

Faculty Senate Meeting
February 19, 2015
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Hall of Honors

Minutes

Senators in Attendance:

X	Y. Brown (CAS)		D. Hechenberger (AL/COE)	X	V. Person (COE)
X	D. Cortese (CAS)*	X	S. Ji (CBPA)		Z. Ramamonjiarivelo (CHHS)
X	N. Ermasova (CBPA)*	X	E. Johnson (CAS)*	X	X. She (COE)
X	E. Essex (CHHS)		S. Lopez (COE)	X	A. Tamulis (CAS)*
	L. Falconnier (CHHS)		K. Marrar (CAS)	X	C. Tymkow (AL/CHHS)
	S. Gandy (COE)*		E. Mengova (CBPA)		S. Wadhwa (CHHS)
X	X. Gao (CBPA)		K. Morris (AL/CAS)	X	R. Washington (CHHS)*
X	L. Geller (UL)*	X	R. Muhammad (AL/CAS)*	X	B. Winicki (COE)*
X	D. Golland (CAS)*		B. Parin (AL/CAS)*		

* = Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Guests: D. Bordelon, C. Sexton, R. Sinclair

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order without quorum at 1:05 p.m. by Faculty Senate President Muhammad. Faculty Senate President Muhammad noted that a revised agenda had been sent this morning, and she asked for any additions. There were no additions. Quorum was achieved at 1:08. The agenda was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Administration Updates:

Provost Bordelon began by stating that representatives of NAIA league are on campus today (Feb. 19) as part of the process for GSU joining that athletic conference. She then moved on to a description of proposed *budget cuts* made by Illinois Governor Rauner

yesterday (Feb. 18). Provost Bordelon noted that the final budget might not be known until May and that there will be negotiations between the governor and state legislature. Gov. Rauner's proposal includes a cut of 31% in state appropriations for higher education. GSU's total budget is approximately \$53-54 million; state appropriations typically equal about \$24 million; the proposed budget would cut approximately \$8 million, which is greater than the total budget cuts GSU has experienced over the past 12 years. Given the size of the possible cut, GSU must carefully examine all expenses. Dr. Maimon will be sending a memo on this topic to the University community. Provost Bordelon stated that the number one priority will be to preserve the quality of academic programs. She noted that Illinois public universities will be presenting a unified argument to fight budget cuts of the size proposed by Gov. Rauner.

In response to a question about the status of faculty searches in light of budget, Provost Bordelon said that there will be a continued examination of all searches; the University mission, program enrollment, and other factors will be considered. Current faculty searches will be examined; some might be cancelled. Provost Bordelon noted that the budget cuts will affect the PBAC process; guidelines for units' proposals to PBAC will be developed and distributed.

Provost Bordelon then reported on *freshmen applications* for fall 2015. There have been 509 applications in total, which is about double the number received at this time last year. Of the 509 applications, 154 have been admitted (60 as direct admits; 58 needing Smart Start in both math and English; 23 needing Smart Start in math only; 13 needing Smart Start in English only), 59 of the 509 have been referred to the Admission Committee for review, 133 have been rejected, 3 were withdrawn, and 155 are incomplete (lack transcripts, etc.).

In response to a question by a senator, Provost Bordelon stated that for the current year's freshmen, there has been an 84% persistence rate (fall to spring). The retention rate (fall to fall) goal is 70%, and it appears that the actual retention rate will exceed this goal.

Also in response to questions, Provost Bordelon stated that she would check to see if reassigned time is allowable for writing new curricula/program development. Finally, Provost Bordelon addressed questions regarding professional academic advisors and faculty advisors.

Associate Provost Sexton reported on her investigation of current procedures for advising students regarding *undergraduate minors*. She has received feedback from those who are advising students about minors, and she has developed a list of all minors and who advises for each. The current process for selecting a minor and having it recorded on transcripts should become more efficient and should occur earlier in students' degree programs. Assoc. Provost Sexton noted that one possible problem is the language in Policy 60, which states students should apply for minor "prior to term in which graduation is intended." This might be preventing earlier declaration of minors. There was a discussion of undergraduate minors, including problems with the hand-carrying of

paperwork and lost paperwork, which results in students' declarations of minors not being recorded in the computer system.

Associate Provost Sexton then presented information about the development of a *digital catalog* for the University. She stated that Digital Architecture is the consultant for this process; the committee includes Brian Vivona as a faculty representative. The first release is planned for May 1, 2015, and the release date for all future catalogs will be during the last week of March. Release dates of addendums must be discussed in light of UCC's and APRC's work timelines.

(Provost Bordelon and Associate Provost Sexton left the meeting at 2:08 p.m.)

3. Faculty Reports:

Educational Policies Committee (EPC): EPC Chair Tamulis explained the proposed policy to refuse any money from the tobacco industry. He noted that EPC has discussed this and has concerns regarding academic freedom and the possibility of a "slippery slope." Signaling out one particular industry could be a problem. EPC believes that a wider forum for discussion is needed, so it is asking the Faculty Senate to discuss the proposed policy and provide guidance. Faculty Senate Vice President Cortese provided the rationale for the policy; the tobacco industry has a history of granting money and then silencing those who find negative results for the industry. During the discussion that followed, the question of whether the issue is covered by other GSU policies (e.g., Policies 71, 51, 55) was raised. It also was noted that the discussion should include GSU's IRB members, and that it would be IRB's responsibility to reject any study found questionable on the basis of funding agency. EPC Chair Tamulis noted that Policy 55 includes language regarding accepting funds only from sources that agree to allow publication of the research. Faculty Senate Vice President Cortese agreed to work with EPC on revising Policy 55. IRB also will be included in the revision of Policy 55.

EPC Chair Tamulis then presented Policy 71 Research Misconduct, which is currently posted as an interim policy, for Faculty Senate approval. He provided the history of the policy and outlined the changes made in the currently posted interim policy. Golland made the motion to approve the policy; Cortese seconded. The policy was approved by unanimous voice vote.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC): UCC member Golland reported that UCC has been working on syllabi and program revision. He stated that UCC also is working on identifying more specific general education outcome requirements for junior seminars.

Academic Program Review Committee (APRC): APRC Chair Sinclair provided information about APRC's efforts to make annual review processes more efficient. APRC is working with Assoc. Provost Sexton to develop a guideline document to be sent to the programs under review. APRC Chair Sinclair will bring that document to the Faculty Senate for its approval. APRC Chair Sinclair stated that GSU is in noncompliance regarding review of certificates; development of a process for conducting

those reviews is underway. He noted that IBHE requires 18 credit hours for certificates, and some GSU certificate programs have fewer than 18 hours.

Graduate Studies Council: Tymkow stated that the Graduate Studies Council is working on the March 7 Graduate Open House; 800 prospective students are expected to attend. Tymkow announced a forum on government-sector jobs led by the Park Forest Village Manager will be held on March 30. The Graduate Studies Council is working on proposed revisions to Policies 9 G and 33 G (admissions and special admissions) to be sent to EPC. Finally, Tymkow stated that there will be a spring survey of graduates.

Bargaining Unit: UPI Grievance Officer Johnson stated that the UPI Chapter and Local Nominating Meeting will be on Feb. 26, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in E Lounge; ballots will be reviewed during the meeting.

IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee: IBHE FAC Representative Cortese stated that Alternative Representative Larry Levinson had attended and sent a report on the January meeting (see attached). Cortese will be attending the February IBHE FAC meeting tomorrow (Feb. 20).

4. Discussion Items:

General Education Implementation Task Force: Task Force member Geller stated that there will be a meeting of the Task Force next Wednesday (Feb. 25). The Task Force will send out an invitation for faculty to apply to teach the freshmen seminars during AY 15-16. Task Force member Cortese stated that no decisions regarding the permanent structure for overseeing general education have been made.

SEI Task Force: Task Force member Muhammad stated that the group had met on Feb. 17. GSU cannot continue to use the old paper SEI, so the Task Force must identify a different paper and/or hybrid process. Muhammad stated that the faculty should have control of publishing and reminder schedules for SEIs, whether paper or online.

March Faculty Senate Meeting: The regular meeting day falls during GSU's Spring Break. Faculty Senate Vice President Cortese made the motion to hold the Executive Committee meeting from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. on March 5 and the full Faculty Senate meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the same day. Golland seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Faculty Senate President Muhammad will obtain a room for the meetings.

5. Announcements:

Faculty Senate President Muhammad made the following two announcements:

- Title IX training must be completed before March 6
- 26th African American Read-In will be held on February 23, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Hall of Honors

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

Next Meetings:

Executive Committee, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., and Faculty Senate, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on March 5; room TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Winicki
Faculty Senate Secretary

Attachment:

- January 2015 IBHE FAC Report

IBHE Faculty Advisory Council (FAC)
Notes from January 16, 2015 Meeting at Illinois Institute of Technology
Submitted by Larry Levinson

FAC Chair Abbas Aminmasour opened meeting and shared staffing changes in the IBHE (e.g. the need for a new Board president and a replacement for the Staff Liaison) and later questioned the impact of the new Governor on this process.

FAC Vice-Chair Marie Donovan reported on the need for on-campus advising on FAFSA completion and pushed for earlier completion since some schools have ““first come” approaches. This was later echoed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Assistance Commission Eric Zarnikow.

Micahel Afolayan, Staff Liaison with the IBHE reported that 7 faculty have shown interest in Fellowships (up to \$2,500 for research related to higher education and the state and only 3 have completed their applications. Funding for this program in the future is uncertain.

State University Caucus Meeting

1. Discussed Details and impact of Chicago’s free community college tuition program (for students with B or better GPA’s) and Obama’s similar proposal. Several members expressed real concern for the impact of this on the 4 year colleges, especially in regard to declining freshman enrollments. General agreement that we should not oppose any extension of financial aid to students. The caucus will continue to monitor the unfolding of these programs. It was proposed that FAC may at some point propose that these programs should require students to continue their education beyond their AA/AS degrees in Illinois. I am not sure how this would be feasible or politically prudent.

2. Deep concern with the acceleration of cancelling classes with lower enrollments. Potluri, Caucus Chair from Chicago State, calculated that an enrollment of 5 is a break-even point for most classes. Increasing the number of students in a class to be taught impinges upon the quality of programs, delays student progress and undermines the success of programs as students leave because of the unavailability of core classes and fewer electives. All recognized that this process will increase with the recent Governor’s recent budget cuts to higher education. Levinson proposed that FAC ought to create a taskforce of its own to look into budget cuts that would minimize the impact upon academic programs, students and faculty. IBHE-FAC will ask faculty senates to study the impact of proposed cuts on their campuses.

3. Discussion of possible mergers of several state universities as cost-saving methods. This discussion has been going on for at least nearly two decades, but there seemed to be greater concern given the current budgetary situation.

Private Colleges/Universities and Community Colleges caucus groups also reported back on their concern with the systemic impact of Chicago's and Obama's increased focus on free tuition for the community colleges. Solinga, from the Private caucus group and The University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute, shared an ongoing study tracking high school students and their progress through their undergraduate placements. A data bank will be created to monitor these students' success rates at their respective colleges/universities. The intent is to make this public.

There were also **general discussions** on: (1) declining enrollments (especially among the state and community colleges), (2) declining work ethic and academic "ethos" among freshman (something we hear from our faculty who teach these students) and (3) the impact of state budgetary cuts and rising tuition.

The bulk of the afternoon session dealt with an important presentation by Eric **Zarnikow, the Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)**. He emphasized, again, that State financial aid monies are mostly awarded on a "first come, first served" basis and this requires good strong advising of students as to how to apply and to apply early. A discussion ensued as to how the faculty can help facilitate this application process. ISAC is also very concerned with retention and graduation rates-again calling for engaged faculty involvement in advising. ISAC has set the **goal of increasing graduation rates** by 5% over the next 6 years. It was questioned whether this was too minimal of an increase. Zarnikow pointed that this figure has been challenged from both sides i.e. as being too little and too much. A **second goal** they have set is **for 60% of all Illinois adults to have "high quality degrees and credentials" by 2025**. This cannot be done simply by raising graduation rates. Consequently, the State has created a MAP (Monetary Award Program) for Dislocated Workers which would reallocated existing MAP monies to "dislocated workers (5,000 workers at a cost of \$4million). (This could result in even a greater increase in community college enrollment, but also may have a positive impact on GSU's "tradition" non-traditional student enrollment-Levinson). The details of this program are still being devised.

ISAC is also considering a "Pay it Forward, Pay it Back" program where student loan payback will be tied to income etc. (there are currently several different models which they are studying).

Mr. Zarnikow ended with answering general questions. Much of this dealt with the reasons for the increased costs of higher education and the impact this has on student indebtedness.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry S. Levinson