

Fall 10-24-2012

Senate Meeting, October 24, 2012

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, October 24, 2012
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Secretary Susan Kalter called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2012

Motion XLIV-19: By Senator Fazel, seconded by Senator Hoelscher, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of October 10, 2012. The motion was unanimously approved.

Presentation: Diversity Report (Jonathan Rosenthal/EMAS)

09.21.12.01 "Recruitment and Retention of Students from Groups Traditionally Underrepresented in Higher Education"

Associate Provost Rosenthal: Following my usual format, the first part of the document reports statistical information on students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. The second part reflects EMAS contributions to the 2013 Affirmative Action Report that will be presented to the Board of Trustees this Friday. The full report will be available soon on the Office of Equal Opportunity, Ethics and Access website.

The news on underrepresented students is again very positive this year.

Looking first at students new to campus in 2012, 20.5% of new students in fall 12 were from underrepresented groups versus 18.0% the previous year. The largest increases include an additional 52 Hispanic first-year students (a 23 percent increase from fall 2011) and 39 additional African American transfer students (a 51 percent increase). Overall, the number of underrepresented transfer students increased 29% from fall 2011 to fall 2012.

Looking at total enrollment, the campus is more diverse in 2012 than it was in 2011.

In 2012, 3,384 students characterized themselves as non-white versus 3,090 in 2011, a 9.5% one-year increase and a 24.2% two-year increase (over 2,724 students in 2010).

These solid increases reflect, among other things a very good persistence rate. Overall student persistence remained high at 82.3% of all 2011 freshmen returning for their sophomore year. The gap in persistence between total and underrepresented students continues to shrink. Retention of African American students increased slightly to 77.9% from last year's 76.2%; Hispanic retention rates remained comparable to last year's 80.7% at 79.3%.

Overall graduation rates reached an all-time high with 71.0% of the 2006 entering cohort graduating by 2012. Graduation rates for African-American students saw a slight increase while the graduation rate of Hispanic students declined somewhat from last year's record high. There remains a considerable gap between graduation rates of underrepresented students and the overall rate. For the 2006 entering cohort, rates for Hispanic and African-American students were 57.9% and 42.0% respectively. While we can and should do better, we should also remember that these rates compare very favorably to other public universities.

As you know, we continue to provide extensive outreach to high schools and community colleges with high percentages of underrepresented students. In the past year, we have significantly increased the number of on-

site application workshops, added a third Chicago-based counselor who will concentrate on recruiting Hispanic students, and increased the award level for the University Scholar program for underrepresented and first-generation students from \$5,000 to \$6,000 annually renewable for four years.

Finally, I might mention that like all of higher education, we are watching the Fisher v. University of Texas case that is currently before the Supreme Court. If the court weakens or in essence overturns the previous decision in Grutter v. Bollinger, we will be in a very different environment for recruiting students to higher education.

Senator Kalter: On page 2, that figure of 20.5% of students being from underrepresented groups—is that an all-time high?

Dr. Rosenthal: It is certainly a recent high. Back in the 90s, we tended to have larger overall percentages, but much lower graduation and persistence rates.

Senator Kalter: It said there that it includes international students and I wasn't sure that it included all international students or only those from underrepresented groups.

Dr. Rosenthal: Those from underrepresented groups.

Senator Kalter: My second questions have to with the American Indian/Alaskan Native numbers. Why do those numbers seem to be falling?

Dr. Rosenthal: We are heavily dependent on Illinois as a recruiting region where the Native American population is very small. If you look on page 3, you see that there is a drop off from 2010 to 2012, but a corresponding increase and we wonder how long it's going to continue with people reporting themselves as two or more races.

Senator Kalter: I am wondering what kind of targeted services we might offer to American Indian/Alaskan Native students and outreach programs. One of the things that is nationally recognized is they can feel extremely isolated. At some universities, the student services personnel will physically visit or get in touch by phone. Do we have any of those targeted services?

Dr. Rosenthal: We map racial ethnic groups by high school. We know in the state where there is a high percentage of Native American students, we actually go out and make a special visit for an on-site application process. We provide a lot of services generally to first generation students.

Senator Kalter: Three or four years ago, we talked about potentially hiring somebody in Student Services who was a specialist with skills in that area.

Dr. Rosenthal: We haven't lost track of your suggestion for hiring, but it is a matter of resources.

President Bowman: In this budget climate, hiring someone totally dedicated to less than 10 students is not an appropriate use of resources given that we offer an array of services that can address those special needs.

Senator Kalter: I certainly would never suggest that and did suggest that we hire someone with specialized skills that could target those students, but would serve the more general population.

Senator Ellerton: Several years ago, there was a very successful program geared for Hispanic students to introduce them to campus life, the Christmas Program. It was a short burst immediately prior to the semester. That met with a lot of credibility. It was discontinued because of lack of funding. Are you looking at, now that there is a larger critical mass of Hispanic students, ways that would provide that introduction to the university?

Dr. Rosenthal: The Christmas Program was funded through the Gear Up Grant. Unfortunately, funding went to other kinds of programming. We have put another Spanish-speaking counselor in Chicago to try to help to bridge that gap. In general, we are constantly reevaluating the bridge program concept. Those tend to be very expensive. There is data that suggests they are not the most effective way of retaining students. We have put our resources for programming in the first year to provide for first-generation students.

Vice President Dietz: In response to Senators Kalter and Ellerton's comments, I would be happy to look into our Registered Student Organizations and other organizations that represent the underrepresented populations and give you an update.

Senator Kalter: That would be great. I also want to volunteer the services of the faculty of the Native American Studies Program for recruitment and retention.

Senator ?: Can you speak more about what would happen if the courts ruled in favor of the Fisher case?

Dr. Rosenthal: If Grutter were overturned, it would be overturning Affirmative Action programs. One of the successes we have had at building diversity on this campus is an increase in need-based programs.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: It is very close to Halloween. As a member of the Alcohol Taskforce, please drink responsibly.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Manno: The Student Government Association has only two vacancies left. We currently have no on-campus senators for Watterson north and south. We are putting out a survey for students about where they would like more sustainable measures taken, particularly with the dining centers and the waste there with the to-go policy. Last Wednesday, we hosted a congressional debate here. I was the moderator. I sent out an email to all of the students asking if they wanted any specific questions asked and I received a lot of feedback. Everyone there got to hear the top questions answered. Today, tomorrow and Friday, SGA is having a t-shirt swap to try to increase school spirit and the amount of ISU shirts that are seen on campus. We have 300 shirts. If a student has a shirt of another university, they can swap it out for an ISU t-shirt. We are going to be donating the other shirts.

Administrators' Remarks

• President Al Bowman

President Bowman: I would like to thank the admissions staff. Admissions hosted an open house that drew more than 3,000 students. The fall 13 application cycle is off to a very strong start. The governor's staff has directed us to work with the Capital Development Board on coordinating a press announcement for the Fine Arts Complex. \$7.5 million has been released for the planning stage. You may have seen media reports about the potential of closing a public university due to budget shortfalls. That statement was made in reference to some pretty contentious ASCME negotiations that are underway. The governor wants the union to accept wage and benefit cuts, but there has been no conversation in Springfield about closing a public university. For the second consecutive year, for-profit universities have seen steep enrollment declines.

Senator Bushell: You mentioned \$7.5 million for the CFA Complex. Is that up from \$5.4 million?

Vice President Layzell: It's actually \$54.2 million. What President Bowman is referencing is just the planning stage.

Senator Weeks: There is a proposed Constitutional amendment in regard to our pensions. Can you remind us of what that is?

President Bowman: There is a Constitutional amendment on the ballot in the upcoming election. If it were passed, it would require a three-fifths majority in the General Assembly in order to increase pensions. I am not sure that the general public knows enough about it to even vote. We are hopeful that it will be defeated.

Senator Horst: Have you thought about how the planning is going to proceed for the Fine Arts Complex? Will there be faculty involvement?

Provost Everts: There will be lots of opportunities for input.

- ***Provost Sheri Everts***

Provost Everts: The Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies search will be chaired by Anu Gokhale. Darrell Kruger will serve as secretary. Senator Holland has also requested faculty to serve on that committee per policy. Dr. Kim Pereira has announced that he will be returning to the faculty July 2013, so we also searching for a Director of the Honors Program. Dr. Patrick O’Sullivan left last year to return to a position in his home state, so we are also searching for a new Director of CTLT. Dr. Kathleen McKinney retired from ISU and her position as the first cross-endowed chair in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Senator Kalter: Is it a national search? Can anyone apply?

Provost Everts: Yes.

- ***Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Dietz***

Vice President Dietz: We had some water damage in Watterson Hall last night when an individual hung their clothing from one of the sprinkler heads. A number of students were impacted by that. We are doing clean up and trying to help students find new books if that is the case. They are still giving out flu shots, so if you are interested, please sign up at Student Health Services. Family Weekend for next year is going to be the weekend of October 26 and we have just signed Bill Cosby as one of the individuals who will perform.

Senator Wingfield: In terms of the water damage at Watterson, will there be any compensation for students who may have had materials damaged?

Vice President Dietz: We are looking at that right now. Oftentimes, the computers are the first aspect so we are looking at our insurance company. For their immediate needs, students have been asked to talk to their housing folks and our Dean of Students Office.

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

Vice President Layzell: On the state budget end, we have received just about 90% of FY12. We expect to receive the remainder by the end of the calendar year. We have yet to receive any of our appropriation for FY13. On Educating Illinois, the provost and I will be meeting with the taskforce again tomorrow to go over a revised version of the draft. We expect to submit a final draft this semester. We are making good progress on the Hancock renovation. The first phase of the Hovey project is to take care of the front entrance. That should be completed by the end of this calendar year. We will begin the first floor renovation, which is where Financial Aid will move to. Construction should begin in the next few months. For those interested, there is an optional long-term disability program that is offered through ISU. The open-enrollment period begins November 1st through 16th. If you have any questions, contact Human Resources.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Stewart – No Report

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Senator Kalter: We met with the Provost and Mardell Wilson regarding the Academic Impact Fund.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Senator Horst: We discussed revisions to the Academic Freedom Policy. We also discussed bringing language regarding mediation into the Ombudsperson Policy.

Planning and Finance Committee:

Senator Rich: Our guest tonight was the Vice President of University Advancement, Erin Minné, and friends. The retention of alumni donors in one year went from 50% to 68%. We also got some information on the contributions of recent graduates. 2007 graduates have already set up a scholarship fund. We were encouraged as faculty and staff build on actions that contribute to long-run relationships that are beneficial to the university.

Rules Committee:

Senator Fazel: We approved some changes to the Blue Book relative to the membership of the Planning and Finance Committee. We again discussed the elimination of the Civil Service Handbook. There is also a change in the Constitution because it mentions that handbook. We have decided on some recommendations to present to HR and the Civil Service Council to work on together.

Action Item:

09.19.12.01 CTE Blue Book Revisions (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Stewart: The changes in the Blue Book were made to reflect changes in the Council for Teacher Education Bylaws passed by the Senate last year.

Motion XLIV-20: By Senator Stewart to accept the changes to the Blue Book. The motion was unanimously approved.

Information Items:

09.28.12.02 College Level Examination Program Policy (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Stewart: This was a review. There were a few typos. The U.S. Constitution only was taken out. Also, the U.S. Constitution Exam is no longer relevant.

09.28.12.01 Undergraduate Proficiency Examination Policy (Academic Affairs Committee)

Senator Stewart: There is a change in the phone number. There is a change that it is no longer the Office of the University Registrar. You can find this information at the Advanced Placement Program.

Senator Horst: Could you clarify for me if my department accepts an AP score, they don't have to offer a proficiency exam? I had a student who came into our program and reported that they had a 5 on the AP. This was incorrect. They had a 3. Now they want to take a proficiency exam. Is it the right of the department to offer that or not?

Senator Holland: We are getting an affirmative that it is up to the department.

10.11.12.03 Ombudsperson Policy – Revised (Faculty Affairs Committee)

Senator Horst: There is one slight change that happened in Executive Committee. Under procedures, the text that we are adding is in the fourth paragraph. It originally started with the word selection of members of the Ombudsperson Council. That has been changed to discovery.

Senator Kalter: My recollection of that discussion is that we debated that but we never decided on discovery.

Senator Stewart: We never voted on it.

Senator Horst: My committee voted on it and we decided that we liked discovery. We are adding language that will clarify procedure. In the future, we will have a slate of Ombudsperson Council nominees. Nominees are brought by the provost and she asked the deans to solicit names. Some deans did it in different ways. So our committee thought that it was important that faculty volunteer for this position as they do for any External Committee. We added language that would permit faculty to self-volunteer. It still allows the provost to select the slate of candidates and still allows the deans to put forward candidates.

Advisory Items:

04.25.12.05 *School Designation/Name Change: Department of Curriculum and Instruction Changed to School of Teaching and Learning (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee)*

Senator Kalter: This year, the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee decided to create a consent agenda because this looked like an uncontroversial item. It was on the consent agenda for two or three weeks and passed. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction has requested a name change and a designation change to the School of Teaching and Learning. The change from department to school makes absolutely no change except your department chair is called director.

09.21.12.02 *University Curriculum Committee Annual Report (Academic Affairs Committee)*

Senator Stewart: Every year, the University Curriculum Committee puts together a report detailing their actions over the year. The document you have is all of the course changes that have gone through their committee.

Communications

Senator Ellerton: This coming Saturday night, there is an event for the David Davis mansion. It is a fundraiser for that. There is a dinner and a play and the 33rd Regiment Band will also be performing.

Senator Weeks: Relevant to the European sovereign debt crisis and such factors as the award of the Nobel Prize for Peace to the European Union, the Department of Languages, Literature and Cultures is sponsoring a presentation by the German Council on Germany and the European Union. That's tomorrow in Stevenson 101 at 3:30 p.m.

Senator Stewart: There are two new shows that are opening at the University Galleries. They are opening October 27th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion XLIV-21: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Dawson, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.