
P. Smith attended for J. Engstrom; D. Jackman attended for C. Sorensen.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Barr, Becerra, Bufo, Butler, Crisler, Cummings, Graf, Kolb, Kowalski, Larson, Lockard, Loubere, Pappanduros, Peterson, Richmond, Rusin, Schneider, Seaver, S. Song, Spear, Stewart, Wang, Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – a request from Provost Legg was added to the agenda under New Business, and a written report for the Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee was provided. The agenda was adopted as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2004 MEETING (Pages 3-5) – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS – budget handout – walk-in

Many NIU students participated in the primary campaigns; the President is very proud of them.

Our budget hearing will be April 22. Overall state budget priorities from the Governor continue to be K-12, health care, and public safety. State universities would lose $25 million, or 2%, under the Governor’s plan, although NIU will get ½% back for a business degree completion program in Rockford. MAP money has not increased but the maximum will be capped at what one would receive at the public universities. HECA money, grants, and grant matching have all been cut or eliminated. SURS funding is less than last year due to increased interest income.

Capital funding recommendations are not out yet; we are trying to improve the standing of our requests as ranked by the IBHE. All the state universities are backing the IBHE’s GR funding request, which is a flat budget as opposed to the 2% cut. Some federal money will be coming for specific projects.
The accreditation visit went very well; we expect to be recommended for full accreditation for the whole 10-year period. There is only one report we have to submit in the meantime, about student assessment. We are going to focus on some areas identified by the self-study.

The search committee for the Vice President for Student Affairs just finished “airport interviews” with their top candidates; two will be invited to interview on campus. There will also be a search for a new Athletic Director, which should be much quicker than an academic search, but an interim will probably need to be appointed.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 6-8)

The FAC is concerned about the increasing use of non-tenure-track faculty, and of the Governor’s focus on K-12 education. They would like to tie undergraduate and graduate success to K-12 success. The IBHE did not support the cutting of the matching funds; in addition, the Illinois Commitment did not seem to be of much importance to legislators.

The FAC proposed some language for the IBHE concerning articulation between community colleges and universities; there was some concern about retaining flexibility at the university in case students are inadequately prepared.

Faculty productivity continues to be an issue; a committee will be named on April 13th to review the missions of the state universities. There is ethics legislation that seems to require very detailed accounting of time; this needs to be implemented sensibly.

Contact with legislators is good; contact by students and parents is especially good.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – report (Page 9)

The Board made a number of recommendations to the full Board of Trustees. They forwarded 31 special leave requests for approval by the Board of Trustees. They approved a request to authorize a Master of Science Degree in Elementary Education in the Chicago area. They approved requests for a number of new emphases in the College of Engineering and they received reports on The Higher Education Commission on Accreditation visit, the FY2004 increment, the Annual Report on Oral English Proficiency and the Annual IBHE report on underrepresented groups.

Salary increases continue to be a priority but will depend on the budget.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Sue Willis and Xueshu Song – report
Student fees will be going up by 6%, led by 9% changes in health insurance and bus fees, which are not under our control. Room and board will also be going up about 9%. The Truth in Tuition act will be ready by July. Computers are being replaced, as is the flooring in Douglas.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Sara Clayton and Bev Espe – report

A bylaw was proposed to allow trustees who are not on a particular committee to count in that committee’s quorum at a particular meeting if they are needed. In addition, the committee proposed to request President Peters to develop some sort of corrective action for units that are cited in audits as a way of encouraging cooperation.

Legislation of interest includes the raising of the minimum wage, the Ethics bill, and the tenure bill. The state audit identified four findings, none of which were major and none of which were repeat items.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – no report

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

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – William Goldenberg, Chair – report – walk-in

The committee met with Provost Legg, who discussed budget cuts. Departments are being encouraged to hire junior faculty to replace retiring senior faculty. The rising number of non-tenure-track faculty is a concern. The money held back in case of a rescission has now been released to the colleges. The four-day summer workweek is under discussion.

H. Faculty – Staff Grievance Procedure – Carole Minor, Chair – report

1. Faculty-Staff Grievance Procedure (Pages 10-30) FIRST READING

The grievance procedure that has been developed over the last 4 years has been put into final form as Article 11 of the bylaws, and is presented as a first reading. Changes in Article 10, renumbering as appropriate, and renaming of the (now) Article 19 are also included. The original procedure presented by the task force was sent to the Faculty Senate, Operating Staff Council, and SPS Council, and changes they suggested were incorporated. The Rules and Governance committee then made some final minor changes.

There was a question as to why the grievant has 60 days to file a grievance rather than 30; a question about the involvement of legal counsel in the proceedings; and a suggestion that the whole package needed to go to the college councils and senates before being implemented.

A motion was made to refer this matter to the College Councils and College Senates, with responses due by April 15th. The motion was seconded, and passed.
I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair

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

   1. Results of University Council Elections

   College of Business: Rick Ridnour and David Wade
   College of Education: Toni Tollerud.
   College of Engineering and Engineering and Technology: Xueshu Song.
   College of Law: John Walton.
   College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: William Baker, Janice Hamlet, Michael Kolb, Brad Peters, John Wolfskill
   College of Visual and Performing Arts: Kent Gallagher.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to extend appointment of acting dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology – see memo from Ivan Legg – walk-in

Provost Legg requested the reappointment of Dr. Vohra as Acting Dean of the College of Engineering. The request was moved and seconded, and passed.

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