Campus Senate Meeting

April 5, 2013

Campus Senate Meeting
AY 2012/2013
Friday, March 22, 2013
10:00 A.M. – Noon
UHB 2008


Senators Absent: S. Ahmad, H. Dell, B. Kline, A. McCaughan, P. Salela, J. Tienken, R. Williams.

Ex-Officio: L. Pardie.


The meeting was called to order by Chair Fisher at 10:04 a.m.

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

Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve by Owusu-Ansah; Agarwal seconded. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements
Bussell said StARS will be held April 12 through 14; she encouraged faculty and students to attend.

Martin said Dr. Ryan Ewing will be a keynote speaker. Dr. Ewing is an expert on sedimentary rocks and is also associated with the Mars land rover team.

Martin also said Friday night Star Parties will begin April 5th and continue throughout the month. Switzer said Poet Mary Jo Bang is also a keynote speaker for StARS. Borland announced that the Pre-Law center is offering an LSAT prep course April 6th, 13th, and 20th. The fee is $195.00 for twenty hours.

Reports

Chair – L. Fisher
The Chair reminded Senators that the Senate faculty election is underway and voting continues until 1pm Wednesday March 27. Committee on Committees is also seeking volunteers for committee vacancies, with requests also being accepted until Wednesday, March 27. The Executive Committee discussed some proposed changes to the Senate by-laws to include provisions of the Open Meetings Act. The Chair thanked Martin and Transue for their help in putting the proposed changes together. The Chair said she would send an email with the proposed changes, which will be an agenda item at the next Senate meeting.
The Provost gave an update on the status of State appropriations to the University. As of March 18, the State owed the University of Illinois 480 million dollars. The history of the last few years has been that the State eventually comes through with the funding. Legislative activity on the pension issue has heated up, and University leadership is also watching to see what will happen with the Governor’s budget proposal, which calls for a 4.92% decrease in funding for higher education. The Provost encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Chancellor’s forum on the University budget and the status of the Illinois economy. Two sessions will be held on March 28 in Brookens Auditorium.

The indicators for admissions and applications are good, especially active deposits for new freshmen for Fall of 2013. The Provost said Ray Schroeder has taken a lead position on research for the American Council on Education in evaluating the credit worthiness of massive open online courses (MOOCS). Due to the time commitment involved, Schroeder will reduce his time at UIS to half-time beginning this summer. Schroeder will continue to be the Associate Vice-Chancellor for Online Learning, but UIS will be conducting a search for a new director for the Center for Online Teaching and Research. The Provost emphasized that Schroder is not leaving UIS.

The Provost said the CEHS Dean search has been completed with an announcement forthcoming, and on-campus visits will begin soon for the new Dean candidates for the College of Public Affairs and Administration. There is also a search for the Associate Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Education and Research with candidate campus visits coming soon.

Boltuc acknowledged Schroeder’s positive influence on on-line education at UIS, and suggested the Senate should consider at some point having a committee for on-line education. In response to a question from Mulvey, the Provost gave an update on the task force for new academic programs. There should soon be some status updates available on the web. The committee has made good progress, although they are not ready to make any recommendations. As they get closer to that point they hope to have some campus forums.

Fisher asked if there was a budget plan based on the proposed 4% decrease in State funding for higher education. The Provost said there were still a lot of variables in play and suggested the Chancellor’s upcoming budget forum may offer additional insight. Fisher asked if the possibility of reduced funding would have an impact on the planning for new academic programs. The Provost said that while it may seem counter-intuitive to be planning new programs in the face of reduced funding, offering new programs that can generate enrollment may help offset the losses from State appropriations.

Boltuc said the report in its entirety is posted on the Campus Senate Website, but he highlighted several points. The budget for UI, adjusted for inflation, is at the 1965 level, although the number of students has doubled. Boltuc said the President mentioned John Tienken, the UIS student representative to the BOT, as being especially helpful in pressing issues of sequestration with the Illinois delegation to Congress in Washington D.C. The meeting of the BOT was mostly devoted to a presentation by UIUC Chancellor Phyllis Wise. It is clear that UIUC’s financial situation is very different from UIS. Wise expressed gratitude to the BOT for the minimal tuition increase for fall 2013, saying UIUC did not really need the increase. UIUC is high in terms of their competitive position on tuition relative to other institutions. There was a general consensus among attendees that the hard budgetary times are yet to come. UIS, having been underfunded from the beginning, is in a different situation.

Boltuc said the upcoming budget forum next week with Chancellor Koch is important and encouraged all to attend. Aside from budgetary issues, Boltuc said Chancellor Wise was impressive on the issue of diversity and underrepresented groups. Wise made the point that diversity in faculty is important in
attracting a diverse student body, and she is active at all levels in promoting that diversity. UIUC is also moving into areas that have been a UIS specialty, namely smaller class sizes and blended degrees. Boltuc said he gave a report on academic freedom, which is summarized in the report available on the Campus Senate webpage.

**Student Government Association – R. Bouray**

The SGA nickname task force will be conducting a second survey asking respondents to rank suggested nicknames. There will be between five and eight suggestions, one of which will be Prairie Stars. SGA passed a resolution at its last meeting suggesting that parking meters only be operated during normal business hours. Lobby day at the Illinois capital will take place Wednesday April 10, and will be attended by students from all three UI campuses. Transportation will be provided and there will be a $250 Buffalo Wild Wings gift card awarded to the student organization that brings the most students.

**Committee on Committees – K. Jamison**

Stephen Johnson, from the Chemistry Department, has agreed to serve a mid-year appointment to the Undergraduate Council. There are still some committee vacancies that no one has volunteered for, including Academic Freedom and Tenure, Campus Planning and Budget, General Education Council, and Library.

**Environmental Studies M.A. Program Review – Graduate Council**

Sharron LaFollette thanked ENS for putting together a report that was very easy to follow. ENS has had a number of changes in the last eight years both in curriculum and faculty. They have been very thoughtful in how to approach these challenges. The department is also re-introducing an undergraduate degree. Graduate Council would like to see that they carefully think about assessment and move forward with a lot of thought and transparency in their process. GC would like to see measurable objectives in each of the concentrations. This would help them align their curriculum with what is best for their students and should also help with marketing. GC would like the department to assess whether they may have too many options at the graduate level, especially the humanities concentration which has very low enrollment. The department is resource poor, and GC would like to see them pursue additional resources.

Ruez, Chair of ENS, said some resources have been provided by the Provost’s office, and some computing resource issues have been resolved. In response to comments and questions regarding the undergraduate degree which will be offered beginning in Fall 2013, Ruez reported that interest has been stronger than anticipated. Approximately thirty students have indicated that they would like to declare an ENS major. Ruez said that while the department was fully staffed this year, faculty turnover continues to be an issue. Ruez cited a variety of factors that have contributed to turnover, and said being a small department even a few changes can have a significant impact. The Chair said that with each of the program reviews that have come through Senate this year there seems to be a recurring theme that we have new offerings and enrollments are up and as a result faculty are stretched thin. She said we may already have many of the new programs we need and it is critical that we invest in what we already have when we have the opportunity. The Chair said the Senate, and particularly the Budget Committee, should keep in mind how to continue to support and prioritize growing programs that are successful and have great potential for future growth.

**Old Business**

**Resolution 42-17 Modification of Tenure and Promotion Application Rebuttal Procedures**

[2nd reading] This has been revised from the first reading for clarification. Anthony said this resolution was not designed to change the process, but to clarify that rebuttal could happen at each level of the tenure and promotion process. The Resolution passed unanimously.
Resolution 42-18 Creation and Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Security in the Computer Science Department [2nd reading]

Boltuc asked if there were any national security concerns, especially with our on-line options. He asked if there are any concerns that we are training hackers or foreign intelligence people who could then create national security concerns. Vespa, lead on the proposal, said the department incorporates computer ethics into the program. Mims said UIS does not teach a course in hacking. The Provost said our computer science department excels in the area of computer ethics. We have faculty involved in collaborative research with other institutions to develop even better ways to teach computer ethics. They have also hosted a conference over the last few years on this campus on security and information assurance. In response to a question from Martin, Mims said the department does not anticipate needing any new resources until such time as enrollment dictates a need for additional faculty. The Resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 42-19 Promotion for Clinical and Research Professors [2nd reading]

This text has not been modified from the first reading. The Chair, responding to an inquiry made at the last meeting, said UIS currently has five Clinical Assistant Professors that will be affected by this policy. Anthony said this is designed to provide a pathway for promotion for a certain group of clinical faculty with the goal to increased retention and morale. UIS is the only UI campus that does not have promotion for clinical and research faculty. This has been set up to be similar to the tenure review process. This also mirrors the personnel review process for non-tenure track faculty.

Boltuc asked if the salaries that have been negotiated for tenure track professors and associate professors would apply to this resolution. The Provost said it would not be her presumption that what is currently in the personnel policy for tenure track faculty would apply to this. Boltuc said since it is not clear in the regulations right now, it should be noted in the minutes that it is the Senate's understanding that the provisions in the current personnel policy would not apply to the non-tenure track faculty covered in this resolution. Martin said he needed to be convinced that the investment of time that this process would require is worth it to the institution. Ermatinger said departments already review all clinical faculty and instructors and he did not see it as any sort of significant additional burden. It may be an additional burden on the Dean and Provost, but not on faculty. After some additional discussion, the Resolution was approved with one nay vote and no abstentions.

New Business

Resolution 42-20 Creation of a Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence [1st reading]

LaFollette from Graduate Council said GC was fully supportive of this well written proposal which can be accomplished within current resources and course offerings. Hadidi, Chair of MIS, said there are increasing amounts of digital data to be dealt with in the public and private sectors and there are indications that there will be a tremendous shortage of individuals with expertise in Business Analytics. Enrollment for the first couple of semesters is expected to be ten to fifteen. This certificate may help in recruitment of students for the M.A. degree. Boltuc questioned the appropriateness of the title of the certificate, given the emphasis on data mining and the absence of other types of business intelligence. Hadidi said that it is common within the field to describe this course of study as business intelligence. Boltuc suggested this title may be misleading to some of our students, and advocated for at least one elective devoted to more traditional types of business intelligence. Li said a simple Google search of business intelligence would yield programs similar to this, as it is the accepted description for this type of program. Responding to a question from Martin, Hadidi said the idea was to educate people to better use information and come up with better decisions. This certificate does not deal with law enforcement or national security issues, and although some students have gone on to those type of careers, that is not the focus of this course of study.
Resolution 42-21 Graduate Grading Policy Clarification [1st reading]

LaFollette said the current catalog allows for up to eight hours of “C” credit so long as they are offset by a comparable number of “A” credits. Graduate Council is proposing a change in language that specifies that a Master’s degree student may have a maximum of two courses with “C” credit, as long as they have earned a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students can have more than two “C”s but cannot use them towards a degree, although the “C”s will count in GPA. Individual departments may have more stringent requirements; this is just establishing a minimum. Cornell offered as a point of clarification that this policy would not be a change for students who take 4 credit-hour courses. They would still be able to apply eight hours of “C” credit to their degree. However, students enrolled in one, two, or three hour courses would be limited in the number of hours of “C” that could be applied to the degree.

Ruez said it seemed that this created an inequitable situation for students taking courses with fewer than four credit-hours, as they would be faced with additional tuition costs in order to comply with this policy. Brian Clevenger, Director of Records and Registration, said this policy was partly a response to the difficulties of allowing for “C” grades in courses with varying credit-hours, as when a student may have two three-hour courses of “C” and one four-hour “C”. Allowing for two courses rather than eight hours eliminates confusion. As to the inequities, Clevenger said the point is not to maximize the number of “C” grades allowed, but to provide for an exception. Bussell said she supported simplifying the policy and focusing on the quality of work graduate students are doing, as well as the reputation of the University. Boltuc asked if information on how other UI campuses deal with this situation could be provided for at the second reading. There was considerable discussion on the difficulties presented by both the current situation and the proposed revision. The Chair said due to the difference of opinion among the Senators as to whether this policy should count courses or credit-hours, she suggested conferring with Graduate Council and getting clarification on the administrative procedures or complications involved with both options for the 2nd reading.

Adjournment

Ermatinger moved to adjourn; Bussell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.