

Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus

October 10, 2016

Minutes

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus was called to order at 3:12 pm in the Illini Union Ballroom with Chancellor Robert Jones presiding and Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. serving as Parliamentarian.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10/10/16-01 The minutes from September 19, 2016 were approved as distributed.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Gay Miller (VMED), faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome to Chancellor Jones as he presides over his first Senate meeting.

Miller quoted Chancellor Jones:

In a time of financial uncertainties and demands for greater accountability, and when questions around social equity and social justice are forcing fundamental reevaluations of everything from our admission policies to our investment strategies, we have an opportunity to demonstrate different paths forward.

We have to respond to the realities on the ground here – but no one says we have to do so in ways that are expected or “status quo.”

Indeed we can seek educational innovation as Jones has suggested.

At the last SEC meeting, members discussed the concern about uncertainties surrounding healthcare costs and in particular increasing healthcare premiums. There was a commitment from our top campus administrators, Chancellor Jones and Provost Feser, to hold a forum to provide updated information to the faculty and staff on this topic. Jones and Feser are working with the University Administration (UA) System Office on the best and fastest way to provide information to the campus.

Chair Miller reported that she attended the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) (formerly CIC – Committee on Institutional Cooperation) faculty governance leadership conference last week at Michigan State University (MSU). Terry Curry, Associate Provost/Associate Vice-President for Academic Human Resources at MSU spoke at the conference about how they were able to contain healthcare cost increases while incurring major financial cuts through robust faculty governance and reaching out deeply to faculty. MSU has control over their healthcare costs since they are not part of a state program like we are. Their academic governance determines what cuts were made and how those remaining programs are restructured. MSU also has a faculty liaison to the Board of Trustees (BOT). The faculty liaison does not have a vote on the BOT, but is consulted often.

This year Illinois had an increase in student enrollment yet our peer institutions had lower enrollment. Later in today's meeting we will hear a presentation on our Enrollment Management.

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

Chancellor Robert Jones said what a great honor and pleasure it is to have the opportunity to serve as the 10th chancellor at Illinois. Jones will continue listening and learning, and getting familiar with the depth and breadth of this campus. Spending time with constituencies is important. A transition team was put together to address the question: What is the most effective way for me to engage with the campus over the first 150 days?

In the first two weeks, Jones has met with many students and student groups. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano assisted Jones in arranging these student meetings. The students bring an energy in engagement inside and outside the classroom. Jones looks forward to working with leaders on this campus.

Jones has also met with administrative leaders and is getting to know his staff. Jones has met with each of his staff to hear their concerns. Next, Jones is reaching out to the Council of Deans. Jones has been amazed at the challenges and the opportunities that are offered. Jones has been very pleased to meet with individuals across this campus and this great university.

The first weekend Jones arrived was also the weekend of the IL Black Student Reunion. This group only meets every four years. One purpose was to reconnect with old friends and colleagues, but they also spent time discussing the critical issue of recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of African American students. Jones also had the opportunity to meet with engaged alumni. These alumni have continually given up their time and talent to further this university.

Jones has also met with the IL Black Caucus and other senators to share perspectives on solving the budget stalemate.

The Budget Reform Steering Committee has taken a comprehensive look at the budgeting system. Jones has given some input on how to shape the budget process and the committee will continue their work. More information can be found on the Provost's website.

Jones stated that we must work collectively to move this university forward.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Faculty senator Oberdeck (LAS) inquired if information would be available on the potential increase in healthcare premiums, and if there was a timeline and ability to have a forum. Jones replied that at the last SEC meeting the topic of healthcare premiums and the possibility of a forum on the topic was discussed. The President's Office is keeping abreast of the issue. Because of where things stand, we do not have an exact date at this time, but hope to get it resolved soon. We will continue to keep in communication with the President's Office.

Faculty senator Maher (LIBR) noted that a forum on the anticipated healthcare premium increase was held on June 28. With the forum held over the summer, not all faculty were on campus. The forum also did not leave a very assured audience. Time is of the essence. Anything to move this forward would be greatly appreciated.

Faculty senator Kindt (BUS) thanked fellow Senate members for bringing up the healthcare premium issues. As an individual senator, Kindt noted the News Gazette article that was distributed at the door and urged everyone to read and share the article "Lock-box plan fraud on public".

Faculty senator Rosenstock (LAS) noted Chair Miller's remark about MSU's efforts to "reach out deeply to faculty". Rosenstock called upon Jones as a Vice President of the University to reach out to fellow Vice Presidents and the various unions and to look beyond the regular faculty representatives on the issue of proposed increases in healthcare premiums.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hearing no objections, the following proposals were approved by unanimous consent.

- 10/10/16-02 EP.17.04* Proposal to Revise the Graduate Minor in Global Studies
- 10/10/16-03 EP.17.06* Proposal to Establish a New Master of Science in Sustainable urban Management, in the department of Urban and Regional Planning, College of Fine and Applied Arts
- 10/10/16-04 EP.17.08* Proposal to Establish a Concentration in Technology in the Bachelor of Music Education Degree Program, College of Fine and Applied Arts
- 10/10/16-05 EP.17.09* Proposal to Unify all College of Veterinary Medicine PhD Programs into a Single Doctoral Program named "Comparative Biomedical Sciences", and Eliminate the Existing PhD Degrees
- 10/10/16-06 EP.17.11* Proposal to Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Psychology, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 10/10/16-07 EP.17.17* Proposal to Revise the 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Academic Calendars

PROPOSALS

10/10/16-08 CC.17.07*Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees of the Senate

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Chair Monda-Amaya moved approval of the slate of nominees listed in proposal CC.17.07. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

10/10/16-09 By i>Clicker, proposal CC.17.07 was approved with 134 in favor and 3 opposed.

10/10/16-10 CC.17.08*Nominations to the Joint Committee on Socially Responsible Licensing and Investment

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Chair Monda-Amaya moved approval of the slate of nominees listed in proposal CC.17.08. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

10/10/16-11 By i>Clicker, proposal CC.17.08 was approved with 135 in favor and 5 opposed.

VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

10/10/16-12 Current Benefits Issues

John Kindt, Chair of Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits, noted that the Central Management Services (CMS) sent out a letter in September about logging into a new system called MyBenefits. New hires will need to login through MyBenefits to make benefits selections. If a new hire does not make a selection promptly, the employee will default to the most expensive plan and dependents will not be covered. For answering questions, you can call 844-251-1777 or the local number for the campus benefits office is 217-333-3111.

Kindt encouraged everyone to look for the CMS letter in the mail about the MyBenefits website, and to check to make sure the site has the expected information.

10/10/16-13 Enrollment Management

Keith Marshall, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management and Charles Tucker, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Innovation presented enrollment management information to the Senate. The PowerPoint presentation can be found online at http://www.senate.illinois.edu/20161010em_slides.pdf.

Campus Enrollment Management (EM) is robust and active including the Office of Undergraduate Admission, Office of Student Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar, Principal Scholars Program, Office of Communication for Enrollment Management, EM Data Analysis and System Services, and EM Shared Services. EM sends out over 3.3 million print and digital communications to students.

The number of applications and enrollments have steadily risen. If there is an issue with anything, it is yield. Illinois is catching up on financial aid offerings. Financial aid has been the most common reason given by students that have been admitted but chosen to attend a different institution.

EM uses a holistic review of student applicants. Students are admitted to colleges; Admissions is a service unit. Admissions does the bulk of reading of applications and admits based on criteria provided by the colleges.

A record number of freshman, 7,593 students, enrolled this year with 21.6% of the students as first generation in their family to go to college. There were also a record number of applicants this year.

Illinois is 8th on the list of Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions for ACT scores. We are 3rd in serving state residents among the Big Ten. The freshman class is the most diverse class ever. Illinois' 2015 freshman class had the second most underrepresented students in the Big Ten.

Retention and graduation rates exceed national and peer averages. Freshman retention is at 94% and six-year graduation rates are at 84%. Six-year graduation rate gaps have been cut in half over the past 15 years.

Affordability. Tuition and fees have tripled since 2000. Yields have dropped steadily and consistently. Unmet financial need has risen significantly, though we have arrested the growth by increasing need-based aid. High cost and low aid are the top reasons students decline admission to Illinois. The campus and colleges have made significant investments in financial aid.

Growth Considerations. Tucker reported that the campus has grown about 1% per year over the decades. Most growth has come from undergraduates; generally a larger freshman class. Only the University of Texas Austin has a bigger freshman class. We have a good balance of quality and size.

An Enrollment Management Strategy Committee (EMSC) was created with Tucker chairing. The EMSC focused on University Administration's request for growth. The EMSC was asked to develop plans to increase degrees awarded by 10%, 15%, and 20% over the next six years. Degrees awarded could be increased by increasing graduation rates, not just by admitting more students.

The full Enrollment Management report can be found on the Office of the Provost website:

<http://provost.illinois.edu/committees/enrollment-management.html>.

The EMSC report states the overall goal is to maximize institutional impact in a way that is financially sustainable. Impact = excellence x size. Excellence relies on enrolling highly qualified, high-potential students, enrolling diverse groups of students, providing first-rate educational experience, and matching enrollments to program capacities. Therefore, grow only where it makes sense.

EMSC identified growth opportunities, both broadly and specifically. There is limited capacity to grow undergraduates. High demand programs that enroll to capacity or Under-enrolled programs that enroll all qualified students.

Doctoral enrollments are driven by faculty research and departmental teaching needs. There is significant potential in master's programs and many are being planned or expanded. Planned growth in graduate degrees exceeds 20%.

In response to a question about the increase in tuition over the last ten years, Tucker noted that it was partially due to reduced direct appropriations from the state, some increased costs, and a substantial portion went into financial aid to attract a diverse, racially and economically, student body.

In response to a question about student/faculty ratios and the impact on EM, Tucker noted that the student/faculty ratio does affect the quality of the student experience and is part of the EM picture, but not all data points are represented in the presentation today. Faculty senator Somerville (LAS) requested that the student/faculty ratio information be added to the presentation if given in the future.

When asked about the ideal ratio of domestic/international students, Tucker stated that we do have a significant number of international students on campus. Tucker believes the undergraduate percentage is around 13% with the freshman class a few points lower. Tucker reasons this is a large number and it should not increase the number and possibly make a slight reduction. We would like to increase the non-resident domestic enrollment as part of the mix, but it is a challenging target.

Tucker shared that non-IL residents pay significantly more in tuition and receive less aid. International students pay yet another tuition differential and are not eligible for any state or federal aid. Having bright students from many different corners of the country and the world makes the student experience better for all students.

There is currently a tuition allocation policy either 80% or 90% of graduate or professional tuition goes to the college offering the program. This type of budget allocation is up for discussion in the budget reform.

Tucker indicated that diversity is distributed somewhat unevenly across the colleges. There are more detailed information reports available on the Division of Management Information (DMI)

website, <http://dmi.illinois.edu>. Some more detailed data is in the Campus Profile. There are also other enrollment reports by gender, race, ethnicity, and various other types of breakdowns. Marshall added that there is also an enrollment management website, <https://enrollmentmanagement.illinois.edu>, with a tab for “Reports and Data” that also has a number of reports that break down the data in different ways.

Faculty senator Goldman (LAS) noted that underrepresented students have better retention and better graduation rates when they have the opportunity to study abroad. Some of the current financial pressures make it more difficult for students to have the opportunity to study abroad. Goldman suggested that the campus should consider what types of decisions students are making when they are under these financial pressures.

Tucker replied to a question about increasing the undergraduate enrollment by stating that the report sent to the President’s Office did not contain data about increasing undergraduate enrollment. The idea of increasing undergraduate enrollment is always open for discussion. We need to look at how to increase enrollment without increasing costs too much.

Faculty senator O’Brien (LIBR) noted she has heard an increasing number of anecdotal stories about students that go hungry because of the lack of financial aid or lack of financial support. O’Brien requested that SEC have someone make a presentation on student financial aid and the support mechanisms that are available on campus. O’Brien also suggested that the Senate Committee on University Student Life investigate what resources are available and how students are informed about the available resources.

Tucker noted that there is a program called Illinois Promise that covers full tuition, room and board, and other fees for low-income students whose families are at or below the poverty line. There are a little over 1,000 students currently on campus through the Illinois Promise Program. This is a major campus investment we can be proud of, but there is still more work that needs to be done.

Faculty senator Rosenstock (LAS) noted that 8 out of 10 of the reasons students rejected offers of acceptance were due to cost. Rosenstock questioned why Illinois cannot lower tuition. He then shared information that indicated Illinois in-state tuition is higher than the out-of-state tuition for Indiana University and Ohio State University and gave his opinion that Illinois should reduce in-state tuition to at least the level of out-of-state tuition at our closest peer institutions.

Tucker noted that the in-state IL-resident tuition rate is very high across the country among public institutions. Tucker indicated the information he had on tuition is slightly different. Tucker’s information indicated that Illinois is not above the non-resident sticker price at institutions like Indiana University, but that institutions like Iowa and Indiana Purdue heavily recruit from the state of IL. They offer scholarships or discounts to make the cost of attendance lower at their institutions than it would be to attend Illinois at full cost.

The challenge is to find a way to cover the cost of running a great institution and supporting a great faculty yet still providing access to students here and around the world. Trying to balance all of that together is the challenge.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Jenny Roether
Senate Clerk

*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.
A video recording of these proceedings can be found at <https://go.illinois.edu/senate>