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Senate Meeting, July 17, 2020

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Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2020
2:00 p.m.
By Zoom; OMA compliance room STV 401
Approved

Call to Order

Academic Senate Chairperson Susan Kalter called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Senator Kalter: Wonderful. So, I want to start the meeting, first of all, by just marking the fact that we have for the first time our new Provost, Dr. Aondover Tarhule. So, let's give him a virtual round of applause for coming into our university, period, and also for simply weathering the fact that he's coming in in the midst of a pandemic, which as he said is like a, what did you say? A category five hurricane. So, thank you very much, Dr. Tarhule, for all of the work that you're already doing.

Alright, so I want to thank also everybody for their extraordinary service and attending a meeting of the Senate during the summer. These are very, very rare. I do not actually know when the last time a summer meeting was called, it's possible that it's been never, or perhaps a decade or two ago. Assuming that we complete our Action Items by 3:00 pm. We will be observing a 3:00 pm hard stop time today. If we go over that and are still in our Action Items, we will have to finish the Action Items and then adjourn.

Information/ Action Items:

07.10.20.04 Memo_Academic_Calendar_ElectionDay_2020-07-09 (Sam Catanzaro)

Senator Kalter: So, I'm going to start with the first Information/Action Item, which is the memo on the Academic Calendar Election Day change. Let me start in information session. Just if I could have Dr. Catanzaro say a little bit about what's going on here, and then we can have a little bit of discussion and then we would move to put it on the floor for debate.

Dr. Catanzaro: Thank you, Senator Kalter. I think this is fairly straightforward. The governor has announced, for a variety of reasons, that I think we can all get behind, Election Day will be a holiday. So, the University will be closed except for some, you know, what we need for students who might be in the residence halls, etc. But it's a holiday. There'll be no classes and we just need to update the Academic Calendar to reflect that. The Senators who are employees will have noted that it, HRs already, or Vice President Stephens, I should say, has communicated that they have updated the Holiday Calendar because of that. This is mandated for any state agency that employs civil servants. And our practice is to extend those holidays to folks even if they're not covered by the civil service system. So that's the background and happy to answer any questions if there are any.

Senator Kalter: All right, let me just say a little bit about it. Um, ordinarily, this is done under policy 1.11, which would send it to the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee for approval, and that actually would go to the full Senate only as an Advisory Item at this point unless something else major were occurring. Because we do not really have a constituted Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee, we decided as the Executive Committee to send this to the committee of the whole, because de facto, it would normally get a quorum of the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee.

Senator Jones: I was just wondering, with the campus closed, does that mean we won't be able to have polling places on campus?

Dr. Catanzaro: That's a great question. Thank you, Senator Jones. Part of the goal... now we will have polling places and, in fact, not being open for regular classes and other business is going to make it easier for us to run those polling places... or for the election clerks, etc. to run those. And, you know, part of what we're really happy about is that students in particular don't have to worry about trying to fit voting in between classes. Right? So, we've had problems in the past with the wait times. And so that's not going to be an issue this year. So, actually, we're pleased about that piece of it at least.

President Dietz: If I could make one comment about that, we still want to encourage students to the extent possible to pre-register to vote. If you don't pre-register, it takes longer at the polling place. And so, the pre-registration process, if you can get that out of the way, and then all there is to do on the third is to vote. You'll be able to vote very quickly, and we've also expanded the number of polling places. Historically, it's been in the Student Center, and that's been about it. This year it'll be in the in the Student Center as well as in Watterson, from my memory of all of that. So, I strongly want to encourage everybody to get out and vote, but particularly encourage those who, perhaps, haven't pre-registered to do that. So, November 3 can be a speedier process for you.

Senator Kalter: Thank you, Senator Dietz. Yes, I was gonna say, just for the heck of it, we ought to encourage the faculty and staff also to pre-register.

Senator Mangruem: Yes. So, it has been mentioned that with the University closed, that is going to make it easier for, you know, students, and faculty, and whoever else would like to vote. With that being said, I was just curious whether or not there be more available polling places on campus because I know there had been issues with that in the past, or do you anticipate that having University closed will kind of resolve those issues that have been had?

President Dietz: Well, as I mentioned, there'll be two. The limitation on that we've tried to work with the county clerk on those issues. She's been very forthcoming and helpful in try to expand the number of places. So, we now have two. There's going to be more actual voting sites within those two facilities, and more judges. And so many thanks to Kathy Michael and her staff for

working with us over the course of the last, almost the whole last year, to get to this point, but having a holiday I think will help. I certainly hope.

Senator Mangruem: Thank you

Senator Kramer: I just had a question. I'm not sure if it's within our jurisdiction but are there going to be any policies to help limit like the spread of COVID during...at these polling places, because I can imagine people seeing that they have that day off, they're like, I'm gonna vote that day. So, there will still be like a surplus of numbers. I just want to know if we have any plans in place to reduce transmission.

President Dietz: My sense is that the same plans that we're putting in place for the rest of the year in terms of physical distancing, and so forth, and washing hands and face coverings will continue to be the process that we're going to be using. But in terms of the polling, I'd have to get back to you on any specifics that they might have in mind with the county clerk and I'm happy to do that.

Motion by Senator Cline, seconded by Senator Pancrazio, to move from Information to Action item. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion by Senator Harris, seconded by Senator Cline, to approve the changes to the Academic Calendar. The motion was unanimously approved.

Endorsement of decision to waive the ACT/SAT requirement for undergraduate admissions during pandemic due to unavailability of testing centers and other pandemic related logistics

Senator Kalter: So, I'm going to actually skip over the next one because I think it's maybe the one with the biggest amount of debate, and just go to the item called Endorsement of decision to waive the ACT/SAT requirement for undergraduate admissions during pandemic due to the unavailability of testing centers and other pandemic related logistics. So, a little bit of background on this one. The administration made a decision about this earlier in the summer, driven by conditions that were similar to those that were impacting graduate students and the GRE exams in the spring. Unfortunately, it was incorrectly reported, as far as I remember, on the Peoria news. It's not actually a permanent change, but pandemic related, because of the unavailability of testing centers, etc.

So, both of those kinds of decisions are in either the jurisdiction of the Senate or the jurisdiction of the faculty or in some cases, you could think about it as both. It is one of our first powers in the Powers and Responsibilities document of the Senate Bylaws that we set admissions criteria, and of course, ACT/SAT is a fairly major admissions criteria. So in the case of the GREs, I expected there was a Graduate Council vote, or will be one to endorse that decision.

The other context here is that there's possible legislation that could be put forward at some point to either make the State of Illinois an ACT/SAT blind admission state or ACT/SAT optional. It's my view, and I think the long standing professional ethic in education is that academic decisions like that should remain in the hands of faculty and other experts.

So, the Executive Committee has actually placed a longer term question on the Issues Pending list for the Academic Affairs Committee in the fall with the question of whether ISU should remain an ACT/SAT requirement institution, whether we should change to ACT/SAT optional, or whether we should change to ACT/SAT blind. And we're going to be asking for feedback from all of the department curriculum committees, departments, college curriculum committees and the University Curriculum Committee so that we can understand if we made any changes what the impacts might be on all of the programs that we have here should there be such a change? That's all a preface that I wanted to give. I want to go also to Dr. Hurd, see if she has any further items that she wants to give us context here.

Dr. Hurd: I don't. This falls under Jana Albrecht's area, and I think that you've covered everything that was involved in that decision. It's just, it was a testing center thing. And I think the reason that the State is bringing up trying to get rid of ACT and SAT is based on equity issues.

Senator Kalter: Yes. Let's see. So, do we have, so we're interested... One item about this one. Do we have any discussion about this?

Motion by Senator Cline, seconded by Senator Nikolaou, to move from Information to Action Item. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion by Senator Lucey, seconded by Senator Marx, to endorse the temporary admissions change. The motion was unanimously approved.

07.10.20.05 Policy 2.1.30 Student Excused Absence draft (Sam Catanzaro)

07.10.20.06 Support letter for Student Excused Absence (Dean Diane Zosky)

Senator Kalter: All right, let's move. Now back to the other Information/Action Item on Student Excused Absences. I don't believe... I just want to check here. I don't believe I have any prefatory remarks about this. I may have some remarks in a moment. But I'm going to turn to Dr. Catanzaro. And then to Dr. Zosky to just give us a little bit of background on this one.

Dr. Catanzaro: So, the background here is the Excused Absence Policy's specifically for students who have been directed to quarantine or self-isolate. It provides a procedure by which they can get documentation of being excused. And it takes that decision about how to, you know what is a good enough excuse out of faculty members' hands only for those situations. We appreciate this being put on the agenda. The working group that put this together just finished it up last week, so we appreciate the agility in getting this on the agenda because we'd like to see something in place so faculty know how to proceed, and students know what to expect in the coming semester. So, that, that's all I would add, I believe we have some folks who were also involved in developing and bringing this forward. If they have anything they want to add, is I believe Dr. Davenport from Dean Students Office is here. So, if I've covered it, no need to say anything, but if any, if I've missed anything, please feel free to chime in.

Dr. Zosky: Simply that I submitted a letter on behalf of a group of faculty, the Student Absence working group and we're in full support of this. We feel it's student centered. We think it provides an element of safety for faculty and that we do not want students coming to the classroom if they're concerned that their grade might be penalized for an absence when they should be taken care of their health. So, we've stated our reasons why we support it as a very reasonable policy.

Senator Kalter: And Dr. Zosky, you are in a group that is working also on guidance for other types of absences that are potentially happening also related to the coronavirus pandemic, but not directly related to having a communicable disease, is that correct?

Dr. Zosky: We're recommending some guidelines for faculty beyond, outside of the excused absence. We realize that there may be a number of other reasons why students might be absent particularly in the coming semesters and we just think that faculty could use some help and discerning how to respond to those.

Senator Kalter: Wonderful. Alright, thank you so much. Do we have... we're in discussion right now about the draft for this policy, which would be Policy 2.1.30. Do we have discussion about it?

Senator Mainieri: Hi, Tracy Mainieri here. Just a question either for Dr. Catanzaro or whoever would be appropriate, I wonder... So this could be a student, for example, who through contact tracing has been identified and needs to self-isolate, correct. And so, it is likely that many of such students could be exhibiting symptoms and be very sick, but it could also be that those same students aren't exhibiting any symptoms. And so, what's the expectation if a student is self-isolating for precaution and as directed but isn't ill? How does this policy, how is it intended to work?

Dr. Catanzaro: I'm going to defer to Dr. Davenport on this if you don't mind.

Dr. Davenport: For us from our perspective, as executed of the policy, if we received the information from Student Health, on our end, we're not going to inquire as to why. If they give us documentation saying the student needs to be absent for class for a certain number of days, we're going to take that and generate the notification. So, again, if it comes from a certified health professional through Student Health, and they say it's okay, we're going to go ahead and approve it. So, I don't know if that gives you answers exactly. I guess it would be a question of what factors would they look at, which I can't answer unfortunately,

Ms. Smith: I could answer those if you want me to. Yeah, because we ran this policy by Student Health, obviously, to make sure that it would match with their procedures and so forth... The definition of self-quarantine is that you've been identified as a close contact, but you're not exhibiting symptoms. And typically, symptoms take a couple days to start exhibiting, which is why you're required to self-quarantine. And then self-isolation is potentially you've been, you've

tested positive, whether or not you have symptoms and so you could be contagious. So, in both of those circumstances, so that student's medical information is not shared, they're directed by a public health official to stay out of the classroom. And I think the part where it says students are responsible for material covered in the class kind of provides the maximum flexibility for the faculty member, because the faculty member may not be able to allow the student to still participate in the class during that time without being in person, and they may be able to. So we're trying to get the student to get in contact with the faculty member and based on their availability and level to participate, whether they're feeling sick or not, they'll work with the faculty member to figure out how to make the material up. So, some students might say, can I attend online, and the faculty member can then choose, yes, I have that capability, no, I don't, versus making it black and white. So, but the main point is, they cannot be in the classroom, and we want to make sure they don't go to the classroom.

Senator Kalter: Thank you, Ms. Smith. And I'll just add sort of a comment there. I think that it shouldn't be the faculty member who chooses that, but the University that facilitates that so that if a student wants to attend, while they're in quarantine, they will be able to.

Senator Nikolaou: I have a question about the communicable disease part. So, is this policy aimed specifically at COVID or, you know, pandemics? Or is it about communicable diseases in general? Because, for example, flu falls under communicable disease. Tuberculosis, STI, AIDS, they all fall under communicable diseases. So, was there a distinction among all the different type of diseases? Or can they use it for any type of disease they may have? And then, if it is for all of them, does it create problems, for example, with the fact that we have a separate policy about tuberculosis or a separate policy about Hepatitis B. So, if I'm a student, who is self-isolating because I have tuberculosis, and I need to quarantine for, let's say, three weeks for some reason. But then our TB policy for international students, it says you have 10 business days, or first 10 days from the arrival on campus. So, are these going to be conflicting each other?

Ms. Smith: When I talk to Chris Nulty at the health department, there are only a few number of communicable diseases where you're required to self-isolate or quarantine (another example is mumps) where you cannot be in the classroom, and you are asked to self-isolate. So, if you look at the first paragraph, "the health provider for a reason related to communicable disease where someone is required to self-isolate or quarantine." So, it's not just communicable disease, it's communicable disease plus the requirement to self-isolate or self-quarantine. And those are a very small number of communicable diseases, but the most important ones where you don't want a student in the classroom.

Senator Nikolaou: Okay. And that's what I was thinking, maybe, do we need either... because I was trying to find a list of what are these communicable diseases, I went to the CDC, and there is a huge list. So, if I'm a student, and I have the flu (I'm going to use the most easy example) I have the flu. Can I get a note from a doctor saying that you need to quarantine yourself because you have the flu?

Ms. Smith: It has to come from Student Health Services. They're not going to give people quarantine notes for the flu. So, I mean, it's built in to come from Student Health Services to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students to communicate it to the faculty. And we didn't want to make a list because, as this pandemic has shown us, that we don't know all the information. And so, we're trying to base it on what the health provider says. If the health provider tells a student you shouldn't be in class. We're trying to protect the student and the faculty to make sure that student doesn't go to class.

Senator Kalter: All right. Let me let me just make a clarification before I go to Senator Pancrazio, which is that Chris Nulty is not with the McLean County Health Department. Ms. Smith meant she's with Student Health Services. Is that right?

Ms. Smith: Yeah. Thank you.

Senator Pancrazio: Yeah, I'm generally in favor of the policies. And I think it's something that we certainly need. Um, let me see there is one word in there when it talks about a prediction of time. I think in the best possible cases, people will be back in class within a couple of weeks. However, as we've seen, sometimes the, if someone tests positive for COVID, they can have those symptoms for as many as 40 to even in some cases 70 days. Has there been any discussion about how that would impinge on Incompletes? Because it might be more appropriate for students to have an Incomplete if they miss five or six weeks of class. And the only thing that strikes my mind is that the Incomplete Policy in our university catalog has some time constraints, a student has to be in class up until the final three weeks. And I think perhaps, certainly there should be some flexibility in that. It might be entirely appropriate to say, hey, you know, you've been laid up for 50 days, rather than trying to make up four classes in a record period of time. Probably just be better to take an incomplete. Has there been any discussion about that? Thank you.

Dr. Davenport: If I can answer that. That's part of the reason why we... it works better for it to come through our office. Because with us as the point of contact when we send out the notice to instructors, we also send out a copy of notice to the students, and we work with the students, and we let them know that as part of notice that if you have other questions or this extends or you need additional time, or any other consideration, you can contact us and then we would be the group that would advise that student. Sometimes if they're too sick, we would do outreach to the instructors on their behalf if they ask us to, but we'll serve as that go between, between the students and giving them advice on what they may need to do, what might work best for them, or just even give them information about policies, if necessary. So that is built into what we'll do with the student.

Senator Pancrazio: Yeah, at present the Incomplete Policy is, I think it's the Registrar that is the one that holds that flexibility. So you may want to, in those instances, you may want to include

the Registrar in that loop so that we work in the best interest of students and faculty. I don't, I can't imagine trying to catch someone up in a week. Thank you.

Dr. Hurd: Jim, we have had that conversation because we were concerned about that same thing. And the faculty will work with their chair, and then the chair will take it to the Registrar, and Jess has that ability to just give the approval of doing that. And Jess is... we talked with him about that, and he is very aware that this could be a problem, and is willing to work with the faculty, and they'll know what's in the best interest of the students. So, we're not too worried about the incomplete and how it's going to impact that. But that is a really good thought. Thanks.

Senator Pancrazio: All right. Thank you.

Senator Blum: Yeah. It just seems like one thing that this policy doesn't address, and I'm supportive of the policy, but is the sort of gray area of someone that maybe he has a cold for example, and is coughing, and, or like for example, I have asthma, right, and I go through times when I cough a lot. And so that if for some reason I was attending a lab, or a hybrid class, or whatever, and it wouldn't be necessarily the smartest thing for me to be coughing because if I did at some point contract, okay, either asymptotically or whatever COVID, I would actually be more likely to spread it even with a mask. So, there's sort of this gray area where you may not know or, and but, we're making more sense for a student to stay home and say, get their instruction online. I don't know if that would fall under (and there was some discussion earlier about addressing absences in other ways), but it does seem at least related that there may be needs for student absences that to keep from potentially disseminating COVID.

Dr. Zosky: Can I address that?

Senator Kalter: Yeah, absolutely.

Dr. Zosky: Thank you, Craig. And you're absolutely right. And, you know, just to be sure the policy, the proposal, that we're looking at right now is about excused absences, which means that the students will be given an excused absence and the ability to make up the work. Our Student Absence working group's addressing exactly what you're talking about, that there are so many other myriads of reasons that a student really should use an absence and not come into the classroom. And that's really the authority of the faculty to work out with the student. So, we're just giving suggestions and guidances in terms of how faculty could look at it, and what are some ways that they can possibly remediate that with the student? So, you're absolutely right. But what we're doing is just guidance, because that's really academic freedom for the faculty member to discuss with the student and figure out what works best for the completion of the learning objectives in their course.

Senator Mainieri: I wonder, I think particularly this fall, we know that there's just gonna be so much more learning done remotely and virtually, and so, you know, typically these policies in the past have just said absence from class, and I wonder if we need to be more specific on what's

meant there. I know that a primary thrust of this is we don't want students coming into the classroom if they're not supposed to be there, and have them feel safe to do that. But it certainly could be that the students... that expands beyond face to face, right, virtual, either virtual synchronous classes or just virtual classwork. And so, I wonder if elsewhere the term class is defined to include those things, or if in this policy we need to address that, and I wonder if the working group... if that came up at all.

Dr. Zosky: That didn't come up with a working group. I would defer to Wendy Smith or John Davenport because what the proposal is really the Excused Absence Policy. I know in our working group we were considering that, Tracy, that it's not just attendance at a physical face to face class, it's also the student's maybe inability to participate in assignments and exams, because they're actively sick at the time. We considered that but, Wendy, or, John, I don't know if you can speak to that in terms of this proposal.

Dr. Davenport: From our perspective, the intent was to put the class in the broadest sense. So, from our understanding if this has happened with the proportion of classes taken online, obviously, it's the same but, you know, as we said if we were contacted prior about a communicable disease, and we sent it on, we don't stop to check if the classes are online or not. We send out to the instructor bereavement the same way, with the expectation that it must be honored in whatever modality the class is taught. And so, from our perspective, if a student were to come back and say, you know, this isn't... this instructor's not working or something like that, we would, we would take from... it extends to class in every structure, any setup that we have. So, that's our perspective on how we advise a student when we send these out.

Senator Kalter: Great, I'm gonna go to Senator Cline. And I just want to mark that we're about 20 minutes of, just wanted to mark that before you spoke. Senator Cline, go ahead.

Senator Cline: Thank you. I have two questions. The first of these is a time limit at this stage and as the way that the policy is written, there is no time limit designation at all for that reporting. And I think, you know, sympathetically, we know that sometimes students get ill, and they think to notify us later of that illness. But I know sometimes, you know, the University tries very hard to be as flexible as possible--I've just gotten notice from students from the fall, this summer. So, my question is, where is that... I would say, you know, out of fairness to the students, but also fairness of the faculty who might then have to reproduce work, you know, what is the time limit here. Is there a limitation or a timing for that reporting? And how are we going to handle late recordings and, especially, for those of us... I'm going to be teaching online. The idea of... I can't keep my eyes on students, I don't know when they are kind of falling off the radar as quickly as we might be able to do in person. So timing is an issue.

Dr. Davenport: I'm gonna have to speak from this as the executor of policy perspective, when we get the notification, typically, because these things... in this circumstance, specifically, as far as illness and things like that, we would have a long conversation with the students and encourage

them to have a conversation with faculty first if they tried to send something out retroactively. Traditionally, our perspective on it is, for illness, we want students to be communicating kind of similar to the same way we look at bereavement. We want students for any excuse to be communicating in the moment. And so if they say, well, it was I just didn't have a chance to report, I didn't think to report it, we would have a conversation and encourage them to reach out to faculty member and again, may serve as advocates for students in that capacity. Yeah, from our perspective, this is meant to be timely, I guess, is the best way to say it. And so, if the student tried to... if we got something that was in arrears, and we would have a conversation with the student and encourage them to talk with the faculty in that department before we would send that out. And that's the beauty that we have, we get the student's name and give students information and then if we see something amiss in it, we go ahead and reach out to the students, start that conversation before we begin to send it out. You tell them this may not be accepted, because this is after the fact.

Senator Cline: Okay, thank you. I mean, we all hope for the best-case scenario, but from a Legal perspective, is there any... because there is no time limit at all, one could foresee someone using this policy quite a long ways down the line. And I just wanted to bring up the issue because there is no time stamp or time extension at all mentioned in the policy, it's very open ended and that could cause issues.

My second question is about family members. This is all related very specifically to the individual student. And I think what we've learned about COVID so far, is that frequently students, you know, they're at home, they are kind of lumped into the kind of general family problems. So, is this only for the student? Or would infection of a parent or cohabitor be at all considered?

Ms. Smith: From what we've learned from the Mclean County Health Department, if you are living in the household with someone, you would be a close contact, and therefore you would be in self-quarantine. So, if you're living in the household, and a family member was sick, but I don't know if you're talking about that, or you're talking about, they want to go home and visit a family member who's sick. I'm not sure which one you're talking about.

Senator Cline: Well, it could be that, but I mean, you know, as Senator Pancrazio said, sometimes these infections go on for months, and we know that some students are actually brought in to help take care, even after the infectious period of the virus has passed. So, I just wanted... this is an issue how flexible can we be with this policy? Does it have to be just the student, or can some notification from a physician noting the student's role in their household as assisting an ill family member, whether that could also be considered.

Ms. Smith: This policy was meant to only be a student who gets an excused absence because they have to personally self-quarantine or isolate. I think Dr. Zosky's group is handling situations that are outside of the public health directive, because those we're saying have to be excused,

whereas all of the other situations are within the realm of the faculty member to work with the student on.

Dr. Zosky: Yeah, Leah, I want to emphasize that what's coming out of the Student Absence working group are simply guidance and suggestions. We are not creating policy. And that would really be the faculty member's authority to work with the student on that. And we fully admit that there's going to be situations exactly like what you talked about where a student might have to go home and care for loved ones or care for younger siblings, that sort of thing. We just want to impress upon faculty to be sensitive to that and work with the students for their success.

Senator Cline: Thank you.

Senator Nikolaou: I had a clarification question about the appeals. So, was it meant for the final appeal to be to the chairperson or the director, or is the final appeal supposed to be to the Provost? Because the other two policies that we have for excused absences, they say final appeal is to the Provost. But then this one, it doesn't say necessarily that it says, "seek assistance." So maybe it should say appeal to. But then, is that the final level of appeal, or is it someone higher up? Or is it to the dean, for example, of the department or school?

Dr. Catanzaro: I have a thought on that. Yeah, I'm not exactly sure what the drafters had in mind. But what I see is that it's written to provide maximal flexibility. So, depending on what the nature of the concern is, then the chair could assist the student with figuring out which approach appeal process or complaint process makes sense. So, let's say a final grade has been issued that could conceivably be considered arbitrary or capricious in light of the fact that the grade that the student had an excused absence at some point in the semester, then the chair could direct that through the existing Final Course Grade Challenge procedure. And that lays out all the steps of review and appeal there. So, I, that's how I read that, that provides the chair with some ability to assess what the problem is, and then shepherd it appropriately. Would Wendy or John have anything to add or elaborate on that?

Ms. Smith: That that part got changed a little, so I'm trying to find the latest version. Sam, send me that and I'll tell you what...

Dr. Catanzaro: I will send it to you.

Senator Kalter: Let me see if I can read it to you. It says in the Appeal section it says, "if the student is not satisfied with the modifications/extensions by the instructor, or if the student fails to make modifications/extension," I'm sorry, "if the instructor fails to make modifications/extensions for the student, the student may seek assistance from the chairperson or director of the academic department or school through which the course or program is offered." I actually think that we might want to add in the debate section, a friendly amendment that says final appeals will ordinarily go to the Provost. Does that seem amenable, Dr. Nikolaou, you're the one that brought that up.

Senator Nikolaou: Yeah, and that's what I had in mind. If, at least, even if the chairperson or the director is the one who is going to direct it to their respective unit, that the students will know that if nothing else works, they still have the final appeal to the Provost if they decide to do so. So that it's also consistent with the other two policies.

Ms. Smith: Yeah, I would suggest using that same language. That's what I had originally used was from the Bereavement and Emergency Worker Excused Absence policies. So, maybe work with the chair, and then as a secondary, the final appeal to the Provost. I mean, I think we put the chair level in because there's going to be potentially more excused absences than ever in any other of the other situations we've ever had. So.

Senator Kalter: But I think the point there is standardization of the appeals, right, that we would want them to go to the Provost office. Before I go to Senator Lucey, I want to add my two cents here. We have something about how the period of time, the anticipated period of time, might extend, but I think we ought to put something in there so that it's not just open ended, but there are provisions for how to extend that anticipated period of time, right? In other words, does the student have to re-notify the Dean of Students Office? Is it that the Dean of Students Office notifies the instructors that there's been an extension, exactly how that would work? And then my second one is that I just want to make a suggestion that wherever it says faculty or faculty member, we might want to replace that or add to it by saying "Instructor of Record." So that, because not all instructors, for all classes are faculty. So, it might be a good idea to add "Instructor of Record," or to replace faculty with "Instructor of Record."

Senator Lucey: All right. So, this is to go along with Senator Pancrazio and Senator Kalter's comments related to timing. And I wonder if provisions should be put in here stating that, you know, once a student knows that he or she has symptoms, or has tested positive, or whatever circumstances required, that they have to record it to the Dean of Students Office immediately. And if not, then there needs to be some disclosure to the instructor on record. So, that way the instructor on record can take whatever measures are needed to go through testing or whatever they need to do to ensure there in a situation where they can provide the accommodations that are needed. So, this is about, you know, when we're talking about timing, we're talking about how long the symptoms can... how long someone can be asymptomatic? I think this goes into the concept of tracing and how we need to protect all people who are involved when you have a disclosure. So, my thought is, yes, it's an excused absence, but that excused absence needs to be reported fairly immediately, and then we also need to take precautions to provide conditions for the instructor so that way they're able to provide the accommodations within the circumstances that they are able to do so.

Senator Kalter: Senator Lucy, are you thinking of within one week, within five business days? Is that kind of where you're at?

Senator Lucey: So, my reading is that a person can be asymptomatic for up to 14 days. And yeah, so I'm thinking about 14 days just to be conservative and prudent.

Senator Kalter: But I believe that this was triggered by the health department, right, and their mandate to quarantine. So, would within five days of the health department's notification be...

Senator Lucey: Yeah, so we need to be consistent with the state agencies.

Senator Kalter: Yeah, because we're not talking about when the student quarantines, we're talking about when the student notifies the instructor that they have quarantined, have had to quarantine.

Senator Spranger: I was just wondering if there's anything, like, in any of the policies about when you get tested. Like I know, when I got tested, it took about five days to get the results. And that's kind of a long time to be like going to classes and wondering about it. So, I don't know what kind of testing they're going to be doing and how immediate the results will be, but I feel like there should be at least some kind of discussion about what you do during that period of waiting for your results.

Ms. Smith: I think one of the things that... if someone tests positive or is required to quarantine the McLean County Health Department contacts Student Health. And so, I think in a communicable disease situation, which happens with COVID and with mumps, there are some built in safeguards that aren't necessarily known to everyone or are not in every situation. And so, we don't necessarily want students contacting the Dean of Students to tell them they're sick or contacting the instructor. We want them to contact Student Health, let Student Health give the notice to Dean of Students to protect the student's privacy and health information. And if they test positive at any site that goes to the McLean County Health Department, the McLean County Health Department contacts Student Health Services. So, there's these built in loops, that aren't perfect, but always happen as far as a contact. And so, the Student Health then contacts the Dean of Students, and Dean of Students sends out a general notification, not saying any medical information, but saying this person is excused from class and their anticipated return date is x. And then the Dean of Students has also agreed in this circumstance, and Student Health has agreed, to send a return to class slip. So for exactly, Dr. Pancrazio's concern, if a student has to go longer, you don't have to guess as a faculty member, you will get a return to class slip, if they have had, either if they have been required to self-quarantine or self-isolate. So, that will kind of put an ending on the timeframe, and that loop will be closed in that regard. But I think it's important to protect student's health information, and make sure that they're reporting health concerns to a health provider, and that health provider is telling them what to do. So, if they get tested and a health provider says, based on why you're getting tested, we'd like you to self-quarantine than they do. If the health provider says no, you're getting tested as part of a standard testing cycle, and you don't have to self-quarantine, I think it should be a health provider decision. But that's what the policy's written for so that the health providers giving them health

information. And then Dean of Students is sharing excused absence information, not health information.

Senator Kalter: We are at two minutes to 3:00 p.m. I'm concerned that we not lose a quorum. So what I'm going to suggest, since I don't see any further hands raised is that we quickly put this motion, move it from Information to Action, then, rather than having a big wordsmithing type of thing, that we have the friendly amendments, if there are those, and just trust that the administration is going to be able to write that adequately, and if not, we will give them feedback on where it might be unclear, so that we can get this passed this summer so that they can move forward.

Motion by Senator Marx, seconded by Senator Nikolaou, to move the from Information to Action Item. The motion was unanimously approved

Motion by Senator Marx, seconded by Senator Pancrazio, to approve the Student Excused Absence Policy.

Senator Kalter: So, I'm going to do a little bit of the debate here. We wanted to have a friendly amendment that basically said that the student should notify within five business days or one week of having been notified to quarantine by the public health department. And then, I had suggested that we replace or at least include the words Instructor of Record. So, we would either replace faculty with Instructor of Record or add Instructor of Record, I believe, Ms. Smith, you were just... I got distracted just a little bit at the end there. But when I had also made this suggestion about how we need to have a mechanism for extending the time, that's what you were just speaking about last. I just want to put that as if, if that needs to be clarified in the policy, how that time extension is happening that we would like to have that just clarified in the policy, it's not really a request for any particular way of extending the time, but just to clarify how that time gets extended. Does that make sense? Does anybody else have any friendly amendments that I might have missed that got put on the sort of the floor during discussion?

Senator Nikolaou: One small thing is that maybe wherever it says modifications/extensions, to replace it with accommodations, or accommodation respectively, because again, that's what all of our other policies talk about. They talk about accommodations were making. Then, about the second section, should it be called instead process instead of documentation? Because it actually talks about the process, it doesn't talk only about the document that you need to submit. Because it says you need to send it to the Student Health Services, and then to the Dean of Students. And then the Dean of Students notifies this to the faculty. So, it is the whole process. It's not just the documentation part.

Senator Kalter: So, I'm gonna assume that that second one was pretty friendly, that it could either be changed a process or called documentation and process, but it looked like Ms. Smith was shaking her head no at the modification slash, whatever that was. Can you say something about that Ms. Smith?

Ms. Smith: I mean, from a legal standpoint, we have been trying to change accommodation... when it's not a true accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Religious Accommodation Act, we've been trying to separate those and make sure they're distinct. And so, I think if we can use another word than accommodation, I think it's better from a legal standpoint. I'm not stuck to what we put in, but I think we're trying to... just like we did in the religious policy, we tried to use different words if it wasn't actually an accommodation, a legal accommodation.

Senator Kalter: By the way, I had forgotten to also add the friendly about the final appeal being to the Provost. I think that's what Dr. Horst was about to raise her hand about and Senator Blum?

Senator Blum: That's what I was gonna say.

Senator Kalter: Terrific. All right, any other friendlies that were discussed here? All right, any further debate about whether to pass this policy?

Senator Nikolaou: One last thing, again, for consistency with the other policies on the second paragraph at the end. Currently, it says, "Ultimately, the student's responsible for material covered in class." Should we have the remaining part of the sentence from the other policies where we say it must work with each individual professor as soon as they return to complete any required work." In the sense that we say you have five days, for example, based on what we said earlier, to notify the Dean of Students about a self-isolation or quarantine. But also, once you're cleared and you have the notice sent to your instructors, you should also immediately contact your instructor to make up for missed work. So, don't contact your instructor at the end of the semester, that oh, I missed all this work. Can I make it up now?

Senator Kalter: Does that sound like a friendly amendment to Drs Catanzaro and Davenport, Ms. Smith?

Dr. Catanzaro: Seems okay, yeah.

Dr. Davenport: Yeah.

Senator Nikolaou: And the wording is a just copy and paste from the other policies

Senator Kalter: From the other policies, wonderful. Okay. Any further friendlies or debate?

Ms. Smith: Is it okay for instead of five days' notice, we say, as soon as you know, because Student Health is going to send the notice out as soon as the McLean County Health Department tells them. I think five days is too long actually.

Senator Kalter: What that was from the time that the student is notified, not from the, you know, not from the time that they actually go to the health department, but when the student is notified by the health department, I believe.

Ms. Smith: Right. But I think what happens is this health department's notified, they notify Student Health, then this sometimes the student is in the middle of there, and then Student Health immediately notifies the Dean of Students. I don't want them to think they have five additional days and some in there because it's too long.

Senator Kalter: I see. So, you want it, instead of that five days, you want it to be as soon as Student Health is notified.

Ms. Smith: Yeah, to notify as soon as possible. Most of the time, Student Health, we'll do it before the student even knows. So, it'll kind of get looped in there, but I think five days is actually too long for a communicable disease.

Senator Kalter: I think, I'm pretty sure that everybody here would consider it friendly to loosen that, especially if it's not about the student's communication, but about an SHS communication.

Senator Cline: Just to comment that, you know, some of our students will be entirely remote. So, not all of this notification is going to come from the McLean County Health Department, it may come from private providers in other parts of the state or other states. So, providing a little bit of leeway time, I think is important. Um, but yeah, I just wanted to note that not all of these notifications are coming from one source,

Senator Kalter: That's a great point, Senator Cline, because some of our students come say from Peoria and commute over, and so they may be taking face to face classes, but commuting every day, and so that could be a different county. And so, do we have any further debate or friendlies before we lose our quorum? All right, seeing none.

The motion was approved, with friendly amendments.

Discussion item:

Brainstorming session regarding face mask compliance during Fall 2020 courses and beyond

Senator Kalter: Wonderful. All right, because (as I said in the beginning) we're going to have a hard stop time if we weren't able to finish those by 3:00. Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to get to the discussion, because I do have to be at an appointment in about seven minutes. So, what we're going to do, we have been collecting from faculty opinions about facemask compliance during fall 2020 quarters and beyond, this was supposed to be also a place where we got feedback from the students and staff. So, if all of you could, you know, contact your constituents if you haven't already and ask them for their thoughts about facemask covering compliance, send them to, you know, first to obviously the Senator that's collecting them and then you can send them to acsenate@ilstu.edu, and we will forward them on to the Provost office. They're still trying to, you know, there's a lot of conflicting views about this. So, they're trying to get a sense of what is the sort of the consensus view of the faculty, what is the tenor of the student view of all of this, you know, those kinds of things. Let me ask, Senator Tarhule, do you have anything that you wanted to add to that?

Provost Tarhule: No, I don't. I think you explained it well. Thank you.

Communications

Senator Kalter: Wonderful. All right. In that case, we're gonna again, also skip over our Communications. Please, if you have Communications, send them to acenate@ilstu.edu.

Adjournment

Motion by Senator Seeman, seconded by Senator Murray, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.