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Senate Meeting, September 27, 2023

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Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 27, 2023
approved

Call to Order

Academic Senate Chairperson Martha Callison Horst called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Academic Senate Secretary Mainieri called the roll and declared a quorum.

Public Comment: All speakers must sign in with the Senate Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

None.

Presentations:

Operating and Capital Budget Request to the State (Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Stephens, Associate Vice President for Budgeting and Planning Sandy Cavi, and Executive Director University Budget Office Amanda Hendrix) (Documents will be provided on TEAMS)

*The presentation is in Appendix I

Senator Horst: I was wondering if you could talk about the new STEM building as the number one building and what was the rationale for bumping that up the list as opposed to some of the other buildings that have been on the list for a while?

Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Stephens: For a quick comment and then if I may, I ask President Tarhule. I think the reality of it was that it is, you know, all of our projects are very, very important to us. What is front and center to us is our capacity with respect to our STEM labs and especially Felmley. The Felmley's labs are quite dated and challenged. Rather than I SU attempting to do this on our own without requesting for those resources from the state, after talking to the President, it was "if we don't ask for this support, then they won't have an opportunity to provide it." So I think it's a wise move and hopefully it might receive better attention from the state. President Tarhule any comments?

Interim President Tarhule: Yeah. Thank you. I think Dan captured it. It's really a question of capacity; if we know that engineering students will come here in fall of 2025, and all those students are going to need science classes, we know that nursing is going to expand. All those students are going to need science classes. We're expanding physics masters program. We're trying to introduce a Data Science program; all of those students would need science labs. When we look at the existing capacity, we figured it's just not enough.

And there's also a question of pedagogy. A lot of these labs were built back in the 60s, early 70s, a lot of them are built for between 18 and 24 students. So those large classes that we have to run through several hundred students, it becomes really inefficient. And they were built at a time when everything was solid and bolted down. So it's very difficult to move them around. So even the ones that are not at capacity that we can use them for anything else, even when they are not being used. So a new kind of design. The way that new labs are being built where things move around. It gives us more flexibility, allows us to have more efficiencies in scheduling, and then, hopefully, if our enrollments pan out in the new courses, as we're hoping, we put it all together in our hope for trying to move as quickly as possible on the STEM.

Senator Horst: Thank you. Any further questions?

Senator Midha: I have two observations, one is about the state appropriation that you just showed, the slide about student appropriations. This one assumes that the total bucket is about 1.15 billion. And if we say that we want average appropriation, that means the state has to take it from some other place and give it to us, which may not be taken very well. The other approach could be actually that if we take the averages after excluding ISU from the numbers, then the average will not be at least 7000. It will increase to about 7300, which increases our ask from 54 to maybe about 60 or 61 million. So that could actually emphasize it even further, without saying that take it out of the same bucket and take it out from the other universities and give it to us so that that could be one approach. It's just an observation.

And the second one is about the graph that you show for inflation, adjusted state appropriation. In this one, if the discussion with the state legislators is about increasing the appropriation for ISU, then this actually shows that inflation is impacting ISU, which is not the case. It impacts everyone else also. So state it as "if based on inflation, if the state is going to increase the appropriation, it will increase the appropriations for everyone else, and ISU will still stay at the bottom." So if that's the point, then this should not be highlighted in the observations with the discussions with the state legislators.

Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Stephens: And it is because we serve... and another point that isn't listed here... one of the metrics that we're proud of, but it seems land on deaf ears, that 90 or 95% of our students are Illinois students. So, having an appropriation recognizing the fact that, we're one of the schools that is dedicated to serving our own students as opposed to students from out of state or out of the country. So, it's a challenge. I'm hoping that the mission that the governor has put in place will recognize quantitative and qualitative measures that will bring ISU up to a more equitable level.

Senator Horst: I was actually wondering what it would look like if it was per Illinois student FTE.

Interim President Tarhule: Just wanted to applaud and compliment Senator Midha on his mathematical reasoning.

HLC Self Study Assessment Update (Cooper Cutting, Assistant Vice President for Academic Planning) (Documents will be provided on TEAMS)

*The presentation is in Appendix I

Senator Lucy: Yeah. So you said the review cycle is 10 years?

Assistant Vice President Cutting: It's a 10-year cycle.

Senator Lucy: So does that change based on the evaluation? So, if we get accolades from our review, does it change to 15 years?

Assistant Vice President Cutting: I believe it's a standard 10-year cycle.

Senator Mainieri: After hearing from Senator Stevens with his previous comment, I noticed one of you mentioned one of the guiding values is governance for the well-being of institution. Is that purely focused on internal governance or the other level of governance that is impacting our budget, for example?

Assistant Vice President Cutting: I do think that we will be providing evidence to say that we are actively working with the state, trying to pursue external funding as well as internal sort of govern.

Senator Horst: Could you speak a little bit about the criterion one, because the mission statement right now is in flux, and so are we locked into the mission statement that's currently standing?

Assistant Vice President Cutting: We are going to be locked into whatever one I think is in place when we lock things in. The realities will probably be locked into whatever is in place at end of spring. I'm really seeing spring as an opportunity to update as much as we can. That includes the mission. It includes the strategic plan. So, right now, the narrative speaks to our current mission. If we roll out a new mission in time, I think we'll probably talk about both, because this is a 10-year review. This is the mission we had for the past 9 1/2 years. Here's the new one that we have. So I think it speaks to the continuous improvement that things are living documents, they're not static.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Horst: So I want to start off by welcoming 3 new senators. As I mentioned from the College of Business, we have Senator Seifert and Sankara. And we also have returning, once again, Dan Holland from physics. So welcome everybody.

And I wish to thank Dan Stevens and Cooper Cutting for their informative presentations this evening. I had just have a couple of brief announcements. The Executive Committee's job is to make the Senate run smoothly and to make these meetings efficient. So to achieve this, we have requested that the administrators shorten their remarks, if appropriate, to allow more time questions and dialogue with them in the senate so just keep that in mind.

Faculty, I sent out a request for feedback on the new midterm grade reporting system yesterday. Thank you to everybody who submitted feedback to me. Please encourage your colleagues to e-mail acsenate@ilstu.edu if they have any further feedback and I will pass that feedback on to Charles Edamala tomorrow during my meeting. But I can certainly continue to gather information on that and forward it to him at a later date. I don't know if everybody's had a chance to open up that system and see how it works.

Third, as I mentioned last meeting, the Board of Trustees has requested that shared governance groups begin their processes to form a search committee for the presidential search. Under the advice of the non-tenure track leadership, including Senator Hollywood, the Academic Senate is conducting an election to select one NTT faculty. The deadline to nominate or self-nominate for this election is tomorrow at 4:30 for non-tenure track faculty. So, please encourage your colleagues to participate; and I believe most colleges now have announced plans to run elections in order to select two of their tenure-line faculty. In order to insurance balance and diversity, the Faculty Caucus will finalize the tenure-line faculty search committee members for the presidential search committee, and will do that on October 11th. So faculty, please encourage your colleagues to participate in this important search.

Finally, I wanted to announce some events this Friday, September 29th. The General Education Task Force will be holding a second open forum to discuss their proposal. I attended the first open forum and thought that the format led to a lot of dialogue and a lot of engagement with everybody in the room. The second one will be Friday at 1:00 PM in the Honors building, so please encourage your colleagues to attend. October 20th, Illinois State University will be hosting the IBHE-FAC Conference here in the Bone Student Center. This event will be happening from approximately 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, so please e-mail me directly if you'd like to attend any of those events. And on Wednesday, October 25th from 10 PM to noon in Stephenson, 401 and also Tuesday, Halloween day, October 31st, from 2:00 to 4:00, the Provost office and the COACHE working groups will be hosting a feedback session. I'm sure we'll have more information to share about that at a later date. Are there any questions?

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Monk: Good evening, everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful family weekend. I'm proud to announce that the Student Caucus has officially completed its first policy review. The language regarding plagiarism within the code as we enter the artificial intelligence era after a thorough examination of this policy, the Student Caucus has determined one recommendation. The clarification of the language of "another's work", which is specifically part six section A, subsection 1C, line 19 of the code for the inclusion of AI. Senator Nikolaou will touch on the final language settled on by the Academic Affairs Committee. But besides that, we have no

recommendations for altering the policy as we believe the current definition of plagiarism within the code adequately upholds academic integrity in the classroom. We would like to express our gratitude to those who participated in our meetings, including Doctor Roy Magnuson, who joined us on September 6th, and Janice Blair and Jen Stevenson, both of whom participated in our September 20th meeting.

Student Caucus will now move into our review of the anti-hazing policy, which is policy 5.1.13. I am thrilled to announce the Mental Health Days Commission has officially launched statewide. This is quickly expanded to be much bigger than simply ISU, and we are now at the helm of a truly statewide initiative. We'll be concluding our final phase of research by October 13th in preparation for a follow up meeting with state Senator Dave Kaler, whose staff has completed the first draft of the bill. Also, our local state representative, Sharon Chung has graciously expressed interest in sponsoring the bill in the house. We have added Southern Illinois Edwardsville, Northern Illinois and Western Illinois to the project, which brings our coalitions of SGA's across the state up to 7 associations in total, including us. We've transitioned into direct coordination with the universities across the state in preparation for a statewide lobbying campaign. We are in contact with Director of public Policy, Brad Franke and fully intend to rely on him as we begin our lobbying efforts.

SGA also passed a constitutional amendment at our last General Assembly meeting that will streamline the process for future constitutional amendments. Rather than having to collect over 2000 signatures to ratify amendment, we will be able to ratify constitutional amendments as a referendum during spring elections, better representing the will of the student body. The association will now begin the process of collecting over 2000 signatures for the final time so, I'd like to thank Senator Blair for his efforts on that front.

Finally, I regret to announce Senator of College of Business Nathaniel Nepomuceno has resigned from his position due to personal reasons. We thank Nathaniel for his faithful representation of the College of Business and wish him the best in his future endeavors. The search for the next senator of the College of Business is underway with that. That is the end of my report, and I will happily accept any questions.

Administrators' Remarks

- ***Interim President Aondover Tarhule***

Interim President Tarhule: Thank you so much, as you saw from Vice President Dan Stevens presentation, ISU has a long history of an equitable funding from the state. We also have ambitious plans based on the developments and the academic programs that were developed. We're proposing, for example, engineering, nursing and of course the necessity for an eastern building. So, with that, I have begun working with Katy Killian, Chief of Staff, and Brad Franke, Director of Public Affairs and Policy; we've begun a very aggressive push to build a coalition of supporters amongst legislators, so I've spent the last week travelling to various legislators that we have identified. And over the coming weeks, I'm going to be doing a lot more of this.

Our plan is to build a strong coalition of legislators that support us so that we can work with them to push our case for more funding, either to try and address some of those past inequalities or to help us with support with the programming initiatives that we have going forward, such as the STEM building. So just wanted to bring that to your attention. I know sometimes it can feel like “why isn't anybody doing something about this?” We're doing as much as we can. I know the last other presidents before me went down this path and did what they could, and we're going to try and learn from things that worked that didn't work as well, but we'll build on part of what they have already done, and we'll try to see if we'll be luckier in moving this needle. So, I just wanted to bring that to your attention. Thank you.

- ***Acting Provost Ani Yazedjian***

Acting Provost Yazedjian: Great. Thank you and good evening. Just a couple of things that I'd like to point out related to the Higher Learning Commission and our institutional reaccreditation, as Doctor Cooper cutting said, this really is an institutional reaccreditation looking at all the divisions across the university, not just academic affairs. So, we do encourage you all whether you receive a 35,000 Word document or a shorter one to please review it and provide your feedback; we value your contributions. I do just want to thank Doctor Cooper Cutting, Sue Hildebrandt and Mike Mulvaney, who have worked on creating this draft. Doctor Cutting took on perhaps a broader role, bigger role than he expected, when we had some minor transitions in February.

Also, Chairperson Horst already talked about General Education in the town hall, so I won't say any more other than to say that a draft document is posted on the Gen. Ed website. And if you plan to go to the town hall, which we encourage you to do, please do read that in advance. It's a quick read and it really will help inform the discussion at the open forums. So please do encourage your constituents to attend the open forums. We welcome their feedback. Thank you.

Senator Horvath: Students are most welcome to attend that town hall on Friday. Unfortunately, none attended the last one. It would be great if some students showed up to that town hall to give us their feedback. It's 1PM to 3PM in the Honors building. You don't have to be there for the full two hours. I believe there will be cookies and give us your feedback.

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

Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson: I have no report tonight.

Senator Pancrazio: I have a question about a publication that came out from the Dean of Students Office. It's entitled “It's a guide for parents and families”. It's written in Spanish. Certainly there's a necessity for a document like this, being that we have about 2700 students on campus that claim that next descendancy. Could you shed some light on

that? We also have faculty. We also have RSO's. We also have academic programs that are related to issues of Latin America.

Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson: OK. Well, thanks for your question. And while the Dean of Students Office and Student Affairs has some responsibilities for communicating to various populations within our campus community, we're not the only one. So hopefully there are other publications and information that goes out to support those various sub communities within our populations. I think that's a great start within the Dean of Students Office, by getting that information out.

We have a multicultural center that does outreach as well. I can't rattle off all the various or different things that we do from that office as it relates to outreach to various subpopulations, but I'm sure that there are things that we do. I guess we can take a look to see if there's more that can be done so that we make folks aware of the various programs and services that we have in order to support that particular population. But we do try to do outreach to various populations, and I think that's just one example of a targeted type of approach that may not be as inclusive as and doesn't include some of the things that you might suggest go into that; but I'm sure that there's room for us to include that in other publications, but moving forward.

Senator Horst: I have a question about the report about what Student Government is doing about trying to have landlords give 24 hours notice before they enter a room. I lived in San Francisco as a renter, and I know we had such a similar law. I know you and I have had conversations about the trouble with landlords in this community and that's one of the things that's leading ISU to get into the dorm business again. Is there anything else that you think of that ISU could do to help advocate for the students about this bill?

Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson: And as that article mentioned, this has been an ongoing kind of conversation that on the administration, partnering with the students, students taking the lead on that, we have to give them the kudos and the props for the leadership role that they have taken. But the administration, IE president, myself, others within the President's office, have, over the last couple of years, had ongoing meetings with the mayor of Normal. The city manager within normal as well. And I suspect that our current Interim President, myself and others, will continue those conversations and attend various events like we had just a week ago, was it not?

Our town gathering at the mayor's office, where I'm sure they were advocating and getting the word out, and we were having our sidebar conversations with the leadership within the mayor's office. So those conversations will continue. I encourage the students to continue pressing and getting that word out, and we'll continue to partner with them.

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

Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Stephens: I have no report this evening.

Election of senate representative to APC

Senator Horst: The Academic Planning Committee has a membership. One of the members of the Academic Planning Committee. According to our Appendix 2, there is 1 Academic Affairs Committee, elected member of the Academic Senate. I understand from the Academic Affairs Committee chair that nobody from that committee volunteered. Because we do not have anybody from academic affairs, the bylaws says “or other faculty senator, if necessary.” So, at this moment, is there any faculty senator who would like to be considered for the Academic Planning Committee? This committee essentially reviews academic programs and centers and make sure they are operating efficiently. There's a lot of reading involved, but it's very educational. You learn about what's going on across the university every other Friday from 1:00 to 3:00. Cooper Cutting. That's correct. From 1:00 to 3:00. Senator McHale put his name forward. Would anybody else like to be considered for this committee? Seeing none, all in favor of electing Senator McHale to the Academic Affairs committee, please signify by saying aye.

Senators: Aye.

Senator Horst: Congratulations, you're on.

Internal Committee Reports:

- ***Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Nikolaou***

Senator Nikolaou: The Academic Affairs Committee met this evening, and we discussed The Code of Student Conduct and Artificial Intelligence. So, we are going to be sending to the exec our recommendations.

- ***Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee: Senator Mainieri***

Senator Mainieri: This evening we had a joint meeting with the Planning and Finance Committee to hear from Senator Stevens and his team about the FY24 operating budget and FY25 Operating Capital Appropriation Request.

- ***Faculty Affairs Committee: Senator Lucey***

Senator Lucey: Tonight we discussed the Honorary Degree policy and we also discussed the Ombudsman policy, which will be coming as a gift package to the executive. We will also include Policy 3.3.8 C

- ***Planning and Finance Committee: Senator Valentin***

Senator Valentin: The Planning and Finance Committee had a joint meeting with the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee. Vice President Stephens presented a detailed report on the Operating and Capital Funding Request.

- ***Rules Committee: Senator Blum***

Senator Blum: Yes, the Rules Committee met tonight and we made a first pass at the proposed constitutional changes and I think we pretty much got an agreement and principle for all the proposed changes. But we'll be working a little bit more on it. And then we also took an initial stab at the Milner Bylaws, and I think we'll be making good progress in the next couple of meetings.

- ***University Policy Committee: Senator Sheridan***

Senator Sheridan: We met this evening and wrapped up our review of the Whistleblower policy, and we'll have that for Exec committee soon; and we took a first pass at a Personal Plus Time, which we look forward to bringing to Senate in the next month.

Communications

Senator Meyers: I did just want to make a small statement about the 24-hour notice need in our community. Students make up the broad majority of tenants in this community in Normal. We have passed a resolution for a third year in a row in support of an ordinance. We have tried to talk and communicate to landlords privately. We have tried every possible solution until we have created an ordinance and I would just like to express a statement of support and need for this to be in our community.

Adjournment

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