

April 22, 2010

Faculty Senate End-of-Year President's Report

Dear SIUC Faculty,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Faculty Senate President since the end of April, 2009.

This term, the Senate has taken up a number of important matters. Some have resulted in resolutions and subsequent positive outcomes; for others, the work goes on. As President, I represented the faculty at many meetings, including those of the Constituency Heads Group, Chancellor's Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and the Graduate Council. I attended numerous campus functions, and met often with the Chancellor and the Provost on matters of faculty concern. The Senate was able to accomplish a number of things for the faculty good through informal meetings between myself and members of the administration, leading me to realize that not everything requires a resolution; sometimes, all one has to do is ask.

Needless to say, the common theme and primary agenda item at almost all of these gatherings has been the budget. I would have given monthly updates in a President's report during the term, but anything I had to share about the budget usually appeared in the DE long before the Senate was scheduled to meet. As of this writing, we know now what we've known all along: (1) SIUC has yet to be paid what it is owed for FY 2010; (2) there will be a shortfall for FY 2011; and (3) without borrowing authority and an income tax increase, some action will need to be taken to decrease personnel expenditures, even if no one is saying publicly what that action will be. Furlough days have been mentioned often and regularly. I have also heard it said that any such course of action must be negotiated prior to implementation.

The "Summary of Actions During 2009-10" can be found on the Senate's webpage, so there's no need to recite every item here. Some of the important matters referred to above are presented as follows.

This term the Senate voted on a revision to the operating paper to provide for increased representation on the Senate for NTTs, from 2 seats to 6, using the Huntington-Hill method of apportionment. By this action, the Senate adopted fair representation of non tenure track faculty on the Senate. Operating paper revisions are never easy, and it took two terms to get this one voted on and subsequently approved by the university administration.

Also, and after much ado, the Senate was able to fulfill its role in shared governance and voted to approve the rosters of internal and external program reviewers. This too, was a remarkable accomplishment, given the amount of the Senate President's time it consumed. A special thank you is publicly extended to Interim Provost Don Rice, for his extraordinary patience and leadership in settling the rosters.

This term the Senate faced the decision by the Judicial Review Board (JRB) to deactivate. This drastic measure was borne of frustration based upon rejection of JRB panel decisions and votes by the Chancellor. This too, took up a lot of time—particularly of the Senate's Executive

Council. Long story short, one of the JRB decisions went to grievance arbitration through the Faculty Association. The arbitrator found in favor of the plaintiff, and in turn, the Judicial Review Board, based upon a violation of the contract and memorandum of understanding between the Faculty Association and the Faculty Senate, which essentially holds that the [JRB] decision shall take the place of the administrator being grieved. Because of this victory won by the Faculty Association, the Faculty Senate and the JRB (which is a creature of the Senate) benefitted from validation through arbitration—and the JRB subsequently agreed to reactivate and hear grievances.

Additionally, the Senate jointly resolved (with the Graduate Council) to support students who depend on the MAP grant money to pay their educational expenses. A number of senators attended the ISAC rally held in the Student Center Auditorium. Also, some of our number joined the students on the bus ride to Springfield, and mentored them as they asked their legislators tough questions on funding for higher education. It was a day to be proud of our students; watching them interact with legislators was a lesson in applied civics, and a joy to behold.

I am particularly grateful to the Senate for its unanimous passage of FS1014, resolving to recommend approval of the New Unit of Instruction (NUI) for the Addition of a Major in Africana Studies and Department and Minor Name Change from Black American Studies to Africana Studies. As of this writing, the NUI is in the hands of the IBHE. Once approved by the IBHE, it moves to the SIU Board of Trustees for final approval. This is a historic event, and we were a part of it.

The Senate endorsed the *Haiti Project*, the inspiration of Professor Uche Onyebadi from the School of Journalism. In this ambitious project, Dr. Onyebadi proposes to build a primary school as part of the relief effort, and to partner with SIUC in some way. The project came to the attention of the Senate through MCMA Senator Lisa Brooten and, while still in its infancy, has many supporters—including the dean of his college. Senate Vice President Sanjeev Kumar indicated that support for the project could be had through *Engineers without Borders*, an organization with which SIUC engineers and engineering students are affiliated. I wish Professor Onyebadi and his colleagues well in this endeavor.

As Faculty Senate President, I knew there would be “touchy subjects” coming before the Senate. I am pleased to report that the joint resolutions on Open Access passed. The Senate vote on each of the two resolutions (11-9-3), coupled with the Graduate Council discussion and vote (20-5) show that there is still resistance to the idea of an institutional repository at SIUC, largely based on a suspicion that faculty participation may become mandatory over time. Substantial work remains on the part of the proposers in Library Affairs to continually educate the faculty on the benefits of participation, as well as to address fears or concerns related to tenure implications.

Speaking of touchy subjects, the Senate acted on these three without satisfactory administrative response: (1) the formation of a Chancellor’s Budget and Policy Committee, FS 1007; (2) expressed concern and displeasure in the administration’s refusal to incorporate the Senate’s recommendations into the proposed Sexual Harassment Procedures document, FS 1009; and (3) the Senate’s review of proposed memoranda of understanding with UIBE and ZZU, in China, FS 1010. The Faculty Senate voted in favor of these resolutions, and senators seated in the next term should either press for these things or not, once and for all.

Also during my term as Faculty Senate President, there have been some temporary operational changes in the administration of the Senate. For example, the gift card the Senate gives to the Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Scholar winners increased from what was previously \$25 to \$100. Executive Council meetings used to be held on the first Tuesday of the month, from 1 – 3 p.m. Now they start at noon—and lunch is provided. The Vice President now provides the Executive Council reports and resolutions, whereas the President used to do this. Compensation or workload reduction for officers of the Senate, as well as panelists on the JRB, should be revisited during the next term.

Numerous acts of protocol were accomplished this year, on behalf of the Senate. Some of these include a letter written to the President of the Faculty Senate at University of Alabama-Huntsville expressing our sympathy for the loss of their faculty colleagues; a joint letter (with Graduate Council Chair Eric Hellgren) encouraging the Board of Trustees to pass a resolution in memoriam to recognize the accomplishments of the late Dr. John C. Guyon, which the Board has agreed to do; and to have informal, successful conversations leading to some important changes to questions on the ICES form. The Senate officers supported the idea of inviting past Faculty Senate Presidents to “be” the program at the Fall Faculty Meeting. Many kind notes and comments were received, thanking the Senate for remembering our past faculty leaders.

Despite a very hectic schedule crammed into short bursts of visit, Chancellor-designate Dr. Rita Cheng came and addressed the Senate at our March meeting. It was a hopeful exchange, and I am optimistic about her leadership. Equally busy and with many trips to make in the university’s behalf, Dr. Glenn Poshard also agreed to speak to the faculty about the state of the budget, and he was the main event at the April 12 Spring Faculty Meeting. The presentation was well attended, and both these things happened by request of the Faculty Senate.

There are two causes in particular that I would have asked for Senate and full faculty advocacy if my term of office were a wee bit longer (not that I’m asking for an extension, mind you). First, the university needs to find funding and fully support *Barking Dog Productions* as an autonomous operation. Second, there is much still to be done to further the cause of *Saluki First Year*.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the 2009 – 2010 Faculty Senate for the attendance and care given in considering the matters placed before the body. A great debt of thanks is owed to the members of the Faculty Senate’s Executive Council: Sanjeev Kumar (Vice President), Mary Lamb (Secretary), Gerry Spitler (Governance), Allan Karnes (Budget, SIUC representative to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council), Gary Apgar (Faculty Status and Welfare Committee), Lisabeth Dilalla (Undergraduate Education Policy Committee), and Om Argawal (Committee on Committees).

Lastly, it has been a privilege working with Ms. Becky Armstrong this past year. Her service to the Senate, with all of the “go to” and “make it happen” skills associated with it, is nothing short of outstanding.