UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2002, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKYROOM; J. PETERS, PRESIDING


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was also present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT WERE: Cabasa-Hess, Cearlock, Kolb, Kowalski, Lockard, Loubere, R. Miller, Musial, X. Song, Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2002 MEETING

S. Willis pointed out that there are now true minutes; transcripts are still available on the Web but paper copies will not be distributed. The minutes were approved with one minor correction.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters announced that the State of the University address will be Thursday, October 3, 3:00 p.m. in the Sandberg Auditorium. For FY03, we needed to make an adjustment of about 13.1 million dollars to the budget; this was accomplished with a minimum of layoffs; reallocation was done to put as much money into instruction as possible (which will hurt advising, counseling, technology, and deferred maintenance, among others). Nevertheless, classes are larger and the curriculum has been focused toward core competencies. We did receive $4 million from the state for furniture and fixtures for Barsema Hall, as well as $5 million for the completion of Altgeld. There will be some new announcements on the federal level coming soon.

The FY04 budget is still very uncertain, and will depend on state revenues. Health care costs are going up, and there will be money going to SURS so that its funding level remains what it is supposed to be, which will come off the top of the higher education budget. There is also some sympathy for restoring the 5th year of MAP grants. Our top priority is salaries; the top capital priority is the renovation of Stevens. The second and third capital priorities are renovation of Wirtz and a new Computer Science and Technology building.
Barseme Hall and the Convocation Center are both open for business; Altgeld is about a year from completion. The storm drainage project should be done late this fall; it is already working to reduce flooding in buildings. The Family Violence Center – NIU’s first fully federally funded building - will be done by the end of the year.

Enrollment is up by 1166; there are more freshmen, more transfer students, and more law students.

1. Jan Rintala will speak about the North Central accreditation process.

This is an institution-wide accreditation; part of it involves a self-study. One purpose is to see that NIU is re-accredited; the other is to make long-range plans. The report and the subcommittees are organized by chapters in the report, which correspond to functional units of the university.

Subcommittees will be meeting this fall, gathering information, and drafting the first version of the self-study report. The draft will be made available in the spring for comment. The final draft will be written in the summer, reviewed in the fall, and sent to the consultant evaluators, who will visit the campus in February 2004.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – approved

A. Approval of University Council committees for 2002-2003

B. Approval of William Tolhurst to serve on the University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees – 2002-2005, and Paul Loubere to finish the term of Dan Griffiths, 2002-2004

C. Insurance issues: Cigna reimbursements; access to medical and dependent savings accounts – refer to University Affairs Committee

D. IRB issues – refer to Academic Policy Committee

E. Changes to Committees Book – refer to Rules and Governance Committee

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES – note: Any materials which are in the packet which we have in electronic form will be posted on the Web.

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

P. Henry reported on two meetings, on May 31 and June 21. President Peters signed the Association of Colleges and Universities Presidents Campaign for the Advancement of Liberal Learning which she had forwarded to him. In FY04, issues of faculty productivity, accountability, accessibility and time to completion of degree are likely to come up. The IBHE has written a report on part-time and non-tenure track faculty called “All Faculty Matter”, and has directed that universities are supposed to establish plans that identify short-term and long-
term goals, objectives and strategies for developing and making the best use of non-tenure track faculty and transmit these plans to the Board by December 31.

The Illinois Commitment is still of active interest; also, there is a major focus on faculty diversity. Further information on all of the above is available at the IBHE website: http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Dan Griffiths – June 6, 2002 report (Page 18) and September 4, 2002 report – walk-in

The timing of reporting tenure requests to the board has been extended; this is a benefit to faculty as it allows their latest research to be included.

T. D. Griffiths has been appointed as the Interim Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Sue Willis and Jim Lockard – report

The Trustees approved a performance contract for chilled water distribution, which provides potential savings to the university with no up-front costs.

DeKalb is now officially an urbanized area and needs to set up a Metropolitan Planning Organization; the Trustees passed a resolution endorsing the voting presence of NIU on this group.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Judy Burgess and Bev Espe – report

The May 28 meeting did not have a quorum; action items were forwarded to the full board and were acted upon at their June meeting. The Distinguished Service Award to Higher Education Award was presented to Congressman Donald Manzullo and also to Commissioner Charles Rossotti of the Internal Revenue Service. Further meetings of this committee will be held at the Hoffmann Estates campus.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – report

The full board approved all action items sent to it by the committees; it also elected new officers, approved the purchase of the John Deere property, and designated Ken Davidson as the University Privacy Officer. Student trustee Alex Alaniz was honored for his service.

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – it was clarified that this committee could meet jointly with the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee of the Faculty Senate to discuss matters which have been referred simultaneously to both committees.

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Herb Rubin, Chair – no report

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Susan Mini, Chair – no report
I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Owen, Chair – no report, but there was brief discussion of the insurance issues which have been referred simultaneously to this committee and to the Economic Status of the Profession Committee of the Faculty Senate.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget, refreshments, and minutes - the Minutes Committee has been reconstituted; it will review the minutes before they go to the Council as a whole.

B. Make the online version of the Committees Book the official one.

H. Rubin moved that the online version of the Committees Book, maintained by the Office of the University Council and Faculty Senate, be the official version. The motion was seconded and approved.

C. Receipt of Annual Reports

The Faculty Personnel Advisor’s report sparked a discussion of what had and had not been passed at the May 1 University Council meeting; the minutes were found to be in error on this point. It was suggested (and subsequently implemented) that the text of motions being brought be included in the minutes; corrected minutes were e-mailed to everyone on the Council with e-mail.

H. Rubin moved to receive the reports; the motion was seconded and passed.

1. Academic Planning Council
2. Affirmative Action Diversity Resources Advisory Committee
3. Athletic Board
4. Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
5. Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
6. Faculty Personnel Advisor – (Pages 23-24)
7. Graduate Council
8. Undergraduate Coordinating Council
9. University Assessment Panel
10. University Benefits Committee
11. University Council Personnel Committee
12. University Ombudsman

D. Approval of title change: Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School.

Provost Legg summarized the arguments for the title change; the Faculty Senate had been in
favor of it, with a very few dissensions. The hope is that this would allow us to attract better candidates when the search is re-opened. The only substantial operational change would be that this person would then be a member of the Senior Cabinet, giving the cabinet another academic voice.

H. Rubin asked if the Council of Deans had discussed this change; Provost Legg replied that in fact the original suggestion for the change had come from them. They are strongly supportive of it.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

S. Willis drew everyone’s attention to the alternate list, and encouraged all to find an alternate when they cannot attend a Council or Senate meeting.

M. Larson asked when the change in deadlines for tenure and promotion would take effect; it already has.

E. Williams congratulated the students on their impressive attendance.

H. Rubin asked about the effect of increased enrollment and budget cuts on the teacher-student ratio; President Peters answered that it has gone up, probably from about 1 - 20 to 1 - 21 or 22.

D. Wagner asked about capping enrollment; President Peters said it would not be done using admissions standards, as those should be set using academic considerations only (which is being considered).

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Meeting Schedule

XI. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.