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Academic Senate Minutes

Academic Senate

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Senate Meeting, September 11, 2019

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Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2018
Approved

Call to Order

Academic Senate Chairperson Susan Kalter called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Senator Kalter: Welcome! We are going to begin tonight with a presentation by our Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Stephens. He's going to talk with the full Senate about funding sources at ISU. The Executive Committee asked for this presentation, because we decided that rather than having just the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee and the Planning and Finance Committee understand how our budgets work and how our money flows, that it would be good to have the full Senate being educated about that. So I'm going to hand it over to Senator Stephens, and he's also accompanied by Assistant Vice President for Budgeting and Planning Sandy Cavi on his left, and the Director of the University Budget Office Amanda Hendrix on his right. Thank you, Dan.

Presentation: Funding Sources at Illinois State University by Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Stephens, Assistant Vice President for Budgeting and Planning Sandy Cavi, and Director of University Budget Office Amanda Hendrix.

Senator Stephens: Thank you, Senator Kalter, for suggesting this presentation to the Academic Senate. I believe it is the first time this topic has been brought forth to the Senate. However, I hope that it becomes an annual presentation. My goal tonight is to offer a high-level overview of the various revenues and expense sources that the university works with from a budgeting and planning perspective. We call this discussion the color of money because as you will all see there are lots of different fiscal resource areas we work with. As Senator Kalter mentioned, I got two of my colleagues to the left and right, they're going to help me address questions, hopefully, as the evening progresses.

Let's first talk a little bit about the annual budget process. Our budget team begins building our annual budgets in the August/September timeframe. We typically wait until after the tenth day in census data to ensure we've got a very good picture of the total student enrollments, financial aid awards, housing and dining occupancy levels, to ensure we present as accurate of a fiscal picture in the FY20 budget. We then present a high-level overview of the FY20 budget through the AABC and the Planning and Finance Committee at the 6:00 pm meeting coming up on the 25th of this month, and then we'll also share at that meeting the FY21 operating and capital appropriation request at the 7:00 pm Senate meeting. We then present both of these reports, the FY20 budget and the FY21 appropriation request to the Board of Trustees for final approval at the October 18 meeting. Then once approved this information is sent on to the IBHE and to the Governor's office.

Next spring, President Dietz testifies at House and Senate hearing on ISU's FY21 operating and capital appropriation request, and then the FY21 state budget is traditionally approved by the legislature and the Governor at the end of May.

The ISU budget process is really a team effort, with a number of fiscal experts supporting various areas across campus. As you look up at the chart, you'll see various individuals supporting key groups. For example, Dan Elkins supporting the Provost division, Wendy Bates serving the Vice President for Student Affairs, Peyton Deterding supporting Athletics, Jill Jones is support in the University Advancement areas, Brent Paterson supports the President's office, and then within my division there are a number of Associate Vice Presidents such as Chuck Scott, or Charley Edamala who provide fiscal information, either for application technology, or facilities services. And then in the center part where it refers to central budgeting office, that is predominately Sandy and Amanda's team that works together to gather all the information that is prepared and maintained at this centralized level. And then it's centrally reported, both to the cabinet level, the Board of Trustees, and, of course, to any of the state level reporting we have to do.

From the color of money perspective, we're going to talk about these in a little bit greater detail, but from a high-level point of view, there's several groups. One you'll hear about is General Revenue funds, which is traditionally state appropriations, and then tuition and fees. Our Bond Revenue areas, or they are also referred to as the AFS system, that's a group. There are Agencies, which are a large number of groups, which I'll talk through several of those tonight. Research Grants and Contracts is a funding source, our ISU Foundation Funds, the fundraising that occurs with Redbird Rising. We also have an internal charges area called Service Accounts, really at the end of the day, that's similar to issues like printing charges that go between one division to the other. Those are really just netting expenses between fund groups. And then lastly, we've got our teaching lab schools that we're very proud of, U-High, and Metcalf, and those are actually funded by a different state agency support, but they follow under the Grants and Contracts reporting area.

From a governing guidance at the state level, you'll often hear a phrase referred to as the LAC guidelines. These are state guidelines that all universities across the State of Illinois have to follow. And predominately what they are our rules around these various revenue sources, and the types of expenditures that you can charge against them. And what the university is tasked with is making sure that we ensure the compliance of these particular rules.

Before we get into the color of money, I want to talk a little bit about how our information is captured, stored, and then shared across all these various divisions. At a very high-level, our budget information is stored inside what's called Budget Center, which is a Cognos based reporting system. Our personnel data is housed in iPeople, which is our PeopleSoft system. And then all of our other fiscal cost, including those personnel data, is captured in our central financial reporting system called Datatel. The combination of these two systems interact on a

frequent basis with Budget Center, and then some creative reports for department level, grant level reports, are generated out of Budget Center and this is what the campus fiscal officers and faculty are using in order to gather fiscal information about their areas. The Budget Center actually was a new product that was released back in May, and we're getting quite a bit of reviews on how well it provides information in a meaningful way.

And you're probably wondering how in the world do you keep all this colors-of-money... I'm going to make ya'll an accountant for a few moments. Traditionally, our accounting system we track these various fund sources in our Datatel system, and from the simplest point of view the three digit areas traditionally are the way we separate these funds. So just a couple of examples, the General Revenue budgets areas typically start with a 101, or if there are transactions related to our Auxiliary Facilities System they start with 106 area, and you can see the other various categories. It's these report levels that allow us to not only prepare internal reports, but also external reports, that go to the state and external credit agencies.

Now let's talk about some of these categories within the presentation. The first group is General Revenue. As I said earlier, the revenue sources for General Revenue essentially come from the state, the operating and capital appropriation, as well as tuition revenue, and certain student fees. There are only a couple of fees that actually (and one in particular) support the General Revenue area, the Academic Enhancement Fee. You'll hear earlier some of our other student mandatory fees actually fall into other types of activities, either as bond or as agency accounts. The GR itself supports the academic mission of the institution, and so it cannot subsidize revenue sources and these cannot subsidize any of the other funding sources, and it definitely represents our largest portion of our operating budgets, to the tune of close to about 60%.

From the Bond Revenue areas, this one's a little bit easier to notice on campus. These are our, as the LAC guidelines require us to identify these specific activities, the ones that we report upon and have to track revenues and expenses: the housing area, dining, athletic facilities, the student rec center, Center of Performing Arts, Bone Center, the Auditorium, and then our campus parking area. The revenue sources that flow through these funds (as you can imagine) are the dining plans, for example, get captured in the dining revenue areas, obviously housing fees occur there. We also have the student fee associated with the rec center, or the Bone Center, end up in this particular funding source. There are specific restrictions on the use of these funds, and it's important to know that each of these entities according to the LAC guidelines must be self-sufficient, and they are allowed to build cash reserves. The state, again as you've heard earlier, is not permitted to take the tuition and fees. The general tuition fees are the appropriation, and support these self-sustaining units.

From a Research and Grants perspective, as many of you in this room may be actively involved in that area, that's a separate area of funding source that we also have to maintain. As each of you knows, as federal and grant state agencies support or provide awards in order for the institution to do research to cover personnel costs, and supplies, and travel, and certain

equipment areas, we have to track that those transactions (those revenues and those expenses) specifically through Grants and Contract areas. It's very highly restricted. There are external audits associated specifically with grant compliance, so we take that responsibility very seriously.

From an Agency, or another phrase we refer to as local funds, this is where you have probably the largest area of revenue and expense tracking in a number of groups. Some of the examples up here are (as you can see) the Vidette, the Shakespeare Festival, the Circus, TechZone, course materials fees. We have to track these because, as I said earlier, from the LAC guidelines these represent local fees. They can't be captured in the GR, and they also can't be captured in the Bond Revenue area. So there's a lot of activity, there's a lot of record keeping done in this area in order to specifically keep the revenue that's generated for these areas, and the expenses associated with them. That's the restriction, and the compliance responsibility we have to maintain. Some specific examples in grouping these, we have a category called Continuing Education and Public Service. As you can see from the pictures here, the Gamma Phi Circus, TechZone, or the Shakespeare Festival would fall under this reporting area. So the revenues generating from this area can be ticket sales, conference registrations, merchandise sales. And the only expenses permitted to be charges against those revenues are those types of expenses associated with those particular activities.

Another category we have refers to is sales and service of educational activities. From a practical perspective, transcript fees that students order, those will fall under this category, any of the fees charged over in the Milner Library, Speech and Hearing Clinic fees, testing office fees. This again is a specific group that we have to separately track and maintain.

For the students in the room you can appreciate this particular area. As you attend classes here, some of your courses have material fees, they have lab fees. Well, we have to track those fees and those expenses, and they can only be associated and consumed within that particular academic year. We're not permitted to take those types of course material or lab fees, and typically purchase large equipment, or do any facilities maintenance, or renovation on that. Those expenses are designed to be directly related to educating students in taking that course. Any of those fees, any new fees that are generated, or fee increases go through the Provost's office for approval, and we're not permitted to transfer funds between courses.

Student activity fees. Many of you will be aware of these that we charge, the revenue that are charged for these support activities that enrich our student experience: Student Government activities, recreational programs, the Redbird Ride, the Connect Transit in order to carry those fees, Dean of Students sponsored program events. There is a student and staff review committee each year that helps sets this fee structure and usage each year.

Student Health and Athletic fees. If any of you've gone over to the Student Health Center or attended any of the athletic events, that's traditionally how these revenue sources and expenses

are captured. Outside of the fee itself, there are in the Athletics activities, there are opportunities, as you imagine, to gain additional revenue through ticket sales, sponsorships, our NCAA proceeds that we receive by being in our conference. And again any other outside activities that come through the health center where there is a fee charge would also be captured under the Student Health area.

And there's another group, probably self-explanatory, student field trips or foreign studies. If any of you have been involved in those, those particular activities themselves need to have a revenue source in order to cover the expense, so we have to track that. We're responsible for making sure that those specific fees that are charged to the student participating, or for any of the participating schools in the event, we capture that revenue source, and then we're only permitted to charge expenses related to those activities.

One last thing, as a revenue source that helps support the institution, in the Research Grants and Contracts area, what is typically permitted is the federal and state grant agencies typically allow a university to apply what's called an Administrative Overhead fee to the grant in order to help cover overhead cost, not just direct cost associated with the particular grant. Well, these funds are earned by the institution as we incur the research activity, and those funds are transferred within the group, they're provided to the research office, they're provided to PIs, they're provided to the Provost's office, and some administrative support in order to provide a funding source necessary to keep the operation of research and grants continuing to grow.

I'd like to (as I'm getting closer to the end) switch gears a little bit, and talk from just a higher view of financial dollars. I'm using FY19 numbers here rather than FY20. We'll be presenting FY20 information in a couple of weeks, but in order to just cover this area, wanted to show as we talk about all these revenue sources in either Agency, Bond, or GR, here is a pie chart that gives you a little bit of a big picture. FY19 our operating revenues about \$458 million. The University Income Fund combined with the State Appropriation Fund is what we refer to area as the GR. As you can see that's the University Income Fund, which is tuition and fees, is about 45% of our budget. State Appropriation's about 14%. The Bond revenue areas are in the 20% range. Grants and Contracts are around \$30 million, about 6%. And then, the other local funds or the Agency funds, which a large portion of those are the student fees, is around \$59 million.

We then move over to the expense side. I apologize for the size of the chart, and the various areas, but these are the main categories that we categorize our expenses in. Again, the same level of resources. If you can look on the far right side, the majority of a university cost does tend to be personnel: faculty, staff, and students. That's over 52% of our budget. Contractual services, which are third parties, we use either a software contracts, or supplies, and things that we have to acquire. That's another substantial 17% of our budget. Our financial aid awards and grants that the university provides, that's also over almost \$37-38 million. That's a pretty healthy amount. So as you can see, also included in here as we do renovation of capital projects, whether it's in

the bond revenue areas or if we're able to make any capital improvements to academic buildings, they'll show up in the permanent improvements category.

My last couple of charts are a little bit of an education about the picture of higher education funding that's occurred over the last couple of decades. Unfortunately, this chart doesn't have the type of trend line we'd like for it to have, but I felt it was important tonight, when we're talking about the funding sources, really then how in budget process, and how things have evolved over time. But if you look to the far left, this is FY2002 carried all the way out to FY2020. And if you look out at FY02 you'll see it at \$92 million. Back a couple of decades ago, the state was operating and was providing about \$92 million. In FY20 (the budget that we're entering into) Governor Pritzker was able to increase our appropriation 5% over FY19, from \$66 million up to \$70 million, so there is a positive trend in that direction, and we're optimistic that Governor Pritzker will hopefully continue to keep that funding trend going back in the direction upward.

The reason that chart's important is that when you look at the institution over time, and you compare the state appropriation support for the university, as well as the student tuition and fees support is essentially flipped. If you go back to 2002, back then the \$92 million that the state provided was essentially 36% of the budget, which meant that the student tuition/fee only need to provide about 21%. Well, as you've reach out now to FY19, that number (the tuition and fees) is up to now 45% of the budget, and the state is only providing about 14% of the budget. So again, hopefully we're optimistic that Governor Pritzker will continue the reinvestment of higher education, and we can reverse that trend. I think that was my last slide. Hopefully this information, again done at a very high-level, was helpful in educating you on this important fiscal topic. Sandy, Amanda, and I are happy to entertain any question you have.

Senator Kalter: Do we have questions for Senator Stephens? (Silence.) Wow! I'll ask you a gratuitous question, but it's one of the reasons why we asked you here. Most of the time on any university campus, you hear people grumbling because a building is being built somewhere on the campus that is not an academic building, and they say well, why aren't they putting that to the academic mission, and I think that you've answered that question, in terms of where you can put funds, and where you can't, but perhaps you could go through a little bit of the reasoning process that goes into making those decisions about different kinds of facilities, whether they're on the bond side or on the academic mission side, or what have you.

Senator Stephens: Thank you. That's a great question. We're actually very blessed to have on our campus the ability to have, even if it is a bond revenue type building, to have cranes on it. You've heard President Dietz talk about that. That creates optimism. From the GR side, or the academic side, unfortunately we rely on the state in order for capital appropriations, and we are actually hoping that even in the six year plan that Governor Pritzker's put out that we would actually be able to have some of those cranes supporting improvements in those areas. The Bone Center for example is in the Bond revenue. As I referred to earlier, those Bone Center fees that

are captured, and then expenses are maintained, there is an ability to create excess funds because you have to support those units by themselves, you can't take the appropriation level.

From an academic perspective, we were over the last couple of years able to make small improvements. For example, in front of the library, the deck that was placed, that allowed for the first floor of the library to be reopened, and that 30,000 square feet. That had to come from the GR side. We had to use reserves associated to that. Just recently the Julian Hall, the first floor Julian where that's going to be Cybersecurity, that is an academic space. We're trying to figure out where we can improve the academic facilities. The Academic Enhancement Fee that was approved for this particular year is a step in that right direction. So we are hoping at the end of the day that we'll have both types of resources being built exactly at the same time but we unfortunately still are needing for the state to honor the commitment that they've said that they would.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. Any other question? If not, thank you so much for this presentation and I do agree with you, I hope that it becomes an annual event at the beginning of each Senate year.

Chairpersons Remarks

Senator Kalter: I really don't have any announcements tonight. I just wanted to say something on a personal note. In addition to being 9/11 today, it is the one year anniversary of my beloved uncle's death, and I wanted to say that I'm thinking about Ken Schreiner. I found out after his funeral when we were having the reception and dinner, that he has a connection to ISU.

Apparently my uncle...was in the healthcare industry, and he helped to pull some strings to get a former basketball coach who use to work here into a nursing facility when he was in somewhere where things weren't working out toward the end of his life, and it was just so nice to hear that. I met my uncle when I was less than one year old; the year that I was born. He was always very very kind to me, and I think that person who talked about him and his connection to ISU, also shows what a kind, gentle soul he was. So I just wanted to say that.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Solebo: Hi everybody. I just wanted to talk about some things that are going on on campus. So one thing that I wanted to touch on was the crime alerts, and making sure that we value safety on ISU's campus, and that everybody stays safe. And some other things, so college affordability. Obviously college isn't too affordable for students, we all know that, and I just want to mention that like with textbooks, like SGA, we're doing our part to make sure that textbooks and resources are available to students, but we also want to make sure on the faculty and staff side that's something being valued and enforced. And then mental health. So obviously mental health is a big issue on college campuses with all the stress and anxiety and different... it looks different so I want to make sure that everybody's aware of resources, so that that can be passed on to students of all sources, because it's just such an important topic. I think I mentioned this earlier how mental health, if your mental state's not good, then you won't do good, and

that's just kind of how it is. So I just want to make sure that that's being reinforced and that students know what's available to them. And they're also paying for these resources, so making sure that's valued and stressed. And with that, I yield for questions.

Senator Pancrazio: Yes. Specifically talking about additional resources for student for books and materials, I assume that includes clickers. I'm teaching first time in college students and for getting more information about that. I have two or three that are still trying to get all of their materials. Who would I contact for that? Could I write you and get that information?

Senator Solebo: Yeah.

Senator Pancrazio: Okay. I will do that.

Senator Kalter: I have more of a comment than a question. I was going to save this for Provost remarks, but one of the things that I found out (or I kind of have known this) but I was talking to one of my students the other day, and that person was buying books, and said, oh I'm renting the book, and I said, well, how much, by the way, are you renting it for? And the person said \$10. And I said that's a real shame because you can buy it for \$6. So whatever the Provost office and SGA can do to get that word out, to beware, to do your research about the rental industry, would be really terrific, because that person should not have to pay an almost double surcharge to get that book. So I just wanted to sort of make people aware, and start spreading the word. I'm not sure how many other people have had that experience, but it was really depressing to hear it, because I knew that that particular student also was having struggles, in terms of just buying the books. You know, a lot of my students... luckily my books, being in literature, they come a little bit at a time, so often students can time when they get them and when they don't, whereas some fields you have to buy a \$300 book all at once. And so that's kind of fortunate for my field, but they may not have that awareness about some of those bigger ticket items.

Senator Solebo: Thank you for that.

Senator Kalter: You're welcome.

Administrators' Remarks

- ***President Larry Dietz***

President Dietz: Thank you very much, Senator Kalter. I only have about three things that I want to talk about this evening. I attended a meeting yesterday, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, near Chicago, and it's a new Board. It has a new chair, a gentleman by the name of John Atkinson who really did a good job, I thought, yesterday. One of the complicating factors that's in that role is that they are also the chair of the State University Retirement System group. Those are two phenomenally busy jobs, and that doesn't count the employment that the person might have that's really bringing home the mortgage money and all that kind of thing. So Tom Cross had the same issue, about everybody else has too, but John is balancing a busy career, but also a very busy service component with chairing the Illinois Board of Higher Education and SURS. I

fully expect that a lot more discussions going to be happening around the whole capital expenditure, while we're delighted to have a capital budget, first one in ten years, there's been absolutely no decision on how that money's going to be released or when it's going to be released. There was some discussion yesterday amongst the presidents and chancellors at our pre-IBHE meeting that we have with the Chair of the Board and with the Executive Director of the Board about how this money might be spent, and there was an initial thought that you just take the dollar amounts that are out there and you divide by a number and then perhaps we would get 10%, for example, of the appropriation that's allocated to the university a year. Well, our number one priority in terms of capital improvement is the College of Fine Arts and the second one is the Library. And it certainly would not be a good idea to build anything like that at 10% a year, because, first of all, in six years you don't get to 100%, and then the other part is that when you build something, typically it takes about a year and a half to design, and about a year and a half to build, and if we were keeping equipment around here and employees around here from the construction companies for a six year time frame, obviously the cost of anything goes up dramatically. So there's just some bizarre thinking that's going on right now. I think that there'll be a plan that will come at some point in time. I'm optimistic that something may be released this year out of the dollars both for either CVA, or library, or the \$40 million amount that's been committed to deferred maintenance, but I have no idea when or in what way.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, as I mentioned has a new chair. They also have all new Board members. So it was a clean slate by the Governor. They're going through the normal thing that any new group would go through and that is trying to figure out what kind of contribution each individual's going to make to the Board, and so it's kind of getting to know you kind of stage with the Board. But they had good discussions, and the Board meeting actually lasted considerably longer than others, but the reason for that is because they were learning, and it was a good discussion. I would expect that sometime this year, they would take up the task for looking at a new strategic plan for higher education across the State of Illinois. I made the point both with the presidents and chancellors and then privately with the new chair that public universities certainly want to be represented in that group, the private sector will want to be represented, community colleges will want to be represented, and on and on, and that participation is an important aspect of this. So I think it's an ambitious idea that they'll have a new strategic plan, certainly by the spring... That was their initial thought. I think it's more likely to happen sometime by next fall, but even with that goal of having a new strategic plan by next fall, that's not a lot of time to involve all these different sectors in the discussions, so I'll keep you apprised of any progress they're making on that.

Secondly, it's a very exciting thing to prepare for tomorrow at 3:00 at the Center for Performing Arts will be having a presentation and a celebration of the naming of the College of Fine Arts and the School of Art. And we've been doing a lot of run through the presentation today and the donor and her husband will be here tomorrow. And we have a full slate of meetings and the

crowning part of that is at 3:00 tomorrow afternoon. So if you have time, please swing by and help us celebrate.

And then finally, next Tuesday I'll be giving the State of the University Address, Tuesday at 2:00 back in the Center for Performing Arts, and so I've been spending a lot of time working on that address, and I would invite all of you to come by at 2:00. And if you don't care to listen to me, the cookies and the punch are pretty good after the presentation. So with that, I'll yield for questions.

Senator Horst: Could you elaborate a little bit on what you're talking about with the funding for the buildings. Is any building in the state getting full funding, or are they moving to some sort of other... Do you have any idea if they're trying to develop another process?

President Dietz: I don't think they're really trying to develop another process, but they don't have a plan in place, for any of the institutions, about how to spend what they've already approved. And so Fine Arts actually was approved previously, so it moves into a different category of facilities, and now all of them though have to wait for appropriations. And so the tricky part of all of this is that the measures that have been put into place to generate the revenue to pay for what they've just approved, many of those don't even go into effect until January of next year. So the idea, even if they wouldn't have gone into effect on January of next year, it's going to take a while to generate some revenue. So I don't know that we're going to see much in this current fiscal year. I hope so, but they're going through this process—not to approve because that's already occurred—but how to release the funding, and in what manner, and there's been no agreement on that really with any of the public universities, so we're at the same place everybody else is.

Senator Horst: Thank you.

- ***Provost Jan Murphy***

Provost Murphy: Thank you so much. Let me start by addressing that issue of textbook affordability. It does remain something that's always on our radar. I would tell you that in day one of Preview, there is a conversation with all students about textbook affordability, and just consideration when choosing or purchasing textbooks, so comparing prices on local vendors versus going online to get a textbook, the difference between buying a new and used textbook, and always looking at the edition of a textbook, thinking about required or recommended. Do you purchase recommended textbooks that are on the syllabus, do you listen to the faculty member first, and then of course, buying versus renting, and trying to help students understand that there's a decision point there on whether to buy or rent a textbook, and all of the ramifications of that. I've had, through the years, many conversations with the manager of the university book store and I know that is something that she's very versed in. Now whether that's something that translates into conversations with students when you get ready to make that

decision, I'm not sure. But I think those are fair questions to ask people in the book store, for example, the university book store, the Alamo, before you make that final decision on purchasing or renting. And then, of course, we need to continue to help and work with faculty to make sure that the cost of textbooks are also part of the consideration that our faculty make as you pick the very best textbook for a course. But it does remain a huge issue, and I know that textbooks are extraordinarily expensive. I would tell you the other place to look for support is the Office of Financial Aid, where if a student really is struggling financially, and struggling to buy textbooks, be sure to go in and talk to financial aid counselors, because there are times they can find... we do have emergency funds. So there are opportunities to help students. We don't want a student to be without the basics, and it goes beyond textbooks, but other things like eyeglasses, or you know if you break your eyeglasses, or at the end of the semester if you're reaching a point where there are some issues with being able to buy food, those things, we want to be there to help, and I know that financial aid counselors will help and talk through those things with students.

Many of you have perhaps heard that Dr. Mark Walbert who is the Associate Vice President for Academic Technologies, has decided to retire next June of 2020. Mark has been in that position long enough to see the advent of cell phones, laptop computers, distance education, learning management systems (you know, ReggieNet), so he has been a strong advocate for innovations. If you've ever had a conversation about technology with Mark, I usually understand about 40% of the conversation, but he's enthusiastic, and I get excited about it even if I don't understand it all. So over the next few months, I'll work with Mark, and other university colleagues, to develop a transition plan.

Mennonite College of Nursing received a \$2.8 million grant from the US Health Resources and Service Administration to support rural underserved patients. This will allow the college to strengthen its ties to local community agencies, and provide additional clinical experiences for our Nursing students.

Gamma Phi Circus has been invited to participate in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They will be given about 90 seconds of national airtime, and that is really unique. They're just in the right spot. There's some singer that's right there ahead of them, right? So they will be right in the spotlight there for about 90 seconds. They are only the third circus ever to perform at the parade, so we're excited about it. And this year we continue to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Gamma Phi Circus.

Actuarial Science student Mark Murdock has been selected as a recipient of the Curtis Huntington Memorial Scholarship from the Actuarial Foundation. This is a scholarship students from around the world apply for this scholarship, and Mark is the eighth ISU student to receive this scholarship, so we're excited about that.

And I would finish by congratulating Senator Rivadeneyra who has been selected to serve on the IBHE Diversifying Faculty and Higher Education Board of Directors. The mission of the DFI Board is to increase the number of minority full time tenured track faculty and staff at Illinois public and private universities. So thank you in advance for your service. That's all. [Note: Dr. Rivadeneyra is not a sitting senator but an observer for the chair's and director's council.]

Senator Kalter: Do we have any questions for Senator Murphy?

Senator Marx: Just a comment. The Gamma Phi Circus is asking people to donate to raise money to support the students going to New York for the parade. So if anybody's interested, they're using the campus GoFundMe which is called, what, does anyone know what it's called? Okay. We have one and if you're interested in donating they are taking money.

Senator Kalter: Maybe ISU GoFundMe?

Senator Marx: It's an ISU version of GoFundMe, and I forget the name of it right now. It's what?

Several senators: Hatch.IllinoisState.edu/GammaPhi.

Senator Kalter: All right. Are there other questions for Senator Murphy? I just wanted to bring one thing up related to the textbook thing, just so that you're aware of it, because I'm not sure whether it was another part of this catalog Course Finder issue, or Course Finder corresponding with CS or whether it was just a fluke. I've been teaching one course for maybe ten years and this is the first time... Usually my practice is to have the first three days of the class, or the first four days really, online so that the students don't have to have their books right away and in hand, and then we move into the first novel. This was the first time in ten years that a very significant number of the students did not show up on that day with the novel in their hand. I'm not sure whether they weren't able to read the thing in Course Finder that had the list of books, or if it didn't connect to when they were registering, or what, but I wanted to just... It's not really a question but more like a comment just in case that is something with a system. You know it's also possible that it could be an economic issue. So I wanted to bring that up partly because I'm a little bit concerned about in general how we finance getting the books into students' hands. And so if we could start... I know that we've been looking into stuff like that, but having perhaps a fee that flows through so that the students have their books as part of their financial aid package, rather than that extra thing that they have to buy at the end, after they've paid for all of the big ticket items. All right. Moving on to Senator Johnson for Vice President for Student Affairs Remarks.

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

Senator Johnson: All right. Good evening everyone. I only have one bit of information to share with everyone and that's we are into our big signature week regarding student retention. As many of you may already know, we have a program called House Calls whereby we will touch

about 6,000 plus students within our residential environments. We started this process on Monday, and we'll go through Thursday, and check in on how they're doing, and how they're doing in their classes. How they're doing within their residential environment. Whether they've made a tying connection to others within the community through student groups and organizations, or something as simple as it relates whether they've got a maintenance issue within their residential hall. Thus far, things are going pretty well. We're getting great feedback from the students. The opportunity to volunteer and to assist is not over. As a matter of fact, we've got one more day, tomorrow, and we will be at Cardinal Court, so if you're looking for something to engage in (faculty and staff) after the signature announcement and landmark announcement that's going to take place tomorrow, you can show up anytime after 3:30 or so and we will have our last round of House Calls until about 5:00. So I look forward to you stopping through and helping us out with engaging our students and making sure that they're ok. With that, I will open things up to any question that people may have.

Senator Kosberg: Do we have any updates on the students living in lounges and the extra housing?

Senator Johnson: Again, we continue to, as spaces open up, we provide opportunities for students to move into any open space that are available.

Senator Kalter: Further questions? I have a question about flu shots. Do we have them on the way?

Senator Johnson: They are coming. As a matter of fact, I will hopefully have some detailed information at our next meeting then.

Senator Kalter: Excellent. Thank you very much. Any other questions?

Senator DeGrauwe: I've been speaking with the Student Health and Safety, and the RN that's in charge of the flu shots. October 1, 2, and 3 is when the faculty and staff immunization will happen.

Senator Kalter: 2 and 3.

Senator Degrauwe: 1, 2, and 3.

Senator Kalter: 1, 2, and 3, that's even better.

Senator DeGrauwe: And it's also open for students this year also.

Senator Kalter: That's wonderful. And are you going to be giving the shots?

Senator DeGrauwe: I will not be giving the shots.

Senator Kalter: Oh, well. All right. We'll look forward to when you do.

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

Senator Stephens: Thank you, Senator Kalter. I only have one item I'd like to share. It's positive news we received this week from the state procurement office. There'd been a protest filed with the final bids on the Cybersecurity program, which is underneath Julian, the parking level Julian Hall. There was a protest filed because the university chose the bids from vendors who had offered more contracts to what are called BEP vendors, which are minority vendors across the state. It's either vendors who are female owned, African American owned, Latino, veteran, Asian American, and the University had chosen a series of contractors that had offered that higher level, and thankfully that protest went through, and we were still able to secure that and so it will be moving forward. And so within the next few weeks or so, you'll finally begin to see some efforts done underneath that building.

Senator Kalter: Terrific. Do we have any questions for Senator Stephens?

Senator Ferrence: Less question, more comment. But I just want to go on record that one of the things that I think that was very well done by you and your team was putting together a communications team for this Cybersecurity project that brought together... Somehow I got put on the group as a representative for Senate and the faculty, and there's some chairs, to talk about, because the renovation is actually happening in a space where a lot of people were displaced in parking so they were making sure it was well communicated with people where they would go. President Dietz even stepped up and volunteered to move his vehicle. The other thing more importantly, which I thought was very well handled as an observer was the discussion of two critical items. One is that the first floor... Although it will be interesting to see when there's now the ground floor what you're going to call the first floor, but that's where our datacenter is for the university, and so there's a lot of discussion about stability, because if you're tearing out floors and putting in new infrastructure below, you don't want all of your university servers to go out. It's one thing if one classroom does; it's another thing if the whole campus goes out. So they're clearly mindful of that, and lessons learned on our team of squirrels that kind of kick the tires of the campus to prepare us for these things this summer. And they were very worried about, since it's been a while since we did a renovation that actually impacted academic space, and that there are courses going on. I know one thing that came up in our conversation was they asked, well, when would be the hours where teaching might be an issue, and I was the one who responded, I said as long as you don't do any construction between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm Monday thru Friday you should be good, and they're like, really? Yeah, there are actually classes in that building pretty much during that window, except for Friday. We don't run a lot of 9:00 pm courses on Friday. So they've been really good with the communication, I really appreciate it since I like to call out some of those things in the other side. So thank you for working with us.

Senator Stephens: Thank you very much.

Senator Kalter: Senator Ferrence asked in Exec whether we had anything to do with him being appointed to that committee and we said not us, I'm pretty sure...

Senator Stephens: It was me.

Senator Kalter: ...it was called to your attention, Senator Stephens that Senator Ferrence would have complained about the parking had you not interviewed him.

Senator Stephens: Yes, there was a method to the selection, trust me.

Senator Kalter: That's right. We have the minutes from last year to know that.

Senator Marx: I'd like to ask one question about Julian Hall. When we were first looking at this the space that's under the building, it was only going to be partially occupied by Cybersecurity, and I was wondering if it's now going to be all occupied or are we going to gain some additional space there for other things?

Senator Stephens: What we ended up requesting, and getting approval from the Board, was after we looked at the bid process, we had asked the contractors to bid just on the back third of the parking area, which was where, I think, the three classrooms, some collaboration space, the restroom, the heating and air systems, all that new area, the much more substantial area. But we also asked them to bid on just simply the remaining shell, the outside of the wall. Not anything other than just simply closing it in so that it would be available for future renovation. And when they returned the bids, it actually was very economical to go ahead and do that. So we'll have a more attractive facility in there. It still will have about 8,000 or 9,000 of square feet renovated, the remaining space, I want to say is about 15,000 or 16,000 will become available at a future time.

Senator Marx: Excellent.

Senator Kalter: Any other questions? Terrific.

Advisory Items:

Presidential Memo: Surveillance Equipment

Senator Kalter: We move on to our Advisory Item. It is the Presidential annual memo on Surveillance Equipment. You'll notice that it's attached to our policy 1.7 Use of Electronic Equipment for Surveillance Purposes, which we reviewed very briefly last year. It's just an Advisory Item. Anybody have any questions about the memo? Great. We'll move on to our Action Items.

Action Items:

04.29.19.01 Email from Planning and Finance Committee

04.29.19.02 Policy 7.1.22 Foundation 2018-2019 MARK UP (From Planning and Finance Committee)

08.06.19.12 Policy 7.1.22 Foundation 2018-2019 Clean Copy (From Planning and Finance Committee)

Senator Mainieri: We discussed this item last meeting as Information Item. We updated the language, and in working with Pat Vickerman from the Foundation office. And so we move for these changes to be approved.

Motion by Senator Mainieri, on behalf of the Planning and Finance Committee, to approve the revisions to the Foundation policy. The motion was unanimously approved.

12.12.16.04 - Policy 4.1.20 Final Course Grade Challenge Policy CURRENT COPY (From Academic Affairs Committee)

06.17.19.10 - Policy 4.1.20 Final Course Grade Challenge Policy MARK UP (From Academic Affairs Committee)

08.06.19.06 - Policy 4.1.20 Final Course Grade Challenge Policy Clean Copy (From Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Pancrazio: This was part of our normal policy review. We went through and made just some general... cleaned up the document. There were a number of typos in it. And we also had some substantial discussion about certain instances, and the concern that came from student Senators was the issue of being graded unfairly, but based upon not on the academic performance but on who the students were, and we added language in two different parts of the policy to strengthen that, and also include some information that this could be... that the student could actually file other different proceedings as well as a grade challenge. At this point we're ready to present that and I put that on the floor for our approval.

Motion by Senator Pancrazio, seconded by Senator Nikolaou on behalf of the 2019-20 Academic Affairs Committee, to approve the Final Course Grade Challenge policy. The motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Kalter: Great. I will say that I love the added change that you've made that added the other policies about grading practices. So thank you very much for that.

09.13.18.07 Policy 2.1.10 Deans' List CURRENT (From Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Pancrazio: We approved this policy as it was, we didn't make any recommendations as far as changing. So what we have is the policy as it has been and we're ready to put that on the floor as well.

Motion by Senator Pancrazio, seconded by Senator Nikolaou on behalf of the 2019-20 Academic Affairs Committee, to approve the Dean's List policy. The motion was unanimously approved

Information Items:

From Student Government Association, Legal, and Student Affairs

08.15.19.04 Davenport Email Anti Hazing 5.1.13

09.13.18.09 Policy 5.1.13 Hazing And Pre-Initiation Activities Current Copy

08.15.19.02 Policy 5.1.13 Hazing LEGAL Mark-up rewrite to match code

08.15.19.03 Policy 5.1.13 Hazing Clean Copy

Senator Kalter: We'll now move on to our only Information Item, and that is the Anti-Hazing policy. So again, this is the time for discussion, questions, concerns, ideas, etc. We have Wendy

Smith in the chairs if she wants to come up and speak to some of this since you did a lot of the drafting. The way this got routed was that SGA did the initial set of changes. And then we looked at it in Exec and had a lot of questions, decided at some point to send it down to Legal. Legal looked at it and made the changes. So we apologize for the fact... we had arranged in Exec to have the other mark-up copy come to you (the one that came to you today in your email). It's not in your paper packets, if you get a paper packet, so if you're looking for the markup copy, that one is only on your email that came out today. Maybe I can have Ms. Smith walk us through some of the changes that were made, and then we can debate it. It did not go back to SGA. The Exec looked at it as it came forward from Legal and said this looks good, so we're forwarding it to the whole floor for discussion.

Ms. Smith: It looks like there's a lot of markup basically because it was rewritten. The major changes are matching the definition from the Student Code of Conduct to this policy. So they're exactly the same, which will prevent a lot of confusion and potential issues down the road. Also I compared the Code to our policy, and the state law on hazing, and where necessary made changes to make sure that we were compliant across the board and consistent. So I added a little bit of language on reporting which was important in the state law, and I narrowed the definition of hazing to really match the state law, so it's not going beyond and getting into free speech areas. And then the application just shows all the places that it applies. So if a student violates the policy it's handled through the Code, if a staff or employee violates the policy it goes through their appropriate bodies.

Senator Kalter: Terrific. Do we have any comments or questions about this one?

Senator Topdar: I was reading the policy and there was something I was looking for and didn't find. And I would like you to consider including it and that is sexual violence and sexual abuse as part of hazing. I didn't see anything in particular about that, and I realize that there is a sexual violence and sexual harassment policy which is separate, but I think sexual violence should be included in part of hazing, so that's something to consider. The other point I had was I think we should have something very specific about protecting the anonymity of the complainant, because often victims don't come up to speak because they fear a backlash or they fear some sort of a stigma, so I think that's something to keep in mind. And the other point I had is what is the role of the University in providing any kind of psychological support, maybe therapy or something like that, to somebody who is a victim of hazing, especially sexual violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and it happens a lot. We don't really speak about it. Thank you.

Senator DeGrauwe: Looking at the Legal markup, I believe, there was a point where it was talking about wearing apparel which is conspicuous and not in good taste, and then it said from the perspective of the victim, and I see it's not in the clean version, and I'm wondering why that verbiage was taken out of this piece. Because I believe that is a good idea, because if I am the person that's quote unquote committing the hazing, I might not think this tank top is very conspicuous but the person that's required to wear it does, and it's all about the victim, isn't it?

Ms. Smith: The definition I did not change from the Code at all and so any changes from this policy and the definition are just to match the Code definition. If changes were considered in the Code definition, I think it would have to go back to SGA. So I didn't make those changes because the definition that is in the Code is completely compliant with law, and all I did was match the Code definition to the policy definition. The policy definition is quite outdated as far as best practice and some of the language in it, so if that is an important part, I think, that would be a change in the Code definition, that would go to SGA, and then would again be made in the policy.

Senator Kalter: And just as a reminder to everybody that the Code is likely to go through some changes, unfortunately, in the middle of this year, because of changes on the national level. So if you're interested in having that discussed it would seem that the Code should be the front of those changes and then this policy should... in other words we should make these changes now and if the Code changes then change this policy at the same time. Does that make sense, Senator DeGrauwe?

Senator DeGrauwe: Forgive my ignorance, when you guys say the Code are you talking about the Code of Conduct?

Answered in Unison: Yes.

Senator DeGrauwe: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Smith: And if you look at c on the clean version, the wearing is still in there; it's in the "wearing apparel which is conspicuous and not in good taste." The law does not have an objective or subjective standard, which is unusual for a law. So objective means a reasonable person thinks that it violates the law, and a subjective is that the victim thinks it is. And so this covers actually both a little bit more. And even if the person is willingly participating in the hazing, it still can be considered hazing. And so I think this is broader than having a subjective or objective standard in the legal sense.

Senator Wall: I just had a question on whether or not, when you say conducting official university business or representing Illinois State University off campus in the Application section, does that mean that every student who is enrolled is officially conducting... like is essentially representing Illinois State University off campus any time they're off campus? I just want to make sure that that's like what is meant by that or if I'm misappropriating that.

Ms. Smith: That's taken from a similar policy of the university, kind of, you know, how these policies apply, the preventing Violence policy. And so, I think, if you are conducting official business as a student off campus, or representing a student group, or representing the university in athletics, or representing the university in a sports club, I think if there was hazing involved in that, it would be covered by this definition and by the Code.

Senator Wall: I guess my question more directly would be, say students are a part of an RSO but they're having a non-RSO meeting. It's not an official university meeting, not covered as an official RSO meeting, but it is off campus in an apartment, or a fraternity house, or sorority house, and hazing were to occur even to just select members. Are they at that point still representing Illinois State University off campus just as students? Like are we constantly representing the university as students?

Ms. Smith: I wouldn't necessarily put it that way, but the definition of the jurisdiction and the Student Code of Conduct is a little bit broader than this, and so it's any activity that happens on campus, or that happens off campus, and has a significant impact on campus. So I think that is a little broader than representing the university officially. And I think the Student Code of Conduct, SGA would probably have a really good history of what that jurisdiction is. For instance, if you're conducting illegal activity off campus, even if you're not representing the university, you can be subject to the Code of Conduct. So you don't have to be in an official capacity as a student to be in violation of hazing if it meets this definition, based on the jurisdiction clause.

Senator Wall: Thank you.

Senator DeGrauwe: This is just a question in general, when you have a policy and the Code of Conduct, which one supersedes the other? Is it the policy over the Code of Conduct, or do they work in conjunction?

Ms. Smith: I think for the purposes of this, the only reason there is a policy is because the policy is broader than just covering students. So the Code is going to cover students, the definition is exactly the same, the reporting's exactly the same, but this policy also applies to staff, faculty, employees, anyone representing the university beyond the student. So if we were not applying this policy to anyone but students we wouldn't need it. And so that's why it's so important that the definitions match.

Senator DeGrauwe: Because you were just saying how if we believed that on the Code we would like the broader version of having the victim, the person with the wearing, why wouldn't that apply for the faculty version also?

Ms. Smith: It would, if you change the Code definition, then my recommendation from a legal standpoint would be to change this definition. I just don't want two different definitions, unless you say this policy only applies to faculty and staff, then you can have a different definition, and the Code only applies to students, but that's not how this is written. It's written to apply to both, and so it's important to have the same definition for the same conduct. So if you change the Code, I would recommend changing the definition here so they match.

Senator DeGrauwe: Okay. Thank you.

Senator Nichols: So at any point does this make a clear distinction between hazing being special acts that are different from the normal function of the group itself that they're allowing entry into? Otherwise, I don't see how this doesn't apply to the football team every day. That there's a significant increase of dementia and depression associated with playing four years of college football. So sending somebody out there to bump heads with someone else would seem to be in violation of this, but since it's the stated purpose of that organization, it probably shouldn't be rolled in as hazing as some sort of special bar that would need to be cleared. It's just what you're supposed to do in that group.

Ms. Smith: I don't know that I can answer that. It's not really a legal question. I mean I think that we're not going... they have to meet the definition, then go through a due process, hearing, to see if it meets the definition. I don't think it's out of bounds that someone might bring that claim. I don't think we've had that yet, and it's specifically for the purpose of initiation, affiliation, or continued membership.

Senator Nichols: If you don't go out and do your job, you're not going to continue your affiliation with the football team, presumably.

Ms. Smith: Yeah. I think that's a matter of opinion. I don't think it's a legal question.

Senator Kalter: Other question or comments? I just remembered there were a couple of things that we brought up in Exec to look at. One of them is on the back the very last sentence, it is just worded incorrectly. It says, "It is a violation of the university policy to prevent, discourage, or fail to report acts or planned acts of hazing." We don't really want to have it be a violation to prevent acts of hazing, or to discourage them. So just making some small change there so that they're all about trying to prevent, was what we noticed. The second thing and it's related to the third issue, and if there were others... I'll go back and check my notes. I think these were the only three. In c, under the definitions, some of these—and this, given your previous response, it sounds like this is going to have to be changed in the Code before we change it here, or maybe do that a little bit further down the road this year—some of these definitions have gerunds with them. In other words, they have verbs like creating excessive fatigue, wearing apparel, etc, but then there was this one, work sessions, or physical or emotional shock, where it's not clear what it is about the work session. It just needs to have some sort of active verb in there, like forcing somebody into a work session, or something to that effect, or creating physical and emotional shock. It's very word smithy simple, but it doesn't allow the person reading it to quite understand what it's about, so to speak.

Ms. Smith: Yeah. And I didn't make any changes because the definition is legally correct, and since really SGA is the body, I didn't make any changes to that.

Senator Kalter: Yes. Okay. So we'll put that in through the Student Code committee. What it also then begged the question of was whether the hazer, the hazee, or both are violating the policy because of the way that it was worded. Some of the way in particular, c in particular, is

worded could be taken to mean that the person getting hazed will get in trouble, not just the people doing the hazing, and that's actually a possibility. So if that is meant, maybe we should clarify that that is meant. Just so that it's very clear that both the person being hazed, and the person or persons hazing, may both be subject to discipline.

Mr. Smith: Yeah, and I think that's another Code situation. My understanding of the history of that is that there could be a situation where both could be, and the sanctioning level might be... Because you could be on both ends of it, you could be participating in hazing other people, and being hazed. So I think it was meant to be a little bit open, and that depending on the level of involvement, and the intent, it might change the sanctioning, but we don't want to cut off involvement that might be on both ends. But that's more historical and I think a Code discussion.

Senator Kalter: Okay.

Senator Evans-Winters: I'm just curious who was a part of this committee? Like, for example, I'm a member of a large African American women's organization. I know that we receive national training, and that's ongoing annually. And I'm reading this policy, as you all are pointing out sometimes it's too narrow, other times it's too broad, and so I'm just wondering... It's missing some really important other groups. So I'm just curious who was a part of the committee? I know you keep saying that there's legal precedence, that's like the template for this, but I'm curious from a college campus perspective who came up with this language.

Ms. Smith: I'm really not positive on that because I only did the legal review of it, and the questions that I got were does this policy meet the legal state standard for law, and also is it consistent internally. The Code definition, from my understanding, that is included in this definition, has been in place for years. And so I don't even know if anyone here would know who was on the committee that initiated it. And I think this policy, last time I think it was reviewed was 2000... Do you have that, Susan?

Senator Kalter: Actually, I don't. It's interesting that we don't have that. It was probably at least five to ten years ago, but I think you're absolutely right, that it's lost in the mists of time somewhere, because that language has been in place for a very long time.

Ms. Smith: Right. And when I first got it, there was just minor editorial changes. And all I did was look at best practices, and how the policy was written, answer the questions that came to me from the Senators, and compare it to the state law. I think there's definitely room for improvement, but I think the process for that improvement needs to be SGA: definition. And then changing the policy, or completely separate the two policies, which I think is not the best legal tactic. I mean, you want everyone to be subject to the same definition, I think, on your campus. You don't want to treat different groups differently, as far as definition wise. So I think there's definitely room for that.

Senator Evans-Winters: Because that's what I was afraid of. It seems like it's privileging some groups, while marginalizing other groups. And so it's almost like everybody needs training on this issue, first of all. But second, it sounds like it needs to have a more inclusive committee or second glance at least.

Ms. Smith: Yeah. And I think it went before the... I don't know exactly what administrative committee it went to.

Senator Kalter: Here it went to SGA. We had a big debate about where it should go and eventually Exec decided that SGA should look at it. I don't remember, Senator Campbell, how long you guys debated it.

Senator Campbell: We spent two meetings at least on it, as well as some stuff internally at non-official meetings. And I do believe the policy when we got it... I want to say the last time it was updated was maybe like 2010 or 2011. The group that it said the policy came from I don't even think is in existence any longer. I think it originally said it was from Student Life, which I would imagine is like SAI, or Dean of Students, or something like that at this point.

Senator Kalter: And that was last year's SGA, right, as I remember.

Senator Campbell: Correct.

Senator Kalter: Terrific.

Senator Topdar: Just one more point, which I just noticed, this is page three, under definition, you know going back to the point on, "wearing a pattern which is conspicuous and not in good taste," What is the meaning of not in good taste? You know, what is good taste for me may not be good taste for somebody else. So I think it might be useful to not have language which is open to interpretation, especially pertaining to clothing. Right. So I think we ought to be a little more specific, and more careful particularly when it comes to clothing.

Ms. Smith: Yeah. And I think that's good feedback for SGA as they look at it. I would still recommend that because that process will take some time, if you're going to make changes to this policy, it doesn't make a lot of sense to have two different definitions. So I think a discussion about the timing about how you want to handle that. But I think all of these comments should be passed on to SGA, because like I said, the definition could use some work, but I'm not in a position to make those changes.

Senator DeGrauwe: Going back to your comment, couple of comments ago. I'm confused on there being any situation on where the person being hazed would be one of the participants that is also getting in trouble and sanctioned. Could there be an example of that, because I'm very confused on how that would even happen.

Senator Kalter: What I was... you're asking me, Senator DeGrauwe? What I was reading in c is that because of the ambiguity of the way it's worded, public stunts, or work sessions, or those kinds of things, it was unclear because there's no verb saying what's happening, whether or not that meant that both parties would be punished, and so that needed to be clarified. And so what I'm asking is... as Ms. Smith sort of agreed, there may be... she had a different example than the one that I had in mind, but you could imagine a university saying that simply participating in the hazing, in other words, presumably you're doing something in order to say get into a fraternity or sorority, right? So presumably, that's a semi-voluntary activity, right? That can be up for debate obviously. But somebody, as Senator Topdar has just said, you can word things in various ways that make it ambiguous, and so I was concerned with that ambiguity because you could say, well, you were also participating in the hazing culture because you know that this fraternity or sorority does this, and you're willingly participating in it even though you may have gotten physically harmed, you still participated in it. You can imagine administrations at various universities around the country punishing all of the people, whether they were actually being hazed, or doing the hazing. Does that... it may not make sense, right, but it's a possibility. And so I think that it needs to be clarified, and explained. If you are subject to it when you're being hazed, why would that be? Why would you be open to discipline in that case? And if we don't want it that way to make it clear that that's never going to be the way it is. Right? So I'm not taking a position one way or another, I'm just saying it needs to be clarified.

Senator Degrauwe: Thank you.

Senator Horst: I was wondering about the timing of the Code of Conduct revisions, and whether or not it would be wise to table this, and have it come up along with the Code, as opposed to... I think there's a lot of discussion on how we can improve the language, but we can't improve the language until the Code of Conduct language moves as well.

Senator Kalter: Yeah. I was going to suggest if nobody had any further questions or comments that Exec discuss at its next meeting, what the next step would be with this policy. But it didn't seem like it's ready, given all of this discussion, to come back as an Action Item at the next meeting. So we will do that. I'm not sure if we want to formally table it. I think maybe we can just do it in the normal process of where does it go next. And it might go to the Student Code review committee so that when they're working on the changes that we're anticipating this year, that it can all be done at once. And I see Senator Johnson nodding his head about that, so that's good.

Ms. Smith: I think that there's also a lot more research and a lot more best practices out there regarding hazing than there was in 2010. So I think reviewing some of that. Looking at all of the cases that have been charged under these in our system. Is there cases we couldn't charge because our language wasn't good. Like there's a lot of best practice work that could be done on this issue that is a ton more research and information than there was when this policy was first enacted.

Senator Kalter: Excellent.

Senator Blum: I just have a quick question. Is there any legal problem with us doing what we're talking about doing? Like waiting on the policy and aligning it? So like are we putting ourselves in any... I mean you could propose an alternative path of making an interim step of doing this and which I think seems like a good idea is making everything agree, but is there any legal problem with delaying, and sort of going this other path, or this path?

Ms. Smith: From a legal perspective, it's definitely better if we have the same definition. So an interim step of making at least the definition match between the two policies I would recommend. That being said this policy has been in place since 2010 and we haven't had any issues with it so I think it's...

Senator Kalter: You don't want to tempt fate there, do you? All right. Any other questions or comments? All right. Exec will take that back in, and discuss that, and we'll see where it goes. Thank you so much. All right, that was our last major item for the night.

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Nikolaou

Senator Nikolaou: The Academic Affairs Committee met tonight and we selected our representative to the Academic Planning Committee. We decided on what is the priority of the topics we are going to discuss within the academic year, and we started discussing the Leave of Absence policy.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Marx

Senator Marx: Okay. AABC met tonight, and went through its issues pending list to see what all we have to look at this year. We continue talking about some of the policies that we looked at last year, and I think we'll be able to make some good progress quickly on many of these policies.

Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Crowley

Senator Crowley: At this evening's meeting, we brought the new members up to speed on the work we did last semester on the Sabbatical policy, and we initiated a discussion on those elements that still require some revision.

Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Mainieri

Senator Mainieri: In Planning and Finance, we took up the priority that the committee had started working on last semester which was investigating enabling students to get into their desired majors if they're over-subscribed, and the barriers and tools that might be available for that. We've come up with a plan on how to continue our discussions on that priority.

Rules Committee: Senator Seeman

Senator Seeman: Rules Committee met this evening. Mostly we discussed what our priorities are going to be for the coming year, including Blue Book items, as well as bylaws.

Communications

Senator Ferrence: Got to put it out there, not my college, but we have this Friday night, of course, is the micro harvest moon, and that is followed by Saturday from 9:00am to 3:00 pm ISU's Ag department is hosting the Autumnal Festival at the Horticulture Center, which is always a really fun time to go out and check out. So for students not familiar, pass it along. There's, I think, a nominal \$5 admission fee, it doesn't say anywhere where students fall in that. Normally, the place is free, but on that day, they've got a lot of stuff like hayrides and lots of good stuff. It's definitely worth going if you haven't been there. It's between the Cornbelter's Stadium and the ISU golf course, if you don't know where it is. Nice positive thing to say.

Adjournment

Motion by Senator Zamudio, seconded by Senator DeGrauwe, to adjourn. The motion was adjourn.