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Senate Meeting, December 11, 2019

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Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Approved

Call to Order

Academic Senate Chairperson Susan Kalter called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Academic Senate Secretary called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Kalter: So, Chairperson's Remark is very short. First thing is I'm going to answer your question about why are we here during Wednesday of finals week, and the reason for that is twofold. One is that the ISU Constitution demands that we meet once every month, and then also we have tonight two really important votes. One is on the Honorary Degree Recipient, and one of them is on the Distinguished Professor recipient (that one's in the Caucus). And so, the processes that lead up to those very, very rarely not only coincide with one another in their earliness, but very rarely are able to happen before the December meeting. So otherwise, given the relative thinness of the agenda, we probably would have cancelled this meeting. But that's why we meet on this night.

And then, the other part of Chairperson's Remark is simply to say in advance of Communications, Happy Holidays and good luck on finals, and I'll say that again at the end.

You'll notice that the person to my right is not here. She's feeling under the weather so we're going to skip Student Body President's Remarks.

Administrators' Remarks

• ***President Larry Dietz***

President Dietz: Thanks very much, Senator Kalter. I have several brief remarks tonight, but I want to lead with an invitation of Larry Lyons, our Director of Athletics, to come to the table to talk a bit about alcohol for the first time is allowed at sporting events, and we'd had some conversation about an update on incidents that might have been related to that. And so, I'd like to turn this over right now to Larry Lyons. Larry, you want to come up and give a brief report.

Mr. Lyons: Good evening. Thank you, President Dietz. First of all, I'd like to let you know that there are procedures in place at all of our athletic events to deal with issues that might come up during the course of a game, whether it's a student athlete, or whether it's fans in the stands. Specific to Illinois State football and the change this year with public sales of alcohol, same procedures are in place there. If there's an issue in the stands and if it's communicated, we have procedures where it's an elevated response. The first response is an usher supervisor goes into the crowd and tries to ascertain what the issue is and deal with it. Typically, if it's an issue in the student section, we'll send the student supervisor in, in the student section. And then, depending on what that result is, we'll elevate the response. If needed, it gets elevated to ISU PD, or there have been times, it's only been a couple times, where I've been asked to come in and intervene in a particular situation. For this year, anecdotally I will tell you that Emergency Management

and ISU PD felt like it was a normal year, in terms of what happened at the football games this year. I will tell you that we had two in-game calls for a response related to alcohol. One was in the first game, and it related to an individual that was buying a couple beers, and handing them to minors. Now that was identified fairly quickly, and that person was escorted out of the stadium. We had an incident in the fourth game where, again, unfortunately, it was a student who was using profane language. When that was identified, that student was removed from the game. And then we had an incident in the fifth game, which came to this body, where we found out after the game that there was profanity in the stands in a general admission area that we were not able to address at the time, because it came to us later that evening. Our preference would be to try and address the issues at that particular time. Obviously, keep confidentiality as much as we possibly can for the affected parties, but try and deal with it at that particular time. So, fortunately, we had only a handful of issues at the games this year. Obviously, we want to be diligent with all of that. We had no issues at volleyball. We've had no issues so far for women's basketball or men's basketball. So, I'll answer any questions.

Senator Blum: Yes, in these venues, is there like places to post like if someone's being... I don't know exactly, if someone's being disruptive, someone might know where to go or something along those lines? Because, I mean, I could imagine being a spectator and not necessarily knowing, alright, where exactly to report it, if there was a type of incidence, or maybe feeling uncomfortable doing so.

Mr. Lyons: I can't say where they're specifically posted. We do have information in fan guides, for fans. We have information on our website if you have an issue what to do. We can certainly beef that up, there's no question about that.

Senator Horst: Yeah. I was wondering if you had all evaluated whether other programs have had like a family section or something along those lines. I know that there are some professional sporting events that have such a setup.

Mr. Lyons: The way we're set up, particularly for football, we obviously have a students section on the west side, and then that's all general admissions, that's where visiting fans go, and some folks who prefer to sit on the west side. On the east side, it's primarily season ticket holders who have donor sections, and then there's season ticket holder sections that are general to folks who are not donors. We have not identified a family section there. In the case where someone is not comfortable where they're sitting, we try and accommodate them in another section. One place that I think that would be a place like that would be where our staff, or our player guest, or player parents sit. Those are, I would assume, they might be a little bit tamer of a section. We can certainly look into a family section. I honestly don't know how much that would be used. Football's a little bit different than most sports. There is unfortunately at a football game, there's some language that's used at a football game. It's just... it's part of the sport, unfortunately.

Senator Kalter: Further questions? (Pause) All right. Well, you answered my question, which was whether or not profanity is banned or merely discouraged. It sounds like it's merely discouraged.

Mr. Lyons: It's merely discouraged. And it's tough to control all of that. Obviously, we would prefer that it's not used. I mean, we find a lot of times it's directed at players or officials, which is unfortunate. We see that more at a men's basketball games, where it's a more intimate environment, and the officials have the ability to communicate with us. Frankly, we've had a few more fans excused from a men's basketball game, than we've had from a football game, again, because that's directed at officials, alcohol or not, that's not part of it.

Senator Kalter: Um-Hum. Thank you. Well, with no further questions. Thank you so much and we'll continue with Dr. Dietz's remarks.

President Dietz: Thank you. Thanks, Larry. Couple of other brief comments. This is a longer story than I'll get into, but I'll just simply say that this afternoon we had, I think, success in negotiating with Connect Transit. And our plan is to have a resolution ready for Saturday, for the Board at the Board meeting in between the two Commencements. One of the resolutions we hope to have the Board pass will be an amendment to the... well, actually, it's a new contract, but it's an extension of the old contract, other than the increase, well, we've settled on an amount for that. But the idea is that it would only be for six months, and during those six months, we'll see whether or not we can get a better rate, and if not, we may explore some other options. But our plan is to have a resolution that will resolve the Connect Transit issue for the Spring semester. Their Board would also have to approve that, and frankly, they've been, not been timely on their decisions, which is one of the reasons we've ended up in this situation. We went for about four months without hearing anything from Connect Transit, and then their Board voted down our proposal December 5, which is kind of the reason we're in the pickle that we're in. But we had successful conversations this afternoon, thanks to Senator Stephens' team. So, we have a resolution that'll be going to the Board that we hope will help resolve this, and we hope their Board will pass it as well. So, hopefully that will take care of that.

The third item, I mentioned that we have a Board meeting in between the two Commencements on Saturday. Yeah. We plan to graduate about 1,200 students on Saturday. So, if some of them are in this room, congratulations.

We've also just been notified that once again we've been awarded a veteran friendly award, which is always very important to us. So, we're delighted about that. And I will echo what Senator Kalter sentiments. Happy Holidays to everybody. Travel safely. I hope that the papers and all the tests, students, that you've done well on those. And good luck to all the faculty in evaluating all of those. Happy Holidays. Be safe, and we'll see you in the new year. Thank you.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. I was going to say, so, I think it was this morning on WGLT, I heard something about the Connect Transit stuff and they had just signed a contract with somebody else, and they said something about how one of the issues with us was that we don't have fine grained data collection on who's riding, and how often, and that kind of thing. I'm wondering if we're working on that end of it to try to provide that?

President Dietz: I'd have to turn to Senator Stephens.

Senator Stephens: Thank you for the questions. Actually, if I'm correct, I want to say within the past year to two years, we actually worked with Connect Transit to put on their buses an ability to swipe and gather information. Prior to a few years ago, we had literally; I think the bus drivers were just clicking something. Now we've got a lot more substantial information about the type of ridership, how often people are riding, how many distinct individuals are riding. So, we've got a lot more information. It's not perfect, but it certainly has helped us in working with them to realize how important... We need their service and we also feel how important they, you know, they need ours as well.

Senator Kalter: Terrific. I should have prefaced that by saying sometimes what you hear on the radio, it's not complete information. So, that's also very helpful that it was accurate, but not necessarily the whole picture. Do we have any other questions for Senator Dietz?

Senator DeGrauwe: If for some unforeseen reason where the Connect Transit Board does not approve this new contract, do we have a backup plan? Or are we just going to be back at square one?

President Dietz: Well, the back up plan... We do. There's a lot of school buses that are available. They're not the best, but our plan would be to try to enter into an agreement with other organizations to try to provide that service. We know that many students rely on that, so it's an important service to offer. But I'm optimistic that our Board will pass on it, and I just hope that the Connect Transit Board will as well. The folks today that represented them thought that the agreement for the next six months was acceptable, but we'll see what their Board does. But we do have a backup plan.

Senator DeGrauwe: Thank you.

Senator Wall: I guess in reference to Senator DeGrauwe's question, in terms of your other back up plans, are those going to be intercampus routes, or like routes outside of campus? Because ISU is largely kind of like a food desert. So, it makes it very difficult for students to have access to stores and locations to buy produce, and cook for themselves, especially our off campus students. I'd be interested to hear what your plans are in terms of that. Then students really wouldn't have any access to off campus locations, and that's what the bus services largely provide.

President Dietz: Dan, go ahead.

Senator Stephens: Yeah. The primary, as you well know, the largest ridership that we have and the more frequency, you know the Redbird Express that travels in and around our campus. That obviously is our very strong and highest priority and the highest volume. The university, what they refer to as Universal Access, which is the ability for any of our students, and even we have faculty and staff that are able to use that, to go to wherever Connect Transit has stops both in the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington. So we still... We definitely want them to continue to do that, and continue both services, but as President Dietz said earlier, we've been struggling with them to make sure they recognize our needs, and we're going to continue to work with them to try to continue to further improve our partnership with them. And so, going

forward, we're always asking for routes and needs that serve our community, and very much the students. So, it's a give and take, but hopefully going forward the relationship will return back to what it had been for a number of years.

Senator Kalter: Further questions? (Pause) All right. Oh, sorry.

Senator Mainieri: I guess I'll just follow-up on that because I think Senator Wall's question was focusing on the backup plan part of it. Like, if we weren't to work out with Connect Transit, would a backup plan consider those items, and I'm sure you can't actually talk to those specifics but I would urge that that's also considered as part of the backup plan, not just the on campus, but off campus routes.

President Dietz: Points are well taken. We've heard the comments, and thank you.

- ***Provost Jan Murphy***

Provost Murphy: Good evening. Talk a little bit about applications. We're hot in the recruitment season, and applications for fall of 2020 are running about even with last year. Admissions at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are up. So, it's early in the process, but that's good news as we continue to hope for a strong and stable enrollment.

The Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning hired a new Director. Dr. Katy Strzepek will begin on February 3, 2020. She's currently the Director of the Women and Gender Studies program at St. Ambrose University. She holds a bachelor's degree in History from Kenyon College; a master's degree in African history from Northwestern University; and a doctorate in higher education administration and foundations from Illinois State University.

Dr. Cooper Cutting, who's an Associate Professor of Psychology, and the Associate Chair of the Department of Psychology, has been hired as the Assistant Vice President for Academic Planning. Cooper has been a member of the faculty since 1998, and he received graduate degrees in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Illinois.

This past weekend, we held airport interviews with candidates for the Dean of Milner Library position. On campus interviews will be held, we're looking at the third week in January, so after the break is over, as we get the semester started.

And phone interviews for the Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies will be held next week. John's kind of perked up over there, he's smiling. So, that search is moving along and we're very pleased with how that search is going.

So, just congratulations to all graduating seniors, and best wishes to all for a very relaxing break.

Senator Kalter: All right. Thank you. Do we have questions for Senator Murphy? (Pause) I have one question. So, usually, I sort of feel like colleges should... it's their business who they hire as their dean, but obviously Milner is a little bit of a different search. So, for the Dean of Milner search, will there be sort of an open campus segment of that?

Provost Murphy: Absolutely. There will be an open forum.

Senator Kalter: Terrific.

Provost Murphy: So, absolutely.

Senator Kalter: Great.

Provost Murphy: Yep. Yep.

Senator Kalter: Thank you. All right. Seeing no further questions.

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

Senator Johnson: I don't have any major updates. So, I want to wish everyone a good and relaxing holiday as well, and break from the institution, and I will open things up for any questions that you may have.

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

Senator Stephens: Thank you, Senator Kalter. I've got just a couple of comments. There was a question forwarded from a student from the last Senate meeting that asked a very good question about... as we add a new housing complex over near the rec center, are we continuing to evaluate our parking needs, not only for our staff and students, but just in general, strategically for the campus. It was a very good question. Actually, a few months ago, we started looking at that idea from a strategic planning perspective. And I just wanted to let you know, just recently we've hired actually a parking university consulting firm that specializes in parking studies, master studies, very similar to firms that help you with your campus master plan. The organization was just brought on board. They should be coming on campus very soon, and they'll spend the next several months talking with not only our parking and transportation issues, but also working with Senator Johnson and the Student Affairs team in making sure we address the parking needs, not only currently that we have today, but taking into account the new housing project. And so, it'll be very, very helpful to see that kind of a master plan that looks out five to ten years.

The Julian Hall project. You see the building is wrapped up in the first floor. It's going quite well. It was closed off. The reason you see all that closed off in there is so that they can actually work throughout the winter. And so, a lot of concrete was removed, and a lot of work is going on. So, our updates from the project manager, things are progressing quite well.

And then lastly, our facilities and parking division is currently looking at, you know, the winter months coming, and so we're starting to do our planning efforts, and just hopefully we won't have as difficult of a winter that we had last year.

And finally, I echo the other comments of the other Senators, congratulate anyone who's graduating this December, and for everyone else, safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Action Items:

Executive Session

Honorary Degree Selection

Motion by Senator Pancrazio, seconded by Senator DeGrauwe, to go into executive session.

Senator Kalter: The Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) allows for closed meetings to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body. And so, that's what we're voting on to go into executive session in order to name an honorary degree recipient.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The Senate completed its business in Executive Session and returned to open session.

Motion by Senator DeGrauwe, seconded by Senator Pancrazio, to come out of executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

09.25.19.01 Repeat policy Current Copy (Academic Affairs Committee)

11.13.19.01 Course Repetition(s) AAC Mark Up (Academic Affairs Committee)

11.13.19.02 Course Repetition(s) AAC CLEAN COPY (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Nikolaou: This is the policy that came as an Information Item on our meeting on November 20th. And we would like to put it forward for your approval.

Motion by Senator Nikolaou, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, to approve the changes to the Course Repetition policy in the undergraduate catalog. The motion was unanimously approved.

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Nikolaou

Senator Nikolaou: The Academic Affairs Committee met tonight and we had a presentation update from Dr. Amy Hurd about the webpage catalog. And we also talked about the Dress Code policy again.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Marx

Senator Marx: The Administrative Affairs and Budget met tonight, and we discussed the upcoming survey on the performance of the President, which will come to your email box sometime in January. The other thing that we discussed is the Naming Committee policy that... After the discussion at the Senate meeting four weeks ago, there are still certain issues that still need to be addressed in that policy. So, we'll be working on that.

Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Crowley

Senator Crowley: We did not have a quorum.

Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Mainieri

Senator Mainieri: Planning and Finance discussed the Program Priorities policy, which we'll be forwarding to Executive Committee for consideration. We discussed a committee statement

regarding diversity and inclusion that we've been crafting. We have been also continuing our discussions regarding our current priority, enabling more students to enter their desired majors, and made plans for our next steps, which are to learn from other institutions, and what they do to address the issues associated with that priority, as well as learn from our talented advisors from their perspective what their thoughts are regarding that priority.

Rules Committee: Senator Seeman

Senator Seeman: Rules had a quorum, but prior to getting quorum, we discussed Milner Library Bylaws, and then, when we had quorum, we finalized our changes to the University Curriculum Committee, and so we hope to get that before the Senate in early January.

Communications

Senator Hollis: [Asked a few questions relative to the Honorary Degree recipient. The questions and responses will be included in the executive session portion of the minutes preserved under Open Meetings Act guidelines.]

Senator Kalter: Any other communications for the Senate? (Pause) All right. Seeing none. The final Communication is Happy Holidays, good luck on finals, good luck with finals grading, and do we have a motion to adjourn?

Adjournment

Motion by Senator DeGrauwe, seconded by Senator Campbell, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.