

Dec. 6, 2007

Dear AP Council,

The following is my report concerning the Academic Senate meeting held last night, December 5, 2007. In addition to a presentation concerning information technology, we heard remarks from Dr. Bowman, Dr. Presley, Steve Adams, and Dr. Bragg. We also received an advisory item: "Student Death Notification Information."

Mark Walbert, Associate V.P. of Technology, presented the Executive Summary for the 2007-2010 Information Technology Strategic Plan. With the desire to deliver "high-quality IT services that support distinctiveness and excellence across the university," IT has established a mission statement, which include five strategic goals:

- 1. Support Illinois State's aspiration to be the first-choice public institution in Illinois by developing best practices in testing, implementing, and utilizing technology to enhance high-quality teaching and learning, research and creative activity, and professional service.*
- 2. Base IT decisions on coordinated planning, sustainable funding, and assessment.*
- 3. Promote excellent client-centered IT service that balances centralized and departmental IT support.*
- 4. Provide reliable, secure, and capable network and server access that supports the University's academic and administrative systems.*
- 5. Support the University's administrative information needs.*

I thought it interesting that on page 5 of the 52 page summary, they printed official objections to the strategic goals as delineated by an Assistant V.P. for Administrative Information Systems, an Associate V.P. for Student Affairs, and an Executive Director, University Mktg. and Communications. Specifically, they "do not support a recommendation to 'Assign the locus of responsibility for IT on campus to a Chief Information Officer with the Campus Technology Policy and Planning Council serving in an advisory capacity to this office...' nor the recommendation to 'Develop a detailed distributed IT support model to provide central coordination of technology professionals that are distributed throughout the University to provide services tailored to local constituent needs.'" In short, they are objecting to what they consider over-centralization. Their's, however, was apparently a minority voice.

The Chair of the Senate, Dan Holland, recognized Provost Preseley's service to the Senate. Dr. Bowman seconded his thanks. The President also indicated that applications were 2% ahead of where they were last year and that graduation rates of African American and Hispanic students is second only to the U of I. He also mentioned that the interviews for Provost had closed and that they planned to rap it up before we leave for the holiday.

Dr. Presley noted that freshman applications were up 7% with 10% more admitted than last year. He noted that a “pessimistic reading” of those applicants would find that quality has fallen, though insignificantly. Under-represented applications are up 10% while admission of the same is up 18%. He added that it “looks to be a very good year.” The Provost added that they were going to pilot a “University Fellows” program with various graduate students in an effort to raise graduate student stipends. He also noted that there were 56 tenure-track searches this year, of which the trend has been that 14% would fail (not necessarily a bad thing.) He hailed the Senate for bringing a “clarity of purpose” to the university and for its “unique” contributions.

V.P. Adams noted that residence halls would close on the 15th at 7pm. Dining centers will close this Friday. Retail operations will be open until we leave for break and will re-open Jan. 2nd. There are some exceptions, notably Atkin-Colby and Whitten, which will provide space for those student who do not leave campus. Adams also mentioned that the Director of Health Services had confirmed 8 cases of M.R.S.A. with 15 suspected cases in housing and athletics. There have been no influenza trends. Last, V.P. Adams announced that Arlene Hosea(sp?), Director of Campus Dining, won the Neal R. Grimsley Quality of Student Life Award.

Last, we received an advisory item outlining Student Death Notification procedures. The most important thing to note is that if any employee of the university becomes aware of the death of a student, we are supposed to contact the Dean of Students Office, 438-2008, a.s.a.p. The Critical Incident Response Team (C.I.R.T.) works with the local emergency agencies and takes the lead in notifying family, instructors, and the campus community.

Although I am sure that is more than most of you wanted to know, rest easy that we will not have another meeting until January 23rd.

Sincerely,

Ron

Ronald M. Gifford, Ph.D.
Assistant Chair/Advisor
Department of History
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790
rmgiff@ilstu.edu