

Ex-Officio: L. Pardie


The meeting was called to order by Chair Fisher at 10:04 A.M. The Chair welcomed two new members to the Senate. Lenore Killam from Public Health has agreed to fill the vacancy in PAA College and James Ermatinger, Dean of CLAS, is the new administrative representative.

Approval of the Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda by Switzer; Ruez seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes
John Martin forwarded some corrections to the minutes via email as he was not in attendance. Under the chair report section of the minutes, Martin asked for the inclusion of questions he had asked of Peter Boltuc regarding the Senate’s Conference Meeting. The Chair said that the tape would be reviewed and summary of Martin’s questions would be inserted around line 70. The amended minutes will be circulated among Senators and any objections can be forwarded to Senate Secretary. All were in favor of approving the minutes as described.

Announcements
Salela announced that the Library will be offering drop-in tours for students. There is a calendar on the library website for students to sign up. There will be three on ground tours and three virtual tours.

Reports
Chair – L. Fisher
Chair began by saying SEC agendas and minutes are posted on the Senate website, and questions and comments from members about SEC activities are always invited. At the SEC meeting of January 11, the main agenda item was a presentation from Jim Korte and Tim Barnett about proposed revisions to the student discipline policy. Under the UI statutes, setting up a student discipline policy is a responsibility of the Senate. This is a major revision that will be coming to Senate this spring. This is a big reorganization that has been thoughtfully carried out by our Dean of Students and the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs. The Committee on Student Discipline and University Legal Counsel have provided feedback that
has been integrated into the policies. Other than the changes in language when Sangamon State became UIS, the policy has not changed in nearly thirty years. This proposal includes a change in the duties of our Student Discipline Committee and will require significant discussion in the Senate.

The SEC also discussed the upcoming spring elections. According to our by-laws, the election for the faculty governance bodies must be concluded no later than the second Friday after spring break, which this year would be March 29. The by-laws also call for an elections committee consisting of two Senators. The duty of the committee is to set up election procedures and times. The chair does not recall the Senate following this procedure but would like to have an election committee this year. The chair invited nominations, including self-nominations, over the coming week. There should not be a significant time commitment to serve on the election committee. The SEC also discussed questions that have been raised about how the faculty electorate is defined in our Senate constitution. According to the University Statutes, it is up to each individual Senate to define membership and composition. All of the various Campus Senates are a little different, and ours is the most inclusive. Article II, section one of our constitution defines our separate electorates as the faculty electorate, staff electorate, administrative electorate, and the student electorate. Each of those electorates creates their own election procedures. Quoting, Fisher read, “The faculty electorate shall be composed of all persons holding full-time faculty appointments who devote fifty per cent or more of their time to instruction, research, and/or public service. This shall include faculty with titles such as Center Director and Research Associate but shall not include administrative titles of Dean or above.” Fisher stated that this historically has been interpreted to include Department Chairs as well as non-tenure track faculty and visiting faculty. This is a complex matter and the Chair wants the senate membership to be comfortable with how this election is run. The intent of this policy is clear, and the application has been consistent, but Fisher said the wording could use some clarification. For this election, Fisher proposed that the Senate follow recent practice and include with the nominating memo a list of eligible Faculty (as determined by the Provost’s office) and give the electorate an opportunity to question any person included or not included on the list. The chair would like to bring this up as a discussion item for next meeting.

At the last Senate meeting we discussed the upcoming decision by the SUCCS merit board about whether or not they will take the exemption authority for defining what an AP position is away from Universities and return it to the Civil Service Board. Public Universities across the state are not in favor of this proposal. Fisher is in favor of a proposal put forth by BOT member, Karen Hasara, which requests the creation of a task force to examine this issue before any decision is made. There is concern that taking this decision out of the hands of the particular Universities will result in delays in appointments. This would especially impact grant-funded personnel operations. Boltuc expressed concern that the three UI campuses speak with one voice. The Chair said that the University position has been that these decisions remain at the local level so that they can be made in a timely manner.

The SEC is working on two issues relating to OMA. The first is whether the Senate should allow electronic attendance, and the second is whether public comment should be allowed at meetings. Both of these issues require revisions to our By-laws. The three UIS members of the Senates Conference (Boltuc, Villegas and Fisher) will be attending an upcoming BOT retreat focusing on on-line education and positioning the University for the future.

**Provost Report – L. Pardie**

Pardie said we have not reached census yet, but reported that graduate registrations were slightly up, while undergraduate registrations were slightly down. All three UI campuses are working independently and collaboratively to develop a research expertise database for faculty. Dean Treadwell has agreed to chair that committee for our campus and we will be inviting faculty to serve on that committee. Dean searches are moving along, and we have also opened our search for an Associate Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Education and Research. Pardie is also thinking about the Higher Learning Commission.
Accreditation Steering Committee. The HLC process is now on-going and we are making preparations to make sure we are up to that task.

The Provost highlighted an endowment by the family of Carol Moy, a deceased former faculty member in the College of Education and Human Services. Her family has endowed a fund at UIS in her honor called the Carol Towsley Moy fund for collaborative research. This is a $250,000 endowed fund that will support research that involves collaboration between a research skilled UIS faculty member and a research skilled faculty member from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Carol taught both here and at the medical school. This is a wonderful honor and a wonderful opportunity for faculty here at UIS.

US News and World Report has started to rank on-line programs and UIS is in the top 100 of best online baccalaureate programs, and the Management Information Systems program in the College of Business and Management ranked 16th nationwide for best online graduate program. This continues to speak to the quality of what we do here. Our Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service under the direction of Ray Schroeder is working with the American Council on Education. We have a pivotal role in a research project with them that has to do with the evaluation of MOOCs (massive open on-line courses). Pardie also highlighted the UIS open online course being co-taught by Matthew Holden and Gwen Jordan on the Emancipation Proclamation and encouraged members to join the course to get a sense of what their colleagues are doing.

Student Government Association– R. Bouray
The leadership of the SGA met with SGA members from UIC in Chicago over the winter break in order to increase dialog between Student Governments on the three campuses. Applications have gone out seeking students who would like to serve on a task force to analyze changing the UIS nickname and/or mascot. In a recent survey, 75% of respondents indicated were in favor of a change in nickname/mascot. At the last SGA meeting there was a move to create a paid position to manage the SGA website as well as SGA social media websites. A resolution was also passed at least meeting encouraging the creation of physical education courses at UIS.

Old Business

Resolution 42-11, Modification of Procedures for Voting on Campus Level Committees [second reading]
Deborah Anthony, chair of the Personnel Policies Committee, said the resolution is intended to clarify who the voting electorate is for campus level committee membership. This will bring the policies in line with what the practice has been. Historically, only tenured and tenure track faculty are voting on these campus level committee memberships. Fisher noted that the resolution also includes language that allows for electronic ballots. With no questions, a vote was taken. The Resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 42-12, Modification of Procedures for Waiving Probationary Service [second reading]
Anthony said the current policies provide for a procedure to waive probationary service for tenure but they are exceedingly unclear, pieces are missing, and references are made to things that don’t make sense. The PPC, in trying to resolve these issues, created a process that is similar to the process of going through the levels of personnel committee and administration when a person is applying for tenure. Each of those levels does a review and then it goes to the Provost and the Chancellor for approval. The Chair asked if this has been applied primarily to administrators or distinguished professors in the past. She noted that lines 37 – 41 of this resolution also include Associate Professor and Full Professor, and asked how often this campus has directly hired a faculty member with tenure who was not in a distinguished or
administrative post. The Provost said she could not recall any such instance. Generally, if we were to hire someone with extensive academic experience or exceptional qualifications a Q contract would be appropriate. The resolution passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Resolution 42-13, Creation of a Minor in Liberty Studies [first reading]**

By Unanimous consent, the Senate had a first reading of Resolution 42-13, Creation of a Minor in Liberty Studies. Harsh Bapat, Chair of Undergraduate Council, said that this particular minor is a distinct minor from the Liberal Studies course offerings. It is housed in the Liberal Studies Department but it is a Liberty Studies minor. The courses that students can use for this minor are already being offered and there should not be any new resources needed. Kline said the Liberal Studies Department has been discussing inter-disciplinary minors and majors for the last couple of years, and this is the first one to come to the floor. This is a way for students to study concepts of liberty in a coherent manner. Two of the core courses being offered are Liberty Studies and Ethics. Students will also take one course from each of three different areas: Liberty and Commerce, Liberty and Authority, and Liberty and Culture. There will be a sufficient rotation of courses so that students can get the minor in any semester. The reason for a core course and not a foundational course is so that students can take the courses in any order without redundancy.

Dean Ermatinger said this is an opportunity for students to have a path for a particular study that would be useful for disciplines in all of the colleges. Salela asked what courses focus on the multiple perspectives, including minorities and women in our own culture, and indigenous peoples of other times and places as described in the proposal. Kline cited several specific courses that cover those topics. Dell said we have been moving toward a more trans-national emphasis and we are in a place now where there is some question as to whether Americans are willing to understand more broadly other places and other values. Dell said that while she did not expect that all offerings would mirror her own values, it is worth thinking about liberty having some ties to equality because when you don’t have equality you don’t have liberty. Kline explained how the core courses explore those issues and would be in favor of adding courses that deal specifically with other cultures. He also stated that as faculty and within the minor they do address multiple concepts of liberty.

Fisher asked if this could be misunderstood as Libertarian studies. Kline said that the idea for this course actually came about so that multiple concepts of liberty could be explored rather than a particular ideological conception.

**Resolution 42-14, Clarification of Personnel Committee Operating Procedures – Recusal and Abstention [first reading]**

The next agenda item was Resolution 42-14, Clarification of Personnel Committee Operating Procedures – Recusal and Abstention. Anthony said the PPC has had some questions about recusals and abstentions and what the definitions are and when they apply in the context of personnel committee decisions. This resolution is an attempt to clarify those terms and how they work in the context of personnel processes. The PPC felt that it was important to clarify that a committee member needs to be present for the committee discussion in order to vote on the case. Borland asked if the use of “they” to refer to a particular individual in the resolution may be problematic. Bussell said one away around that would be the use of “he/she” rather than “they.” Anthony said she had no preference. There was some additional discussion about the language of the resolution and Anthony agreed to look at the singulars and plurals and copy edit the resolution for the second reading.
The last agenda item was Resolution 42-15, Clarification of Sabbatical Leave Report Requirements. The Chair said there has never been a deadline for a sabbatical report and the lack of a deadline can lead to delays. Anthony said that there have been some issues with faculty not submitting a sabbatical report at all, which is potentially problematic because there are sometimes questions raised about the legitimacy or need for faculty sabbaticals. The reports are used to justify sabbaticals as a means of faculty development. The PPC discussed setting a deadline of late October but that date has not been set. It will be included in the Academic Calendar, which is set by the administration in consultation with the Chair of the Campus Senate. PPC also discussed incorporating a template for the report. Salela asked if this resolution was mandating the establishment of a deadline for the report. Boltuc asked if the language might be changed to require a report by the end of the semester following the sabbatical. Anthony said the PPC thought it best to have a single deadline every year for consistency of the process. Boltuc said he thought it would be inequitable for people with sabbaticals that ended shortly before the deadline. Pardie said the notion for this resolution was two-fold. First, to establish a firm deadline that everyone would be aware of, and secondly, to keep the process as streamlined as possible. The template that has been developed is an electronic document with prompts for responses to facilitate the process. Boltuc asked if the required sabbatical presentations are also due by the October deadline. Pardie said they never specifically addressed that issue, but faculty generally meet that requirement even when they do not complete the paper report in a timely manner. Fisher asked if the template was developed by the administration. Pardie said it was created in consultation with the PPC and it has not yet been implemented. Fisher said templates for personnel-related documents are sometimes included in the personnel policy as appendices and that may be something for Senate discussion.

Adjournment
Borland moved to adjourn; Kline second; passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 11:44 a.m.