UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2002, 3:00 p.m.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER CAPITOL ROOM
JOHN PETERS, PRESIDING


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was also present.

E. Shumaker attended for J. Hurych; S. Miller attended for S. Richmond; and J. Camp attended for C. Wiese.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT WERE: Cabasa-Hess, Crumble, Dorynek, Graf, Goldenberg, Kolb, Lockard, Loubere, R. Miller, Rubin, X. Song, Spires, Woodin

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted with added walk-in [background information for Item VI.H.]

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2002 MEETING – approved with the modification that there were two reports from BOT-AASAP Committee meetings.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President was impressed with how the university handled the budget cuts and other challenges of the past year; the next year looks as though it will also be difficult. There is a revenue gap this fiscal year which may result in a rescission; the new governor will have to deal with this, but right now we don’t know any details. There is also likely to be a shortfall for the next fiscal year compared to this one. We will need to be prudent; more will be known after the election.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – Item D was moved to New Business; the rest of the Consent Agenda was approved.

A. Composition of University Benefits Committee – refer to Rules and Governance
B. **Composition** and Title of President’s Commission on Sexual Orientation – refer to Rules and Governance

C. **Amendment** to Bylaw 5.34, Time in Rank for Promotion, for the College of Law – refer to Rules and Governance

D. **University Holidays** for 2004 and 2005 – refer to University Affairs [moved to New Business]

VI. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report – September 13, 2001 and October 1, 2001

P. Henry reported on two meetings, Sept. 13 and Oct. 1. The IBHE has asked for responses from universities to its report on non-tenure-track faculty; this is being dealt with. There was considerable discussion of the Illinois Commitment and the Survey of Performance Indicators; the University Assessment Panel will be looking into this.

The IBHE is concerned about student success; accurate measures are a concern. NIU salaries were at 101% of the median for our peer group in FY02; the University of Phoenix is getting its programs approved without discussion.

Assessment is viewed very differently by the IBHE than by the faculty; this was discussed by the FAC and several IBHE members. President Peters pointed out that the IBHE would like a single number which would tell them how well the university was doing in a particular program; reality is more complex. The issue of students’ Social Security numbers was also discussed.


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 – report – the Metropolitan Planning Organization issue has been settled since the meeting, with NIU having representation on the policy committee and the technical committee.

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

The Academic Policy Committee met jointly with the Faculty Senate’s Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee to discuss IRB issues; representatives from the IRB were also there.
The committee’s inquiry is ongoing.

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Herb Rubin, Chair – report

P. Henry raised the issue of students being late to classes due to the increase in distance between buildings. This matter is under discussion by the committee.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Susan Mini, Chair – report – walk-in

The committee did not recommend any action on Vice Provost Gresholdt’s request to remove the Student Affairs advisory committee from the Committees Book. After considerable discussion about the criteria for inclusion in the Committees Book and the nature of this particular group, the following motion was made:

The Student Affairs Advisory Committee shall be removed from the Committees Book in both its print and online versions.

The motion passed.

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

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

The referendum to update titles of Associate Provost to Vice Provost, Assistant Provost to Associate Vice Provost, and Director of University Libraries to Dean of University Libraries in the University Constitution passed; the results have been sent to President Peters and he will send them to the Board of Trustees. It was clarified that this was a faculty referendum.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

University Holidays for 2004 and 2005 – refer to University Affairs

D. Wagner asked, in view of the discussion last year of the fall break, what had happened with the idea of closing all day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This idea had broad support, but seems to have disappeared. It was pointed out that the current item was the holiday schedule, not the academic schedule, so the question was not really relevant to it; nevertheless, the status of the discussion about that Wednesday should be clarified. K. Miller asked who has the authority to make that decision; this also needs to be clarified.

C. Sorenson asked whether there had been a motion passed last year regarding this issue; S. Willis promised to find out. [It was tabled.]

The item was referred to University Affairs.
IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

M. Larson asked about flu shots; they will be given Oct. 23 from 10 to 2 and November 19 from 2:30 to 4:30.

P. Henry asked about the demand for a detailed budget from universities that had come from the gubernatorial race; President Peters replied that the university does already submit a detailed line item budget to the appropriations committees.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Alternate List

XI. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.