

Spring 4-23-2014

Senate Meeting, April 23, 2014

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 23, 2014
(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 April 9, 2014

Motion XLV-65: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Stewart, to approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: I would like to express my sincere thanks to Provost Everts for her six years of service. I, personally, am going to miss her a lot, but I congratulate her on her new position at Appalachian State. Secondly, I would like to thank all of the outgoing student senators. It has been an excellent year.

For our guests around the room, we have a letter from them that will be read into the minutes momentarily. I spoke with President Dietz yesterday asking him if he could be here. He is not able to be here this evening. He is a speaker at the Athletics banquet tonight, but he did say I could reiterate some of the remarks he made last time about President Flanagan, which is: "There were some questions about the payout and I fielded them as best as I could that information about the payout. There is an article in the *Vidette* that did a good job describing what really can be said about that. We have agreed that the payout will not come from the general revenue, from mandatory tuition and fees paid by students and parents, nor from private donations through the Foundation. All of it will be paid from the other accounts that we do have, such as leases from Subway, logos and that kind of thing." The organization, I Paid for Flanagan, has followed Robert's Rules and addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Senate, which I will ask her to read into the minutes.

Senator Kalter:

"April 23, 2014

The Honorable Secretary of the Academic Senate,

The core values of Illinois State University, as stated in "Educating Illinois", include the pursuit of learning and scholarship, individual attention, diversity, integrity, and civic engagement. We are here because we take those values seriously, and are therefore concerned about the apparent disregard of those values by the Board of Trustees.

We are knowledgeable of the chain of events leading to the resignation of Dr. Timothy Flanagan. The Board hired a President who by its own admission was "a bad fit". Dr. Flanagan mistreated a dedicated and competent employee and then had him fired.

The Board's actions appear to have rewarded this bad behavior in the form of a \$480,000 buyout. Furthermore, the Board appears to have learned little from its mistakes as it has signed the new president using a similar contract as the one that failed to protect university interests. Finally, and most troubling, the Board has failed to take responsibility for its actions.

This error has resulted in a considerable cost to the university: not only in the form of nearly a half-a million dollars, but more importantly, in damage to both the reputation and morale of students, faculty and staff who hold themselves accountable every day.

Everywhere in our society we see growing inequality. We are seeing a double standard for those who work and those who are in power. How can integrity guide our institution when instead of setting an example, we are adopting the same unjust practices that equate money with morality. The University is a special place. It is an institution in the public interest that sets itself to a higher standard in hopes of being an example of what society could be.

The issue is accountability- for actions and for allocation of resources. Why is it acceptable for University employees to face pay cuts and job insecurity; for tuition rates to rise so much that students are forced to discontinue their education, while those in power are rewarded for inappropriate behavior with large payouts?

We see inequality, double standards, and unfair practices not only in our university, but in the world that we will be joining as ISU graduates. We will continue to promote our university's call for accountability, integrity, and fairness. Will the Board of Trustees do the same?

We submit this statement to the record of the Illinois State University Academic Senate, along with the support of 1,500 others--students, faculty, and members of the community-- who have signed our petition to challenge the Board of Trustees and every member of our community to uphold our core values.

Sincerely,

The Members and Supporters of "I Paid For Flanagan"

Senator Holland: Thank you very much for the letter. The Senate encourages people who have legitimate concerns to bring them before the Senate. On this particular issue, the Senate has very limited authority. I would, however, highly encourage this group to contact the Board of Trustees, which will be having its next meeting on May 9. My final thing as chair's comments, this will be my last meeting as Chair of the Academic Senate. I would like to thank all of you for your support over the last seven years. It has been a wonderful experience.

Senator Fazel: Do we know what the students are asking the Senate to do?

Senator Holland: If there is any particular action this organization would like the Senate to undertake, I would encourage you to contact one of your senators who can then bring it up to the Executive Committee of the Senate to have it put on as an agenda item at our next Senate meeting.

Student Body President's Remarks

Senator Alvarado: We had our passing of the gavel, so Connor Joyce is the new Student Body President, so this report is coming from him. Next Wednesday, a group of students will attend the MAP Grant Funding Rally. In addition, we will be hosting our Club Milner that we hold every semester at the end of the semester. That will be May 4 at 10 pm in the Milner Plaza. Provost Everts, we do wish you the best at your new position. Thank you and congrats.

Senator Eckrich: I have felt in the last two Senate meetings the impotence of this body in relation to the situation with President Flanagan and hold myself as part of that because it's been hard to know what to do or if there is anything that we can do. One question two meetings before today was posed to the chair and the Student Body President and the board meeting when the resignation was announced, but the conversation didn't go farther. I would like to suggest, could we, as the Academic Senate, maybe the Executive Committee and an ad hoc committee that joins the Executive Committee, write a letter. It may be similar to the letter we have just heard, but different in that it comes from the Academic Senate expressing my displeasure, which is really with

the board, that a contract be written where one does not have to do their job and can still be paid or the displeasure with the board for not holding him accountable. There seems to be a dishonesty involved for paying somebody out for work that is undone at the expense of the university, broadly construed. We have one more meeting left. A letter could be drafted by the appropriate part of this body and that would be in time for the board meeting.

Senator Holland: That would be a sense of the Senate type of resolution and anybody who would like to can create the letter. The Senate would then debate it and decide where to go with it. We can also discuss it in Executive Committee. That is also definitely an option.

Senator Kalter: If somebody who is not on Exec is writing the letter, they can always come to the Executive Committee meeting to discuss it.

Senator Fazel: Has any committee looked into why Patrick Murphy was fired? Was it by the order of the president? I know that that is a personnel matter and we cannot discuss it here in detail, but is there any person or group looking into this because if what President Flanagan did what he did at the level that he was dismissed, I would like to know.

Senator Holland: We only have one administrator with us this evening.

Provost Everts: Completely outside my area.

Senator Holland: If we had Vice President Alt, we could ask him.

Senator Fazel: Could we communicate that to him?

Senator Holland: We can communicate that to him

Administrators' Remarks

- *President Larry Dietz – Absent*

- *Provost Sheri Everts*

Provost Everts: Thank you, Senator Holland, for your many years of service to the Academic Senate. I would also like to thank Senator Alvarado for your service as well. As you know, the other administrators are at the Athletics banquet and program. I asked a representative of the Provost's Office to appear in my place so that I might be here for what is my last Academic Senate meeting. Soon to be Interim Provost Krejci will be here at the May 7th meeting. Tonight is my last admissions update. Our first-time-in-college applications are up 1% over this time last year and that last year figure was the highest ever number of applications. The average ACT score of admitted students remains consistently high and applications and admits by ethnicity also show impressive trends. We are up 13% in admitted students in traditionally underrepresented categories. Only in transfer applications do we see a very slight lag, 1% from this time last year, but transfer students apply later and later seemingly every year. Thank you all for all you do every day for our students and for ISU. And finally, thank you all for your service to the Academic Senate.

Senator Smudde: Do you have an average proportion of the applicants that actually turn into enrolled students?

Provost Everts: It changes a little bit every year. Yield is getting harder and harder for us to predict primarily because as you have heard many times from AVP Troy Johnson, we are in a different neighborhood in regard to recruiting, so it's difficult to nail that down at any one time, but with applications above 15,000 and turning that into the approximately 3,200 first-time freshman class, you can see how tightly they are able to recruit, admit and have those students enroll.

- *Vice President of Student Affairs Brent Paterson – Absent*
- *Vice President of Finance and Planning Greg Alt - Absent*

Action Items:

03.28.14.01 Academic Impact Fund Recommendations (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee)

Motion XLV-66: By Senator Smudde to accept the Academic Impact Fund Recommendations. The motion was unanimously approved.

03.28.14.02 Institutional Priorities Report (Planning and Finance Committee)

Motion XLV-67: By Senator Rich to accept the Institutional Priorities Report.

Senator Rich: There was a suggestion regarding the reports that come back from the vice presidents and how that might be accessible to a wider audience. The committee will recommend to the committee next year that that be discussed. Those reports should be available upon request from individual senators, but in terms of putting it up, I think that's something the committee definitely wants to discuss. The other item that was brought up was whether the ordering of items in the document has any particular priority concern. The friendly amendment was suggested by Senators Schumacher and Ellerton. Adding to the end of the introductory section and replacing that one sentence: "The narrative below describes institutional priorities of the Academic Senate for 2014-2015 not noted in any particular order. Numbered sections are for organizational purposes only." We have added that disclaimer and that was the consensus of the committee.

Senator Fazel: Since this is a priorities report, I would think that it should be prioritized because otherwise all of these things are already listed in *Educating Illinois*. So the function of the committee is to prioritize. I am not suggesting you change anything for this year, but when I was reading this, I expected to see them in priority order.

Senator Stewart: I have seen these reports year after year and the subheadings are not in a priority order, but the major things are in a priority order.

Senator Gizzi: As a member of the committee, I can appreciate the idea of that. We didn't think about priorities within the lists. I'm not convinced one way or the other, but it is appropriate for the committee to take that up next year.

Senator Crowley: I would like to make a point about these four priorities. I think that seeing them in isolation might be in error as well because when you think about a priority of enhancing the educational experience of students, promoting operational excellence, investing in an infrastructure and ensuring financial sustainability, they are all intertwined. So I am very content with the way they are written,

Senator Fazel: Are the big categories in priority order?

Senator Rich: The four major headings are more organizational groupings of those topics. The grouping has helped with the efficiency of the responses from the vice presidents. There wasn't a discussion about which of the four should lead.

The motion to accept the report, as amended, was unanimously approved.

04.15.14.01 General Education/Graduation Requirements - UCC Procedures - Revised (Academic Affairs Committee)

Motion XLV-68: By Senator Stewart to accept the procedures for changes to the General Education Program and to graduation requirements.

Senator Stewart: We had an online electronic amendment. On page 2, we struck out the “Executive Committee of the Academic Senate or the Academic Affairs Committee”. In the paragraph below that, the same thing. In the procedures for changes to graduation requirements we again struck out those lines in the similar paragraphs. The thinking was that something as all-encompassing as procedures for graduation and changes to Gen Ed, it affected everybody and to have any item go back to the committee of something this large, it probably should be seen by as many eyes as possible for full disclosure and transparency.

The motion to accept the revised procedures was unanimously approved.

Information Item:

04.11.14.01 Athletics Council Bylaws (Rules Committee)

Senator Bushell: The main document that everyone received in their Senate materials was a marked up version and upon seeing that, I was finding several details that were still out of order compared to what we as a committee had come to a consensus on and asked Cynthia to pass along a cleaner version. It is not a marked up version. Between the two versions, I hope that everyone has a sense of the details.

There are seven or eight little details that need to be cleaned up in the marked-up version. On page 2, some of the formatting is still off and what is listed on the top of that page as Section C should be Section B and those letters should follow suit afterwards. On page 3, under Section C, “Vacancy”, the cross reference is incorrect. I will give you a new cross reference. At the end of that sentence, it should read the vacancies shall be filled in a manner prescribed in I, A-E, and II, A-B.

Farther down that page under Section 2, “Committee Structure”, the first full paragraph, I would like to add a bit of clarity in the second sentence that we came to as a committee. So the second sentence should read “The chair of each committee will be one of the elected faculty members of the Athletics Council.” On page 4, again clarifying structure, under Section B, the Committee on Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance, changing 5, 4 and 5 to 3, 4 and 5. On page 6, Section E is the section on gender diversity and student athlete well-being. In the middle of that first paragraph, there is a sentence that reads “The chairperson of the Gender, Diversity and Student Athlete Well-Being Committee must be a faculty member.” We are striking that sentence because it is covered earlier as we just described.

Still in Section E, number 7, through email conversations with Senator Horst, a little addition came about. The second sentence reads “Review class absences, and time away from campus of student athletes.” I would suggest adding a phrase in there that defines away from campus. So I suggest the reading “Review class absences and time away from campus due to athletic events of student athletes.” Page 8, last sentence in the paragraph there “Written subcommittee reports as well as a council summary are submitted.” After seeing it again in this marked up version, it seemed to read oddly. Already, throughout the document, it is described that the Athletic Council reports to the Academic Affairs Committee and the president, so I would suggest striking that last sentence.

Senator Kalter: Are the six or seven that you went over cleaning up the document between the two copies only, but were there other issues that went back and forth from the Rules Committee and the Athletics Council?

Senator Bushell: It is the basics of what was changed. The last item is me coming back and seeing that last sentence again and feeling that it is odd. It’s covered elsewhere in the document in terms of reporting.

Senator Kalter: I would recommend leaving that in because I think it is important that we let our External Committees of the Senate know when we might be asking them for written reports. Another thing is procedural. It is probably best to offer the striking of that last thing as an amendment that would be voted on because the committee itself has not discussed it.

Senator Bushell: It seemed like it was stating something that was stated earlier in this document that these four subcommittees just report to the council as opposed to the broader issue of the council being able to make a statement to Academic Affairs and the president.

Senator Kalter: You are saying that the subcommittees are reporting to the central committee of the Athletics Council, while the Athletics Council reports to the Senate and you wanted to distinguish those?

Senator Bushell: Right.

Senator Horst: I just want to clarify that it is the Faculty Affairs Committee that they report to. I do think it is useful to see the subcommittee reports and I perceive this section of the document as informing them of what is expected of them to send in. So I would appreciate it if it just said send in the subcommittee reports.

Senator Bushell: I can go with that suggestion and not introduce a friendly amendment for that last sentence.

Motion XLV-67: By Senator Bushell to move the item to action.

Senator Gizzi: Why? We have a Senate meeting in two weeks. This document was given to us with two copies. I understand we have a new Senate with new members who wouldn't have seen it, but this is a long standing issue about turning Information Items into Action Items when there is no exigency.

It takes a two-thirds vote to turn an Information Item into an Action Item. By roll call vote, the motion was not approved.

Advisory Item:

04.11.14.02 Academic Calendar and Supporting Documents (Sam Catanzaro/Provost's Office)

Senator Kalter: I believe by policy or the Blue Book, if the majority of the Senate votes to send this calendar for further scrutiny, we can do that and it would go to the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee.

Senator Holland: The reason it is now just an Advisory Item is by the time it comes to us, it has gone through I don't know how many layers and if you take into account when our contracts start and stop, how many teaching days we have to have and various vacations, there are essentially no options. Is that correct?

Dr. Sam Catanzaro, Assistant Vice President for Academic Administration: There are very few degrees of freedom unless Thanksgiving and Christmas get changed.

Communications

Senator Holland: I would again like to thank all of our guests here this evening. I very much appreciate your involvement at Illinois State University and your concern for it. Thank you for coming.

Senator LaCasse: The spring dance concert is May 1, 2, 3 at 7:30 and May 3 at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the CPA box office.

Senator Stewart: In the University Galleries, there is the Student Annual. There are graduate and BFA shows in galleries 2 and 3.

Sense of the Senate Resolution

Senator Kalter: I have a resolution that is a totally out of order and a surprise Sense of the Senate Resolution that is about our illustrious chairperson:

“Whereas Dan Holland has given fourteen years of distinguished service to the Academic Senate of Illinois State University;

And whereas he has served for seven years as an example of dedication and excellence in the Chairship of the Senate;

And whereas being Chair of the Senate involves much hidden, unknown, and unsung labor performed with diligence and often with quiet heroism;

The Academic Senate hereby extends to Dan Holland its profound gratitude for his guidance and extends him its best wishes as he takes on new responsibilities and challenges as Chair of the Department of Physics.

And whereas we fear and refuse to add any more whereases to this resolution lest we wear out the whereasness of its whereasness:

Let it also be known that we hereby give to Dan Holland the following gold watches as gifts in his retirement from the Senate Chairship, wishing him good luck and Godspeed in his new role:

One Wooden Catapult for launching fiery barbs unscathed at competitors for our top student and faculty recruits; (Provost Everts)

One Multiple Sling for fending off unfunded faculty requests; (Senator Hoelscher)

One genuine Returning Boomerang for submitting Academic Impact Fund requests in the expectation that they will go nowhere (watch your head!); (Senator Kalter)

One lightning bolt mug for introducing plasma physics to the uninitiated; (Senator Rich)

One Rock Paper Scissors Lizard Spock mug for superior skill in conflict resolution; (Cynthia James)

One "Stay Calm and Trust Physics" mug for general purposes; (Senator Alvarado)

Be well, do good work, and keep in touch!"

Adjournment

Motion XLV-69: By Senator Hoelscher, seconded by Senator Gallagher, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.