AGENDA
CAMPUS SENATE MEETING
AY 2012/2013
FRIDAY, September 28, 2012
10:00 A.M. – Noon
PAC CONFERENCE ROOM H


Ex-Officio: L. Pardie


Approval of the Agenda
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

L. Fisher welcomed all, especially the new student senators. Returning are Ryan Bouray, John Tienken, Aaron Mulvey, and new Student Senators, Jamaal Hollins and Samia Ahmad.

Motion by Martin and seconded by Li to approve the day’s agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2012
The minutes from September 14 were unanimously approved with a clarification on lines 56 & 57. Martin clarified that his comment was specific to the SEC, rather than for all committees. Salela suggested that on line 209, date should read “data.” Also, lines 415-416 Martin clarified that Spanish Minor proposal should focus on what UIS can do best, which depends on the personnel in place. Switzer, referring to line 427, asked to insert music as well.

Amended minutes approved unanimously with specified changes.

Announcements: Martin – star parties continue tonight from 8 until 10.
Boltuc – World affairs presentation on elections in the Ukraine this coming Monday in Sangamon Auditorium.

Reports
Chair’s Report – L. Fisher

The Chancellor’s office requested chair announce that Chancellor and Mr. Koch are hosting a reception for Senators and their guests at their home on Friday October 12 from 4:30 to 6: pm. Formal invitations are forthcoming. This is an annual event and Fisher encouraged all to attend this wonderful event.

Senators were reminded once again about the Open Meetings Act training. Please complete the training according to appropriate timeline. The Senate Executive Committee met with University counsel, Mark Henss. All subcommittees of the Senate are subject to OMA and so it is imperative that committees post all regular meeting times, locations and agendas. Minutes should also be made available. The SEC will meet with committee chairs and invite comments or suggestions on staffing needs to comply with OMA.

Fisher also announced she attended a wonderful U of I recruiting event this past weekend that focused on recruiting high-achieving, under-represented minority groups to our three campuses. UIS was well represented. Our own Vivica Lutrell, a junior at UIS, gave an impressive speech on the differences between high school and college and what life was like on campus at UIS.

Provost Report - L. Pardie

Provost presented information on the Illinois economy and the status of appropriations for the University of Illinois. In a few weeks Provost will be presenting a report to the Senate on the University of Illinois Springfield budget. The good news is that the Illinois economy is growing and expanding but it is doing so very slowly. Unemployment rates are going down but are still at 9%. Illinois is not alone as other Midwestern states are experiencing similar fiscal struggles. Growth rate is expected to be slow. The biggest threats to the local economy are coming from the federal level where potential costs may be pushed down to the state level. Pension costs are also exerting an enormous pressure on the economy. On the bright side, the stock market is rising. However, Illinois bond ratings are at the lowest level since 1998. This information was provided at a BOT meeting on September 14 by David Meriman, an economist and the Associate Director of the Institute for Government and Public Affairs at UI, and from our Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer Walt Knorr.

Direct State appropriations for the University of Illinois are lower than 1997 levels but we have weathered the cuts through tight fiscal controls. We have redirected some of the savings from cost-cutting to areas of need. Some revenue has been generated through tuition increases, and an increase in grants and contracts and research awards. At UIS, we are very lean on academic programs and our plans for new academic programs have been very conservative. All of the UI campuses have been told to brace for a 14% increase in pension and health care costs. We will have to wait and see how that plays out. UIS will continue to press forward.

Faculty have been encouraged to submit academic program suggestions. A steering committee has been established to gather data about occupational outlooks in our region. We are trying to determine what types of programs will be potentially enduring in a time of rapidly changing high technology and interdisciplinary endeavors. We also want to know what kind of majors are frequently requested that are not currently offered. We have started to receive feedback from the
colleges and programs about what is already being done as far as ideas for new program offerings. We also have had responses from academic professionals and we would like to move forward as quickly as possible.

Fisher asked who is on the steering committee that has been assembled to look at occupational outlooks. Pardie responded that it consists of the Dean’s Council which are the Deans, the Associate Vice-Chancellors, Lori Giordano from admissions, Tammy Craig from the career services center, and Cecilia Cornell.

Kline asked if the Provost is still taking suggestions. Pardie responded yes but would like to have to have them by October 1st.

Fisher asked if the increase in grant funds was specifically the case at UIS or overall at all campuses. Pardie said she would come back with actual numbers.

**Student Government Report – R. Bouray**

Ryan Bouray reported SGA had its first meeting this past Sunday with newly elected Senators. SGA is working on hosting a “chimichangas with the Chancellor” event, which will be a great way for students to meet and talk with the Chancellor about any issues or concerns. SGA is assembling the food vendor task force to investigate bringing off-campus vendors to UIS. SGA will be taking a group to a conference in Chicago on October 20. Also, SGA passed a resolution last Sunday in support of establishment of Spanish language minor.

Jorge Villegas is the faculty member on the food service task force.

**USC Report – L. Fisher**

Fisher reported on the University Senates Conference. Jorge Villegas, Peter Boltuc and Fisher are the current representatives from UIS to the USC. They thought it would be useful to have a written report from the conference. Fisher highlighted 3 main points. The first was a lengthy conversation with President Easter about goals for the fiscal year. President Easter is moving ahead very quickly on an administrative review and restructuring. They managed to carve out about 50 million dollars from the central administration which is a small percentage of the budget. They are hoping to build on that success by identifying redundancies and outdated functions. They are looking for faculty representatives to help with this process.

Another main topic was a conversation with Vice-President Pierre, who has been charged by the president to develop a process of centralized University of Illinois program review in the coming year. This initiative comes from the BOT. This is in the early stages and will be revisited in the next USC meeting.

New subcommittees were launched in USC, attempting to mirror the sub-committees of the BOT. The hope is to divide the workload and devote more attention to issues and more effectively attend to the statutory responsibility of advising the BOT. Martin noted that this does increase the already onerous workload for UIS representatives serving on the SEC, and expressed gratitude and confidence in UIS members to SEC.
BOT – K. Jamison
Jamison informed senators that the BOT approved the UIS master plan which included the addition of a new public safety building and a student union, as well as building renovations on campus.

English M.A. Program Review
First item is the English Master’s Program Review. Kerri spoke on behalf of the Graduate Council, stating that the English Master’s program is undergoing a massive revision. The GC saw some very strong points and hopes to see the changes further proposed and implemented. Right now the enrollment has been suspended. GC recommends that the English Department be provided all of the resources needed to accomplish this redesign. The hope is that the revised program will be ready for the 2014 catalog.

Bussell described the enrollment variances the program has experienced recently. Demographics have changed. The program was enrolling older, life-long learners, some of whom were staying in the program six, seven or even eight years. As the economy suffered, enrollment declined and the cohort changed. Students got younger and were more oriented to occupational outcomes. The English Department has reassessed and redesigned the program to meet the rapidly changing market. According to Bussell, the discipline has changed dramatically in the last five years. The digital world has had a huge impact in how everyone engages with text. Consequently, English Department Faculty had to rethink the entire curriculum and try to hold the old and the new together. The department will discuss plans today.

Kerri said a major concern that emerged from GC deliberations was the need for a marketing strategy for the new program. Marketing is something we need across campus. Furthermore, Karri encouraged the University to provide necessary resources to build strong English programs to increase student recruitment and retention.

Boltuc commented that not only has our student demographic changed, we as an institution have changed. We have outstanding faculty, but we used to have recognizable scholars who had published on the local or regional level that drew students. He recommended recruiting at least one person who has published nationally or at least is a recognizable scholar. This would help enrollment.

Moranski commented that what Boltuc was saying was that we need an infusion of experienced scholars to enrich the curriculum and enrich student experience. That is important not just for the English department but for all of us on campus.

Fisher commented that there has been a wide variance in number of students enrolled in English Graduate Program from very few in the early 90’s to an explosion and then a decline. We need to ask how many students we want in this program.

Bussell discussed the unusual enrollment pattern. English faculty want to enhance and rebuild the program and have a good outcome. She stated that faculty want to have a solid mid-range quality program that graduates people on time and prepares them for the job market. The English Department also wants to prepare a bridge between the graduate and undergraduate programs so that both are enhanced simultaneously.
Pardie said the English Department deserves a lot of credit. From her perspective, the review is quite impressive and required a lot of courage to really look at the numbers and make a decision to suspend enrollment. Addressing Boltuc’s suggestion, Pardie stated that we have already some very accomplished scholars in the department who are moving forward in light of not only the economy but the changes in the field as well.

**Old Business**

**Resolution 42-3 Clarification of Personnel Committee Election Procedures – Voting Methods [2nd reading]**

Fisher asked for a motion to consider resolution 42-3. Martin moved, Ruiz second. Reminding Senators of the discussion regarding the OMA concerns raised last meeting, Fisher stated that there is no restriction in OMA about voting on a motion without a second reading as long as the item was listed on the agenda.

No questions, clarifications, or concerns were raised. Resolution 42-3 passed unanimously.

**Resolution 42-4 Creation and Approval of Spanish Minor [2nd reading]**

Motion to consider the item by Boltuc. Second by Villegas. Fisher welcomed Ermatinger, Moranski, and Bapat. She outlined the discussion from the last senate meeting. Fisher told Senators that that this item was initially proposed and considered when the department had a tenure-track faculty member who has since resigned. One of the questions raised in discussion last meeting was whether this position would be filled. Fisher invited Dean Ermatinger to speak.

Dean Ermatinger reported on enrollment trends. In 2007 there were 222 students enrolled in language courses. This year, 63 students are enrolled in foreign language. The average number of students in a section is 7. A 75% decline in enrollment has occurred. Three years ago, an instructor position was authorized because, at that time, 166 students were enrolled and it appeared as if it had stabilized. A line was created in order to take away from the number of adjuncts. Before the former director arrived the entire program was staffed by adjunct people. We had planned to add a second line if enrollment stabilized. However in fall of 2011 enrollment dropped to 82 students taking a language class and this year there are 63 students. The numbers cannot sustain two faculty members. Ermatinger continued by saying that we have hired a well-qualified instructor who is enthusiastic and eager. He is a trained language specialist. He has done a tremendous job but we cannot sustain two full time faculty members at this time. It is believed that this minor will reverse the decline in enrollment. If we do see an increase in enrollment, resources will be provided. What those resources will look like, Ermatinger was unsure at the present moment. There has been a progressive five year decline and we cannot say what will happen in five years from now. We do have upper division courses scheduled for the fall and we have the instructor and will hire adjuncts as needed. For non-Spanish courses we are using adjuncts entirely as the numbers are not very high. We have seven students in Chinese and five students in French. These are very small enrollments. The MLA recommends a minimum of fifteen in order to have a valuable learning experience. We must insure that we have the
ability to have a sustainable enrollment. Ermatinger believes the minor is a step in the right direction and is in support of the proposal.

Salela asked if an analysis of the drop in enrollments had been conducted. Moranski addressed the decline in enrollment by explaining that the chief participants in language courses have always been honors students. There was initially a language requirement for the honors program. Over time, some students were uninterested or unwilling to meet the language requirement and an interest in American Sign Language increased as an alternative. There has also been a question of the quality of experience provided for students, because of the number of adjunct instructors. They were native only speakers and not trained academic professionals. One of the reasons Sanchez was hired was due to his expertise and training. Scheduling was also problematic and students were having difficulty completing the sequence. There were discussions and debates within the honors program about whether to expand to an international awareness and drop the language requirement. While students are still encouraged to take a language, it is not required. An increase in the number of students graduating from the honors program can be seen since this change was made. However, we do not see this as a good thing that our students do not want to take a language. Moranski agreed with Dean Ermatinger that the Spanish Minor is a way of pulling students into the languages because they can see that they are getting something out of the language courses (i.e., transcript notation) they are taking.

Martin advocated for sending the proposal back to the General Education Counsel.

Pardie expressed support for the minor. She sees this as an opportunity to implement a minor and encouraged faculty to focus on advising students on the importance of having a language today. UIS is doing students a disservice if faculty and staff don’t let them know that they will be at a disadvantage if they don’t have a language. Since one of the most sought after and viable languages in the United States is Spanish, this is an opportunity to build languages without putting in a requirement.

Switzer said she had been unaware that honors students are not required to take foreign language and said we should have a campus wide discussion of whether the language requirement should be in place for the honors program. She argued against decreasing program requirements for the purpose of recruitment or retention.

Moranski responded that recruitment has never been an issue. The issue is retention and completion. Nation-wide, the completion rate for honors students is around 20% while here at UIS we are close to 50%. UIS is committed to keeping as many students as possible and the language requirement was one of the reasons honors students were not completing the program. This decision was not made in isolation. There was a broad based discussion, including a wide range of issues with input from the entire honors faculty. There was considerable deliberation on this issue.

Wassenberg noted the importance of language in the PAA college because it increases student employability. She stated that language is important for a number of majors, including Global Studies. Villegas agreed with Wassenberg. He asked about marketing and promoting of the
minor. Ermatinger stated that they are looking for a departmental “home” for the minor and are seeking input.

Tinken reminded senators of the resolution passed by SGA in support of the minor. Kline and Borland expressed support for the creation of the minor. However, Borland also agreed with points made by Switzer and is in favor of requiring language for honors students. Boltuc agreed in principle that the minor should not be put forth without tenured or tenure-track faculty, but believed that this is a time to make an exception and offered support for the creation of the minor.

There were several more comments on the fit this program has with other programs across the campus and the enhancement it offers to the employability of our students when included on a transcript.

Fisher made the point that we have not previously launched a minor that was not affiliated with a department. Organizational structure is important for the success of the program. She noted that many departments have launched courses to gauge interest and built from there.

Chair entertained a motion to vote. Kline moved, Borland seconded.

Dell requested that the Senate look at issues of staffing and the balance between instructorship and tenure-track faculty.

Transue called for point of order. Once a motion has been made to end debate, further discussion is out of order.

Fisher asked if all were ready to vote. The resolution passed with 22 supporting votes, and 3 opposing. No one abstained.

**New Business**
Noting the time, Fisher entertained a motion to postpone new business until next regularly scheduled meeting. Bussell moved and Li seconded. Everyone was in favor.

**Adjournment**
Transue motioned to adjourn. Martin second. All were in favor of adjournment and the meeting ended at 11:57 am.