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5-5-2021

### Senate Meeting, May 5, 2021

Academic Senate, Illinois State University

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**Academic Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 5, 2021**  
**Approved**

***Call to Order***

Academic Senate Vice Chairperson Rodrigo Villalobos called the meeting to order.

Senator Villalobos: This meeting is being held electronically due to the issued disaster declaration and because the President has determined that at this time, in-person Senate meetings and Senate committee meetings are not prudent, practical or feasible.

***Seating of New Senate***

Academic Senate Vice Chairperson Rodrigo Villalobos congratulated the new and returning Senators.

***Roll Call***

Academic Senate Vice Chairperson Rodrigo Villalobos called the roll and declared a quorum.

***Election of Academic Senate Chairperson***

Martha Horst was elected as the Chairperson of the Academic Senate for the term of 2021-2022.

***Election of Academic Senate Secretary***

Dimitrios Nikolaou was elected as the Secretary of the Academic Senate for the term of 2021-2022.

***Election of Executive Committee Faculty Members***

The following Senate faculty members were elected to the Senate Executive Committee for the term of 2021-2022:

Todd Stewart, PHI  
Stacy Otto, EAF  
Deb Garrahy, KNR  
Lea Cline, ART

***Public Comment***

Senator Horst: Next on our agenda is Public Comment. The Academic Senate of Illinois State University welcomes constructive communications from members of the University community and the citizens of Illinois. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to provide information relevant to the academic mission of the University. The Academic Senate allows up to ten minutes in total for Public Comment and questions during a public meeting. An individual speaker will be permitted two minutes for their presentation. When a large number of persons wishes to speak on a single item, it is recommended they choose one or more persons to speak for them. The Senate accepts copies of the speaker's presentation, questions, and other relevant written or visual materials. When appropriate, the Senate may provide a response to the speaker's questions within a reasonable amount of time. Further comments, according to our

bylaws, will be carried over to the next Senate meeting. People may also submit written comment tonight, and we will distribute it.

Just a reminder to our public commenters to keep their presentations within two minutes. I will now ask Steven Lazaroff, a doctoral student in the Department of English, a graduate teaching assistant, and a member of the Graduate Workers Union to give his public comment.

Mr. Lazaroff: Thank you. Good evening. This is very difficult for me to come here and say to you all. Over the past six months, I've devoted a lot of my very little time and energy to come here and speak about the struggle of graduate workers to win a contract against a shameless and remorseless Dietz administration that wishes to continue the poverty and debt so many TAs live in. Not only that, but I've stayed and listened to the deliberations over the past months and heard from the chair, from the President about how the Senate is ISU's primary location for shared governance and democracy. Unfortunately, what I've learned is that the Academic Senate only matters when it rubber stamps the President. If you do not follow the will of the President, the Senate becomes purely advisory. Shared governance and democracy gets thrown into the trash.

Some have implied that the method by which the College of Engineering was voted down via a protest vote opened up the gates for President Dietz's dismissal of the Senate's vote and warned against future protest votes. But what else were we, what else were our supporters to do? People protest, not because they love to seek relief outside official chambers. People protest because they have been deprived the opportunity for any other possibility of change. And this is why the GWU is building a strike-ready union and why we voted 98% to authorize a strike, because ISU has withheld any possibility of redress or relief outside of withholding our labor, outside of showing the University will grind to a halt without our labor to exploit, outside of how ISU works because we do.

This is President Dietz's last Senate, I believe. We don't know if the next President will have a similar authoritarian streak in them, but we must protect our democratic structures. We must strengthen them so they aren't merely productions of the appearance of democracy but legitimately democratic institutions where students and faculty make lasting decisions about how ISU is run so that ISU is not made by administration for administration but rather an ISU made for and by the people who make ISU work.

Senator Nikolaou: Time's up.

Senator Horst: Thank you, Mr. Lazaroff. And now we have a second speaker, Trevor Rickerd. He's a doctoral student in the School of Biological Sciences, a graduate teaching assistant, and a member of the Graduate Workers Union.

Mr. Rickerd: Thank you. It is clear from Larry Dietz's actions that he does not think that he can be or should be held accountable, either by internal or external means. He believes that ignoring a democratic governing body of the University is fair and that ignoring the ongoing labor issues at ISU is totally normal and will result in no consequence. If this governing body is purely advisory yet he will not take the advice of this body, then what does it exist for? Did all the senators of this body come in here to put their time and efforts into this machine just to be

ignored by the administration they advise? Ask yourselves. What is your time and labor worth? Should Dietz be held accountable for his actions? I want to read a couple of paragraphs from the essay *Accountability of Colleges and Universities* by Patricia Graham, Richard Lyman, and Martin Trow. "The board of trustee members stand at the vital juncture of these internal and external hemispheres of accountability. We attribute the emergence of the controversy about accountability of colleges and universities in part to certain failures by the governing boards. In most cases the board of trustees needs to know more about their institutions in order to better perform their duties. Some boards intrude on the proper roles of administrators and faculties, while other boards are too laissez faire. In particular instances, board of trustees need to modify their size, methods of appointments, membership qualifications or roles. All of these changes will require a delicate balancing among trustees, the faculty, and the presidents. Presidential leadership here is key."

The University did just fine without a Board of Trustees dictating over the University for 139 years prior to its founding in 1996. Why should we instill trust in trustees appointed by the former Governor Rauner who are not academics but rather business people who run franchises and companies that have their own labor issues and union struggles happening at the same time, paying their workers starvation wages and attempting to bust unions, that have our best interest in mind? If you feel betrayed by Dietz and the Board of Trustees, I urge you to join us this Friday at 8:30 a.m. at the Board of Trustees meeting to tell them exactly how you feel about their authoritarian power grab and lack of good-faith leadership.

Senator Nikolaou: Time's up.

***Presentation: IBHE-FAC Report (Lane Crothers, IBHE-FAC alternate representative for ISU)***

Senator Horst: Thank you. Next, we have a presentation by Professor Lane Crothers. He is the IBHE FAC Alternate Representative, and he is also a professor in the Department of Politics and Government. I'll hand it over to Dr. Crothers.

Dr. Crothers: Hi. Thank you very much, and thank you for this time, and congratulations to Senator Horst, and let me say that it as a long-time senator in the past and also as a long-time hanger around the Senate, my deep sympathies for having to run elections that way. That is just ridiculous, and so I appreciate your patience putting up with all of that.

So, I'm here to give what's called the FAC Report. The Faculty Advisory Council, for many of you who don't know, is a body that interviews or rather that provides advice to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. It's made up of the 12 public universities with guaranteed permanent membership. There is a rotating cast then of 12 community colleges and 12 public or for-profit institutions that are members, and they provide advice on issues that come before the Board over time. Sometimes that advice is sought and actively engaged. Sometimes that advice is actively ignored, but nonetheless it's always offered. I have had the opportunity to be a member of the FAC on and off since about 1998, so I've seen a lot of trends come and go. I am technically the alternate, although the former primary representative, Diane Dean, had to step off for personal reasons, and so I've been attending now regularly for the last couple of months.

You got a report from the March meeting. We met again in April. We have another meeting again next week.

A few things that I would just throw out as kind of monitoring issues for people in case you're not aware of them at the statewide level that are going on. The IBHE is once again going through another strategic planning exercise, and in the course of that strategic planning exercise a number of themes and a number of issues are being emphasized. So access and affordability are significant issues in that broad context of accesses and affordability – things like dual-credit courses, which I'm happy to chat with anybody who wants to, are a big issue because it's seen as a way to provide opportunities for students to reduce their long-term costs and reduce their long-term time to degree. On the other hand, for universities, it's also perceived as a challenge because we don't control the quality of those courses, and we don't control the circumstances under which they're delivered, so it's a continuing issue.

And so, also, of course the diversity, equity, and inclusion issues are extremely high. They're also perceived as also partially tied to this question of dual credit and other kinds of things. There's a push again to provide certain kinds of baccalaureate courses on community college campuses, mostly in high demand fields, the predominant ones being nursing and education.

There's obviously a continuing push for connections to jobs and employment and a continuing push to... In my case there's also a focus, or in our case, a focus on issues of student mental health. There are some laws coming down the pike that are intended to enhance the university provision of mental health services on campuses.

In the course of the meetings as well, and I forwarded this recently to Dr. Horst, there is an annual report from the IBHE about the kinds of legislation... The IBHE also provides a legislative update about things that are going on, and I just thought I'd emphasize a few of them that are out there that have gotten through committee. Right? So, if the stuff hasn't gotten through committee or the stuff's been re-referred to Rules, it's not going to go anywhere. But the stuff that's gotten through committee that could be useful or interesting... Senate Bill 1610 requires an annual survey of issues of sexual misconduct on campuses. Senate Bill 1638 requires... This was pretty interesting... Requires that students, on declaring a major or on entering a major, need to be provided with an updated and accurate report about the occupational prospects associated with that major. Senate Bill 1832 is the one that authorizes baccalaureate degrees in early childhood education at community colleges. House Bill 73 would require all Chicago community colleges to offer a program in nursing. House Bill 22226 would prohibit institutions from required standardized tests for admission. House Bill 315 would require 60 days' notice to all non-tenure-track faculty for the class they've been scheduled to teach has been cancelled. House Bill 641 would require that all public universities and community colleges have to provide feminine hygiene products to the students at no charge. House Bill 2867 would require 15% of MAP to be set aside to pay for support at community colleges. MAP is the Monetary Assistance Program; it's a primary way by which students receive financial aid in Illinois. House Bill 2928 does a couple of different things. It creates a panel whereby the State and associated universities would be surveying the utility of online free resources and courses. The other part of it... Also, this was very interesting... Requires that as a pilot program a high school, a community college, and a public university would develop a course in the

enlightenment in Western Civ through fundamental text. So, they'd be teaching a great books course. And finally, the House Bill 3950 would expand particularly the delivery of what's called dual-credit courses on high school campuses.

So, there's a lot of stuff going on, percolating out there. A lot of this stuff is not new by any means. These kinds of issues have been running around for a long time, but they are continuous issues. The one good news, the one thing that I do find some encouragement for is in past iterations of FAC the IBHE and the Board have not been at all interested in embedding faculty opinions and faculty perspectives on these matters, and in this case they actually have been. They've actually been solicitous in putting people on these committees to try to get some input.

So, we have another meeting in about a week and a half, and then sometime there's a midsummer meeting, and otherwise... It used to be... The good ole' days you actually use to go to a university and talk to people. Now, of course, we do it this way, and it's all quite bizarre, but nonetheless it's been interesting to get back into that experience again.

Senator Horst: Are there questions for Dr. Crothers?

Dr. Crothers: All right.

### ***Chairperson's Remarks***

Senator Horst: All right. Thank you very much. Now we move to Chairperson's Remark, and I want to just thank you. I'm very honored to have been elected Chair. I'm very grateful that you have faith in me, and I look forward to leading you this next academic year.

I want to offer again congratulations to Senators Cline, Garrahy, Otto, and Stewart for their election to the Executive Committee and Senator Nikolaou for his election to the Secretary position. I also want to offer congratulations to Senator Villalobos and his team and welcome all of the new senators and the returning senators as we start this, again, virtual experience. For some of you, this is your first meeting. You don't remember what it was like to meet in the Bone.

About ten years ago I was at my first meeting. I joined the Academic Senate as a sabbatical replacement for Paul Borg. And at my first Senate meeting, then Chairperson Dan Holland said to me... He said, you have big shoes to fill. Since then I've been chairing various committees. I've been the Senate Secretary for around four years. I've been on the Executive Committee for a number of years, and I've also called the roll call for about 100 times this year, and I'm not going to miss that.

For my first Chairperson's Remarks I'd like to talk about relationships and sort of explore a little bit about Chairperson Holland's comments, because I think I finally understand the shoes he was talking about with Senator Borg. It's a testament to the strength of this organization and the incredible leadership of former Chairperson Susan Kalter that we were able to accomplish as much as we did last year. Despite all the screens, the Internet problems, the mute problems, and even this evening... You know, the Vice Chair was in the dark... We were able to make important discussions. We were able to pass new policies, and we were able to act quickly when

facing pandemic concerns. The Academic Senate accomplished a lot despite basically literally having one hand tied behind our back. And as we transition back into a situation where we can be in the same room, I hope that we can work on building and fostering really strong relationships with our fellow senators.

This summer, one of the first things I want to do is I want to sit down for coffee with the Vice Presidents. I want to meet with the outgoing and the incoming presidents. I want to hear about their operations and just get to know them a little bit better. I actually want to meet Provost Tarhule, and I'm really looking forward to that. I hope to build personal relationships with them and with all of my fellow senators. I look forward to getting to know you as people. When we do that, I hope that we can all understand each other a little bit better and understand the perspectives we're coming from.

I hope that you will take time to build relationships with your fellow senators, especially as we go to in person next year, to understand them as people. Now we understand that all of that, you know, little chatting that we were doing in between Senate and committees and Senate meetings and how we were just talking about our classes or all kinds of little small talk – that was very, very important to just get the Senate to work as an entity, and I really just look forward to the time when I can just have some little small talk after a Senate meeting about what we just talked about.

Besides thinking about the personal relationships, the Senate in a symbolic way really represents a strong relationship Illinois State University has between faculty, staff, students, civil service, and administration. It's very rare to have an Academic Senate with both students and faculty, civil service, and AP reps. Most senates, everybody is in their separate silo. There are senates out there where the relationship between the administration and the faculty is really quite poor, where the administration is actively hostile to the shared governance body. What we have here at Illinois State University is quite special.

Last meeting, I said that Chairperson Kalter led the Senate through one of its darkest years since Paul Borg chaired the Senate in the late 1990s. I would like to take a little bit of time to reflect on what former Chairperson Paul Borg and his Senate went through and what he accomplished.

In the mid 1990s, Illinois State University broke off from a group of State universities. At that point, a new constitution was required. Unfortunately, the relationship between the administration and the faculty at that point was really quite bad. Administrators would come to the Academic Senate, pull out a newspaper, an old-fashioned newspaper, and sit there and cover their face during the meeting. The Academic Senate refused to acknowledge the new Constitution that the administrators had written in the late 1990s. They began every single meeting saying they were beginning the meeting under the authority of the previous Constitution. There were several votes of no confidence to the upper-level administrators. There was little or no trust between the faculty and the administration. In 1999, Paul Borg, then Chairperson and also School of Music Senator, whose seat I filled ten years ago, negotiated the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Trustees and President Strand. This document began the healing process between the Senate and the administration.

The Memorandum states that the Board of Trustees and the President, through the constitution, have the final legal authority to make all decisions for the University. We may wish that we have the authority, but we don't. However, this document also acknowledges that the faculty "has the primary responsibility for academic issues, faculty affair issues, and educational issues related to student life." The Memorandum of Understanding asks that, in the interest of open communication, the President communicate with the Academic Senate concerning any rationale for modification or rejection of the Academic Senate recommendations pertaining to those areas.

The Memorandum was a hinge point that allowed Illinois State to begin to build back the cooperative relationship between the administration and the Senate. It says that we may not always agree. Who does? But if we don't agree, we promise that there will be open communication, and we will explain our reasoning.

As I begin my term as Chair, I want us all to consider the power of this document. It promises that even if we disagree, we won't throw away the relationship between the administration and the Senate. The President and the Senate will continue to communicate and continue to maintain the relationship, which is at the core of the University.

This past semester, this Memorandum was invoked for the first time since it was signed 20+ years ago. I believe that President Dietz honored this agreement with his letter regarding the College of Engineering decision. The President chose to disagree with some members of the Senate, but he did not choose to ignore his obligation to maintain and respect the relationship that's symbolized by the Memorandum. He followed the shared governance process negotiated and signed by Paul Borg, who represented the Academic Senate 20+ years ago. This process has now concluded.

I continue to believe that the administration and the Senate have a relationship of trust and respect. Now that I take on the role that Chairperson Borg held 20+ years ago, and now I am literally filling his shoes, I will work to maintain and strengthen the relationship that he and his fellow senators established with the Memorandum of Understanding. I will work to build this relationship with representatives across the University, and I hope as we start next year, all of you will also do the same. I'll take any questions. (Pause) All right. Now we move onto Student Body President's Remarks and Senator Villalobos.

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

Senator Villalobos: Thank you very much, Chairperson Horst. And thank you, everybody, for bearing with me with those whole light situation. I'm never going to forget it. I think it's hilarious. But, yes, good evening, everyone. First, let me start off by saying that it really is a pleasure to return to the Senate and to be delivering my first Student Body President's Remarks to the floor. It is an honor to represent the 20,000+ Redbird students as their President, and it's an honor that I'll always be thankful for.

I would like to again congratulate both the new and returning faculty and student senators, and then I would also like to once again extend my congratulations to our new Chair, Secretary, and Executive Committee of the Senate. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.



In my first act as Student Body President, I had the pleasure of swearing in the members of the Student Government Association for the 2021-2022 school year. After the conclusion of SGA elections, SGA was left with approximately eight vacant Senate seats. My administration, assisted by returning members of SGA, took decisive and necessary action, and I am pleased to inform the Senate that we were able to successfully fill six of the eight vacancies via the nomination and confirmation process. I also was able to fill three of the eight positions of my Executive Cabinet via this process. I would like to extend my thanks to the SGA Senate for confirming my nominees to the positions and for bettering our Association as a whole through that process.

Navigating what is to hopefully become a future post-COVID era will be a challenge for student leadership as well, but I am confident that this coming school year's Association consists of strong and able student leaders that will tirelessly advocate for the needs and concerns of our fellow students. I applaud the work being done to return ISU to almost total in-person instruction for the next year. Students must have access to in-person instruction and all things that ISU has to offer in an in-person forum without being hindered. I speak not only for myself, but I know for thousands of other Redbird students in saying we need and we must go back to a normal campus experience when we can. This does not mean that ISU should not take the necessary precautions to keep the campus community safe, because they should. But I am confident that this is the sentiment of the majority of the student body.

My executive team in SGA will continue to advocate for an ISU campus that does not waiver on the importance of fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and expression that are in line with the Code of Conduct. We will continue to advocate for a campus that is socially just and welcoming to Redbirds of all different backgrounds. We will continue to fight to make sure all students have a voice, but more importantly a voice that will actually be heard within our campus community. We plan on continuing and building off of successes of past associations through initiatives such as It's Just a Period, You'll be Fine, Wait to Sign and more.

In building off the work being done at the University level, I'm also pleased to announce tonight that SGA will be moving forward with the Redbirds Get Vaccinated social media campaign base initiative. Within that initiative, SGA, through its social media accounts, will post messaging related to vaccines, including personally filmed stories from some SGA members on why they got the COVID-19 vaccine. To all students listening, let me be clear. Vaccines work. The COVID-19 vaccines are both safe and effective. I urge all Redbird students to play their part and go get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they can.

We will also be working to bring back a strong connection between the student body and our athletics programs. We will make sure that the voices of our student athletes are not forgotten.

We will continue to support efforts for good-faith negotiation in an agreement between the University and the Graduate Workers Union, not one that isn't fiscally responsible but one that makes sure that our graduate workers at this institution can have their needs met and earn a wage that reflects the work that they put in.

I want everybody to know that this is just the beginning. We have many goals, plans, and ideas and dreams for this coming school year, some that we haven't even thought of yet. By working on accomplishing all of these, SGA hopes to foster a culture of positive growth, change and unity at ISU for this coming school year. Thank you very much. I yield for any questions.

### *Administrators' Remarks*

- ***President Larry Dietz***

President Dietz: Thank you very much, Senator Horst, and congratulations to you, to Senator Villalobos, to Senator Nikolaou, Cline, Garrahy, Otto and Stewart for your new roles. I'm delighted for all of you to serve in those new roles. I also want to say congratulations to the new people, the new Senators, and thanks to the returning Senators for coming back again and providing of your time and your leadership on this important body.

I want to follow up a little bit on Professor Crothers' comments earlier. He did a fine job of outlining a lot of activity that's going on right now in the General Assembly. A lot of bills are percolating around. Some have great support. Some have some support, but it seems that there is just a lot of activity going on right now to complete this session.

Last night I testified before one of the Senate committees, specifically on Senate Bill 1832, which is the one that Professor Crothers talked about that will allow community colleges to offer a four-year degree specifically in early childhood education. I represented not only Illinois State last night but all the public universities in the State of Illinois as a convener of the presidents and chancellors of all the institutions in stating our opposition to that particular bill. We are in the best position as four-year institutions to offer the programs that will meet that need. Indeed, community colleges have not produced anywhere near the numbers that four-year institutions have, and so we're going to continue to work on that, and hopefully that bill will either be defeated or amended in a way that will be much more acceptable, but I appreciate Professor Crothers bringing that as well as the other items to the attention of the Senate tonight.

I also listened intently, Senator Horst and Senator Villalobos, for your very reflective and articulate comments tonight. I think both of your comments sparked a spirit of collaboration, which is one of our institutional values, and cooperation, and hope for this next academic year. I think we all hope for good things this next academic year to be a relief from what we experienced in the spring of last year and, indeed, really all of this academic year. So, I agree with Senator Villalobos that we're going to try to return to as much normal as we possibly can, given the circumstances.

But, Senator Horst, your reflection of the past. It must be a very special night for you to reflect back on a colleague that I know that you learned a lot from and cared a lot about. So, congratulations to being in those shoes. And I think that your colleague would be very proud of you tonight for that.

I also want to say that the comments from both of you... I am very encouraged by that, about opportunities to get together and know each other and know each other better for those that are already acquainted, but we really haven't been together other than on Zoom calls, and I'm kind of old school about that. I much prefer the in person and when the time is right shake a hand and

spend some time lingering in the hallway and getting to know each other. I think that relationships really can fill in a lot of tough times, and there's no substitute for knowing each other. We can, again, disagree on things, but we can disagree disagreeably and still have the relationship there for the next item that will come down the road, and there will always be the next item that will come down the road. So, thank you to both of you for your very reflective and kind and hopeful comments about the future.

I wish all of you the best for this next academic year, though Marlene and I will be cheering for all of you and for the Redbirds from the bleacher section, but we will be cheering for all the great teaching, research, and service that all of you do day in and day out and for also embracing the institutional values of collaboration we talked about but also all of our values. And so, I also wish you well in embracing our motto of gladly we learn and teach. I will always be grateful to have learned from all of you and have been taught by many of you about lots of different issues on the college campus. I'll always be honored to have served as your 19<sup>th</sup> President of the University, and I wish you and the 20<sup>th</sup> President of the University all the best. I have more than a passing interest in the future of this institution, and in my estimation the future is very bright for Illinois State University, and part of the reason for that is for the time and energy that all of you put in on behalf of the institution. So, Marlene and I are retiring here. I think I've told you that before in this community, and we hope to see you in the community and at various University events. And with that I'll say thank you and open for any questions that you might have.

- ***Provost Aondover Tarhule***

Provost Tarhule: Thank you so much, Senator Horst, and I'd like to follow up the President by congratulating you as well as all of the Executive, the returning Senators and the new Senators to this body. Senator Horst, I can assure you I am most keen and eager to meet with you in person as you are to meet with me, and your message about relationships is music to my ears. In the time that I've been here, because of the pandemic... I've been here almost a year. I've just never had the opportunity to meet with people in person. It's always been by Zoom, and so as you can imagine I feel that I just haven't had that opportunity to build our relationships. So, it was quite interesting to me that you picked the topic of relationships. So, I'm looking forward to that.

Of the new Executive members, I'd like to... Again, congratulations to everyone. But I would like to single out Senator Lea Cline for special acknowledgement. Lea was chair of the committee that hired me. I had a super exciting working relationship with her. I thought she was super professional and super fun to work with, so I think it's exciting that we'll have the opportunity to work together again. So, congratulations, Lea. I don't know if you're in Italy or whether you're actually back, but congratulations. And, of course, to incoming Student President Villalobos. Congratulations. I think your message is very well received.

A few announcements from me tonight. Congratulations to our students. ISU will award again by next week 2,861 undergraduate degrees and 715 graduate degrees. That's just amazing when you think about what our students have gone through. As I said to somebody today, I think the students of this graduating class deserve to be called the most resilient students in a generation. This is the most resilient graduating class in a generation, and we at ISU can be really proud, because despite the pandemic and all of the challenges that we face, we are actually awarding

115 more degrees this year than we did in 2020. So, congratulations to the students and also to the staff and the faculty who made this possible.

And looking forward, we have even more good news to be excited about. You may recall at each time I've talked, giving my remarks over the past several meetings, it's all been about just how far down we were in terms of deposits for the fall. Well, tonight I'm really excited to report that deposits for the fall are actually up compared to this time last year. So as opposed to being down in terms of deposits, we are up. Transfer admits are up 1.8%. Graduate admits are up 10.1%. And so we are super excited about what the future holds, and even though there is a slight difference in the date in which we compare year to year (last year we actually did this for June 1), so we may have a little bit of catching up to do to be directly comparable, but this is exciting news. Above all, the students that we are admitting have an incoming GPA of 3.6 compared to a GPA of 3.48 last year. So good news all around. The diversity of the incoming students is projected to be up. We have a large increase in deposits from black African-American students as well as Latino populations. We project, also, to have the largest honors class ever in the fall of 2021. So, exciting news. Continuing students – registration as far as for undergraduate is also up 5% and 33% for graduate. So, outstanding.

A second feedback... We had an Academic Affairs retreat in February, so that retreat generated something like more than 100 recommendations from the 165 unique individuals who participated. Over the past two months, staff in the Provost Office have been working diligently to distill those recommendations and to prioritize the ones that we think we would like to go forward with, based on your feedback. We have distilled those down to about 30, and so we'd like to share this with you all again to see if you agree with the priorities that we have identified, distilled the ones you want us to go forward with. And I'll be inviting you to provide feedback, if possible, by May 28 to what you think about those priorities, because we'd like to start implementing them in the next fall semester.

Finally, I'd like to announce bittersweet news that Sam Catanzaro, who is Associate Vice President for Academic Administration, has announced his intention to retire at the end of June. Sam arrived here at Illinois State as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in August of 1988. He was awarded tenure in 1994 and promoted to professor in 1999. So, in the Psychology Department, he served as a sequence and program coordinator and in 2002 was appointed Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Science. He joined the Provost Office in 2011. I'll be providing more details on the transition of Sam's duties in the near future. In the meantime, please join me in wishing Sam well in his retirement. I have decided to fill Sam's position with a one-year interim appointment, during which time I will assess the desirability for changes to that position. So I'd like to welcome your suggestions and nominations, including self-nominations for suitable candidates for this one-year interim position. Preferred candidates should be tenured. They should have deep familiarity with the faculty, policies, and the ASPT process. I also prefer that they should have hard administrative experience at a level of department chair or higher. To ensure that we have a person in place, we will overlap with Sam. Please send me all nominations by May 18, 2021. Again, I hope you all join me in congratulating Sam and wishing him and his wife the very best in their retirement. Thank you.

- *Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson*

Senator Johnson: Wow, that's great. Glad you start with LJ Johnson. I am totally inspired and really loving the atmosphere and the sentiment that's being shared tonight. Senator Villalobos, hey, I think you did a great job, and I'm glad you found the light. So, you'll continue to find the light throughout the year, and I'm looking forward to working with you. Senator Horst, looking forward to us doing Starbucks coffee, Coffee Hound, wherever we need to go. That's going to be great. All about relationships. So really looking forward to that, as well as the rest of the Exec team that's going to be working with you, and congratulations to all the new and returning Senators as well.

I want to echo the words of the Provost as far as the positive things that are on the horizon. Our housing numbers correlate with the new student deposit numbers where we are up 6.6% with our new student housing contracts for next year. That is outstanding. So, we're looking forward to, as was pointed out earlier, more person-to-person type of interaction. It'll be that way on campus and in our residential environment, so we're very encouraged by the numbers right now looking forward.

That being said, one of the big things that we've been working on for a number of years that was put on ice during the pandemic is the housing project, so I look forward to next year, again bringing back to the Senate updates as to where we're at with the housing project and refurbishing what we've got already on the books. But knowing that we need new facilities as well, and this pandemic has pointed out how sorely we need suite-style arrangements for our students on this campus. So, I'm looking forward to getting back to that project as well. That being said, I wish you all well, and I'll be up for questions a little bit later on.

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

Senator Stephens: Thank you, Senator Horst, and congratulations to you and others on your new roles for this year. I look forward to working with you next year. I only have a couple of items I'd like to cover this evening. They relate to the various projects we try to accomplish on campus over the summer months, once our finals are over and our academic buildings are open and available to our facility services teams to work in. Some of the classroom improvements we'll be making this summer include new carpeting, new ceiling, painting, acoustical treatments, new blinds, installing glass whiteboards, and new classroom furniture. Also, there's a concerted effort to update where possible the instructional IT equipment in certain classrooms by removing and installing new smart foldable whiteboards with monitors inside and new instructor stations and technology equipment in each of these classrooms. Some of the classroom buildings that we will be working on include about 11 classrooms in Fell Hall, a couple of classrooms in Fairchild Hall, and then nine classrooms in Stevenson Hall.

In our continuous effort to support energy conservation on campus, upgraded LED lights are also being installed. This summer, approximately 30 classrooms in Schroeder Hall are being updated with LED lighting.

Lastly, we are finally getting around to improving the air quality in Fairchild Hall and Rachel Cooper. New HVAC equipment upgrades are being put in to improve the ventilation, filtration, and cooling in these two buildings. These new HVAC systems will further enhance our ability

to maintain the higher air quality standards we put in place this past year to address COVID-19 issues.

I want to personally thank everyone on our facilities team that will be helping out this summer to improve our classroom and lab facilities. That's all I have for the evening, and my congratulations to all the graduates, and I wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

***Advisory Items:***

***Academic Senate Calendar for 2021-2022***

Senator Horst: Thank you. Questions for Vice President Stephens? I believe they call them crickets. (Laughter) Okay. We will now move on to our Advisory Items. We have three advisory items this evening. These items... You have an opportunity to ask questions, but the Senate will not be working on these documents or approving these documents as such. And our first one, actually, comes from the Executive Committee. We submitted the Senate Calendar. We also submitted an addendum to the Senate Calendar, which included two tentative dates for the Faculty Caucus. The Faculty Caucus will be working on the ASPT revisions next year, and because the last time we worked on this we had some really late nights, and it compressed the Senate agenda as well, and there was frustration because the student Senators could not ask questions of the Vice Presidents, for instance. We thought it was important to schedule two tentative working sessions for the Faculty Caucus in addition to the regular Senate meeting. Are there any observations or comments about the Academic Senate Calendar and the addendum? (Pause) Okay. Thank you.

Our next advisory item is the Academic Plan, and I'd like to invite Associate Provost Ani Yazedjian to the mic.

***Academic Plan (Associate Provost Ani Yazedjian)***

Associate Provost Yazedjian: Thank you, Chairperson Horst. And thank you to the Academic Senate for giving me this opportunity to provide a quick overview of the Academic Plan. Before I start, I want to recognize Assistant Vice President for Academic Planning, Dr. Cooper Cutting, who is the person who put together the Academic Plan. As you can see, this is a lengthy document, and I am grateful for the time he invested in putting it together.

I'll begin with a brief overview of the Academic Plan and then focus on the Academic Initiatives portion of that plan for the sake of time. The Plan serves several purposes. It will go to the Board of Trustees and subsequently to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. It outlines upcoming academic initiatives in Academic Affairs and also provides a review of any changes that have happened for academic programs or centers on campus in the prior fiscal year.

It also provides the outcomes of any self-studies that were submitted by academic programs in the prior year and that were reviewed by the Academic Planning Committee, which is an external committee of the Senate. The summaries and overviews in the Academic Plan are a reflection of the work of that Committee and provide formative feedback in response to the self-studies. We in the Provost Office facilitate this process, but the Reviews Units receive our reflection of the feedback from the faculty peers regarding the recommendations and initiatives that units themselves plan for their future. I won't go into any more detail about that, and I'll spend the rest

of the time focusing on the Academic Initiatives portion, which will begin on page 36 in the Academic Plan if you'd like to follow along.

Given that this was the Provost's first year at Illinois State and combined with the challenges presented by COVID-19, Dr. Tarhule charged Provost staff with creating ten working groups to look at critical issues facing the Division of Academic Affairs. These working groups included representation from many campus stakeholder groups, including Academic Senate, and planning efforts resulted in a successful retreat that took place in February 2021. As a result of that retreat and the reports by the working groups, a series of top priorities have been identified by the Provost Office, and all faculty and staff and Academic Affairs will receive a link to a survey sometime tomorrow or Friday to provide their thoughts on how we can ensure successful implementation of these recommendations.

The next section focuses on new academic programs that are being developed. These are only ones that are far enough along to talk about. There are several other programs that are ongoing and in development. The Provost will be making a request this Friday to the Board of Trustees to both expand simulation laboratory capacity in the Mennonite College of Nursing and seek approval to submit an application for a new academic unit to the IBHE, in this case for a College of Engineering. This year the Illinois Board of Higher Education also approved a new Master of Science in Low Vision and Blindness, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Technology, a Bachelor of Science in English, and a Master of Science in Nutrition. Our division also encourages the development of new accelerated Master's Degree programs which are also known as 4+1 programs. These enable students to complete an undergraduate and a graduate degree in five years instead of six. We have a lot of great undergraduate programs and a lot of great graduate programs, and these AMDs bring those two elements together. Most recently, the Department of English and the Creative Technologies Program both had proposals for new accelerated Master's programs approved by the Provost.

The next section focuses on the ways in which staff in the Provost Office are approaching the work we do through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion. There are a number of initiatives related to supporting faculty and staff in this section, but I'll draw your attention to two. The first is Illinois State University's participation in the collaborative on academic careers in higher education or COACH through the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the second is a more intentional focus on staff development through the framework for inclusive service and support excellence that will be guiding many actions, including programming, mentoring, feedback, assessment, and data-informed reflection for staff. There are many other great initiatives listed, so please take a moment to review them.

I'd like to give some special thanks to Drs. Yojanna Cuenca-Carlino and Amelia Noel-Elkins for their efforts in this area. Dr. Amelia Noel-Elkins in her role as Interim Assistant to Vice President for Student Success has also been focused on launching a concrete and focused effort to identify barriers to and opportunities for improved student success this past year. Again, there are many initiatives listed in this section. I'll draw your attention to two. First is the University's distribution of \$1.9 million to address technology gaps for students with demonstrated need and also for their contributions to the construction and outfitting of a multimedia podcasting room in the new Multicultural Center. In addition, Illinois State University is one of 16 institutions to be

awarded a grant from the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities to participate in an institutional transformation assessment focusing on student success and equity. This project will be a cooperative effort between Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Dr. Doris Houston, the Interim Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

A few other quick items before I end. On March 24<sup>th</sup> of this year the Academic Affairs Committee voted 10 in favor and 0 opposed to support the IDEAS graduation requirement. The Academic Senate has now received that proposal from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the graduation requirement for a course in U.S. diversity. Dr. Amy Hurd continues her work with an ad hoc workgroup focusing on the revision to general education requirements, and the finalized plan will be submitted to the Provost in the next few months.

When I presented to the Senate in the fall, I discussed the quick responsiveness of the staff in the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology to provide workshops for faculty on effective teaching in a hybrid or online learning environment. They continued their work through the academic year and will continue to provide additional professional development this summer. You can review their website for additional information. But here I'd like to acknowledge Dr. Jen Friberg and the staff at CTLT for their outstanding efforts.

And, finally, I'll end with a quick reference to an ongoing project through University Assessment Services, called the Graduate Job and Salary Initiative, which now includes information through the Illinois Department of Employment Security for over 82,000 graduates of Illinois State University. This coming year, UAS will continue partnering with Enterprise Data Analytics to integrate the wage data with institutional data and explore ways to integrate the results into regular reporting and planning processes as a way of highlighting the value of an ISU education.

Although we've all experienced significant disruption in our personal and professional lives this year due to COVID, these initiatives reflect the ongoing efforts of the many faculty and staff across the Division of Academic Affairs who have diligently worked through these challenges to envision ways for ISU to continue to thrive and successfully meet the needs of all our students. Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Senator Horst: Questions for Associate Provost Yazedjian? (Pause) It's a large document. I did note one instance where you put the College of Fine Arts and not Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts. I just wanted to point that out.

Associate Provost Yazedjian: Great. We're happy to make that change before we submit it to the Board of Trustees. Thank you.

Senator Horst: Any other questions or observations? (Pause) Okay. Thank you to the Academic Planning Committee for their part in this document and also this second Academic Planning Committee. There were two this year.

We move now to Policy 7.4.3., the Fringe Benefit Rate Policy. And Senator McLauchlan.

***Policy 7.4.3 Fringe Benefit Rate Policy (Associate Vice President Craig McLauchlan)***



Senator McLauchlan: Thank you, Chairperson Horst. It is my pleasure to come before you after a wonderful Senate this evening. Congratulations to everyone, and I, too, echo the awesome spirit of going forward for next year. And in line with that, I bring to you a not-quite-ready-for-prime-time, not-quite-ready-for-the-Senate Advisory Item, if you will, on a policy that is not really under Senate review, and that is the Fringe Benefit Policy. Most of us probably don't think about fringe benefits. This might actually be the only time of the year when you're thinking about it, because it is benefit enrollment period, and so you're thinking about your own benefits and what you would like to enroll in. But we do also have the employer portion, and we don't usually worry about that as employees. And so, when we have outside agencies, such as grants that we are employed by, the grants pay that employer portion, because the State of Illinois doesn't like to pay for third-party entities.

And so just very briefly... The Policy itself is pretty brief, and we're talking probably about a one-sentence change in the Policy that will propose over the summer, but the implications are large enough that I wanted to bring it before the Academic Senate just for everyone. It's a process that's been being discussed for about three years with a pain point to researchers. Many of you on this call, my fellow Senators and those who are visiting tonight, recognize that as a principal investigator or a PI on a grant, when you're paying those fringe benefits, it's often a pain point in your budgeting process, because our policy right now is that we use your actual benefits, and you often don't know when you're budgeting what someone's benefits are going to be for the person you're going to hire for a project. Or I've told many times that I ruined my own grants when my children were born because I did not budget four years in advance or three years in advance that I would have children and mess up all my benefits and therefore have to re-budget. Now, re-budgeting is a normal part of being a PI. Every July when the State resets what the fringe benefits are, you must reconsider your fringe benefits each year. But over the course of the last three years, we've been trying as a campus to engage in discussions to have a better process, and what we have looked on, as an example many other universities use is a pooled fringe benefit rate, and that is all tenure-track faculty or all APs or all NTTs, all civil service, all students – they fit in a pool, and so it's not going to depend on an individual members, individual benefit choices. It'll be more pooled like that, and it will go over time. And so, we are applying to the federal government. We haven't been approved. So, this is all hypothetical, but then if and when it happens, it becomes very real very quickly, and we enact it. So, it is something that may... We applied in late March, and so it may come back to us over the summer. It may not come back until next fall, so I may be back with an actual request. But I want to bring it to folks' attention so that they're aware of it, because what happens then is instead of every year having to figure out individual benefits for folks, we would use these pooled rates. And these pooled rates would then be set by class. And so, it will be really good for budgeting. The drawbacks are going to be individual bumps to grant rates when it gets implemented. But our team and our research and sponsored programs and the post-award staff works pretty much from July to September with PIs on re-budgeting anyway. So, this will be just a slightly larger shift. And some people will win, and they'll have more money in their grants, and there will be some folks who are probably going to see the impact of having to adjust their budget to accommodate that. But I just wanted people to be aware. It should be really good for the University. All the principal investigators that have been discussed over the two to three years and the college research coordinators that we presented to this year and the University Research Council when we discussed it and decided to make this recommendation all seemed very positive on it. It will

impact a small number of folks on the 276 active awards we have right now. Hopefully we'll be able to make some real positive going forward.

I'm happy to talk about this for a long time, but I recognize that I am second to last on the agenda, so I'll just open it up if there are any questions. And, again, it may be something that nothing happens, but we do think it's really good for the University, and I'd love to see us be able to implement something going forward if we get a positive... I mean it's just an application to the Department of Health and Human Services at this point.

Senator Blum: So, is it just DHH grants, or is it all grants that it's going to apply. And I also have a followup question to that. For people... You know, there will be grant awardees that are in the middle of the grant process that this will impact negatively. Is there a way... How are you going to deal with that?

Senator McLauchlan: Well, that happens every July, Senator Blum. Right? Every July you readjust your benefits. And so, I've never seen my rates go down, but there are going to be some, and we're working with those individual grant holders on how it impacts their budgets. But it's all... It's a University-wide policy, and it applies to actually all third parties, not just grants, but grants are the most heavily impacted. But, yes, we will... The post-award staff in research and sponsor programs will be working with all the individual investigators on their grants, on how to adjust their budgets.

Senator Blum: Yeah, I understand that it happens. Right? I'm just saying it's a big shift in that they're... You know, if you happen to have people employed on your grant, it would have a lower rate, and just a change in policy could change that significantly. You know, it doesn't always necessarily go up or significantly go up if you're P'ing an award. But because the policy is changing... I don't know how many people. Maybe it'll just average out and won't be that... But I do think that there might be some people just because of the random nature of who they actually had working on the grant may change quite a bit.

Senator McLauchlan: Yeah. Absolutely. And we're working through the hypotheticals now to be able to reach out to those PIs to help get in front of that. But you're absolutely correct that that's the nature of a pool. Right? Some people are going to go up, and some people are going to go down in this initial adoption, but that's an excellent point, and we'll certainly be working with those PIs. Thank you.

Senator Horst: Further questions? Do you have a timeline, Senator McLauchlan?

Senator McLauchlan: We are at the mercy of the federal government, if you will, and so we apply. They say it often takes 60-90 days to make a decision. So that's where we think it might come in over the summer. And if it happened in line with when we're already adjusting the annual rates with the rest of the adjustments for benefits, it might make sense to not have to do that twice. But we're at the mercy of the federal government. As Senator Stephens likes to remind me, they might say no. So, this could all be for naught. Right? They might not... Because we're applying for the ability to not charge your actual fringe benefit rate. So, they might say no. But we're thinking likely over the summer, but things have been a bit slower lately

in response times, so it could very well be that we're back in the fall, and I promise to return if that's the case.

Senator Horst: If you could just let the Senate know so that we could all communicate with our constituents. That would be great. This is not a Senate policy, but we do appreciate that you came and informed us on this.

Senator McLauchlan: Absolutely. Sure.

### ***Communications***

Senator Horst: All right. And so, I believe we are moving to Communications, and I'm going to start off by just saying that I have created an Internal Committee Volunteer Request form, and I will be e-mailing that to all sitting Senators. And on the form, it says if you're a student, send it to SGA. And if you're a faculty, send it to me. So please look for that in your e-mail box, and please, please send it back to me by June 10<sup>th</sup> so we can start working on seating the internal committees. We also now for Communications have an SGA resolution regarding vaccinations, and this resolution was co-authored by Senator Chassy, so I'm going to invite Senator Chassy to tell us about this resolution.

### ***SGA Resolution regarding vaccinations***

Senator Chassy: Thank you, Chairperson Horst, and I'm speaking tonight to inform the Senate of a resolution which recently passed the SGA with overwhelming support. I wrote and was the lead sponsor of the resolution endorsing mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for physically present University attendants. This legislation urges Illinois State University, in coordination with the Governor, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and other relevant State offices to implement a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for University students who seek to study here this fall. The FDA has authorized all available vaccines for immediate use. The government possesses a surplus amount of these shots, and inoculation is free for the public. There will be, with very limited exception, ample time and resources for our students to be fully vaccinated before the beginning of the fall semester. The legality of this proposal is as clear as the law can get. Every student here tonight, as students at this University, are already governed by vaccination requirements for other diseases which are, legally speaking, identical to the SGA proposal for COVID-19. Adding a COVID-19 vaccination requirement to that pre-existing policy as we begin to transition back to a physically present experience once again is an easy step toward ensuring a smooth transition. I would implore the decision makers here to embrace the SGA's formal position on this, and as choices about a return are being made prior to the fall semester, if we wish to come back successfully, beginning the year with a fully vaccinated student body would go a long way toward ensuring we're here to stay, and we can all learn safely. Thank you for your time.

Senator Horst: Further communications? Senator Dietz.

Senator Dietz: If I could respond to the resolution. First of all, thank you very much for taking the leadership and submitting this. I couldn't agree more. I had our weekly conversation with the other presidents and chancellors of the public universities. We have been urging the Governor to take action on this, and he and his legal team are considering this. So, we would

certainly welcome this and hope that the Governor and other State officials allow us to do this. There is some consideration with all of us, wondering basically, you know, how we would implement this, but we would welcome that challenge if, in fact, the Governor will allow us to go ahead and have this as a mandatory vaccination. And I also want to say thanks to Senator Villalobos for your passionate plea for people getting vaccinated during your opening remarks, but I very much appreciate the resolution.

Senator Horst: Thank you. Further communications?

Senator Phares: Yes, I would... There are two points to consider when it comes to almost any piece of legislation. In this case, the issue on the table is endorsing mandatory vaccinations. And the two topics, we have a duty to analyze thoroughly the legal and moral arguments of said legislation. So, let's start with the legal. It's a lot murkier than Senator Chassy would lead on. The legal precedent of mandated vaccinations for public institutions is often set from the Supreme Court case back in 1905 of *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*. This case was regarding mandating the smallpox vaccine, which was created in 1976. So, this means that there was over 100 years between its creation, the vaccine's creation, and it being mandated by the federal government.

I'm not saying we need to wait a century to make this vaccine a medicine everyone has, but we can at least wait until it gets FDA-approved, speaking of which, I will concede that the smallpox vaccine was not FDA approved at the time of the SCOTUS decision, but that is because the inception of the FDA wasn't until 1906, a year after the decision. So, historically, the majority of vaccines have not been mandated unless they were fully FDA-approved, as COVID-19 is only approved for emergency use. Why force students to inject these chemicals into their bodies and strip them of their personal liberty when we only have scraped the surface of the possible side effects. There is no clear legal precedent to the mandate this vaccine. While other vaccines have been mandated, this instance is incomparable to that of hepatitis or HPV vaccine mandates. So, this leads me to the moral argument. Who are we to tell people how to handle their personal health? College is the first time most young adults have an opportunity to make most of their decisions for their future completely on their own, so who are we to strip them of that? There are also worries about side effects such as infertility or blood clots. While these are not side effects that are present in the majority of vaccinated individuals, I continue to ask who are we to govern as if these students concerns are meaningless and that their individualism is less important than that of an authoritarian prerogative. It is, at best, morally reprehensible to take the stance that we must mandate this vaccine and strip individuals of their right to make their own decisions about what is best for them. So, who are we to take away students' right to choose? The role of our government is not to control students but to protect and nurture their individualism. How can we preach diversity and ignore this diversity of thought?

I would like to conclude and make it abundantly clear that I am not anti-vaccine, nor am I pro-vaccine. I'm supportive of people making their own decisions, and I trust them to do what they see as best for themselves. For any of you that have received the vaccine, I have the utmost respect for you, because you have made that decision that you saw was best for you. All I'm asking is that we show the same respect to the rest of the student body. While we do not have the final say on whether or not the vaccine is genuinely mandated, we mustn't set the precedent

of control in an overreaching government. Give our students respect, and I strongly urge you not to support this both legally and morally reprehensible piece of legislation. Thank you.

Senator Horst: Thank you, Senator Phares, I'm just going to observe that your hand raised is a little bit difficult to see with your graphics, so I apologize for not being able to call on you.

Senator Phares: No worries. My bad.

Senator Horst: And we're communicating to all of the Senate information, so Senator Chassy, so you have further information you'd like to communicate to the Senate?

Senator Chassy: Briefly. As to not debate the matter in front of all 70 of you all evening, it is a point of legal fact that the presence of every student here is already adhering to the exact same legal precedent that I'm discussing, and this is also not just my opinion. This was overwhelmingly passed by the student government. Only one no vote. So, I would implore the President and the other decision makers here to understand I'm not just lecturing you about my view. This is the overwhelming view of the students and the body in which we are all tasked to serve.

So, I would also add that I think it is morally unconscionable that we allow any one additional infection when we could otherwise stop it with mitigations, the vaccine being just one of many that are proven to stop it. I think we all have to make a collective public health decision. I think a public institution has a morally authority and a legal one under the College Immunization Act the Illinois legislator passed decades ago. We have legal and moral authority to do this. I can't imagine that we wouldn't try to do so, and I thank President Dietz for his earlier comments.

Senator Horst: Thank you, Senator Chassy. Senator Villalobos.

Senator Villalobos: Thank you, Chairperson Horst. I just wanted to add a very quick... I don't want to take too many people's time in regards to this piece of legislation. It was just passed just before I became, I was sworn in as Student Body President. I wanted to clarify that, because I had received some questions on whether this would be something that I would veto or something. I don't believe I could veto that legislation, given that I was not Student Body President at the time. At the same time, even though I reserve that power with SGA legislation within the SGA Constitution, I would only use that power if it was something that I thought was totally against, you know, the better virtues of the student body. I don't think this is. So even if I did have that power, this wouldn't be something that I would veto.

I do also want to thank both Senator Chassy and Senator Phares for being able to speak on their viewpoints. I think it's important to know I don't think that Senator Phares' viewpoint is one that is rare. I think there are lots of concerns with the vaccines and with mandatory vaccinations. That is why when I was speaking on this piece of legislation, I was not going to support it unless we included specific language in which the University was going to take direction from the Governor's office or the IDPH. I don't believe, without that direction, that the University would have either a moral or legal authority to do so. If that direction were to come, I do believe that that authority is present and is there, so those are my thoughts on it, and I thank the Association

for passing that, and I just wanted to thank both Senator Chassy and Senator Phares for expressing your views. So those are my thoughts.

Senator Horst: Thank you, Senator Villalobos. Senator Blum.

Senator Blum: Yeah, I just want a clarification on a point of order here. Are we going to vote on this? Are we debating this? I'm not quite sure where we're at.

Senator Horst: No, this was an SGA resolution, and they are communicating that to the Senate.

Senator Blum: Okay. So... All right. Thank you.

Senator Horst: Senator Dietz.

Senator Dietz: Not to belabor this issue. I just want to point out that I've enjoyed the spirit of the discussion back and forth with two very articulate individuals on an important topic, and so that, to me, is very refreshing whenever that can happen that way. So, congratulations to both Senator Phares and Senator Chassy for having that discussion. I would say that those very issues are the ones that are being debated by the legal staff in the Governor's office with help from some other legal staff from our various campuses. So, we'll kind of see where things go with all of that. But congratulations on representing your views in a very articulate and very respectful way. Thank you.

Senator Horst: Thank you, Senator Dietz. Any further communication for the Senate? Seeing none.

### ***Adjournment***

Motion by Senator Cline, seconded by Senator Blum, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.