

1988

April 12, 1988

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "April 12, 1988" (1988). *Minutes*. 973.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/facsen_mins/973

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The meeting was called to order by Chairperson North at 2:00 p.m. in the Martinsville Room of the Martin Luther King Student Union.

PRESENT: Gary Foster, John North, Bill Heyduck, Sharon Bartling, Evelyn Goodrick, Pal Rao, Tony Schaeffer, Nancy McMillan, Bob Barford, Michael Loudon
ABSENT: Bob Wiseman, Kipp Kruse, Tony Oseguera, Ron Sutliff
VISITORS: Ron Messina, BOG Vice-Chancellor for Public Affairs and Development; Art Tate, Assistant Director of University Relations; Mary Tate, Eastern News; Caryn Mazanec, Eastern News

- I. Minutes of the April 5 meeting were approved as presented.
- II. COMMUNICATIONS:
 - A. Received from Denise Wasetis, Student Senate Speaker, a letter and resolution concerning the Designated Driver Program.
 - B. Received from President Rives his report to be presented to the BOG at the April 14 meeting in Springfield.
 - C. Received from Dan Thornburgh a memo concerning the campaign for more support for education.
 - D. North was in contact with Iris Campbell of the local Chamber of Commerce; the local Chamber will make a statement this week concerning its position on a tax increase.
 - E. Received from the BOG an agenda of its April 14 meeting in Springfield.
 - F. Received from Gov. Thompson a letter concerning the archaeological Zimmerman Site, indicating his support of its preservation.
 - G. North met with President Rives April 11 concerning additional financial support for the Senate's sponsorship of the Retirement Tea, May 2, 2:00-4:00 pm in the 1895 Room.
 - H. Received from Richard Wagner, the Executive Director of the IBHE, a letter to President Rives noting that the Senate needs to appoint an EIU representative and alternate to the IBHE's Faculty Advisory Committee by the end of April. This is a 4 year appointment (1988-92).
- III. OLD BUSINESS: none
- IV. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. Ron Messina, BOG's Vice-Chancellor for Public Affairs and Development, was present to discuss the financial status of Higher Education in Illinois and the situation in the Illinois General Assembly. He noted that there are really 4 parties in the General Assembly - Senate Republicans, Senate Democrats, House Republicans and House Democrats. Our problem is not with the Senate; it has the 30 votes needed to support a tax increase (13 Republicans/17 Democrats), given the presence of grass-roots support. The problem is in the House. It will take 60 votes (36 Democrats and 24 Republicans as proportional support from each party), and each party will make sure that only the minimum number of party votes are cast. The final roll call will be a work of art, with each party making sure that only their most secure incumbents support a tax increase and the least secure oppose it. On the Republican side, Rep. Lee Daniels will have difficulty getting the 24 votes. Reps. Mike Weaver and Bill Black would like to vote for the tax increase, but Black is new and both may feel insecure and need to hear from their constituents. Messina noted that while 24 Republican votes are needed, we would be lucky to get 8 if votes were cast today. On the Democratic side, there are 36 who would vote for the increase. The problem is Speaker Madigan and his concern for the Democratic control of the House. Asking legislators to vote on a tax increase immediately prior to a general election is politically risky. If we do not get a tax increase this year, it probably will not occur before 1993. Redistricting follows the 1990

election; the 1988 election is important in providing incumbents for the 1990 election, and the 1992 election will be a test for the redistricting done. Messina noted that a 1% increase in the personal income tax for a family of 4 with an annual income of \$30,000 would be less than \$0.70 per day. The Governor will put in a package in May, including what monies from any tax increase will be spent where. No guarantees can be offered concerning what proportion of any additional monies Higher Education will receive. When asked about a progressive income tax rather than the flat income tax, Messina felt that the issue of educational funding will drive the call for a state constitutional convention and the issue could best be dealt with there. He also felt that in terms of letter campaigns to the legislature urging a tax increase, a threatening or hostile posture is not productive.

- B. After discussing the Student Government's resolution concerning the Designated Driver Program, it was suggested that the Senate send a memo commending this first step in dealing with an increasing problem and encouraging them to continue the efforts.
- C. Next week, Sandy Gallion and V-P Glenn Williams will be present to discuss substance abuse and substance abuse programs.
- D. President Rives will be present April 26 to meet with the Senate.
- E. The Senate will elect new officers May 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm. The next meeting will be at 2:00 pm, April 19.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary S. Foster