
Senators Absent: W. Kline, S. Ahmad, P. Wassenberg.

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 Villegas; Li seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve minutes from November 30 meeting by Boltuc; seconded by Agarwal. After a typographical correction to line 51 the minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements
Barnett announced a December 17 meeting of UPAC, the combined academic professional committees for all UI campuses to discuss human strategies. SUCSS, the State University Civil Service System, has proposed a new set of regulations which remove an exemption that allows the University to determine what positions are Civil Service and/or Academic Professionals. This could have a significant impact on hiring and seniority if Academic Professional positions are converted to Civil Service positions. There will be a public hearing on this matter in Urbana on January 3, 2013.

Reports
Chair – L. Fisher
At their meeting of December 7, SEC met with University Counsel to discuss ramifications of Open Meetings Act as it relates to committees of the Senate. A memo will be forthcoming with responses to questions posed by various committees, especially from Graduate Council. SEC also began a discussion about the process of campus level sabbatical awards. This discussion is in its initial stages but any Faculty member with questions about the process is invited to email any member of the SEC to add to the discussion.

This week, the Chancellor invited leaders of CSAC, APAC, and the Campus Senate, as well as some administrators, to a briefing on pension news. It is likely that some sort of action will be taken on pension
reform in either January or May. The SUSR web page has an unbiased summary of the legislative proposal.

Chair Fisher acknowledged Dean Pinky Wassenberg, (not present due to illness) who has been serving on the Senate for several semesters as the Provost appointee. Wassenberg is returning to serve on the faculty next semester. The Chair thanked her for her service to the Senate. Fisher also acknowledged Kathy Rutherford, the longtime Administrative Clerk of the Senate, who has been on disability leave for several semesters. Chair Fisher expressed appreciation for her past work and extensive knowledge of Senate procedures.

Chair invited Senator Boltuc to report on a recent Senate Conference meeting. Boltuc said he had sent out the minutes but emphasized the main points: USC has established committees that reflect committees on the BOT; tuition was discussed and the President feels that tuition should not be raised above minimal levels. There was also a lunch meeting with a presentation from Chancellor Koch. She talked about how UIS is “right-sized,” and strategically planning growth from 5000 to 7000 students. There was also discussion of having a process where students who may not be admitted to other UI campuses are accepted at UIS. This is not a matter of UIS taking rejected or unqualified students, it is a matter of UIS having a different profile and being able to take care of students who might get lost on one of the other campuses. The USC meeting also touched on budgetary issues, and there was consensus that cuts should not come on the front lines such as faculty until there has been a very thorough review of central administration. Martin asked Boltuc for elaboration on the quote from Professor Burbules, USC Chair, suggesting that cuts should be made to IA and administrative levels. Boltuc emphasized the continued financial challenges of the University which will necessitate cuts, and stated that the USC does not support cuts from faculty. Boltuc stated that President Easter also shares this opinion. Martin also noted that the next BOT meeting will include a USC presentation on intercampus integration and asked why no one from UIS is participating. Boltuc said that he is included in the presentation. Lastly, Martin stated that the word “concern” is a loaded word for the USC to use and asked for more information about the USC position on the relationship between the Vice President of Health Affairs and the relation of this position to the Dean of College of Medicine and the Dean of Health Sciences. Villegas responded that overlap exists relative to responsibilities. Martin said that the word concern is often used by the USC to convey and intent to challenge. Both Villegas and Boltuc asserted that this was not their perception of the intent.

Villegas reported on a meeting of faculty advisory committee of VPAA in which Vice President Pierre gave an overview of what the goals of his office are. VP Pierre also outlined current issues his office is dealing with including tuition, financial aid and budgeting processes. Villegas said the VPAA office is in the process of establishing a website that will have links to agendas and related materials. Villegas will share the link when it becomes available.

**Provost Report – L. Pardie**

The new academic programs task force met for the first time last week. There was considerable progress made at that first meeting. A draft charge was reviewed and members have begun the process of sifting through the many ideas that have been presented.

There have been some gains in enrollment, but we are still behind where we were a year ago for transfer admits for spring, and we are behind by about 8% on registrations for spring. For fall of 2013, the picture is looking good, we are ahead of where we were last year at this time and this is a positive development.

The State of Illinois has paid all of the appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and we are about 409 million behind on the current year’s appropriations which is about the same level we were at this time last year.
Good progress has been made on our new testing center. The remodeling in the human resource building is almost complete and we are now developing specifications for the computers that will be used there and looking into the software and licenses that will be needed. This should be staffed and functional by Fall 2013. We are also making progress on the hiring of the new academic advisors that have been discussed. Interviews are being scheduled for January.

The Provost is in the process of appointing a small group of administrators to work with our staff in information technology services to develop an online orientation for online transfer students. The Provost also expressed appreciation to Library faculty and staff for recent implementation of increased late night hours. The response from students has been very positive.

In response to a question from Boltuc, the Provost elaborated on the decline in transfer student registrations. In the last ten years there has been an increase in competition for transfer students. UIS has a history of serving those students very well. Other public and private institutions both in Illinois and neighboring states are now pursuing these students aggressively. UIS has a couple of marketing initiatives specifically designed to target online transfer students. Ray Schroeder has been promoting a model of online transfer that is unique to UIS and has been successful in getting other institutions to move in that direction. We have also been looking at ways we can work more closely with community colleges, perhaps initiating joint admissions. Additionally, we are also looking to have an advisor specifically devoted to online transfer students with the goal of a seamless integration. Pardie emphasized that UIS has a reputation of working well with students of varying backgrounds.

**Student Government Association – R. Bouray**

Bouray echoed the Provost’s appreciation for extended library hours. Upcoming SGA agenda has second readings scheduled on several issues reported at the last Senate meeting related to parking concerns, emergency poles, physical education courses and inclusion of an international student senator seat.

**Committee on Committees – K. Jamison**

Lenore Killam from Public Health will join the Senate, replacing Gloria Simo. Pinky Wassenberg will join Undergraduate Council and serve on IAC; Andrew Predmore will join CASL. These will be replacement terms for spring semester.

**Psychology Department Review**

Harsh Bapat from the UGC apologized for the lateness in forwarding the review from UGC to Senate. The department did a very good job of putting the review together and answering questions from the UGC. Villegas, Bussell, and Dell all commended the department for an outstanding review. Dell noted that the department handles a large number of students and operates in an understaffed situation, and they deserve serious consideration for an additional position given the student/faculty ratio they are currently working under. Fisher said this particular review gives the Senate something to consider from an institutional perspective. While there has been a focus on growth and adding new programs, it is also important to invest in areas where we are already doing well. There was additional discussion, with unanimous appreciation for the quality of the review.

**Old Business**

**42-9 Transition of the Human Development Counseling (HDC) Curriculum to 61 Credit Hours**

[second reading]

Fisher noted that Robert Wright was present but needed to leave shortly and asked senators to consider discussion of resolution 42-10 while Wright was present. Martin moved to table resolution 42-9; Boltuc seconded. There was unanimous approval for the motion.
Resolution 42-10, Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom
[second reading]

By unanimous consent, the Senate considered Resolution 42-10, Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom [ST-72]. Fisher noted the additional language added for this second reading. Robert Wright, chair of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, said the committee discussed the matter and felt that certain types of speech, such as at a Campus Senate meeting, should be addressed in the Faculty Personnel Policy rather than in the Academic Freedom provision of the statutes. Chair Fisher pointed out that the Personnel Policy is based on the Statutes, so that the terminology in the Policy is defined in the Statutes. Wright said it was the view of the committee that there should be a separation of Academic Freedom and certain other types of expression. Boltuc said it was a philosophical difference, and the liberty of being a public intellectual is a part of academic freedom, which goes beyond the Academic Freedom of research and teaching in the classroom. He expressed support for the broader definition. Martin said he would vote against this motion because the AAUP, in reaction to litigation, has gone the wrong direction on this and there will be unintended consequences. Martin does not think it wise for the University of Illinois to join AAUP on this position. Fisher said Academic Freedom has been defined and redefined over the decades, and the Academic Freedom arises from the roles that scholars, researchers and teachers play in their professional lives. The broader view of Academic Freedom effectively reflects the roles that faculty and other academic staff do play beyond the classroom. It is part of an academic’s professional responsibility to apply scholarly expertise and teaching skills to self-governance and to the role of public intellectuals. Since the AAUP has made this recommendation many institutions have adopted this definition. After discussion, Fisher called for a vote. The resolution passed with 12 aye votes, 5 nay, and 5 abstentions.

42-9 Transition of the Human Development Counseling (HDC) Curriculum to 61 Credit Hours
[second reading]

Martin motioned to take resolution 42-9 from the table; Boltuc seconded; all were in favor of the motion. Sharron LaFollette from Graduate Council was present to endorse the resolution, summarized the important points as follows: (a) passing the resolution will align the curriculum in all 3 areas of HDC, (b) it also aligns HDC with accreditation, as well as providing sufficient hours for licensure in many States. LaFollette emphasized the importance of the resolution in order for the Department to remain attractive to potential students and competitive with other comparable programs. Martin said he had been critical of the expense of this proposal but he would support it because it is an important program and worth the expense. Resolution 42-9 passed unanimously.

Resolution 42-5, Modification of Procedures for Determining Class Size [second reading]

By unanimous consent, the Senate considered Resolution 42-5, Modification of Procedures for Determining Class Size. Deborah Anthony, Chair of the PPC, explained the changes in language from the first reading. Transue moved to amend line 68 so that it reads “occasionally it may prove necessary to override a course capacity limit for a specific semester.” (Change is in italics.) Borland seconded. The amendment was approved unanimously. There was discussion about course caps, and Anthony explained that this resolution was designed to have Department Chair consult with instructors and give individual faculty more of a say in cap overrides. The resolution gives faculty a method of recourse if they feel an override is onerous. Resolution 42-5 as amended passed with 2 nay votes.

New Business

Resolution 42-11, Modification of Procedures for Voting on Campus Level Committees
By unanimous consent, the Senate had a first reading of resolution 42-11, Modification of Procedures for Voting on Campus Level Committees. Fisher said this is a new proposal but it is similar to Resolution 42-6 that had to do with voting on College Level Committees. It addresses a discrepancy between our personnel policies and the UI Statutes. This resolution clarifies the electorate for Campus level committees and the voting process. There was no further discussion of this item.

Resolution 42-12, Modification of Procedures for Waiving Probationary Service [first reading]

By unanimous consent, the Senate had a first reading of Resolution 42-12, Modification of Procedures for Waiving Probationary Service. Anthony said this resolution is an attempt to clarify the steps necessary to waive probationary service. Currently, there is a dearth of policy for circumstances that necessitate the waiving of probationary service. This resolution delineates how a request moves through the process. First, the Chancellor makes a recommendation to the Provost, who then submits materials to the Dean. The Dean forwards the candidate’s vita along with a memo and rationale to the Department Personnel Committee. They submit a recommendation to the Dean, who then forwards the recommendation to the TRC. The TRC reviews the material and provides a recommendation to the Provost, who submits a recommendation to the Chancellor. It then goes to the BOT. Anthony noted that this process is parallel to the process that tenure track faculty experience. There was no further discussion of this item.

Adjournment

Dell moved to adjourn; McCaughan seconded. All were in favor of adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned 11:55 a.m.