UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2004, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


M. Dick attended for S. Clayton; M. Morris attended for L. Pernell; D. Jackman attended for C. Sorensen.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Barr, Becerra, Bisplinghoff, Buffo, Cummings, Kaplan, Kolb, Larson, Loubere, Peterson, Rusin, Schneider, S. Song, Stewrt, Stoddard

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – approved as written

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2003 MEETING
(Page 3-6) – approved as written

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President said that the winter shutdown was successful; NIU will realize significant savings. We have also saved money on snow removal, as there hasn’t been much snow so far.

NIU submitted its FY05 budget to the IBHE in September; the IBHE will be submitting all its requests to the Bureau of the Budget in early February. State revenues are not looking as strong as was hoped; any decision on the size of the FY05 budget will be made as late as possible. The Governor will be issuing his annual budget message on February 18. Then appropriations committee hearings will be in March and April; this will require the preparation of considerable paperwork, done by people to whom we are most grateful. The legislature is scheduled to adjourn May 22; if it runs later, passing the budget (or anything else) will require a supermajority.

The Governor’s State of the State address made little mention of higher education; this is probably a good thing. The new head of the Department of Economic Opportunity, Jack Lavin, made a very good impression.
At the Federal level, the Omnibus Bill contains several important items concerning NIU; this will be good news.

Both the possibility of a rescission in FY04 and the size of the FY05 budget are up in the air at the moment.

Representatives of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association will be on campus February 23-25. In preparation, we have done a detailed self-study, which is available in print and on CD-ROM. Our accreditation is not in question, but this gives us the opportunity to look closely at ourselves, recognize areas of strength, and define areas which could use improvement. The site committee will also have access to supporting documents; please be cooperative if requests are made to you to supply some of these.

Finally, the President announced a new series of Presidential Policy lectures, to be started on February 3rd at 10 am in the Sandburg auditorium, with Michael Thawley, the Australian Ambassador to the US. Issues of primary concern to Australia now are trade and their relationship with the US. The series will move to the new auditorium in Altgeld Hall as soon as it is available, and is intended to complement the Presidential Research and Teaching Professorships.

V. CONSENT AGENDA - passed

A. Committee name change – Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation to Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity – refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 7-8)

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 9-11)

Pat Henry had no meeting to report on, but did comment on two newspaper articles. The first is the IBHE response to the FAC report on faculty productivity, which was not at all positive. The second, from the DeKalb Chronicle, contains comments from NIU on the matter. Also, she has spoken with both Senator Burzynski and Representative Pritchard, who are both very supportive of higher education.

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 Xueshu Song – no report

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

The BOT Executive Committee met by telephone conference on December 18, and approved the next step in the purchase of the PeopleSoft student services software.

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – no report

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

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Carole Minor, Chair – report

1. Composition of University Council **ACTION ITEM** (Page 12)

The following amendment to the University Bylaws was presented as an Action Item; new text is in **bold** and text to be replaced is crossed out:

1.3 Elected Voting Members From Full-time College Faculty (31-2)

Thirty-one **two** tenured members shall be elected by and from the regular, full-time university faculty (as defined in Section 6.11 of the Constitution) in the academic division of the university, excluding the president, the president's staff, the executive vice president and provost, the executive vice president and provost's staff, the deans, and the deans' staffs. Regular faculty members are those whose contracts do not carry the designation "temporary" or "adjunct." An elected voting faculty member of the University Council shall be eligible for no more than two successive three-year terms.

1.5 Supportive Professional Staff Members of the University Council (2)

The president of the Supportive Professional Staff Council shall be a voting member of the University Council. The Supportive Professional Staff Council shall select annually an additional full-time supportive professional staff member to serve as a non-voting member. Full-time supportive professional staff members are those whose appointments designate them as holding (a) no-rank faculty status, or (b) faculty rank with administrative assignments outside the academic division of the university.

1.6 Operating Staff Members of the University Council (2)

The president of the Operating Staff Council shall be a voting member of the University Council. The Operating Staff Council shall select annually an additional full-time operating staff member to serve as a non-voting member.

The students requested that, if any future changes were to be made, the percentage of student members be respected; other than that there was no discussion.

The amendment passed.

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Deborah Smith-Shank, Chair
Ballots have been mailed to elect members of the University Council to 2004-2007 terms. The initial count will be February 6th, which will create the final ballot. Those will be counted February 27. The change in representation just passed will be reflected in the final ballots.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
C. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality
D. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
E. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
F. Minutes, Graduate Council
G. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
H. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
I. Minutes, University Benefits Committee minutes

XI. ADJOURNMENT