***General Assembly Meeting***

***January 17th, 2024***



**A D V O C A C Y ● U N I T Y ● L E A D E R S H I P**

# Call to Order at 7 p.m.

# -Land Acknowledgement

*“Illinois State University was built on the land of multiple native nations. These lands were the traditional birthright of Indigenous people who were forcibly removed and have faced centuries of struggle for survival and identity in the wake of dispossession and displacement. We would like to acknowledge that we are on the lands that were once home to the Illini, Peoria, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, Odawa****,****Meskwaki****,****Ojibwe, and Chickasaw**Nations. Due to colonial encroachment and displacement to the Fox, Potawatomi, Sauk, Shawnee, Winnebago, Ioway, Mascouten, Piankashaw, Wea, and Kickapoo Nations were forcibly removed. We also express honor to those Indigenous people who we may have excluded in this acknowledgment due to erasure and historical inaccuracy.”*

# Roll Call

-Public Comment

-Approval of the Minutes

-11.29.23

**Caucus Speaker**

- Christina Bryant

(Birds Give Back)

* 6th annual Giving Day, where the University can come forth with areas of fundraising and present it to the public to fundraise for the area in need. We raised over a million dollars last years for the university. We are looking for your help, we have ambassadors, who represent the cause by spreading the word through social media, by mouth of phone to help spread awareness for the cause. This talks about mental health needs at our university so we will send out a link for those to look at while donating. Looking for volunteers from SGA to help spread social media content and word of mouth. We are also looking for call center volunteers to help on the day of giving back. If you are interested, please reach out to Eduardo and we will send you the promo box to post on your social media. Any questions please reach out to Eduardo. The event is February 22nd. We also do Dollar for Donuts and the Philanthropy online quest, there are free prizes and it is a bunch of fun and only takes about 5 minutes of your time.

**Appointments:**

* **Alex Young (PR Secretary)**
  + **Junior acting major, going into comedy,**
  + Social media and marketing for about 7 years, wants to help bridge the gap between SGA and the student body. Works for the university and received official graphic standards through that work in the fine arts building. Marketing chair for two RSO’s and that helped build a platform for her and the RSOP’s. The best tool is a thorough communications plan and a social media calendar, she was able to make one of these for our school wide food drive. She is well versed in all adobe software and more media outsources. Wants to bring more Instagram updates and stories. We need to explore more social media platforms. We will force Eduardo to do any TikTok dances necessary.
  + Myers: Historically, in mass media positions, this type of position can have a lot of burn out, do you have a plan in terms of trying to delegate a lot of this? What is your plan for managing those anxieties.
  + Young: I do get a committee and have a few people interested and lined up to help. I have also been getting better at having blank slate/filler posts to be ahead of the game.
  + Bever: Great speech, sometimes committees like to create events last minute, this may derail your schedule, do you have a plan for this?
  + Young: Yes absolutely, I have always worked with last minute things and I am used to working quickly.
  + Holmes: In the past we have had summary posts for our meetings, we missed that and we want to bring that back can we?
  + Young: Absolutely, I would love to do that.
  + Myers: Motion to end questioning
  + Second: Hofstetter
  + Unanimous yes
  + Debate period: no debate
  + Smith: Motion to end debate
  + Second: Lummis
  + Unanimous yes
  + Vote on Alex: unanimous Yes
  + YAY Alex!

**Student Fee Proposal for FY25**

Monk: We will be endorsing the recommendation, we cannot make edits, we will be sending our vote to Interim President Tarhule, who will be determining the final proposal that will be placed before the board.

Increase Student Fees by 4 % per credit hour for FY25. (113.11 to 117.21)

a. The total per credit hour cost would be $117.21.

academic enhancement up 2 dollars

Academic Enhancement: To fund current and anticipated projects that continue to increase as a result of inflation. As we look ahead to impactful initiatives we hope to make in the next few years, the additional funds will allow progress to be maintained at the rate we are currently moving.

This fee is to aid in the delivery of instruction through appropriate learning environments and supportive infrastructure.  This may include construction of new academic buildings and physical structures, maintenance and upgrades to existing academic buildings and physical structures, installation and maintenance of related technology, hardware, systems and software.

· Athletic and service fee up 1.25 per credit hour,

Athletic and Service: To fund increased costs for transportation, lodging, and food for nineteen sports that includes 450 student-athletes. Operational costs to run programs continue to have inflationary increases as well.

This fee is used to partially support the operational expenses of intercollegiate athletics. This fee and athletics generated revenues combine to fund the operational expenses of a NCAA Division 1 program.  Illinois State student-athletes compete for conference and post season championships in 19 sports.  The program also provides multiple opportunities throughout the academic year to engage students, alumni, donors and the community to benefit the University as a whole.

· Athletic facilities up .85,

Athletic Facilities: There are many significant repairs and maintenance needs for the eleven buildings that this fee covers.

This fee covered the principal and interest of the Horton Fieldhouse/Hancock Stadium original construction and continues to cover principal and interest on capital improvements.  This fee continues to support the program, operational expenses and long term maintenance needs of the Horton/Hancock complex, the University Golf Course and other athletic fields and facilities.  Many of these fields and facilities continue to be shared academic, recreation and athletic spaces.

* Holmes: Did athletics provide an itemized list on the money they need?
* Monk: there is no itemized list for this because it is more of a general broad fee addition.
* DeNeve: An example of one of the athletics fees was like a $8000 fire alarm reset in the arena, this is what the money will be spent on.
* Myers: it would just be in total a 4.10 dollars in total?
* Roy: the increase for athletics is 5% so why aren’t we increasing other fees?
* James: I just want to clarify that the academic enhancements for freshman because out tuition is locked. Is this for every student or just freshman.
* Deneve: Tuition part is locked but fees are not, so this will affect everyone who comes in the fall.
* Tasdan: to my knowledge, this involves the visor center, I thought most academic money comes out of tuition?
* Monk: this conversation has been had and the university decided to split it.
* Deneve: the state hasn’t given us any more money, so the school was told that we would be increased with budget, but we kept waiting for it so they took it into their own hands.
* Blair: the reason why they want the athletic fee increase is because of student safety and the fixing of our buildings. Last year we denied the increase, so this is basically that, but with a small increase.
* Ririe: what changes has athletics made since the scandal with the last director, I don’t want my fee dollars to go to something like this again.
* Monk: we are simply endorsing this and not the final say. I cant speak too heavily on athletics, but the audit went through and nothing more was found, we have new leadership, this fee goes directly to student athletes, denying this fee will directly affect athletics across the board. A good athletics is supportive of a good university.
* Holmes: the athletic facilities fees, why is there a separate Redbird arena fee?
* Monk: With this fee, there are 11 buildings, this was only an example of emergency maintenance
* Holmes: So this money is not going towards that?
* Monk: I don’t believe so.
* Morgan: I know redbird arena is a separate fee, because students endorsed it to build it.
* Myers: This is the questioning period
* Roy: Would this count towards classes in those buildings?
* Myers: Motion to move to debate
* Second: Tasdan
* Debate: unanimous yes
* **Debate stage:**
* Myers: affirmation, when I was in ARH, we were apart of this process and I told all the students to vote with their conscious, the university at the time was asking for 7%. This is more reasonable than that. I do have some concerns around the audit of athletics, I am a huge fan with Athletics being public about the audit because that is our student money.
* Roy: Neutral point of affirmation, I don’t like increasing fee dollars but with inflation and not increasing athletic fees last year we should increase the fees because it is important.
* Holmes: Neutral affirmation, concerned about no budget from athletics, I would like to see that, but I can’t vote against smoke detectors and classrooms.
* Bounds: Affirmation, a lot of the people came in asking for money were showing visual examples about future projects and facilities, The CVA added in accessibility ramps, DeGarmo’s plaza is getting renovated and the new nursing building
* Smith: Motion to end debate
* Second: Myers
* Unanimous yes
* Holmes: motion to division of the house
* Passes unanimously

**Internal Committee Reports**

-Civic Engagement (Senator Tasdan)

- In civic engagement committee we discussed further planning for Lobby Day. Thanks to all who have signed up, and we will eventually all set up a time to meet and discuss what topics we want to advocate for in Springfield. Alumni engagement is hosting a lobbying training on February 13th, 5-7 pm at the Alumni Center. More details to come!

Additionally, planning for the Town Hall on March 26th at 6 pm is underway - we are reaching out to all the RSOs who will come and ask questions to our 4 political RSOs on stage. We will still need moderators and a timekeeper, so if you are interested let me know!

Otherwise, we have lots of members in our committee working on cool things like future voter engagement initiatives, collaboration with the food pantry, and signing up for service days. On that note, here are some things the Center for Civic Engagement wanted to share with us:

MLK Day of Service

Join the CCE and people across the nation as we serve our local community in Dr. King's memory on January 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year, we are partnering with Project XV, which is set to be the first Voting Rights Museum in Illinois. Volunteers will help prepare exhibit content fixtures, remove old content, and paint to help keep the place on track to public opening in April. Register on Redbird Life.

Bring it Back to Normal Service Project:

CCE is looking for student leaders to serve as Site Leaders for Bring It Back to Normal on April 12th. Site leaders will work with student volunteers and our community partners to ensure projects go smoothly. A Site Leader Orientation will be given to all volunteer leaders the week of Bring It Back to Normal. Students may email vpsatnflore@ilstu.edu if they are interested in volunteering to lead.

- -Town hall March 26th, having RSO’s ask the questions will be awesome, lasts of future voter engagement and the food pantry. MLK day of service this Saturday from 11am-3pm, working voter rights in Illinois,

-Membership & Outreach (Senator Roy)

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-Policies & Procedures (Senator Myers)

- We did not talk much about anything today but passed amendment 14 today as constitutional

-Finance & Allocation (Meghan James)

- hey guys today finance talked about our fundraiser that is on Sunday!!! please get some food from chipotle for the school street food pantry and post on socials!! we also helped chief of staff Ririe write out what he’ll say to the jimmy johns manager.

-Fee Board (Cobi Blair)

- No report

**Information Items:**

* **Amendment#14- Amendment to Add Required Statements**
* Monk: if you go to redbird life, we are registered but theya re mad at us, because we need a non-discrimination clause to be included for us to be at winter fest next week.
* Myers: The one thing that I noticed is the POA makes the changes but it would be verbatim of what the university makes changes of.
* Holmes: it just says here that the POA doesn’t need to consult but should we just change it to letting us know
* Tasdan: motion to end debate
* Second: Myers
* Holmes: to add “but must notify the assembly” or something of that nature to section 2A
* Blair: I find that friendly
* Myers: Motion to end debate
* Hofstetter: second
* Unanimous yes
* Vote: unanimous yes

**Executive Officer Reports**

- Student Body President (Eduardo Monk)

- `Good evening, it’s wonderful to see everyone again. I hope you all had a restful Winter break and are doing your best to stay warm. First off, thank you all for your feedback on the student fee recommendation. I will inform Wendy Polifka, Assistant Vice President of Business Operations, who will be able to let President Tarhule as they finalize the proposal for student fees, I’d like to thank Chief of Staff Ririe’s work putting together our Winter Retreat. I appreciate everyone’s flexibility in transitioning to a virtual format at the last minute but I believe we were just as productive as we could have been in-person. As mentioned, I wanted our focus to be maintaining our strong momentum from last semester and I am ecstatic to see what this group will accomplish in the Spring Semester. I’d like to welcome our newest member to the Association, PR Secretary Young. I am thrilled to see what you will accomplish in the role. The Student Caucus will continue our review of policy 2.1.17 Residency Status. We will be joined by Alice Maginnis from ISU’s legal department later this evening, so please come ready with questions. The Presidential Search Committee has officially been provided with candidate materials and is scheduled to meet next Thursday, January 25th, where we will be narrowing the list of candidates provided to us down to those that we will choose to interview in February. I am unable to disclose candidate information by law so I will not be able to share any of the applicants or nominees with you all, but I will keep you all updated as the process continues. The Student Conduct and Community Responsibilities office has officially begun their review of the Code of Conduct. They are working alongside a consulting firm for a full rewrite of the Code and are looking for student feedback. Janice Blair has requested 2-3 members of SGA to attend focus groups that will discuss the areas of academic integrity and RSO practices. (And those are two separate focus groups, so 2-3 members each). We will also be assisting in reaching the student body with a survey, so Secretary Young, be on the lookout for that link and let’s have a graphic created for the instagram. With a bit of an accelerated timeline, they are prioritizing the regulation portion of the code, with revisions coming before the Student Caucus before mid-March. I am excited to announce the University will be putting together a task force to explore the impact of Artificial Intelligence on ISU. The proposed structure for the committee does include both undergraduate and graduate student representation, so I will let you all know once they reach the point of recruiting members as I am sure a few of you will be interested in taking part. I congratulate you all for your efforts in successfully advocating for such a task force and I hope this can serve as an example of the power that students can have at ISU through the tradition of shared governance. I would like to speak on the recent registration of the tenure track faculty union and simply emphasize the repercussions the union will have on shared governance. I will preface my statements by promising that I am not pro nor anti-union, as such descriptors are entirely irrelevant given SGA’s altogether lack of involvement in the upcoming negotiations. The union is a done deal, meaning what I am about to say is not mine or anyone’s opinion or perspective but simply the nature of the situation, as ISU is not the first university with a faculty union. The union in and of itself is not the issue and, before we stumble down this rabbit hole, we are not discussing unions as a part of the labor market generally. The university has over a dozen unions that it consistently bargains with and unionizing is well within the rights of the faculty. The difference between those unions and the recently registered union is that this one is a faculty union. Illinois State has a very unique tradition of shared governance. In fact, ISU may have the strongest form of shared governance in the nation. Not all universities have academic senates and even fewer have student representatives. To have every Student Senator also serve on the Academic Senate is amazingly rare and it ensures that students have a voice in the administrative and policy-forming activities of the University. However, shared governance also ensures faculty have a voice in their administration. With the registration of the tenure track faculty union, shared governance for both students and faculty will be impacted. The degree to which is yet to be determined, as the contract negotiated between the union and the administration will decide the dynamic between the Academic Senate and the union. Which policies that the union makes reccomendations for and the resulting role of the Academic Senate in faculty affairs will be apart of the contract. As a faculty union, it is expected that many policies governing faculty will become apart of the union’s purview to recommend policy revisions. I have shared all the contracts of the faculty unions at various Illinois Universities for your information and a few examples of policy areas that are currently under ISU’s Academic Senate purview that are under union purview at other universities include retention, performance standards, and termination of degree programs. The difference between the union and the academic senate is students have representation within the academic senate. The union represents tenure track faculty and will operate in the best interests of their constituents. Many of the academic senate policies simultaneously affect multiple stakeholders across campus, which are all represented in the Academic Senate. Not all stakeholders will be represented in the union, however, they may take on and make recommendations for policies that affect stakeholders that fall outside the union. This is the concern for the future of shared governance. Now, none of what I have stated is intended to be within a negative or positive context. Without a contract, it is impossible to delineate the impact on the academic senate the union will have. However, what has been shown by faculty unions at universities across the country is that a strong academic senate and a strong faculty union cannot coexist. What I would like to make clear is I have no leaning one way or the other, the negotiations are ongoing so there is no foundation to base judgments on. I encourage VPOA Beddow to bring in leaders of the union to speak with us at a future meeting and I implore you all to reserve your opinions until after a contract is signed. With that, I will happily accept any questions.

-Student Body Vice President (Sarah Deneve)

- Hope you all had a wonderful break and a smooth return to campus. I am so excited for this next semester of SGA. Even though it will be my last, I know SGA is going to do some great things this semester and I cannot wait to see what continues in the future. Second semester tends to fly by, and so I encourage you all to take some time and plan your initiatives now, before election craziness begins and the semester gets away from all of us.

In terms of VP updates, ELP continues on for the next few months. We have a few meetings left, with this semester focused more on how SGA works and how to change things within the university. I want to give a shoutout to both Representative Stuart and Representative Martil for coming to speak with us at our last meeting. It was awesome having you both with us!

I am still working on a few spots in committees around campus, but those have been filling out okay.

Lastly, I just wanted to talk about an event that the Town of Normal Human Relations Commission is putting on this weekend in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. On Saturday, there is a "Social Equity Summit" in the morning from 9-12 here in the Bone Student Center. Information about Environmental Justice, Housing discrimination, and homelessness will be shared. The summit is free to attend. Following that summit, there is an annual awards ceremony luncheon.

- Myers: is there any marketing for the event you are talking about on Saturday?

- Deneve: its on the town of normal website

- Student Body Chief of Staff (Josh Ririe)

- Please submit your hours for the retreat by tonight, Ipeople is a little tricky right now, also if you weren’t at the retreat please look through the budget, plan your initiatives now.

# Assembly Officer Reports

-President of the Assembly (Megan Fulton)

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-Vice-President of the Assembly (Emma Beddow)

- Hello everyone! It is great to see everyone again and I hope you are staying warm in this brutally cold weather. Just a few things I want to touch base on tonight, 2 constituent contact hours for the month of January, I put the form up last night and if you have any questions, please let me know. I do want to address that I was very lenient last semester, and that will not be the case this time around. Please submit your hours on time and if you have any problems or concerns, let me know ahead of time. 2ndly, I hope you are all enjoying the projector! From now on, if you have any visual components to your report or legislation, I would love to add it, just be sure to give me ample time to add it. That’s it for me, thank you guys

**Advisor Reports**

-(A. Morgan)

- Reminder on the birds give back, it is important for alumni to hear from students, the Code of student conduct committee is a great thing to have on a law school application, if you or you know of students who need assistance, please reach out to the dean of students office because we are hear ton give back. Fall grades, the average GPA is 3.4 in SGA which is great. Its also my 1 year anniversary of being at ISU.

**Executive Cabinet Member Reports**

-Secretary of Sustainability (Haley Cepak)

- The office of sustainability is collaborating with science and technology to do the greenscreen film like last year, it is called punk rock vegan.

-Secretary of Government Relations (Sam Majka)

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-Secretary of Diversity Affairs (Patrick Flores)

- Open SGA team for polar plunge, we need to raise 100$ and we would get sweatshirts,. February 24th. Raise money for the special Olympics. More info in the GroupMe. Also the food pantry is open 4-6, bring your redbird ID.

-Secretary of IT (Abel Ninan)

-No report

-Secretary of Non-Traditional Student Experience (Princy Patel)

- No report

-Secretary of College Affordability (Ross Vancil)

- "I have talked to the School Street Food Pantry and am working with ELP to plan a food drive that is going to take place from Feb 15-29. I will have more information at our next meeting. I am also planning a Student Resource Awareness Fair that is going to take place on March 21 and will have a bill to fund this event at our next meeting and more will have information for all of you. That is all I have tonight."

-Secretary of Administration Compliance (Madi Sapp)

* - Upcoming: omnibus amendment to the code. Will be getting eyes on it soon with hopes of co-sponsors. Hope to bring to floor next GA.
* Please let Sarah know if you may know someone interested in serving on the SEC! We still have 2 spots for general student body members.
* Election dates/times will be announced soon after committee meets for the first time (should be Friday).

-Secretary of Programming (Taylor Daker)

**-** Hi Everyone! I hope you had a wonderful first day of classes. Last semester I talked about an upcoming event at Home Sweet Home Ministries. On February 2nd, they will be hosting "Night In A Car", which is a homelessness simulation. I attended for the first-time last year, and the experience is incredibly powerful, and one I will not forget. I sent the link to sign up earlier in our GroupMe, and I would love to see you all there! I have also been in contact with April Anderson-Zorn, who is the University Archivist to plan a time for us to visit ISU archives. As I get more information about the date and time, I will let you know! As always, please let me know if you need anything! Have a great week!

**Ex-Officio Reports**

-ALAS (Jacqueline Zarco)

- I hope to try my best and I apologize that I have been lacking

-SERC (Becca Mackey)

- No report

-APAC (Alexandra Martil)

- Event on Tuesday at 7 in multi culture event, Decolonized healing and the new counselor for mental health resources.

-ARH (Kyan Stuart)

- No report

- BSU(Jayden Wilburn-Johnson)

- No report

-Student Trustee (Ash Ebikhumi)

**Passing of the Gavel**

**Adjournment of the Meeting**

**HARD STOP: 9 p.m.**