Re: Senate Report

February 25, 2009

Dear AP Council,

On February 18, the Academic Senate met even though every administrator was absent. If you thought this would mean a short meeting, it didn’t.

Chief Swan, I.S.U.’s police chief, offered us some information about campus safety. He noted that there is a misconception that campus crime is on the rise. He suspects it is because of the crime alerts. Nevertheless, crime is somewhat down from last year. The ISU police shine at the state level in their representation of women detectives, command females, and number of officers with a B.A. He does admit, however, that we do not have enough sworn officers (the difference between sworn and not is that the latter are security guards). In fact, at any time we only have two officers in the field. When you compare Northern IL’s force of 68 compared to ISU’s force of 24, there is quite a discrepancy.

When asked about the Crime Alert and ISU’s sensitivity to racial issues, Chief Swan assured us that they were only looking for sensitive people with good communication skills to be officers. In addition, they only send alerts when they fall along the spectrum recognized by the F.B.I. as crimes of murder, rape or burglary. There is a specific chain of command that they follow at all times. In a personal aside, I must say, Chief Swan was an effective presence.

The meeting proceeded to Action Items, in this case one dealing with a code for potential dress codes. I heated debate ensued, though I had little to offer. The policy for a dress code policy passed. Try saying that three times.

The meeting adjourned, surprisingly with everyone dressed to code. Stay tuned for the next riveting installment. I don’t know if you can tell from this, but I am really looking forward to our hAPpy hour.

Cheers,

Ron