THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Clayton, Crumble, Cearlock, Créme,r Cummings, DeMoranville, Espe, Fox, Graf, Goldenberg, Gresholdt, Griffiths, Henry, Hurych, Johnson, Kafer, Kamenitsa, Kaplan, Kasuba, Kitterle, Koch, Kolb, Kowalski, Lang, Lockard, Mini, Mohabbat, Morris, Musial, Orem, Richmond, Rusin, Salgado, Smith-Shank, S. Song, X. Song, Sorensen, Spear, Spires, Tolhurst, Wagner, Wheeler, Wiese, Williams, Willis, Wolfskill, Woodin, Young

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was also present.

A. Tio attended for L. Gregory; R. Turner attended for S. Ackerman; and K. O’Kelly attended for K. Miller.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Barr, Butler, Cabasa-Hess, Korynek, Engstrom, Larson, Legg, Loubere, R. Miller, Minor, Pernell, Rodgers, Rubin, Stapelton, Wade

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: I’d like to call the November 6 meeting of the University Council to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Our first item of business is to adopt an agenda. It is before you with one walk-in report from the Faculty Advisory Committee to the IBHE. That constitutes the Agenda. Is there a motion to approve the Agenda? Second? All in favor? Those opposed? We have an Agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2002 MEETING

(Pages 3-5)

President Peters: The second item, or third, is the Approval of the Minutes of October 2, which follow on pages 3-5. I call for additions and corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, is there a motion to approve? Second? All in favor? Opposed? We have minutes.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: I don’t really have anything in the way of prepared remarks. I was at the Faculty Senate last week and we have – it looks like we have a short agenda today so I’ll try to
be expeditious and – let me just say I think there are many, many people who are pleased the elections are over. I’m sure the candidates feel that way and we have some right here. Students who – some have won and some have not won but I always feel good when students get involved in the political process. Last night I had the – Barbara and I had the English Department over for a – we’re working our way through the academic departments and inviting them to the residence and it’s a twenty-four month process because we have sixty-some departments and – it just so happened to work out that the English Department was last night, on election night and, you know, in my career, being a political scientist, Barbara and I would always have election night parties. We had the Political Science Department over last year and so I thought we would invite the second most political department on campus – they didn’t take to that very well. At any rate, I mentioned to them that for me as a political scientist and someone in higher education, that one of the most frustrating things is that the quality of our democracy depends upon the quality of our candidates and so often I hear people say that their choices are painful or constrained because they would prefer to vote for neither candidate and yet they wanted to exercise their franchise and – the key to that is to get quality people to run for office and I think that begins, you know, at an stage in your career so I’m real pleased that our students are actively involved politically and that just doesn’t mean running for office. It means being concerned about the great issues of the day and so congratulations to the students.

The election, I mean I haven’t analyzed these elections, but there are things that are obvious to those of us who read the newspaper or listen to the radio. This is with regard to the University. This is with regard to the University. First of all, it’s clear that there is a change in the key constitutional offices of the state and that for the first time in twenty-five years or so, there’s a democrat, Governor Blagojevich, who will be governor – Rob Blagojevich – and more than that, if you think about it – the key appointive offices that are in an administration in the executive branch now, for the first time in over two decades, will be filled by those who are more in line with the democratic party than maybe some republicans and independents appointed but basically there’s a change in that leadership structure of the executive branch. Those positions will begin to be filled as we move toward inauguration. That’s one thing and those in the higher education community will be pressing the case to the new governor about the needs of the public higher education community and so that’s, you know, something that we will be involved in and our Trustees and I’m sure all of higher education. All right, so that’s one thing.

The second thing that happened is that outside of most of the key offices going to democratic candidates except for State Treasurer, the Senate of the General Assembly – of the Illinois General Assembly – will now be controlled by the democrats and the House remains under control of the democrats in terms of leadership and so Speaker Madigan will most likely be the leader and the Speaker and organize the House and there’s been a change – a big change – on the Senate side where if my count is right, the new alignment in the Senate will be 32 democrats, 1 independent and 26 republicans. That is a huge change and that’s a large majority. If the newspapers are correct, Senator Emil Jones who’s a good friend of NIU will be the Majority Leader on the Senate side. Now, some things that are important for us to know is how do things unfold. This is the time of year that – just before I get into that – there’s one overriding factor here and that is the revenue estimates for last month were off 200,000 from projections so we are moving toward what looks like a budget deficit for ’04 in the range of 2 to 2.5 billion dollars. All right, so that’s kind of over-riding here. All right. Usually this time of year what happens is
that the IBHE, the BHE, produces what’s known as a discussion budget that comes out in November and that discussion budget will put to the governor and this would be, you know, they have some constitutional requirements and I’m not quite sure how this works, but ultimately the new governor will either accept – will have to put together a budget. There is a date by which that normally the budget was given over to the Legislature and I think it’s usually early February. Sometime in February. I don’t know the dates exactly or, you know, the time frame. At any rate, I would imagine that the IBHE will put together some sort of a skeletal budget but it remains to be seen what sort of guidelines they will have or perimeters so I presume it will be a skeletal budget. So the budgeting process will be moved back a little bit. There are two parts to that process. One is the General Operating Budget, which includes, you know, things like salaries and programmatic things and then the other part of that budget is the Capital Budget which is separate and that comes later. That usually doesn’t come until December or so. So, that’s proceeding but that’s the formula – what will happen. We won’t really know until late in January.

The other thing that is happening is that there will be a meeting of the presidents and Chancellors of the public universities – twelve public universities. There will be a meeting with the IBHE pretty soon to kind of take stock of where we are. I’m not sure when that’s going to be. I presume they will have a meeting like that called by the chancellors and the Presidents. So it’s really not an IHBE meeting; it’s a meeting of chancellors and presidents – a sharing of information. All right, so that is happening the whole time. So we really don’t know obviously. The Northern Star did a three-part series on the budget that was, you know, kind of foreshadowed what we already know that the revenues do not look good and the candidates when they ran have run on no new taxes, no sales or income tax and – but there will be a huge hole in the ’04 budget that has to be accommodated in some way. We’ll just have to wait and see and, of course; we’re all planning and trying to be prepared for this. We are getting prepared on every front and the byword from everyone from very small units up through my office are being very, very careful about our expenditures this year and that’s nothing new. We’re pretty prudent. So, we’re gearing up to be supportive of the new administration, providing information and insight, pressing our case, explaining. At that level I find that a very – I welcome that. NIU has a great story to tell. We are very flexible. We are student-oriented. We’re lean and, you know, I really find that making our case is pretty easy. Now what kind of reception we get depends on how well we make that case but, you know, in context there are forty-two states right now and probably more that are in serious budget problems. Forty-two states. There are national conferences now being held. I know we have the – Land-grant meetings are in Chicago coming up this Sunday and there are whole panels devoted to the new economics and the downturn in public support for higher education during this period. As I’ve said many times, the issue in Illinois for me is one of revenue. I have never detected in Illinois among – it’s almost universal, not total, but almost universal – every public official I talk to is supportive of the principle of public higher education and its value. That’s why we’ve been ranked – the state of Illinois – has been ranked as one of the nation’s leading higher education systems, you know, the Pue report, and I know they want to keep us there so it’s a matter of revenues. It is not a matter of - that’s a priority of the state that’s low – I mean, there are lots of priorities in the state but when revenues come back, I know that there will be an investment in public higher education if we continue to make our case and do what it is we’ve done historically and that is provide the best possible education we can for our students and the best service for this region at a
reasonable cost. It’s also clear that cost, access and accountability will be key components of our new Governor’s interest in public higher education. That’s clear. That’s clear.

That’s just kind-of a brief – I hadn’t prepared an analysis of the elections but you can do that yourself. You know, obviously in Illinois things were a little counter-cyclical to the rest of the country. On the good news front, and I consider it good news, our Congressman Hastert was re-elected and he’s been a great friend to NIU. So we’re pleased with that.

Now, the other thing I want to say – talk about being pleased and proud – proud of the students and their involvement and the election process – this morning, I don’t know if you – I think it was this morning, the days and nights run together for me – the first thing I do is I get on-line and read the Northern Star. They have the best election coverage of any paper this morning. Everything was right there; everything I needed was right there. Then I turned to the sports page and what do I see but Coach Novak with three Huskie symbols right there and basically, this is a wonderful – this is in the Chicago Tribune sports section. That’s the Chicago Tribune. Doesn’t say “Fighting Irish” or the “Fighting Illini” or the – what is it – it talks about Northern Illinois and what’s wonderful about this article and makes me proud is the fact that we’re – I’m very proud, we’re all very proud of our football players, our students athletes. They are really fine young people and they do us proud and they play a pretty good brand of football and they deserve the pride and support of the entire University community and the DeKalb community and Sycamore community. It’s the best value in sports I think around here. It’s exciting. They put out effort and they faced adversity and they’ve overcome so I hope that those of you who live in the area, I hope you do come to the game but encourage your neighbors and shame ‘em, you know. I hope DeKalb and Sycamore and the area adopt this team as their team and we have some real Huskie pride. I just get real excited. It’s a tough time and you kind-of look to areas of excellence and you’d have to say right now with what our team has overcome, this is an area of excellence. There are lots of them every day. So many of our faculty are winning awards for their books and students for their – I see our engineering students won more awards and it’s – you – my advice is during this tough time that we’re going through, let’s look to the products that we produce and take pride in that and then we’ll move forward. Let’s pull together. Let’s all pull together; let’s all play our part and believe me, we will get through this. We’ll get through it. I’m not saying it’s going to be easy and I will not say we’re going to be stronger for it. I’ve said I’ve been through this nine times. I’m not going to be stronger – but, we’re going to get through it and let’s make the whole state notice how a great institution handles a budget problem. Let’s do that. Okay? All right? All right, let’s move on.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

President Peters: Consent Agenda, is there a motion to accept the Consent Agenda or do I need that or is there a Consent Agenda? There is no Consent Agenda again. That isn’t to say we don’t have consent, it’s just that we have no agenda for it.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report – walk-in
President Peters: Let’s move to reports. First Pat Henry, where are you Patricia? All right.

P. Henry: All right, this is a report on the meeting of the FAC that was held last Friday, November 1 on the Carbondale Campus of Southern Illinois University. It was a fairly brief meeting. We didn’t have any IHBE members or staff there to sort of provide extra information but we met mostly in committees and discussed strategies for dealing with the ongoing budget problems among other things. We did have a brief meeting with Walter Wendler who’s the Chancellor of FIUC or I think was actually happy to see some friendly faces since actually FIUC right now is in the midst of a possible faculty strike. I think the union there is deciding whether or not to strike soon so he had a fair amount to say about the difficulties facing public institutions in general in Illinois. They’re trying to develop a long-range plan while at the same time dealing with short-range crises – hopefully short-range crises. Several points of discussion I think that are worth noting – he, in fact, brought up the question of having to deal repeatedly with cuts and when does that take such a toll as to sort of alter the nature of the institution. For example, he says, hypothetically if FIUC is considered a national research university but is not funded like one, should it consider changing that aspect of it’s institutional identify. He found that the answer was a uniform “no” when he brought this question up but it was something that he felt, given the kind of situation – the finances – we’re presenting that it sometimes needed to be mentioned. There still continues to be, and this is a concern that follows throughout the meeting, feeling the need to be more aggressive in explaining to the legislature about the importance of higher education, especially as an economic engine for the State. The concern that the IBHE has with measuring undergraduate learning sort of across the board in quantitative terms does continue to be something that they see as an effective tool to justify higher education at the legislature but we’re not quite sure how to deal with that. We then broke into committee meetings, which I’ll mention later. The business meeting following in the afternoon – a couple of points there in the bullets. The FAC’s voice continues to be sort of difficult to hear at the IBHE. We did have the one meeting in October where the FAC sat in on the IBHE and listened to the reports being given. Basically, they want shorter reports and executive summaries of the reports that we make for them. It’s not clear that when we do give them information that there’s time enough to give them much consideration. What we would like to try and do and perhaps this would be a time of transition to attempt to do this – get a faculty position on the IBHE. There is a student member of the Board of Higher Education and it would be, I think, a useful thing and the FAC thinks it would be a useful thing to have a faculty member of the Board that would sit in on all the meetings and function as a voice of the faculty other than the sort of – I won’t say peripheral – but more or less an outside role that the FAC actually plays. We’ll try to set up more meetings with individual Board members. It is useful to have this kind of one-on-one discussion with them and hopefully, get more communication and information. One thing that was mentioned, there’s a couple of websites mentioned at the bottom of the page, the IBHE is doing a study of faculty diversity and the FAC President, Ken Anderson, attended one of those meetings. In his opinion there was a lot of discussion of sort of best practices focusing more on minority faculty rather than women in faculty with disabilities. There are no more public hearings planned but there is a place to register input on the web and there’s a website listed there. Those of you who are interested should look into that. I think his feeling was that problems were not really being brought up as things to be solved but rather sort of best practices. This may be a positive way of looking at it but he felt that some engagement with the actual difficulties of the situation needed to be done as well.
Finally, the second page shows the committee reports. As I’ve mentioned before, there’s five main committees there. The Personnel Committee, in particular let me point it, is interested in monitoring the impact of the budget crisis and would like to collect reports from various institutions on faculty layoffs and program changes that might be coming about as a result of this. So, if you know of such things at NIU – I don’t think we’re actually at that point yet, but we would like – the FAC would like to sort of keep an eye on that and also on the use of non-tenure track and part-time faculty. Again, this relates back to the Report All Faculty Matter and we’d like to keep track of how implementations of the recommendations of this report are going on down the line. I think if I’m not mistaken, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate is working with the administration and hopefully we’ll get some information from them. Quality Committee, let me just mention in passing, the report card – the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education Report Card – which ranked Illinois as number one in the last report card, now ranks Illinois as number three and presumably this is because other people got better, not because we got worse but the Quality Committee is interested into looking into that and especially, again, in light of the budget problems. I’ll let you read on your own the matters of the Technology Committee and the Budget Committee. We’d like to be seen as part of the solution rather than just part of the problem in sort of engaging the IHBE to talk to the administration but we’ll see if that can happen. The Public Policy Committee finally – that I’m a member of – we will meet in Springfield. December is when we have our meeting in Springfield right around the time that the IHBE is meeting about the budget I think or after the first budget meeting, whatever, we’ll get some information about that. We’d like to go down a day ahead of time and try and meet with members of the legislature and others to try and gain some insights into how we can present the FAC positions more effectively. Hopefully, at that time, they will be a little bit more settled in terms of the administration and we might be able to get some – it’s hoped that we can get some insights into how to be more effective in articulating why higher education is an asset to the state and, in particular, how much again, the problem of what will be destroyed if projected funding problems persist, I think, is an important aspect of this. I realize it is important to see the glass is half full but when the glass is drained, I think people do have some idea of what is being lost when the funding goes down the drain.

Again, I request that you send me any input by e-mail or personally if you would like me to pass anything on to these people.

President Peters: Any questions or comments for Pat. As always, she prepares great reports. My only suggestion to the Committee is that you’re meeting with a lame duck legislature and it won’t be the same legislature. Maybe you just practice.

P. Henry: I think the hope was to actually get hold of some people who would actually be in the next one too.

President Peters: Okay, very good. No questions?

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – no report
President Peters: Okay, let’s move on to Paul and William, BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee.

W. Tolhurst: The Committee hasn’t met. No report.

President Peters: No report. All right.

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

President Peters: There’s no report from Sue and Jim on Finance because they haven’t met either.

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

President Peters: No report from Sara and Bev on Legislation, Audit.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – no report

President Peters: No report on BOT from Sue Willis.

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

President Peters: We do have a report from John Wolfskill from Academic Policy Committee.

J. Wolfskill: The Academic Policy Committee has been meeting for the last two months along with the Faculty Senate Faculty and Responsibilities Committee chaired by Mark Cordes on the issue of the Institutional Review Board. I would like to assure all my colleagues here that the two Committees together are giving this matter diligent attention. At this point, we have identified a set of issues or problems if you want to think about it that way about which we intend to formulate a set of recommendations to be transmitted to the Graduate Council. Our Committees will meet together next week at this time and I am optimistic that at that meeting we will finalize the recommendations, which are only in draft form at this point and then send them on to the Graduate Council.

President Peters: Okay, any comments or questions? So you’re moving forward and analyzing those difficult issues. Okay. Very good.

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Herb Rubin, Chair – report (Page 6)

President Peters: Herb Rubin isn’t here today but he has submitted in writing on page 6 the report of his Resources, Space and Budget Committee. Any questions or comments? It’s a pretty straightforward report. All right.
H. Rules and Governance Committee – Susan Mini, Chair

**President Peters:** Then we’ll move on to Susan on Rules and – no report. Is that a first? Let it be written.

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair.

**President Peters:** Richard Orem on University Affairs.

**R. Orem:** No report.

**President Peters:** No report from Richard.

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

**President Peters:** Deborah, do you have a report from Elections?

**D. Smith-Shank:** Well, it seems appropriate that I do but I have nothing substantial to add to President Peters’ discussion and remarks.

**President Peters:** That is a first too. Thank you.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**President Peters:** Any Unfinished Business?

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

**President Peters:** Any New Business?

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

**President Peters:** Anything for the good of the order.

**D. Wagner:** In the minutes for the last meeting, S. Willis promised to find out about scheduling Wednesday off.

**S. Willis:** Yes, I have not been able to find out the status of that yet. I did look up what happened in the discussion last year and this body did not pass anything. We discussed it and then tabled the discussion.

**President Peters:** All right, so from a parliamentary point of view, it was a tabled issue.

**D. Wagner:** Can it be taken off the table?

**S. Willis:** Sure.
President Peters: So it sounded to me – what I heard – is that Sue is still going to find out if there was a discussion of that independent of no action and get back and then that would be information that the body could use to determine whether they want to bring it back. Is that what I’m hearing?

S. Willis: I think so. Yeah, and part of what I need to find out is exactly who makes these determinations and are they talking about it. That’s what I understand I’m supposed to find out.

President Peters: All right.

S. Willis: I’ll work on it.

President Peters: All right.

D. Griffiths: I just thought I would make a very brief report. I went recently with Paul Montgomery to the Illinois Association of Graduate Schools, which had individuals from the private and the public sectors all over the state, and there was a report. The Chairman of the IBHE talked about the budget. I won’t add to that because it was dismal. It’s very similar to what John was saying. Another very interesting talk I thought I might share just a couple of things with was – I think his first name was Larry – (Donna – his first name is Lance) but his last name was Pressl who was from the Council of Graduate Schools. He’s kind of the legislative person that does the lobbying, Kathy Buettner type, and he talked about the importance of lobbying the case for graduate education but you can make the same thing for higher education. He had a very interesting opening. He said if you had five minutes with President Bush, what three things do you want him to remember about graduate education. You could say the same thing about higher education. We got some interesting things there. The one thing, and he went through some of the problems but, again, mentioned the importance of lobbying which we are doing. We’re ahead there. He is, however, from the state of Illinois. He’s now in D.C. and he did make the observation that he knew both of the candidates and, in fact, was a personal friend of Blagojevich. He said he does listen so we should talk to him. Some of us were hoping that he would go and talk to him because he’s from Illinois, but that was a point so that was one semi-positive thing that came out. If anyone wants more information on this or the budget, I can give it to you. You don’t want to hear about the budget.

President Peters: That’s very interesting. My dissertation topic, by the way, the title was “The Post-Election Behavior of the American Electra” and basically, among some of the other dreadful findings in that wonderfully readable piece, was the fact that after an election, many more people claim to have voted for the winning candidate than could have been possible and the winning candidate had a tremendous number of friends of influence. I take your report and hopefully, he’s correct.

Other comments? Yes?

S. Willis: I wanted to draw peoples’ attention to the list of voting members of the Council on page 7. So far, this hasn’t been too much of an issue but there a number – if you look in the
Committees Book, the University Council has a lot of members some of whom are full voting members and some of whom are ex officio non-voting members and so we wanted to make it clear here just exactly who, at least that we know of, who are the voting members of the University Council. If you think your name should be on there and it isn’t, please let us know but if it isn’t then probably you’re ex officio, non-voting and if we do have something like a closed vote as opposed to voting on things like the agenda or the minutes, then we would like people to be aware of who has a vote and who is more observer status.

**President Peters:** Okay.

**X. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. University Council Membership List (Page 7)
B. Faculty Senate Membership List
C. University Council Personnel Committee Membership List
D. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
E. Minutes, Athletic Board
F. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
G. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
H. Minutes, Graduate Council
I. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
J. Minutes, University Benefits Committee
K. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**President Peters:** Is there a motion to adjourn? We’re adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.