UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2002, 3:00 p.m.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM
IVAN LEGG, PRESIDING


Parliamentarium Ferald Bryan was present.


THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Cabasa-Hess, Clayton, Creamer, Cummings, Fox, Kafer, Kolb, Loubere, Musial, Orem, Peters, Richmond, Rodgers, Rusin, Smith-Shank, X. Song, Tolhurst, Wiese

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2002 MEETING
(Pages 3-5) – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provost Legg is substituting for President Peters, who is out raising money for the University. The Provost is in the process of visiting all the departments; he is impressed with the commitment of the faculty. NIU has a reputation for having particularly good student support systems. The support systems for faculty and staff are also very good, as is the shared governance system.

There are a number of challenges approaching, but he is confident that we can meet them, and is glad to be here.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Constitution Article 2.82 – change in starting dates for all University Council members – refer to Rules and Governance. (Page 6) – after clarification that the change to be considered was moving the start date of Council members to July 1, the item was referred.
VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report – walk-in

The Public Policy Committee of the FAC met with a lobbyist for private Illinois colleges and universities; he suggested that higher education had been hit hard last year and that we could make the case that it was someone else’s turn. The loss of the 5th year MAP funds was unfortunate, as it penalizes the most needy students, but it will be hard to get it reinstated. Even though more MAP money goes to students attending private institutions, the publics are still a better deal as the MAP money covers a much larger percentage of the tuition. The legislators still do not understand faculty work loads very well; it would be good to get legislators on campus, especially to interact with students. As the Republicans are in the minority, they should have more time available now.

The FAC met with the staff of the IBHE. The budget picture continues to be bleak. They now speak of P-16 rather than K-12, in an effort to facilitate coordination of curricula. Items under consideration include whether there will be a line item appropriated budget for the universities, and whether the universities will retain control of their local funds. There is also talk of a “super board”, the details of which remain fuzzy. It would be good to have parents of students talk to legislators. There is a survey from the IBHE on the Web about affordability.

H. Rubin asked about the funds for raises, some of which were for recruiting and retaining high quality faculty. The question was to what the percentages referred (is the 1% for retention a fraction of the 2% for raises?) and was not settled. If it is 1% of 2% it is a very small amount of money.

J. Wolfskill expressed dismay with the P-16 concept, and worried that this put the university in the same role as a high school in terms of its function in society. C. Sorenson replied that this was primarily about improving articulation from one level to the next. P. Henry added that the FAC is interested in this issue as well, as the transition from two-year to four-year programs is not always as smooth as it could be.

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 – walk-in

Manny Sanchez, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, is a member of Governor-Elect Blagojevich’s Higher Education Transition Committee, which will give us a useful voice in Springfield. The NIU Foundation had a slight decrease in giving this year but is still doing very well. The Board approved the new Doctor of Audiology degree, and recognized George Shur for
his service to the University.

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

1. **Report** on IRB findings (Pages 7-8)

J. Wolfskill thanked his committee members, as well as Mark Cordes (chair of the Faculty Senate’s Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee) for their work. He also appreciates the hard work done by the members of the IRB, and realizes that the problems we see here are also problems nationally. Authority to change policy at NIU lies with President Peters, who has assigned it to Vice Provost Griffiths. The Council and Senate will make recommendations to Vice Provost Griffiths and to the Graduate Council.

D. Griffiths said that he is working on improving the situation, although new legislation, if passed, may make things more difficult. He requested that interested faculty work with the AAUP on these issues. He has already changed the letters written to researchers to make them less intimidating (point 1); if persons can be identified they are to be considered human subjects (point 2); and communications between the Graduate Council and the University Council will be improved (point 8).

S. Willis said that the existing legislation has enough flexibility written into it to deal with the situations that have arisen, and hopes that the IRB will take advantage of that.

H. Rubin thanked the committee for their report, and asked about the request to work with the AAUP; D. Griffiths replied that he was suggesting this in addition to what he is doing, not instead of it.

P. Henry asked about mentors; both D. Griffiths and S. Willis replied that this was being seriously considered.

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

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Susan Mini, Chair

1. **Committee Book changes** to the President’s Committee on Sexual Orientation. **ACTION ITEM** (Page 9) – passed, with the change of “committee” to “commission” in the text of the item as well as in its title

2. **Proposed amendment** change to Bylaw 17.41 **FIRST READING** (Pages 10 – 11)

R. Wheeler said that no campus support service department exists in isolation; all touch multiple parts of the campus. Therefore search committees should not consist entirely, or of a majority, of their staff. Also, sometimes a unit needs to be refocused. Students have made valuable contributions to search committees in the past, and perhaps their inclusion on search committees should be explicitly mentioned, but the present amendment is not the way to do that.
D. Griffiths agreed, and asked about the participation of graduate students as well.

L. Pernell said that constituencies may not be well-defined, and deciding who would get to vote on search committee members would be difficult. S. Mini pointed out that the term is already used in the existing bylaw. L. Pernell said that having representation of a constituency, and requiring that a member be elected by a particular constituency group, are two different things.

H. Rubin asked about why the amendment was needed. G. Gaete (student) replied that students from the University Resources for Latinos had been upset about not being represented on a search. A. Zike (who had headed that search committee) said that there were indeed Latino students on the search committee, and that the committee had been properly constituted.

H. Rubin moved to refer the amendment back to the committee.

S. Ackerman said that the members of a constituency might not be well-defined, such as in the case of athletics.

The motion to refer back to Committee passed.

S. Mini thanked Malcolm Morris for his service on the committee.

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

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

D. Wagner made a motion that, beginning in November 2003, Thanksgiving break begin following Tuesday evening classes. The motion was seconded. D. Wagner said that he thought that holding the Wednesday morning classes did not make sense.

F. Kitterle said that he would like to get input from his college senate and council.

A. Kaplan asked whether this was an academic calendar change or an additional University holiday – it is an academic calendar change.

H. Rubin moved to delay the decision on the motion until the February meeting. The motion was seconded.

P. Henry asked if the motion should be referred to a committee; S. Willis said this was not necessary although it could be done if the body wished it.
S. Willis said that, if the motion to postpone passed, she would send requests for comment to the various deans, vice provosts, campus support groups, and so forth.

R. Miller said that the University Council was a representative body elected by its constituents to serve them, and shouldn’t need to go back to them to see what they think about every item that comes up.

S. Mini asked if the Council makes this decision; S. Willis replied that it appears that it does.

D. Griffiths, in response to R. Miller, said that as the motion had not been in the packet, people had not had time to think about it, and he would like to. H. Rubin agreed.

D. Wagner asked whether the change could be implemented for November 2003 if it were to pass in February; it would, and would make it into both the class schedule and the Undergraduate Catalog.

C. Minor asked if the time would have to be made up; S. Willis replied that it did not, being only half a day.

B. Espe asked if there would be any effect on the non-academic side; there would not.

Provost Legg voiced his concern that this was the beginning of a “vacation creep” that would result in the entire week being taken off, as he had been at an institution where this had happened and he regarded it as being inevitable. S. Willis replied that she had also been at an institution that did not hold those Wednesday classes and the situation there was stable.

F. Kitterle said that this type of concern was exactly why he wanted to get feedback.

K. Miller said that most students leave before that morning anyway.

B. Espe said that if this really were to become a full week, the non-academic departments have serious issues with that and it would need to be discussed again.

The motion to postpone the vote until February passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

S. Willis expressed her thanks to Malcolm Morris for his service; he will be leaving the Council to become Associate Dean of the Law School, although he will remain as Faculty Personnel Advisor until the end of his term. She also has a card for Donna, and asked people to sign it.

J. Wolfskill asked when the bridges outside Cole Hall would be open to the public; E. Williams said as soon as possible.
K. Miller wished everyone a happy holiday season, and congratulated the Student Association Chief of Staff, Kevin O’Kelley, on his election as the alternate student board member for the IBHE.

**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**