

Spring 3-26-2014

Senate Meeting, March 26, 2014

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 26, 2014
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Dan Holland called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Senate Secretary called the roll and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2014

Motion XLV-52: By Senator Lessoff, seconded by Senator Schumacher, to approve the minutes of March 5, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

IBHE-FAC Report (Senator Gizzi)

Senator Gizzi: The meeting at Waubensee Community College was fairly productive. One of the major issues raised was the fact that we are facing a very serious higher education funding crisis from the legislature. The income tax ends in June and they are talking a billion dollars cut in higher education appropriation. We spent a lot of time in the public university caucus talking about what if any response FAC could make to this. Our suggestions were long on getting the legislature to understand how important we are, but short on suggestions of actually accomplishing that. We had a brief presentation on student debt crisis issues. The one issue that is ongoing in FAC right now is the issue of 3 + 1 programs. Dupage has been a leader in this and has been pushing this very hard for many years. Many of us in FAC, including some of the community colleges, think it's a terrible idea. We will be hosting the September 19 meeting here.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: I would like to personally welcome President Dietz.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Alvarado: I would like to echo that on behalf of the student government. April 2 will be the student government's last assembly meeting for the current administration. We will announce the election results for the 2014-2015 administration. I will also be presenting the State of the Student Body Address.

Administrators' Remarks

• ***President Larry Dietz***

President Dietz: Thank you so much for the warm applause and the good wishes. I join you under a different title, but I am the same person who has been involved with the Senate for the past three years. I hope you understand my commitment to shared governance. I appreciate your patience as we pass through a rather turbulent period. None of what has gone on impacts what is truly important on our campus every day and that is the teaching, learning, scholarship, research and service.

One of my first jobs is to address some of the administrative vacancies that have been created recently. I want to congratulate Provost Sheri Everts on her new position. I also want to congratulate Dr. Dan Layzell in his new position at Louisiana State University. The interim vice president for Finance and Planning, Greg Alt, is here and I look forward to continuing to work with him. He has been a part of the teams that have gone down to have the appropriation hearings before the Senate and the House. Neither Sheri nor Dan's move had to do with other things that are going on around campus. After consulting with Dan Holland and some other folks on campus, I have appointed Brent Paterson as the interim vice president for Student Affairs. He will serve a two-year interim position. I continue to consult with governance leaders and other people about an interim appointment

for the vice president of Academic Affairs. I intend to make a decision about that soon and this is the first search that will be launched. I imagine we will start that search process shortly after the beginning of the fall semester. If you have ideas about who you would like to see serve in an interim capacity, please send me an email to ldietz@ilstu.edu.

I also know that there are some issues about search firms. There is a state list of approved search firms for searches other than direct reports to the president. I believe that we now have to get permission to use search firms. I have had some discussion with Dr. Everts on firms to avoid.

Governor Quinn delivered his budget address today. The bottom line for Illinois State in the governor's proposal is if the tax increase is extended, we will receive flat funding of about \$74 million. That is the best case we can hope for. If the increase is not extended, the governor has proposed a 12% cut. What will happen with the budget is purely supposition at this point. We will continue to work with the legislators to receive the best budgetary outcome possible.

Senator Kalter: What percentage of the Academic Affairs budget is state funded versus tuition funded?

Senator Alt: I can give you some general parameters for that. Our total GR budget, which is the state funding of \$74 million and then we have the Income Fund, tuition, and a few other fees that add up to about \$245 million. Of that, \$135 million is instruction. Within that we have academic support, which is another \$25 million. Organized research is another \$2 million. Those are the primary drivers of the General Revenue Budget.

Senator Horst: I received some concerns about search firms, particularly Greenwood Asher, and their role in the search for President Flanagan and their role in the search for the University of Wyoming president. That was another failed search. As you contemplate choosing a search firm, are you going to do some reflection on what happened in the failure of this past search?

President Dietz: The short answer is yes. As long as Trustee McCuskey would weigh in heavily on this that at this point that firm would not be used in the future as long as he was chair of the board. If we send out an RFP, we have to respond to everybody that responds to the RFP. I think that there is enough concern about that firm that I am pretty sure they would not be selected.

Senator Lessoff: Why do you want to search for a provost right away? I am worried about if we move into a situation where there is a little more turbulence, particularly budget issues. Institutions manage the news a little too much. How can we insure that the new people working for you aren't self-protective?

Senator Dietz: My sense is that it would not be a good idea to have three vice presidencies advertised at the same time. That might send the wrong message. We also may not have enough people to put on those search committees. We need to be very careful and deliberate about our process. I think that the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs position is foremost in a lot of people's minds, so that was the rationale for starting that one first. In terms of the latter issue and it goes back to the values of this institution; one of the reasons I was attracted to this institution was that the institution had values. One of those values is integrity. That integrity comes through shared governance. I was hired to help move the university forward; I plan to do that with the help of all of you in the spirit of shared governance and with a high level of integrity. I don't know the details of why we ended up the way we ended up. My job is to help move the institution forward.

Senator Eckrich: From whom must we get permission to use a search firm? Is there a policy at ISU for when a search firm is used? If not, how are those decisions made at the dean level, at the vice presidential level?

Senator Dietz: I am going to have to learn a little more about this process. I do know that regulations have changed and part of that was the angst over individuals that were hired that didn't work out. There is this state list of approved search firms and I would be happy to share that with this group. I will look into it in more depth and report back to this body at the next meeting.

- ***Provost Sheri Everts – Absent***

- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Greg Alt***

Senator Alt: Regarding the use of search firms, it's a state procurement restriction that we cannot use search firms for other than presidents unless there are special exceptions. I believe the institution's president can make exceptions under certain circumstances, but you cannot just broadly use search firms for any position.

The shifting of funding from state government to tuition payments is across the country, especially in the last several years. We do have different scenarios of how we might address rescissions. We do hope for a level appropriation and a lot of that will depend on what the legislature does with the tax increase. The state has kept their payments more current than they have in the past. We have received \$40.8 million out of that \$74 million appropriation. By the end of the year, we expect to have all but about \$22 million of the FY14 appropriation paid and that is very manageable for us. I am sure everyone is familiar with the initiative we have of the IT improvements, the academic facility improvements and the \$25 million financing that we are doing for that. We were successful in having the state's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability approve our financing plan without a concern. We have also had the credit rating hearings with Moody's and S&P and we hope to get a favorable credit rating back from them, although the state's situation does impair that. Currently, we have an A3 rating with Moody's and with S&P an A+ rating. We hope to hold our credit rating. As the state's credit rating goes down, that impacts our credit rating. It makes it more costly for us to borrow money. In the near future, we hope to have a system with IT that will allow for online ordering of parking permits.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Stewart: We had a discussion about the procedures for the changes to the General Education Program and for graduation rates. We have a write up for procedures to put on the Exec and Senate agendas. We also went over our task list and eliminated some things that we have passed and sent that forward to Cynthia.

Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee:

Senator Smudde: The committee approved our recommendations for the AIF, so that will be passed on to the Executive Committee. We also had an update about the status of the president's survey and we reviewed the Athletics budget. We had a new item given to us by the Executive Committee about the sale/distribution of food policy on campus. We went into executive session to talk about the results gathered so far about the deans' survey.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Senator Horst: We discussed an item from the Executive Committee. They asked us to investigate human-animal contact in an educational setting. Members of the committee met with Lisa Huson. She informed us that employees acting within the scope of their employment are indemnified under state law. Faculty would be covered in cases where there was contact with a student, so we decided to take that item off of our task list. We covered the AFEGC report and approved that. It will be going to Exec. We concluded our discussions on the dismissal policy and we are hoping to give a report to Sam Catanzaro and have a meeting with him next time.

Planning and Finance Committee:

Senator Rich: We concluded our work on the Institutional Priorities Report, adopted several revisions and then approved our full annual document. That will be forwarded to the Executive Committee and you all will be viewing it as an Information Item at our next meeting.

Rules Committee:

Senator Fazel: The committee completed assigning volunteers to External Committees of the Senate. The list will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for presentation at the next Faculty Caucus meeting. Also, we approved the Policy on the Creation and Revision of Policy. It will go to the Executive Committee.

Action Item:

03.06.14.02 Library Committee Blue Book Description – Revised (Academic Affairs Committee)

Motion XLV-53: By Senator Stewart to accept the changes to the Library Committee Blue Book description. The motion was unanimously approved.

Communications

Senator LaCasse: A production called the Exonerated is opening tomorrow night. Opening April 4 and running through the 12th is Mrs. Packard and it will be running in the CPA.

Senator Horst: We have a Red Note New Music Festival happening Sunday through Thursday and also there will be concerts Sunday afternoon and then Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday evening will be our last concert and I will have a piece being played.

Senator Alvarado: Students are currently in the campaign process for next year's Student Government Association. Would you remind students that April 1 and 2 are when the polls open? Students can vote by logging into their I-Campus.

Adjournment

Motion XLV-54: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Stewart, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.