

Re: Senate Minutes, March 28, 2009

Dear Council,

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the Senate meeting for March 28, 2009. What follows are a summary of the official minutes.

Apparently Lane Crothers appeared again. His report was posted at:
<http://www.academicssenate.ilstu.edu/documents.html>.

President Bowman announced Steve Bragg's retirement. He followed with more bad news concerning education budgets around the country. Iowa State is facing a \$41million cut for next year (2.5%). At the same time Iowa will see 35,000 fewer graduates from high school next year. The Univ. of Michigan is facing a 3% reduction in state support. UW-Madison is facing a \$63 million reduction over two years.

After hitting the Senate with the country's woes, Dr. Bowman noted that our state budget deficit is projected to grow from \$5.1 billion this year to \$7.3 billion next year. This puts more pressure for the governor to get rid of the proposed income tax exemptions for low and middle income families. Plus, he has proposed tripling the personal income tax exemption, from two to six thousand dollars, not news well received. In his budget address, the governor did note that "education is key to equal opportunity and economic empowerment" and promised to make education a higher priority. This would mean an increase in operating budget, 1.3 % and %50 million for the Fine Arts complex.

President Bowman continued with a summary of the Stimulus Package and its impact on higher education.

Student Financial Aid:

- Pell goes from 4,700 to \$5,300;
- Work study increase;
- New tax credit that replaces the Hope tax credit.

Scientific Research:

- NSF, NIH, Dep. Of Energy and NASA will see large increases to be spent on college campuses.

Infrastructure:

- \$1.3 billion will go to state governments.

Fiscal Stabilization:

- \$47 billion will minimize cuts to K-12 and higher ed.
- \$90 billion goes to Medicaid over next 2 yrs.

Job Training:

- Workforce Investment Act will help community colleges with training funds.

He also noted about President Obama's budget:

- Pell Grants will become a full entitlement;
- All federal loans will be direct.

Provost Everts remarked on the Academic Affairs budget presentations, Jack North's presentation in the College of Business on the "Art of Leadership," and Dr. Gwendolyn Wright's presentation.

V.P. Adams said that plans were under way for a Bone Center "revitalization" project and they are looking for a new director of the Student Fitness Center.

V.P. Bragg had bad news about pension plans; basically there will be fewer choices for new employees.`

There were a few action items. If you are interested, please see the Academic Senate website.

Again, my apologies for my absence.

Cheers,

Ron

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