Planning & Finance Committee Meeting
Committee members met with Vice-Presidents Dietz and Layzell and Dr. Brent Patterson to discuss student fees. Student fees comprise 10% of revenue for the University and Illinois State University currently ranks seventh out of the Illinois publics in terms of the dollar amount of fees assessed to students. A recommendation for the FY 2014-2015 has not been made yet. However, President Flanagan would like to have the recommendation available to the Board of Trustees by their February meeting. Typically, the recommendation is not presented until the May meeting which makes Illinois State University late in comparison to other schools for having information readily available to prospective students. Recommendations are determined by an advisory committee in an effort to make the process as collaborative as possible. Vice-President Dietz believed that there would be a recommendation to raise room rates slightly and leave board rates alone. Because of the Truth in Tuition Act, tuition rates are frozen for four years. Illinois State University currently freezes the fee rates for four years as well though we are not required to do so. According to Vice-President Layzell, this practice will be researched in the near future to determine if it is feasible. Vice-President Dietz also informed committee members that approximately 2,500 board plans are sold to off-campus students which include 78% of Cardinal Court students. In addition, it is likely that there will be an increase in the student insurance fee, possibly around three percent. When asked about impact of the Affordable Care Act, Vice-Presidents Dietz and Layzell reported that the University hasn’t seen any measureable change as of yet. They reported that our student insurance is one of the best plans among the Illinois publics and our physicians are among the lowest paid which is having an effect on recruitment efforts.

Senate Meeting

- Chairperson’s Remarks-Chairperson Holland thanked his wife for her understanding to attend the Senate meeting as it was their 25th wedding anniversary.

- SGA Remarks
  - Club Milner will once again be held during finals week. The SGA is currently finalizing plans.
  - SGA members are currently reviewing and revising the final exam policy and will be looking to endorse the proposed changes soon.
  - SGA President Alvarado was asked about the smoking policy and if a reminder had gone out to students as of late. Senator Alvarado confirmed an email was sent recently to the student body and the SGA had received positive feedback. There will be another email going out in January which will include a map outlining the no-smoking areas on campus.
  - Senator Alvarado was asked if information regarding bicycling/pedestrian safety could be distributed. Further discussion on this topic was held until Vice-President Layzell’s report.

- President Flanagan’s Remarks
  - President Flanagan thanked the campus community for their emergency response to Sunday’s storms. The Dean of Students Office and Student Affairs are working with those off-campus students who were displaced because of housing damage. Congressman Ron Davis contacted President Flanagan on
Monday and asked if the campus needed assistance in wake of the storm. In addition, President Flanagan expressed his gratitude and pride for the relief efforts students, organizations and faculty/staff put together.

- State lawmakers will convene in Springfield on December 3rd to discuss pension reform. According to President Flanagan, a bill has been introduced but the public package has not been released yet and there is much speculation on how it will be presented. President Flanagan, as well as the all public university presidents/chancellors is monitoring the situation very closely and he has spoken to Representative Dan Brady to voice concerns.
- President Flanagan and Dr. John Baur traveled to Washington DC to visit our congressional delegation. Topics of conversation included budget issues surrounding higher education, the impact of cuts on research and collaboration at the university-level and a proposed college grading system.
- The Board of Trustees attended their annual retreat in early November. There was discussion regarding making revisions to governing documents outlining protocol for Financial Exigency. The Board took suggested revisions under consideration and has referred them to their own legal counsel for advice and/or further recommendations.

- Provost Everts’ Remarks
  - Provost Everts expressed her thanks to the campus and the students for their assistance and cooperation during Sunday’s storm.
  - As of Monday, Admissions applications statistics are up slightly from this time last year. The average ACT score is at 24.9, first-time college applications were up and diversity statistics were up in all categories with the exception of white and Hawaiian. New transfer student applications that applied and are admitted are also up compared to this time last year.

- Vice-President Dietz’s Remarks
  - Vice-President Dietz thanked the campus for its efforts during the storm. There were approximately 300 students that were directly impacted. Around 270 students are from storm-impacted areas including the community of Washington. Locally, 30 students were displaced due to damage at First Site apartments. Faculty of those impacted students has been notified.
  - The campus received some storm damage. The basketball court in McCormick Hall will need to be replaced. Estimates are around $100,000 to replace it. The Bone Student Center and a few other campus facilities sustained minor damage. Damage assessments are currently being done by Facilities staff.
  - Vice-President Dietz informed the Senate of the passing of a student last weekend. The Dean of Students has been in touch with the student’s family. Arrangements are scheduled for Friday and Saturday this week and information will be posted on the Dean of Students’ web site.
  - Vice-President Dietz thanked the SGA Program Board for their efforts in putting together the Stuff the Bus disaster relief event.

- Vice-President Layzell’s Remarks
  - Tabled to Vice-President’s Layzell’s remarks was the discussion of bicyclist and pedestrian safety. Several Senate members have experienced issues with
bicyclists on campus and are fearful that someone will be severely hurt. It was asked in signs could be posted on campus designating bicycle lanes. It was also noted that the use of skateboards and longboards is prohibited on campus. No action was taken.

- Vice-President Layzell thanked the campus community for its cooperation during and following the storm.
- Parking and Transportation has released a customer service survey with responses due by December 31st. Survey results will be used for future planning.
- The Capital Revenue Board and the architect have met to discuss the Fine Arts Complex project. There will be workshops held on December 3rd and 4th with staff, faculty and students to gather input. It is estimated that the planning process will take 18-24 months and then construction will begin.

- Committee Reports
  - Academic Affairs
    - The final exam policy is still being reviewed and discussed. The committee hopes to present changes to the policy to the Senate in the near future.
    - Committee members will begin reviewing the International Strategic Plan. Dr. Rita Bailey will speak to the committee.
  - Administrative Affairs & Budget
    - The committee has finished reviewing the Deans Survey.
    - Work on the annual President Commentary continues.
    - Julie North from Parking and Transportation will hopefully be attending the committee’s next meeting to discuss the Parking Plan.
  - Faculty Affairs
    - The committee is continuing to discuss Financial Exigency and make revisions.
    - Members continued to discuss the Sabbatical Policy and the idea of creating junior sabbaticals.
  - Planning & Finance-Please see minutes on first page.
  - Rules
    - The Rules Committee reviewed Milner Library’s Bylaws and has sent their recommendations to them.
    - Review/discussion of the Athletic Council Bylaws has begun.

- Information Items
  - Concealed Carry and Prohibited Weapons Policy-Revised/Parking Areas Where Concealed Carry is Restricted-Revised/University Violence Policy-Revised--Senate members chose to discuss all three policies simultaneously as they are all related. To be in compliance with the State statute, Illinois State University must have an updated policy on file. Universities are permitted to ban concealed weapons from University property including buildings, grounds and parking areas. Concealed weapons will be allowed only in certain parking lots. Weapons must be locked in a case or hidden in glove compartments or trunks and must be unloaded. Weapons will not be allowed in
parking lots surrounding University High School and Metcalf and will also not be allowed in tail-gating lots. Those who have concealed weapons in approved parking lots must have appropriate certification/licensure. It was asked if signs would be posted on those lots that did allow concealed weapons. The Committee has decided against signage as it was feared it would promote an increase in automobile break-ins on campus. Legal counsel confirmed that Illinois State University’s revised policy mirrors those set forth by federal guidelines. The University Violence Policy was revised to reflect changes in conceal and carry guidelines. It was recommended by Senate members that the Faculty Termination Policy be reviewed to determine if revisions were necessary. Senate will vote on revisions at next meeting.

- Domestic Partners Benefits Policy-Revised /Domestic Partner Health Insurance Reimbursement Procedures-Revised—The Senate chose to discuss both policies simultaneously as they are related. The revisions to the policy are in reference to both same-sex and opposite-sex partners. The current policy is over 10 years old and does not reflect current legislative changes passed by the State. A task force was formed to address the concerns and reorganization and clarification of the older policy was produced. Specifically, the revised policy grants benefits to domestic partners and outlines what benefits are offered by Illinois State University. The Reimbursement Procedures identifies which groups are not covered by State policy and outlines procedures for compensation. The Senate will vote at the next meeting.

- Communications

  - Sense of the Senate Resolution: Statement on Pension Reform—In late September, Chairperson Holland attended a meeting of the Council of Illinois University Senates. At this meeting the UIUC Senate presented a letter outlining a resolution regarding pension reform. It was decided to try and write a similar document at each campus and would be brought to the individuals Senates for support. Executive Board members discussed with President Flanagan and drafted a letter similar to that of UIUC. The purpose of the letter is to express the Senate’s concerns while not appearing overly forceful or have political tones. After much discussion among Senate members, it was decided at the November 6th meeting to table the Resolution so that Executive Board members could incorporate suggested changes and bring back to the full Senate at a later time. Executive Board members incorporated suggested changes to the document. After discussion, the Senate voted to endorse the Resolution. It will be forwarded to President Flanagan and the Board of Trustees.

  - It was reported that while tornado sirens did not ring in Bloomington or Normal, the ISU text and call alert system did activate. Senate members expressed appreciation the system kept them informed.

  - Senate members are asked to encourage donations for the Stuff the Bus event for relief efforts. The event provides a central collection point for campus efforts and will be available on the Quad until 4pm on Friday.