UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2003, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM
PRESIDENT JOHN PETERS, PRESIDING


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was also present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Cabasa-Hess, Crumble, Cummings, Dorynek, Fox, Graham, Kolb, Legg, Loubere, Lundeen, Mini, Schneider, Salgado, Smith-Shank, Stapleton, Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2003 MEETING – amended to show S. Ackerman attended; approved as amended.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President read the text of an e-mail that was in the process of being sent to all on Groupwise. The FY03 rescission will be $3.2 million, not as great as had been feared, but the FY04 cut will be $9.1 million, for a total cut of $13 million in two years. This puts us back to the funding level we had six years ago. The Governor’s higher education goals are to cut non-instructional costs; protect student financial aid; and stabilize tuition. The President’s goals are to preserve the integrity of academic programs, to avoid layoffs insofar as possible, and to preserve the health and safety of the campus community.

The full summer schedule of courses will be offered, but a four-day workweek for the summer will be considered (preserving total hours so pay will not be affected), as well as the complete closure of one or more classroom buildings during the summer. Campus buildings will close at 11:00 pm in the summer. In the fall, there may be an extended winter shutdown, a reduction in non-health or safety-related maintenance and repairs, and/or a stricter limit on admissions. Operations will be streamlined as much as possible.
Legislation at the state level which could cause difficulty for the university includes tuition caps and an increase in the minimum wage (which would cost the university about $3 million).

J. Wolfskill asked if buildings other than DuSable were being considered for summer closure; President Peters replied that the process was just beginning.

B. Espe asked if the four-day work week was definite; President Peters said that he would very much like to implement it.

J. Lockard asked about the income fund; that is still a concern but is not as active an issue as it was.

J. Kowalski asked about hiring and firing; President Peters said that, while there would have to be some reduction in force, the hope was to attain it through attrition and not to have to resort to layoffs. Hiring will be difficult for a while, and admissions may very well be more limited than in the past. He is still hoping to be able to squeeze out some sort of salary increase.

S. Ackerman asked about how the situation at NIU compares with SIU and ISU; it is similar (percentage cuts are the same).

M. Spires asked if lobbying was still appropriate; President Peters said yes but check with Kathy Buettner’s office first.

D. Wagner asked about addressing the revenue side; President Peters said this was not a good idea. D. Wagner suggested that, as academics, we could at least study different revenue sources and share our knowledge.

K. Miller asked about next year’s tuition; nothing is known at this point.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sue Willis – report

Keith Saunders is ill; the FAC sent him a card. HB2805, which would put a faculty member on the IBHE, has passed the house. The Governor has proposed to appoint all new members of the SURS board immediately, and also to appoint the chair and executive director; the FAC was concerned about the implications of this. Next year’s budget cuts may be targeted at some level. There is a lot of misunderstanding of higher education among the general public, leading to a lack of sympathy.

The Illinois Articulation Initiative has some flaws – it is voluntary and therefore often ignored, and it tends to lead to a proliferation of required courses for majors, making it difficult if not impossible to graduate in four years.
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

J. Wolfskill said his committee had discussed the proposal from the Student Association Senate to put syllabi on line. They were receptive to the idea, but thought it would be better to have departments provide links for the SA page, rather than the files themselves. Also, full syllabi may not be available at registration time. Finally, it was felt that this was mostly an issue for lower-division courses, and recommended that the issue be taken to the General Education Committee. From there it would go the Undergraduate Coordinating Council and finally back to the University Council.

The question was raised about the intent of the resolution; it was both to ensure that students enrolled in a class had online access to their syllabus, and also to let prospective students learn about the particular class section. Therefore, access only to enrolled students (through Blackboard, for example) would be acceptable.

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – William Goldenberg, Chair – no report

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Susan Mini, Chair – no report

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

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Deborah Smith-Shank, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Office Privacy Policy

This policy went to the SPS and Operating Staff Councils for comment; the only substantial one came from the Physical Plant, which was concerned that it would cause disruption and extra expense in their operations. After discussion, it was clear that the Physical Plant operations were already satisfying the proposed policy and no changes would be needed.

It was moved and seconded to refer the policy to Rules and Governance; the motion passed.
VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Committees of the University** – discontinue printing of book

For financial and practical reasons, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the University Council proposes to discontinue printing of the Committees Book. It had already been decided that the online version would be the official one; it costs about $5600 additional to produce the printed version. The Executive Secretary’s office will keep archival copies on hand, and copies may be printed off the Web by anyone who needs one; if someone is unable to print a copy for their own use, arrangements will be made to print one for them.

It was moved and seconded to discontinue printing of the Committees Book; the motion passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Engstrom inquired about the potential change in the SURS board; Ken Zehnder is the one to ask about its current status. There is a bill on the matter, HB3511, which can be tracked. The U of I is concerned as well.

R. Miller asked about the likelihood of a super-board being created; discussion of that has died down but as usual we need to keep our eyes and ears open.

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