

Student Senate Meeting

9/30/2012

Davidson Room

Call to Order

Roll Call

➤ Guest Speaker, President Wilson

- Well first of all let me say, that was a remarkable roll call. I don't think I've ever attended a Senate meeting with so many people either present or with subs here, that's terrific, I commend you for that. A couple of things, I know it's been a busy weekend for everybody, there's been a lot of activity on campus and of course it doesn't hurt to have the beautiful weather that we had. I took my grandson over to Sigma Kappa's pancake breakfast this morning and my grandson who is three years old says "Grandpa, I like pancakes".
- We're off to a good start for the year in general. I would like to thank Student Senate for the role you've played in the remodeling of the Hansen Student Center and the contributions to the Practice Gym in the Shirk Center. Both of those facilities are heavily used by students and the improvements are just amazing in some respects, we've all witnessed the new sound system, and it was nice that when I was giving remarks on Saturday morning, the parents sitting on the balcony could see above the bar. I think that the conference room in the Hansen Student Center will be one of the most popular conference rooms on campus.
- You've probably heard a lot about the new classroom building. We are currently ahead of schedule. We will be able to have commencement on the plaza in the Spring. Everything should be ready to go by the start of classes in the Fall. I think it will be fantastic, not only to look at aesthetically but with the new technology. One of the things I appreciate is that the Business and Economics department will be on the top floor with classrooms on the first three, however, the top floor will be locked off so that the classrooms can stay open for students to use as study rooms and for meetings and so forth. We've got a little inconvenience with the geothermal system to try and heat and cool the building, but the rains came right after we planted grass and we'll have the quad back in order, certainly by Spring.
- Another big initiative this fall has been the groundbreaking for the Gates at Wesleyan. That is a project that we've been working on for several years. The plan for that as well is that it will be completed by June of next year.

- We announced last week that we are starting a lacrosse team at Wesleyan for men and women. We will be starting a Men's team in the fall of the next year, and a woman's team in the fall of the following year. We're delighted to be adding, what I've learned is one of the most popular sports across the Midwest. I think Wesleyan will be ahead of the curve in terms of our ability to have those sports up and running by the time that larger numbers of students are playing the sport across the Midwest. This has been made possible by the artificial turf on the football field, and since Lacrosse is a Spring sport, we'll be able to use the field for practices and games. .
- One thing that you may only be vaguely aware of and that I wanted to mention is starting tomorrow and for the next three days we have a sight visit on campus from an organization called the Higher Learning Commission. Once every ten years, the University goes through an accreditation process and essentially, this is an outside group that sends a team of academic and administrative people from other universities like us and they come to campus and look at where we are as an institution, both financially and programmatically, and physically and then provide assurances to organizations that fund us, such as the federal government that provides aid to students. The Self Study committee has been commissioned for two years with student representatives. The Self Study is available online as well as in the library.
  - I thought I'd bring it up here because on Tuesday evening at 5 pm in Hansen, there is an open forum for any student that would like to attend. I think the sight visit team would be particularly interested in hearing from students about their experience at Illinois Wesleyan.
- I chair the Strategic Planning and Budgeting committee, consisting of faculty, staff and students. We meet at least once a month. That group is responsible for designing the strategic plan for the University and seeing that it is implemented. We revise and update the University Strategic Plan over time, plans are carried forward for a period of years. After the self study is completed, all of that data is then used to revise and update the Strategic Plan of the University. We're particularly interested in how students view things. We look forward to hearing from you, and as we update the plan, we'd like to come back and talk about some of the pieces of the plan, particularly those that relate to students in general.
- Finally, I simply wanted to mention that one of the objectives in the strategic plan is involving students in research and scholarly activities in various departments on campus. This summer we inaugurated something called the Eckley Scholars program and there

were five students picked this summer, and there will be five students picked every summer because that is an endowment that former President Eckley had created and the income is used every summer to support students. We're trying to expand this program so that we can have more students stay and participate in such activities. There are a couple of things that have already happened: We had Brian Brennan who received a grant from the National Science Foundation related to his work on Sickle Cell Anemia, and he will be employing four students to help him with research for the next three or four years. You take the five from Eckley and four from that one, and then Linda French also has an outside grant and there will be two or three students who will participate in her research. We are talking with a lot of alum on providing help for a stipend so that students might be able to help with research.

○ **QUESTIONS**

- With the Business and Econ dept. moving into the new building, what will happen to CLA
  - The first thing is what happens in CLA, the second is, what happens in Shaw. I have already had nearly 12-15 offices on campus ask for space in Shaw or CLA.
- The next big project is the theater building. There are some other things that will be done, we're looking at some remodeling in the dugout space but it isn't the same as building a new theater or doing major repairs to the theater building.
- Last fall you had talked about an increase in tuition for this year, will this happen again this year?
  - Every year I'm trying to drop the percentage, we're trying to keep that driving down. We would like to keep the raises with inflation.
- Updates as to demolition of the electrolux building?
  - One wing of that building, we own, the southernmost wing, if you think of it as a large U-shaped building, the northern end and the horizontal end was sold by the company to a demolition company who is simply going to tear it down and begin to market the property. To my knowledge, there have been no plans made as to what will go on the site by the private developer. I think they're open, and my hope is that we would get more retail activity along Main street and begin to build more of a campus town for Illinois Wesleyan.

- The Accreditation visit.
- Vice-President's Report, Kevin Carey
  - The Sodexo Steering Committee will be meeting this week. Tonight we will be talking about a survey to go out to students about the Dugout and other Sodexo related business.
- Treasurer's Report, Brexton Isaacs
  - FAB made the following recommendations:
    - \$5150 to Civic Engagement Commissioner for a Speaker (\$5000), Hospitality (\$50), and Publicity (\$100)
      - The speaker is Tim King
        - Motion passes 31-1-0
    - \$1199.95 to The Argus for Capital Development
      - First Abby, Second Bobby, Motion Passes 29-3-0
    - \$1800 to Unite for Sight for Conferences (\$1600), Membership Fees (\$150), and Event Supplies (\$50)
      - First Lauren, Second Bobby, Motion Passes 24-3-3
- Parliamentarian's Report, Aubrey Dixon
  - Progressive Committee will be working closely with Brexton Isaacs and Kevin Carey.
- Communications Commissioner's Report, Daniel Quintero
  - Approve Minutes from 9/23/2012
    - First Hannah, Second Abby, Motion Passes 23-6-3
- Media Commissioner's Report, Kevin Piotrowski
  - Argus Website Format Chosen
  - Titan TV Publicity Distribution Date
- University Events Commissioner's Report, Amy DeBoer
  - Chris Carter was here on Friday, over 400 people were in attendance.
  - Homecoming is next week.
    - Student Senate's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary breakfast will be held October 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 am.
  - All campus events committee.
- Awareness Events Commissioner's Report, Danny Kenny
  - Jaclyn Friedman November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Civic Engagement Commissioner's Report, Blair Wright
  - Monday October 8<sup>th</sup>, Tim King
  - Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> - 7 am 5K

- Home Sweet Home - November 18th
- President's Report, Rachel Paturi
  - If you would like to volunteer to sit on the Assessment Committee please talk to me after the meeting.
- Old Business
  - Code of Finances - Fundraising Amendment
    - First Bobby, Second Alan, Motion Passes 25-4-2
- New Business
  - Elections Code Amendment
    - After a lot of thought, one of the main pros as to why we are doing this is because we believe that if the President and VP know that they want to work together they will not only work better together, they will also more than likely work towards the same goals and the same visions.
    - This is generally an accepted rule at our peer institutions.
      - Discussion Limited to 5 more minutes at this point.
  - Fraternity and Sorority Life Task Force
    - We spent much of last semester deciding on whether or not FSL should be funded through Student Senate.
      - Last semester we decided that Fraternities and Sororities would be funded.
- Announcements
  - Brexton pushes for voter registration at the third meeting in a row.
    - Impressively, they have gotten 250 students to register to vote.
    - He receives applause.
- Next Meeting
  - October 14, 2012
- Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

*Daniel Quintero*