UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2004, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


E. Shumaker attended for J. Hurych; L. Jennings attended for S. Clayton.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Barr, Becerra, Bisplinghoff, Buffo, Butler, Fox, Gandsey, Graf, Goldenberg, Gorman, Loubere, Pernell, Peterson, Rusin, Schneider, Seaver, X. Song, Spear, Wade

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted, with the substitution of the actual search committee for the Athletic Director for the proposed request to let the Steering Committee approve it

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2004 MEETING
   (Pages 3-6) – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President thanked everyone for their support, and said that he had not decided about the University of Tennessee position.

The state budget process is being slowed down by revenue projections. It is still not known if there will be a rescission for FY04, but we have spent much of the funds set aside for it and would have great difficulty handling a rescission this late in the fiscal year. The previous FY05 estimates are off between $500 million and $1 billion, and must be agreed to by the Governor and the Legislature before the FY05 budget negotiations can start. That should happen in late April, and the budget negotiations will probably continue through May. There will be updates on the NIU website. We are still hoping to get some funds through our presence in two economic zones.

The Federal Highway Bill, as passed by the House, includes $14.4 million in funding for road construction at the West Campus. The final conference report is not done, and the President has threatened a veto.
Shaun Crisler introduced the new SA president, Craig Marcus, and the new Student Trustee, Eric Johnson.

The President spoke briefly about two other bills at the state level: HB4073, which would have drastically changed the way tenure decisions are made and which was tabled, and an amendment to the school code that would have greatly diminished the role of higher education in the certification of teachers.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 7-9) and addendum – walk-in

Pat Henry and two other FAC members did some lobbying in Springfield; it was crowded with lobbyists. They met with Senator Schoenbarg and Representatives Slone and McCarthy, all of whom are very supportive of higher education and all of whom suggested that letters to legislators and the Governor (not on NIU stationery) would be appropriate. It would be good to bring our legislators on campus, and even invite them to a Faculty Senate meeting. This should be coordinated through the university’s Government Relations office.

The university keeps a list of bills that would have an impact on us; contact the Governmental Relations office for more information or to give feedback about a particular bill.

On April 13, the IBHE will form a Higher Education Productivity Committee; there will be one faculty member (Ken Anderson, UIUC). It is not known whether there will be any student member.

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 NIU Foundation reports that both total donations and the number of donors are up over last year. Student fees will increase an average of 6% in the fall, and room and board will go up 9%. The number of faculty applying for sabbaticals is considerably lower this year than before, for unknown reasons. Some changes were proposed to the Bylaws of the Board; one would allow any trustee to be a temporary member of a committee if the trustee is present and there would otherwise not be a quorum; the other creates vice-chairs for the Board committees. A resolution was read thanking Cary Groth for her years of service to NIU.
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

The Committee has asked for responses from the deans, college councils, and college senates on the revised grievance procedure. Feedback is due by April 12 so the committee can consider it at its April 14 meeting. Discussion concerned the balance between not rushing the changes into place until everyone is comfortable with them and getting the procedure in place so that it can be used. The committee will evaluate the magnitude of changes suggested and report at the next meeting. It was once again clarified that these procedures do not address alleged violations of a faculty member’s academic freedom; those procedures remain unchanged.

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

A. Approval of Search Committee composition for Director of Intercollegiate Athletics – walk-in

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