



Ithaca College Student Governance Council

Senate Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 25th, 2022 | 7:00 P.M. in Campus Center Taughannock Falls Room

Call to Order

Roll Call: Carlos Abreu, Max Powers, James Zampetti, Austin Ruffino, Lila Weiser, Grace Madeya, Nick Viggiani, Noah Richardson, Tessa Kurtz, Harley Grossman, Vincent Tavernese, Lauren Hitesman, Mary Holland-Bavis, Elijah (Ithacan), Tim Downs

Approval of the Minutes (4/18): Noah motions to approve minutes from 4/18, Nick seconds, motion passes 7-0-0

New Business

- **Community Session**
- **Guest Speaker:** Tim Downs (Vice President for Finance and Administration & CFO)
 - Finance: treasury, liquidity, and budgeting for institution
 - Administration: oversee Facilities and Auxiliary services
 - Tuition-dependent institution (Rely on tuition and room and board mostly, that money goes directly into the institution as well as preserving the institution)
 - Over the past five years, enrollment has dropped from around 6000 in Fiscal Year 2018 to 5000 in Fiscal Year 2022. Expected to continue to drop to around 4000 in Fiscal Year 2024 and then rise slightly.
 - Net tuition revenue is also currently down close to \$30 million a year
 - Housing and Food Service cost also down about \$20 million since prior to COVID
 - Currently now relying on other lines of revenue (i.e., private gifts)
 - What services do students find critical to their education? Office is looking to know this so they can make informed decisions about creating a smaller institution and reprioritizing where resources are going.
 - Noah: For students who are investing in majors that have been or currently are being downsized, how can students get these resources/classes?
 - Answer: The college cannot be “every class, every student” right now, so the focus is on the classes they can provide (i.e., classes or programs that have been growing nationally).
 - Vincent: Where does retention fit into this model?

- Answer: Retention is factored into the data model. Retention is much more valuable than recruiting new students.
 - Vincent: Caution against ignoring campus life for academic priorities
- The next two financial years will be low, how do we stay sustainable through those two years to come out better.
- Outstanding debt in Fiscal Year 2011 was \$190.5 Million, in Fiscal Year 2021 it was \$124.4 Million.
 - So, we do not have as much, but that may be indicative that we aren't investing in campus as much
 - Similarly, Interest Expense and Depreciation Expense are both down (\$1.5 Million and \$2.6 Million decreases, respectively)
- Net assets have grown by about \$300 Million between FY11 and FY21
- Goals: Determine borrowing capacity and timing as well as build back operating budget capacity to get back to where we are
 - Austin: What is the college credit score?
 - A2 rating, which is in the top tier.
- Endowment: Built over time through running surpluses or through gifts. Intergenerational fund intended to last in perpetuity.
 - 4.5% investments pulled out of endowment, which is on the conservative end of draws. Administration can draw up to 6%. (That was about \$14 Million this year)
 - Some of this is predetermined to go to financial aid (about half), the rest the office has control over where that goes
- Noah: What type of benefits are associated with the residential campus requirement (i.e., students must live on campus for three years)
 - It has always been a three-year requirement. A few years ago, there were more students than beds, so some juniors were allowed to live off-campus, but now the institution is back to the three-year requirement.
 - By piloting the Senior on-campus housing, reviewing what students value and will mold future decisions off of that. We will have an excess of beds in the next two years, how can we make this meaningful for students.
- Noah: What is your take on affinity housing (such as a Student of Color Residential Learning Community)
 - Answer: If it makes sense and students want it, want to support it, but if you parse up housing too much and create rigid guidelines, cannot balance housing opportunities well.
- James: One of the goals of the Ithaca College Green New Deal was divestment from fossil fuels. Is this still an aspiration?
 - Answer: We are currently working on fossil fuel investments as well as investments in Russia. Prioritizing most strategic plan. Many fossil fuel companies are investing in renewable energy, so have to look at each investment separately.
 - Once the new Director of Energy Management and Sustainability joins SLT in June, this process will be supported.

- To be carbon neutral, you can buy renewable energy certificates, or you can be non-carbon omitting. We want to find a balance between these.
 - 2030 commitment still seems feasible.
 - Harley: Lack of program-related coursework is one of the biggest reasons I think students transfer. Is there a plan to increase the options of classes or is it just evaluating the departments each year?
 - Answer: Working with Provost Stein to breakdown barriers between schools and within schools.
 - Lila: How does the “stay sustainable for the next two years” plan compare with comparable institutions?
 - Mixed comparisons. Some will not see the same negative effects, but other institutions will not do as well.
 - Lila: Is the data model you are showing tonight publicly available?
 - Answer: No, because between all the different operating accounts the information may not line up when just written out and it may not line up with audits. But if I have the chance to explain in person it does make sense.
 - Lila: When is the soonest Whalen graduate programs will be reinstated?
 - Depends. Associate Dean specifically responsible for overseeing graduate programs (Christina Moylan). Depends how quickly they move forward with this process
 - Vincent: Can the school have enough resources for faculty to teach the courses we relied on grad students for?
 - As graduate students transition out, Dean Walz will oversee to ensure there is enough coverage
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Final SGC Meeting 5/2

Continuing Business

- **Senator Reports**
 - Tessa Kurtz
 - Gender-Neutral Bathroom bill passed
 - Mental Health and Wellness Committee met with Michelle Good (Program director of Health Promotion) and Brian Peterson (Director of CAPS) to discuss services that could be more visible
 - Meeting again within the next two weeks so let the committee know if you have points you would like brought up
 - Vincent Tavernese
 - Met with Dean Walz to arrange meeting between Whalen Deans Student Council and Department of Theater Arts student leaders
 - Hosted an event with Mental Health Awareness for Musicians Association around nutrition and wellness in Whalen
 - Met with MHAWC and CAPS
 -
- **Miscellaneous**

- Elections Voting
 - Open this Thursday from 12:01 AM to Friday at 11:59 PM.
 - Since the Department of Theater Arts is within Dillingham right now, only current School of Music students will be able to vote for the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance position
- Senate Chair Selection 5/2
 - Anyone interested in being Senate Chair can announce candidacy next Monday and the newly-elected Senate will elect someone

Officer Reports

- Vice President of Campus Affairs
- Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - Scholarship Committee has officially concluded
- Vice President of Business & Finance
 - \$12,628 in account. Currently more in requests than budget available, which means some budgets may be denied.
- Vice President of Communications
 - Meeting with Dan DeCaria this Wednesday to touch base on the recent campus-wide email
 - Please promote elections
- Senate Chair
 - School of Business Dean's Search: 4 candidate finalists are here this week and there are open student/staff sessions for each
- Chief of Staff
- Student Trustee
- Residence Hall Association Designee
 - RHA has updated its constitution
 - This Saturday from 6-8 in Towers is Sex Fest
 - Executive Board Elections are taking place at the next meeting

Open Agenda

- Vincent: School of Music Dean's Search about to start first round of interviews
- Tessa: Are there any solutions to the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance voting issue
- Harley: Who should I reach out to about water testing issues?
 - Facilities

Adjournment: Tessa motions to adjourn 8:31 PM.