges.

Finally, we have been hosting a large number of events in April including students, faculty groups, speakers, award winners, and donors at the house. In addition, last Monday we hosted about 120 people at the university residence from 40 different countries as a part of the familiarization tour for the INTO ISU international program initiative. Our international visitors were quite impressed with our faculty, staff, and programs at the university. To those from the university who participated in any way with that multi-day event, thank you very much. The information and hospitality you provided made a very positive impression on those individuals, and they will now do a much better job of advocating for Illinois State among their international contacts.

As we head into the final stretch of the semester, my thanks for all that everyone is doing to bring it to a successful close. To the students, best wishes on final projects and finals. Respectfully Submitted, Larry Dietz." And of course we can't have any questions to Larry Dietz, but we can bring questions to him if there are any. All right. Seeing none, we'll move on to Provost Murphy for Provost's remarks.

- ***Provost Jan Murphy***

Provost Murphy: Good evening. My remarks will be a little bit shorter because the President picked up on a couple of my items. That's always good. So, just a quick update on House Bill 4956. If you remember, that was one we talked about last meeting. It would amend the school code to mandate that every university that offers teacher education degrees must offer students a three year degree completion program. This was proposed by Representative John Cavaletto from the 107<sup>th</sup> District, which is down south. Unfortunately, it passed the House with a 96 to 11 vote, believe it or not. It arrived in the Senate sponsored by Bill Cunningham from the 18<sup>th</sup> District, and he only sponsored it because he sits on the Assignment Committee, and the Assignment Committee then assigns it to committee. That's easy enough to think about. He told Jonathan Lackland, our legislative liaison, that he has no plans to move on the bill, so we're keeping our fingers crossed that it stays that way, that it's just now dead in the Senate, and that would be hopeful. So at this point in time there's nothing that we can do other than to be watchful and hope that it sits where it's going to sit with nobody in the Senate that wants to pick it up and try to push it. The President talked a little bit about the four year degrees in Nursing at the community college. One thing I could add to that is that there is hopefully an alternative to that bill that would have dual credit programs with community colleges. We like that model because we already have one with Heartland, and they're using that Heartland/ISU model as they look at restructuring that bill. The original proposer of the bill is not really excited about the amendments, but others who do not want community colleges to be offering four year degrees are very excited about that amendment, and we're hoping that that has some legs because that really is a much better alternative than to allow the community colleges to teach four year degrees. I'm looking at Kim to see if there's anything you would add to that.

Senator Astroth: No, that was just something that we came up with. It was Janeen Mollenhauer who actually came up with that last year and a half ago and it's been...

Provost Murphy: Yeah, it's a great program. In terms of enrollment, housing numbers are up 3% for first time in college students. Preview is up 1%, so that's good because usually if we can get families to Preview, that's a pretty good sign that they're going to come. Enrollment deposits are up 1%, and we wish they were up 10%, but I will take 1%, let me tell you. Summer first time in college enrollment is up 41%, which is 33 students, which is pretty darn good for summer. Transfer day check-ins to date are up 16%, so all that said, we're feeling better than we were a year ago at this time, but the next two weeks are really crucial and so Admissions, Financial Aid, and University College are making just thousands of phone calls to students that don't have their applications completed to see what we need to do to help them finalize their – I should have said admissions – finalize their admissions. So we've got our fingers crossed. So I'd just finish by thanking everybody, all the Senators who are finishing their terms tonight. We really do appreciate your service to the university. And good luck to students and faculty as we enter the final stretch of the semester. I know it's a very stressful time for all, so get a lot of sleep, eat well, hydrate, take care of yourself. Thank you.

Senator Kalter: Coming from the nutritionist. Before I open it to other questions, could you let us know, do you know if our representative voted for or against that House Bill 4956?

Provost Murphy: I don't know, but I'll find out. I might even be able to find out while we're sitting here tonight. That's a great question.

Senator Kalter: Oh, terrific. Great. Thank you. Are there questions for Provost Murphy?

Senator Haugo: Senator Murphy, I just wanted to ask, some of us may have seen the news article in the Chronicle today about the proposal at SIU to hire recent alumni with PhDs to serve in an adjunct volunteer capacity on the graduate faculty. I'm wondering if there has been discussion about this at ISU. Any observations you might have on how much traction this has.

Provost Murphy: You bet. I can't tell you how much traction at Southern, although the provost down there is retracting and retracting pretty quickly. To my knowledge, and I've been here an awful long time, we have never had conversations about going out and trying to find people that we would have teach courses for free. You know, you think about what that says about the quality of education. I would find that worrisome. The President and I spoke about this this evening before he went off to his event. Just wanting to assure our faculty, certainly our Senators, that we have never, ever even entertained that kind of a conversation. It just seems to go against what we think about in terms of the quality of our education, the quality of our faculty. What I could tell you, and Senator Kalter and I e-mailed back and forth a little bit, we usually have... And on our campus, when you say adjunct you really do typically mean people who are in a faculty line without pay, so that's very different than non-tenure-track. In some universities, in some institutions, adjunct has a much broader term. We have a very specific term. On any given semester, we have between 50-60 adjuncts, and we know exactly who they are. For example, all of our Military Science faculty are adjuncts because they're paid by the federal government. They're not on our payroll, but we want them to be able to have parking permits and keys so we have to have them in a faculty role, so we call them adjuncts. We also have faculty who, for example, retire. I may be looking at some of my colleagues in Biological Sciences and Chemistry. We have faculty members who retire but still want to have laboratory access, want to conduct research, want to work with students, for example, on theses or dissertations or undergraduate research projects, and so we put them on our rolls as adjunct because we do want them to be a member of the university faculty. We again want them to be able to park or have keys. Or even just think about the liability of having people that don't have an affiliation with the university working with our students. So that is the vast majority of our adjuncts, in anticipation of this question, we ran a query today to find out how many of our adjuncts actually are the faculty of record for a course because that's where you would start to want to know what was going on. Right? And so we have a number who are. Most of them are Military Science, so those are adjuncts who are faculty of record of a

course. That makes sense. In some of our departments, again maybe I'm looking at Chemistry, we do take some of our retirees. For example, I'm going to pick on maybe Distinguished Professor Brian Wilkinson. He's the faculty of record for a dissertation course or a thesis course because he is working with students on a dissertation or thesis. We have three classes that have an adjunct as the faculty of record. Two of them are in Physics, and fortunately I was able to sit down and have a little talk with Senator Marx and he assured me that the person who is considered an adjunct on the record who is teaching those two Physics classes really is not a volunteer, is someone who came in as a research partner and now is teaching two classes as a non-tenure-track. It's just on our roll we still have that person listed as an adjunct, and that will be a coding thing that we can change. So I've got one faculty member, and I just need to track it down. My guess is it's going to be somebody who came into that department as a researcher or a research assistant and is teaching that class and is coded incorrectly. Except for that one person, we don't – and again, our Military Science faculty and then faculty who are working with students or retired faculty who work with students on dissertations – we do not have any other adjuncts who are our faculty of record. We aren't letting volunteers teach our classes. So, does that answer... You know, I just don't envision... Certainly the President would look at you in the eye and say that that is just not something we would do. It isn't a road we would go down. There's just so many red flags with that, I think.

Senator Haugo: Yeah. That answers my question, thank you. I think it's alarming to see this in one of our system's schools.

Provost Murphy: And it is sad to see a lot of what we're seeing at our sister schools because it's a heartbreak for all of us in Illinois. It's like being in an athletic conference and you're only as strong as the conference, and it's kind of true when you think of our sister institutions. The stronger they are, the stronger we are. And so it is sad to read to see what's happening at some of those institutions. It's also why we fight the good fight every day. When I come in and I'm talking about enrollment, that's what keeps me awake at night. Well, there's a lot of things that keep me awake at night but you don't want to hear that. We'll talk some other time. But enrollment does because we really... That enrollment, keeping that strong and stable and really having... You know, as we come in next fall we think our enrollments are going to be strong again in the fall and it's because of who we are. It's because of our faculty. It's because of our facilities. It's because of the students that are already here. But that is everything to us because those other institutions didn't start with budget problems. They started with enrollment problems. Thank you. I'll get off my soap box. I'm sorry.

Senator Horst: This might be a question for you or President Dietz. I'm just wondering if there are any conversations going on between the presidents or the provosts of the different systems to come up with a statement against this idea that you would have voluntary faculty. Is there IBHE conversations?

Provost Murphy: That's a good question. I think that has happened recently enough. I know the presidents meet routinely, and you know our President is a convener of the presidents. But I didn't get the sense that they have had a chance to talk that through yet only because I just met with the President and we talked about this about an hour and a half ago, and I didn't get the sense that they have met to talk about this. That's a great question.

Senator Horst: I would hope that either his organization or IBHE-FAC can address this question.

Provost Murphy: I'll convey that to him. Thank you.

Senator Kalter: Other questions? I just want to say a couple more things. Somehow I was prepared for the question even though it came out of the blue because for random reasons last summer I got the total list of the adjunct faculty and somebody from AT was trying to figure out how you set up a computer system to find all of the faculty that you need to. And so the name that stuck out to me was this guy that some of you may know

named Clarence Alvin Bowman who was sometime last year one of our adjunct faculty, John Freed, who is a retired professor in history, the person who is the Director of the Center for Education Policy, Bob Preston who does the University Club type of stuff. And I would also say that I hope that part of what SIU is doing is not quashed, which is the idea of bringing alumni back to the university, especially PhD-holding alumni that have something to offer every once in a while. Right? Like offering a class within a course or a lecture within a course. But it seems to have backfired. We go on now to Administrator Remarks.

- ***Student Affairs***

Senator Johnson: All right. Good evening, everyone. I'm going to pick up on a comment that was made from President Dietz's remarks, as a matter of fact, when he talked about the number of receptions and dinners that he's hosted over at his place in Marlene Dietz's home over the last couple of weeks. One of those gatherings was actually in celebration of a hallmark on this campus, and that's the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating SGA on this campus. So we actually had about 20 past SGA Presidents and Vice Presidents over to their home hosting them, and actually one of them talked about actually being allowed to speak and the egos that were in that room and what it takes to be in that role – Beau, Senator Beau, the egos that were in that room. But some of the wonderful wisdom that was shared as it relates to leadership skills and competencies that were developed during their undergraduate days and how they're expressing and sharing those skills in the roles and the jobs that they're in these days. But it is the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary for that organization and we'll continue with celebrations throughout the year culminating with a wonderful celebration during Homecoming on October the 13<sup>th</sup>, so look forward to information on that.

The second item I want to provide information on is another update on the Bone Student Center revitalization project, and yes, steel is still arriving and going up, and pretty soon you will see concrete starting to arrive as well as we get ready to actually start applying some of that concrete stone to the Brown Ballroom addition and pre-function space. So that should start coming up pretty soon here as well. And one of the projects we were going to start this semester but we're not going to move forward with because we think it would be somewhat of a disruption for the campus community prior to the end of the semester... We were going to do some removal and replacement of some of the sidewalk over on that side of the Bone Student Center, on the west side, but we're going to postpone that to the summer so we don't have any additional disruptions to the campus community. So I wanted to make sure that this group is aware of that.

And then finally, I wanted to do a shout-out, actually to Senator Marx and the Marx family and your wonderful daughter, Rachel. I had a chance to for the first time experience with my son, Elijah, the Gamma Phi Circus. What an outstanding tradition and what an outstanding group of talented students that we have on this campus participating in that. And I hope you have come down from the shaking of the row that my son sat in with us. He is not a small young man, but he is on the autism spectrum and when he gets excited, oh, everybody feels it. Okay? But what a wonderful performance, and we are really blessed to have such an organization and talented students on this campus regarding that. With that, I'm going to conclude my remarks.

Senator Grzanich: I feel a little nostalgic, and I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Vice President Levester Johnson for everything that he's done for Student Government from the moment that he's walked in. I think that he's the Vice President that we interact with the most and I think I can firmly speak for everyone in regards to this year and the previous that you've done a phenomenal job, and so I want to thank you for that and put it on record.

- ***Vice President for Finance and Planning Remarks***

Senator Stephens: Thank you and good evening. I just have one remark that I'd like to share that's really kind of forward looking. Each year, we are constantly in the Facilities team in the parking area trying to look at flexibility, trying to look at cost, trying to look at space availability, trying to, as on any campus, deal with limited space in parking and try to offer the best solution that we can have. So, coming up this coming fall,

you'll get a survey. I believe it's coming out either this week or next week. But for some of you who are parking in the garages – we have three main garages – I believe the North garage and the South garage currently have what's referred to as an All Zone Pass to where you can park in one versus the other, but that wasn't available in the School Street garage, and so this coming year we're going to try to open up the School Street garage so that if you purchase that zone, then you'll be allowed to have the ability to park in any one of those garages and have a little bit more flexibility without having to purchase a much more expensive reserve spot. So we're not going to eliminate the reserve spots, we're just simply going to continue to ask the community for those who want that flexibility of parking in the garages, and maybe saving a little bit more money, they can choose the zone area. But if they still want in the School Street garage (because I think that's the only garage that still has some restricted space), if you still want that reserved space, that will be available. So we're going to be continuing to respond to needs as best we can and especially as we move into the Bone Center renovation. That will be another area, but I just want to let you know that parking is a very important feature for not only students, faculty and staff, it's something I take very serious and I actually have a perspective of looking at it from a point of view of the customer as opposed to being in the leadership role in that area. So, that's my commitment to this and so we're going to try to be a little bit more creative in the future to try to serve as many needs as we can and still be offering the best value that the institution can offer given in the space that we have. So that's really all my remarks for tonight. I'd be happy to take any questions on that or anything else that anybody would like to ask.

Senator Ferrence: I'm just going to bring this up since you're talking parking. I've had some relatively recent conversations with some of my colleagues, and in this context I'm primarily talking faculty, and one of the things that some of them have expressed (and this is mostly science faculty, particularly the Chemistry/Biology faculty), so in the lot where they park, one of the things that happened this past year (although we weren't informed of it; it just kind of happened) was that our parking moved from seven days a week to five and they went, well, that's interesting but we still pay the same amount. But one of the problems that has been increasingly occurring is that on Saturdays and Sundays it's gradually getting to the point it's difficult to find a parking spot in our lot, and a lot of the science faculty come in to do their research on Saturdays and Sundays and there is some concern that we're creating a situation for those faculty that we're discouraging researchers to come in on the weekends.

Senator Stephens: I appreciate you bringing that up.

Senator Ferrence: It's something that there have been different people talking, and normally I'd give you a 24-hour notice or something, but since you brought it up I would just let you know that it's not quite a problem yet but some people are worried.

Senator Stephens: Well, I would... I guess my comment to that being the, you know, first I've heard that phrase, it's nice the fact that I'm brand new. So I take the point of view, just like I said earlier, the unique needs of your particular college or your professors that may be choosing to use the weekend a way others may not when we're trying to look at parking planning. We're really planning the entire campus, and so hearing about specific needs allows us to begin to think of, okay, is that something that is really going to be present in just your college and if that's the case then we need to figure out how to address that without necessarily having to do that everywhere. So I appreciate those scenarios because then they allow us to focus on them in a targeted group and then just simply respond, but I'll take that back to Chuck and Nick and we'll definitely address that one. That one seems to me, in my mind, something fairly easy to try to address, especially when we're dealing with a weekend. So I appreciate the comment.

Senator Ferrence: Thank you. I think it's Lot F58, if you're making records.



Senator Kalter: I was just going to ask you that. Senator Ferrence, are you talking about the one that is just to the east of the Science Laboratory building?

Senator Ferrence: Correct.

Senator Stephens: Across from CVS?

Senator Ferrence: Yes.

Senator Kalter: And that's, of course, why it fills up. Because there's plenty of space in the Stevenson lot, which is relatively near the Science building, but that one is right on the town's edge and so it's a very prime parking space for people going to events in uptown Normal. But not the one under Julian Hall as much? Okay.

Senator Ferrence: That one has other issues because it's partly going away.

Senator Kalter: Yes, that's correct.

Senator Stephens: Well, with Cybersecurity, at least the initial phase, hopefully we'll be getting the Board of Trustee approval. That will be the back third of it, but we've obviously got high growth needs and limited space, so we're trying to look forward.

Senator Ferrence: President Dietz graciously relinquished his spot so that could take place.

Senator Stephens: Yeah, and I do appreciate. Don't ever think that... You know, we'll try to solve every scenario as we can, but I appreciate the scenarios because until somebody tells us about events or things that they're seeing that we may not experience and that parking isn't...you know, it's monitoring the entire campus...we can't actually create a possible solution to target that. So, thank you.

***Advisory Items:***

***Nomination Process for Distinguished Professors (Provost Murphy)***

Senator Kalter: We'll move on to our advisory item, which is the nomination process for Distinguished Professors. Provost Murphy, do you want to say anything about this letter?

Provost Murphy: I think it's pretty self-explanatory. Just a reminder that nominations for the Distinguished Professor nomination process are due to the college deans by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Any faculty member, any department, any other member of the university community can nominate someone for the Distinguished Professor nomination process. You can nominate yourself. It's kind of a two part process. Nominations go to the deans in May, but the actual dossier, the application itself, is not due then until October 1, and there's that length of time because it really is a significant process to pull those dossiers together and sometimes the research coordinators can help with that. You have to gather letters and sometimes matching somebody up with a current Distinguished Professor to help them think about what that dossier should include can be useful. So, May 15<sup>th</sup>. You can nominate yourself or nominate anybody for the Distinguished Professor.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. I'll just also highlight something in the letter, which is that a Distinguished Professor is somebody who has international or national recognition for scholarly research, creative productivity, or leadership in creative or scholarly activities as one part of their portfolio, and then they are also either considered an excellent teacher or have given excellent service to the university or to the profession. So if you know anybody who fits that profile, please send them forward. Anybody have any comments or questions about that? All right. Seeing none, we'll also look at the Academic Calendar.

### *Academic Calendar*

Senator Kalter: We're seeing one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven years of it, although one of them I think has already gone by. This is an advisory item because it goes through multiple, multiple layers of eyes. If we find little things wrong with it, please bring them up on the floor, or if you find something that doesn't quite work, send them to I think Sam Catanzaro for adjustment. If you find something major, we can send it to our Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee. Does anybody have any comments on the calendar right at this moment?

Senator Liechty: I waited until my daughter was out of high school before I said anything about this, but I just think it is a shame that the spring breaks of the university and the local schools can't line up with each other. You know, I raised my daughter never being able to go on a family vacation during the spring. I mean, I missed... Well, I didn't want to go to Disneyland, but my wife took my daughter off to Disneyland. I didn't go. And many other places. And there just seems to be so many things in this community – Bloomington and Normal can't agree on this and that. The schools and the local community can't agree. I just can't understand why this can't be worked out. So, you know, I see we're now booked ten years out. So I guess we take it to Unit 5 and the Bloomington schools and say here we are – take it or leave it. I don't think that's a good way to be in a community.

Senator Kalter: So, Senator Liechty, you'll be happy to know that we had a rather extensive conversation about that in Executive Committee a couple weeks ago, and that particular issue has been referred to Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee. We don't have a ton of hope that our schedule is going to change, but we're going to see at least if we can start to coordinate among the various entities both in Bloomington-Normal and the outlying rural areas. One thing that you should know also is that while we're looking at ten years, they're not set in stone because we see this every single year. So if we find solutions to things like that, we can change the rest of the calendar starting in a particular year forward. So we have referred your concern to the committee.

Senator Liechty: I would just really, really express my appreciation and hope that something can be worked out. Like I say, not for me and my family, but there are young families coming along that do have children and where that could be a big benefit.

Senator Tyler Smith: Hi. I'm in the Academic Affairs and Budget Committee and I was the one tasked with contacting the superintendents to find out the information on that, and the general consensus that I have received from them was that there is not enough interest in not only the students but the parents and also some faculty members that have contacted them. So I'm in the middle of writing a report about that and would be happy to present that to the Senate once it's finished. But what I understood was there is not enough interest and that's why it's not going to happen. And then also, there are some avenues that we'd have to take that most schools – I don't know if this is how it is with them – but most schools have the handbook committee decide their calendar and that's decided at the very beginning of March, so we would have missed the deadline for these next two years anyway. So we'd have to plan it three years in advance at least.

Senator Kalter: So, Senator Smith, thank you for that. We do hope to see a report out of the committee at some point. One of the things that we talked about a little bit was we need to... If we start going in any direction, it would be a good idea for us to have bountiful student input about when the spring break takes place as well as bountiful faculty/staff input so that... You know, that kind of a movement is very difficult to make given how it's been set in stone for so many years. We talked a lot about what you just observed, that the K-12 schools have their own schedules and their own when it is appropriate academically for them to break, so we anticipate that even if we do have movement there, it would be at least three years out. It couldn't be an absolute immediate thing, but maybe planning ahead a couple of years it could start to squeeze together potentially. Any other comments about the Academic Calendar?

Senator Horst: I just want to echo Senator Liechty's concern since I do have a 4- and a 6-year-old right now and from a slightly different angle. People who have children, faculty who have children right now, they have to have childcare when the students are on their spring break and they have to cover that, and it's actually a financial burden for me and my family that we have to come up with ways for arranging for childcare during a week when we can't cover it because we have to teach. So there's that to think about too. And also just during that week across the university, you see children hanging out in all kinds of different rooms. I think if you asked the faculty and the staff and the students, you would receive a lot of input about how it becomes very difficult for them to cover childcare during that week. So I encourage us also to do some sort of survey of the university population.

Senator Grzanich: A point of information, what week does the spring break traditionally happen for these K-12 schools?

Senator Kalter: As far as I know, it's usually not the week after our spring break but the week after that. Is that correct?

Senator Grzanich: Does it normally align with Easter or something?

Senator Seeman: It was adjacent to Easter this year, but I don't think it always is that way. It's usually very late March.

Senator Kalter: Very late March. Okay. So if ours is usually the first full week of March, theirs are usually the third week of March or so. Is that right?

Senator Dawson: A lot of school districts, as a matter of habit, have always scheduled at the Easter break which usually is following Easter. Many of them get off Good Friday, and then they'll take off Easter break. And that moves every year.

Senator Tyler Smith: Okay, so I just want to reiterate a couple things. So, the reason that we have our spring break, to the best of my knowledge, is just because it breaks up the two eight weeks because we run on a 16-week schedule. A lot of high schools do not necessarily run on a 16-week schedule and so it doesn't necessarily make sense to have it when we have it. Another thing is that schools have bands and show choirs and football teams or whatever that take these big trips during spring break, so they align it based on that. So, while our spring break makes sense where we put it, it doesn't necessarily make sense for the local high schools, and I think that's important to remember.

Senator Kalter: Thank you.

Senator Grzanich: I'd also just like to add in a comment, as it pertains to Thanksgiving break and when we often come about the conversation of it being much too late in the school year to have a full week off and the merits of even having it, being so late, rather than having a fall break somewhere in the middle of the semester. Please keep in mind when we're talking about this that it's also the students' mental health and well-being that is a main factor in regards to why we should have a spring or fall break and that the middle of the road timeframe is something that I personally appreciate and I'm sure a lot of other students do, and to see that replicate in the fall would be an ideal circumstance as well.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. Further comments about the Academic Calendar? One of the most exciting issues on our palate.

Senator Glascock: I was just going to make a comment related to that in terms of Thanksgiving break. I'm just noticing that... I mean, I wonder if there's ever been any discussion about just having two days for that as opposed to a week because looking at the drafts, it's always right at the end of a semester and in a number of cases there's a week for Thanksgiving break and then a week of classes and then the semester is over. And I think, well, is that the right place to have a break?

Senator Kalter: Thank you for bringing that up. I was hired about 18 years ago and sometime within that time was when it switched from a two- or three-day Thanksgiving break to a full week by taking out a fall break day that was in the middle of October that was on a Friday. So depending on how long you've been here, you might never have experienced that particular week, but it was like that. But you're making the argument that we might want to switch back to more like a two-day Thanksgiving break and something more like spring break in the middle of fall semester.

Senator Glascock: Right.

Provost Murphy: I can give you just a little bit of history on why it went from being two days. Some of you around the table know why it went from two days to a week. It's because we found that students were taking a week even though it really was only a two-day break. You know, there were a lot of trips being scheduled and it got to be for faculty... So it was a Senate decision to make that a full week instead of two days, not necessarily thinking it's the right thing because I would agree it's an odd break and we talked a bit about that in Exec. But I was here long enough and some of you were when we made that switch. It was simply because we found that attendance was very sporadic that week.

Senator Kalter: And let's not just blame that on the students because I remember the very first year I was here I was asked by a senior faculty member to take over his class during the week of Thanksgiving because he was going to go on vacation that week. I thought that was a nice, interesting sort of backhanded compliment, right, that the first year professor is going to not say no to, apparently. Anybody else on the calendar?

Senator Judson: I was just going to add that the spring break at least for Unit 5 is March 25<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> in 2019.

Senator Kalter: Thank you.

Senator Dawson: I just have a funny thing to share. I had a faculty complaining that when they came back from Thanksgiving break they would only have one week or two weeks maybe before finals, and that was a problem. We had to move Thanksgiving break, meaning move Thanksgiving Day. And they were from another country, so sympathize with them. But no, we can't move Thanksgiving Day. I'm sorry.

Senator Kalter: I'm glad that Sam is sitting in the background because Executive Committee did have two issues, and one of them was related to what Senator Dawson is bringing up. So, we talked about how at least three or four years in a row we have a Thanksgiving week that is going to leave us with only one week after Thanksgiving and before finals. It's already hard when that happens once every once in a while, but we were wondering if the group of people who gets together about the calendar can figure out if we cannot do that like three or four years in a row if there's any way. Because we do find... I think Senator Dawson is right. First of all, we do need to move Thanksgiving to, like, October. But barring that, having two weeks after Thanksgiving week is really, really helpful. Otherwise, faculty and I think students also feel like why are we doing this week at all? Because you can never get anything done in it. So having just the Success Week after. So if you can look at that.

Now, the thing that we also know that that trades off with is we also try to avoid having three weeks between finals week in fall semester and the start of spring semester, and that goes to Senator Grzanich's comment about mental health for both students and faculty because we always find that it's a much wilder and less comfortable spring semester when we've only had that three-week break between semesters. But we're still asking the administrators-that-be within the calendar process to look at that and see if we can have more tradeoffs there because of those two issues.

The other thing that Executive Committee noticed – there were two other things but it looks like one was solved – and that was putting an asterisk on the Martin Luther King Day start in fall of 2027. The other one was that we talked about how our faculty contracts constrain some of the calendar so that we are starting always on August 16<sup>th</sup> and ending always on May 15<sup>th</sup>. But then we noticed that the calendar itself sometimes starts on August 15<sup>th</sup> rather than 16<sup>th</sup> and ends on May 16<sup>th</sup> rather than 15<sup>th</sup> and wanted to call that to your attention because that, too, is out of contract. So if we're saying that we can't move Thanksgiving break because of our contract, we probably ought to actually conform that every single time we do something. And I'm looking specifically in fall of 2022 is when this happens for I think possibly the first and only time. Fall of 2022 at the start and then the grades due in spring semester at the end of 2023. Anybody else have anything about the calendar?

Senator Dawson: I know that there are tons of things that have to be taken into consideration. One year they wanted us to start on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. We said, "I won't be here. I'm not under contract." And so that is a big deal for dictating part of the start date in August. For 40 years that I can remember, Mother's Day has always been Graduation Day. That's kind of an interesting thing. It wasn't by design. It's just been that way the way the calendar has worked. And you're right. Some years we have three weeks; some we have many (we have four) in between. But that's the calendar hiccup. That's why we have 17-year calendars with our desk pads and stuff, to figure out what day of the week something is going to be.

Senator Kalter: Indeed. Any other comments about the calendar? All right. Once you get them started, it never stops. We'll move to our information/action item, which is the Institutional Priorities Report.

### ***Information/Action Item***

#### ***Information/Action Items:***

##### ***Institutional Priorities Report (Planning and Finance Committee)***

Senator Marx: The priorities you see in this year's Institutional Priorities Report are the results of the committee's deliberations after discussions with administrators. We've identified 13 priorities that are aligned with the draft of the university's strategic plan: Educate, Connect, and Elevate. Some priorities include the continuing need for strong financial planning, setting recruiting goals, and support for the Fine Arts complex, a building for Mennonite College, a proposed engineering degree program, and many other initiatives. Many of these are considered to be middle-term to long-range goals, but we are cognizant of the need for careful management within the constraints we have, yet we see the need to make investments for the future to maintain quality and enrollment and grow in many new ways.

For the past couple of years, the committee has been considering ways to make its work more effective and more efficient. Starting in the fall, the committee will be working in a new way. We'll be working more closely with the administrative areas on single priority issues at a time to provide more depth and understanding of important issues and to better outline what is required for both the planning and financial aspects. The committee will then issue a report to the Senate related to its findings on a given topic, then move on to the next topic and repeat the process as time allows. The committee will also issue a final report next spring to the Senate. In this way, the committee can better monitor the activities toward established priorities in each area through better, more direct communication (a dialogue, if you will) with the administrative areas. The committee can monitor the progress of the work being done on the priorities over the course of time as well as

issue new priorities with Senate approval. Because of this new mode of operation, we are not asking for written responses from the administrative areas as we have in the past for this particular priorities report, but the committee will likely request specific written responses in the future. Now, due to the late date of this report arriving on the Senate agenda as an information item, we will be asking, after any questions any discussion, that we move this to action for approval this evening.

Senator Pancrazio: I want to thank you first, Senator Marx, for your work on this. It's always high quality and top notch, and I know you do a really good job on this. I have a question specifically regarding any discussion that occurred regarding international education for domestic students, meaning students that come from Illinois. I think over a number of years we had a lot of discussion about how we were going to internationalize our programs. That we were going to provide students that were coming to Illinois State University from Illinois some indication of the world beyond the cornfields. For example, in business maybe one in five jobs is international. Something to provide our students with that ability to communicate with their counterparts in other parts of the world. And it is my indication that we're no longer considering... Are we no longer considering that one of our priorities? At least not one that would appear in our documents. Meaning, of course, and I'm beating my own drum here, talking about the importance of foreign languages, of international studies, international affairs, and also study abroad. Was there any discussion about why these should be included or should be referenced for the benefit of our students that specifically come from Illinois? And I'm not talking about Chicago because it's certainly not the... While being a large metropolitan center, it's not international. But I'm also talking about all of the counties that are around Chicago and also the rest of Illinois. Do we not owe those students some type of international education?

Senator Marx: Yes. I'd be happy to answer that. Just because you see these 13 priorities doesn't mean that the other priorities which have appeared in past reports are going to go away. Last year's Institutional Priorities Report had a great deal about those topics. And in the introduction here I do mention that those priorities are still priorities. And the reason that they're not listed here is because there's a great deal of work already ongoing and already has been done to establish those priorities, and they continue. They're continuing enduring values, if you will, of the university.

Senator Pancrazio: Thank you, Senator Marx.

Senator Horst: I want to thank you for mentioning the Fine Arts complex and the need to get funding for it on the committee.

Senator Marx: That, of course, had a great deal of support from the committee members.

Senator Kalter: Other questions, comments on the report? All right. So you notice we have this marked as an information/action item because it is the last Senate of this particular Senate. Senator Marx, would you like to move that we move this from information status to action status?

Motion by Senator Marx on behalf of the Planning and Finance Committee to move the Institutional Priorities Report to action status. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion by Senator Marx on behalf of the Planning and Finance Committee to approve the Institutional Priorities Report. The motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Kalter: All right. We have an Institutional Priorities Report, and the administrators will be very happy that they don't have to write reports this next semester as they usually have had to do. We have no other action items or information items. We, I believe, do not have any committee reports unless there are stray committee reports out there. Seeing none of those, we'll move on to Communications for the Senate.

### *Communications*

Senator Horst: I just wanted to thank Senator Hale for serving as secretary for the Rules. Thank you very much.

Senator Pancrazio: I want to thank all the members of the SGA that served on the Academic Affairs Committee. You guys did a great job, especially Lauren Porter. You really provided all of the notes for the minutes and things like that. And Beau, I want to thank and I really appreciated your input and your participation as well. Thank you, guys.

Senator Kalter: Other communications? All right. I just have some to the graduating students. Stay interested. Stay engaged. Keep speaking up. It was a terrific Senate to have so many vocal people. Keep speaking up. Keep speaking out. And we cannot wait to see how you transform our world for the better. I'm going to go back to last year and the year before. As I said last year also, keep it civil. The world is not always going to treat you right. You have a huge impact on how well it treats you by treating others with cordiality, respect, the dignity of their own beliefs and values, an appreciation for the journey that they made in life to arrive at them, and the optimism to know that that journey begins all over again with their encounter with you. We're in a rather uncivil world right now and hopefully we can all contribute to making it better. And then as I said the year before last, enjoy your life. You probably only have one. You might have, you know, two or three or maybe even nine lives, but you're probably likely to only have one. So enjoy it. Make sure that you don't pitter it away not enjoying it. Do things that you like, that you love. Find your calling. And that's it for my communications. Any other communications for the Senate?

Motion by Senator Liechty, seconded by Senator Marx, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. All right. All in favor of adjourning, please have a wonderful summer, a great finals week. Good luck, success, and if you are leaving us, have a great life but stay in touch!