

February 20, 2008

Re: Academic Senate Meeting

Dear Academic Council,

On Wed. the Academic Senate met. There were no visitors; so, the following is a brief summary of what transpired.

Security

As you would imagine, after the tragic loss of life last week at N.I.U., security was on everyone's mind. Each of the administrators who spoke thanked everyone involved for the Tues. vigil in Redbird Arena. Dr. Bowman noted that I.S.U. has a 24-hr. a day professional police force, unlike many universities, emergency call boxes, an electronic warning message that appeared quickly after the attacks, and a paging system in the classrooms (I didn't catch where.) When Larry Alferink asked if there was a plan in place, basically the response was yet but it was too complex to sum up quickly. I will have to wait for the minutes to give you any exact language.

Dr. Murphy echoed the president, but also pointed out that for some time there was an informal, now formal, group that meets every two weeks to try to prevent attacks like the one up north by identifying students and staff in trouble and handling those situations. This committee, Student Behavioral Intervention Team, apparently can bypass FERPA rules and can contact parents and recommend students and others see medical professionals. The provost noted that they have been able to defuse a number of potential threats through this committee. Dr. Adams added to the provost's comments about the S.B.I.T. I took the opportunity to ask V.P. Adams if there were any formal liaisons in each department, he asked Dr. Murphy to field the question. According to her the persons most likely to get information from professors about potentially threatening students would be chairs and they report to her. I did not ask, but probably should have, if there are any advisors on this committee. **I would recommend that the AP Council consider asking someone from this committee talk to us, particularly at this time.**

Planning and Finance Committee

At present the P&F committee is attempting to prioritize the university's goals in the revised Educating Illinois. I would like to ask the AP Council if they have any input concerning prioritizing the following goals:

- Goal 1:* Illinois State University will demonstrate excellence in scholarship, teaching, and learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels. (They will probably split this into two goals, as there are now 15 proposed strategies)
- Goal 2:* I.S.U. will position faculty, staff, and students to excel in a globally competitive, culturally diverse, technological, and changing environment.

Goal 3: I.S.U. will enhance student, faculty, staff, alumni, and community pride in, and allegiance to, the university.

Goal 4: I.S.U. will be accountable and fiscally responsible to internal and external stakeholders.

Goal 5: I.S.U. will promote a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable campus.

If the AP Council would like me, as their representative, to present any specific prioritization, please let me know before the next P&F Committee meeting.

Administrators' Remarks

Dr. Bowman noted that the governor had prepared a stimulus package. Unfortunately, there will be no new increases in the Higher Education allocation. As a result, the "hiring freeze" will continue.

Concerning admissions, Dr. Murphy said we were close to closing admissions for fall. 6% more students had been admitted (24.4 ACT average). She also mentioned that 23% of transfer-student admits were from other 4-year institutions, according to her a mark of excellence. On March 25th and 26th everyone is invited to the FY '09 Budget Presentation from 8-12. Last, she highlighted the Innovative Partnerships for Student Learning Conference, next September 25-27.

Vice President Adams told us that the Board of Trustees had approved the demolition of Dunn, Barton and Walker. They will be removing asbestos in May, so stay away. He also mentioned that I.S.U. was sending four counselors to N.I.U. in response to the increased need in the wake of the murders.

There were two action items from the Rules Committee. The first, approved, involved a re-wording of the disestablishment policy. The second, approved, concerned some language changes in SCERB, the Student Code Enforcement and Review Board.

In summary, if the AP council would like me to express any concerns about safety or has any suggestions about prioritizing goals for Educating Illinois, I would be happy to pass them along.

Sincerely,

Ron

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