UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2004, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


M. Morris attended for L. Pernell; P. Loubere attended for A. Powers.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Barr, Becerra, Buffo, Butler, Gandsey, Graf, Gorman, Kaplan, Larson, Legg, Newman, Pappanduros, Peters, Peterson, Richmond, Rusin, Schneider, S. Song, X. Song, Spear, Young

I. CALL TO ORDER – by Dean Kafer, in the absence of President Peters, Provost Legg, and Dean Graf.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – approved

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2004 MEETING - approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

V. CONSENT AGENDA – approved

A. Grievance Procedures for Northern Illinois Faculty and Staff. Refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 7-20)

B. Recommendation for Grading System – refer to Undergraduate Coordinating Council and Graduate Council (Page 21)

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 22-25)

State legislators do not seem to be very familiar with the Illinois Commitment; it would be a good idea to get them to visit campus so they can see what we actually do. Dr. Ligenfelter gave a presentation about the increasing demands on higher education at the same time as public funding is decreasing. Creative solutions, and a lot of cooperation, are needed.
The new state employees’ ethics act was discussed; it is not yet clear what kind of requirements this will place on faculty.

A sample letter was included for communicating with legislators; they need to hear from us about the effects of budget cuts.

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

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 (Page 26)

1. Name change for the Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation

It was moved and seconded that the name of the President’s Commission on Sexual Orientation be changed to the President’s Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, as requested by the Commission. The motion passed.

2. Membership change for the University Benefits Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the membership of the University Benefits Committee be amended from including “the Director of Human Resource Services” to including “the Director of Human Resource Services or designee” to bring the Committees Book in line with long-term practice. The motion passed.

3. A structure and charge for a task force to work on a grievance procedure for students.

The following was moved and seconded:

a. “That a Task Force be appointed to develop a procedure for students to pursue grievances against faculty or staff.”
b. “That the Task Force be charged to detail the steps a student would take to resolve a conflict, other than those already dealt with by existing systems, with a faculty or staff member in an informal way and to create a formal grievance procedure to be used, when appropriate, in case informal resolution is not possible.” And the third part of that is the composition of the task force.

c. “That the Task Force be composed of four faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate, at least two of which are graduate or professional school faculty; four students, two undergraduates appointed by the Student Association and two graduate or professional school students appointed by the Graduate Council; the Director of the University Judicial Office or designee; the Vice Provost for Student Affairs or designee; the University General Counsel or designee; the ombudsman; one member of the Supportive Professional Staff Council; and one member of the operating staff appointed by the Operating Staff Council.”

After some discussion Part c was amended to read:

c. “That the Task Force be composed of four faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate, at least two of which are graduate or professional school faculty; four students, two undergraduates appointed by the Student Association and two graduate or professional school students appointed by the Graduate Council; the Director of the University Judicial Office or designee; the Vice Provost for Student Affairs or designee; the University General Counsel or designee and the ombudsman, both as ex-officio, nonvoting consultants; one member of the Supportive Professional Staff Council; and one member of the operating staff appointed by the Operating Staff Council.”

The motion passed as amended.

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

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

Final ballots have been sent out, and the results will be announced at the next Council meeting.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

V. Cassidy reminded the Council of the upcoming accreditation visit, and asked people to come to the meetings they were scheduled for.

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