UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2003, 3:00 p.m.  
HOLMES STUDENT SKY ROOM  
PRESIDENT JOHN G. PETERS, PRESIDING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2002 MEETING – approved, with correction by D. Griffiths to his remarks about the IRB.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information at the state level is sparse. The budget cycle is starting late, as the new governor is still assembling his staff. Three keywords characterize the current environment: Access, Accountability, and Administrative efficiency (the three A’s).

Hard facts: The state budget deficit is expected to be around $4.8 billion, which includes a $1.25 billion shortfall for FY03 and $3.6 billion for FY04. The total state budget is about $50 billion, but only about half that can potentially be cut. There is a universal hiring freeze on all code state agencies (which does not include NIU) as well as a freeze on the purchase of automobiles for those agencies. The new budget director is John Filan. The budget shortfall cannot be dealt with purely by budget cuts; some additional taxes will be necessary as well. Governor Blagojevich believes that public universities have administrative bloat, and that they have increased tuition too rapidly.

Possibilities: As usual, a bill has been filed in the state senate to cap public university tuition. There may be legislation introduced to return tuition income to the state, rather than allowing the universities to budget it themselves. The legislature may insist on approving the university’s budget on a line-item basis, down to the department level. There may very well be a rescission this fiscal year (NIU has planned for this). The IBHE budget and structure may be significantly revised for FY04.

What NIU is doing: The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, President Peters, and Kathy Buettner have been involved with the governor’s transition teams for higher education, and have been talking to the legislators (especially the new ones and the new leaders). NIU’s business vice presidents are meeting; President Peters is in contact with the presidents and chancellors of all the public, and some of the private, universities in the state. A budget link will again be provided on the NIU home page. President Peters will meet with campus leaders as soon as there is some information.

The federal budget for FY03 has still not been approved.

Cost of, and access to, quality higher education continue to be an important concern, for students, parents, and for the university. NIU is administratively lean, and very efficient in all its
operations, but the public perception of higher education is influenced by the actions of all institutions. NIU needs to clarify its future and its mission, and make appropriate resource decisions. President Peters will be leading a dialogue on that issue.

In order to encourage seamless transitions between educational levels, the state and country are now talking about P-16 education. An Illinois summit created an eight-point agenda, which is available as a link to these minutes. President Peters formed a P-20 taskforce over the break to begin discussions here.

NIU is working with DeKalb on future growth issues, through the DeKalb Growth Summit and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The SA is considering running bus service to Elburn when the Metra trains start service there in 2005.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – adopted

A. Committee on Advanced Professional Certification (CAPC), to be included in the Committees of the University Book – refer to Rules and Governance

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 13-16) and report – walk-in

The FAC has not met since the last UC meeting. At its next meeting, January 31st, it will consider two issues: faculty rights and responsibilities in higher education (in packet) and feedback to the IBHE on performance indicators at its February 4th meeting (walk-in).

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – no report

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Sue Willis and Jim Lockard – no report

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Sara Clayton and Bev Espe – no report

E. BOT – Sue Willis – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – no report

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Bill Goldenberg, Chair

RSB will meet in February. Herb Rubin has resigned from the UC for personal reasons; S. Willis expressed appreciation to him for his service, and to W. Goldenberg for agreeing to take on the chairmanship for the rest of the academic year.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Susan Mini, Chair
I. **Constitution Article 2.82** – change in starting date for all University Council members

**FIRST READING**

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair – no report

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Deborah Smith-Shank, Chair

University Council elections are underway; results will be announced in March.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

F. Kitterle said that the FAC should coordinate with the APC about the Illinois Commitment, to emphasize the complexity of NIU. President Peters said that the new governor may have his own version.

P. Henry asked about parking at the Convocation Center and a shuttle bus; E. Williams said that special permits are available, and it is being used. K. Miller added that it is served by two of the Huskie bus routes.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

D. Wagner asked about faculty input to the P-20 task force (it has no faculty on it now). President Peters replied that he expects the deans (who are on it) to consult with their senates, councils, and departments. P. Henry asked if comments should be directed to the deans; President Peters said yes.

D. Rusin asked that, as it looked as though there would be no more faculty in the fall, would there also be no more students? President Peters said that he and Provost Legg are working on that, and that they realize that NIU cannot handle any increase in enrollment without an increase in resources. P. Henry asked what to do if faculty are requested to make a class bigger than they think is educationally appropriate; President Peters said that it depends on the particular situation but that there does come a point where a class is too big to be taught in the way a smaller class is taught. At that point you either teach it differently, find more faculty, or limit enrollment.

D. Wagner asked if anyone was looking into the ACT requirements; President Peters replied that the whole issue of admissions is presently being discussed.

**X. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council

B. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board

C. [Minutes](#), Campus Security & Environmental Quality Committee

D. [Minutes](#), Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
E. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
F. Minutes, Graduate Council
G. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
H. Minutes, University Benefits Committee
I. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council

XI. ADJOURNMENT