UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2004, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Bisplinghoff, Booth, Burns, Cummings, Engstrom, Espe, Gilbert, Graf, Gorman, Gresholdt, Henry, Hurych, Kafer, Kamenitsa, Kaplan, Kitterle, Koch, Kolb, Kowalski, Legg, Lockard, Minor, Nelms, Novatney, Pappanduros, Pernell, Richmond, Rose, Smith-Shank, S. Song, X. Song, Spear, Stoaddard, Tolhurst, Vohra, Wang, Wagner, Webber, Williams, Willis, Wolfskill, Young

L. Jennings attended for S. Clayton.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Barr, Becerra, Bose, Buffo, Butler, Crisler, Goldenberg, Gregory, Johnson, Loubere, Newman, Orem, Peterson, Powers, Robinson, Rusin, Schneider, Seaver, Sorensen, Wade

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2004 MEETING (Pages 3-5) – approved

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Report from the Committee to Evaluate the President of the Faculty Senate/Executive Secretary of the University Council (Xueshu Song, Geoffrey Gordon, Ngoyi Bukonda, Patricia Henry, and Eric Johnson)

V. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Recognition of University Council members whose terms are:

Completed

John Engstrom, College of Business
Rebecca Butler, College of Education
Sherilyn Spear, College of Health and Human Sciences
Elvia Arriola, College of Law
Mary Larson, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Sue Willis, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Jeff Kowalski, College of Visual and Performing Arts
Re-Elected

David Wade, College of Business
Xueshu Song, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Michael Kolb, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
John Wolfskill, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Newly Elected

Rick Ridnour, College of Business
Toni Tollerud, College of Education
Jody Newman-Ryan, College of Health and Human Sciences
John Walton, College of Law
Janice Hamlet, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
William Baker, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Brad Peters, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Kent Gallagher, College of Visual and Performing Arts

The budget process in Springfield is ongoing; the state public universities have requested a flat budget rather than the 2% cut recommended by the Governor. The Legislature is questioning the advisability of some of the revenue enhancements proposed by the Governor. President Peters was optimistic that the budget would be completed by the May 31 deadline. [It wasn’t.] NIU’s accounts are balanced at the moment but there is no reserve. The capital budget has not come out of the Governor’s office either.

CMS is revisiting its plan not to renew the contract with Health Alliance. This affects several university towns very badly, including DeKalb.

S. Cunningham reported on the status of the benefits plans; in addition to Health Alliance they have proposed not to renew their contract with OSF HMO, and to switch the vision plan to Spectra Vision, whose main provider is WalMart. The Health Alliance decision is being revisited, but the vision plan is not. [It was later reversed.]

Comments can be directed to CMS and Health Alliance.

The Board of Trustees met in special session, and approved a 7.75% tuition increase for continuing students, and a 15% increase for incoming students. Under the Truth in Tuition law, incoming students will pay the same tuition for four years plus a grace semester. This is in line with what other universities are doing.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 6-7)
The IBHE’s new Committee on Priorities, Productivity and Accountability is supposed to have a preliminary report out in October and a final one in December, so it can be used as part of the FY06 budgeting process. They will be reviewing the match between missions and academic programs offered, between missions and the nature and scope of faculty work, and better understanding and defining faculty productivity. We don’t know yet where they will be getting information.

The FAC met with two Chicago state representatives, both Democrats, who supported tax increases.

The U of I at Springfield is planning to offer all their degree programs on line, according to their Provost (who apparently did not consult with faculty). The equivalence between traditional and totally on-line degrees from the same institution was discussed.

A sample letter to send to legislators about the funding situation in higher education was included.

NIU cannot come out in favor of, or against, tax increases, but can serve as a knowledge base for those making such decisions.

Anyone in Sociology or Anthropology who can help their colleagues at Eastern recover from the fire is urged to do so.

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 – no report (given in President’s Announcements)

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – William Goldenberg, Chair – report (page 8)

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

Second reading for the new Faculty and Staff Grievance procedure.

The motion passed with minor editorial modifications made by the Rules and Governance Committee.
I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair
J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Deborah Smith-Shank, Chair
   1. University Council confirmation of election of 2004-2005 Executive Secretary of University Council – Paul Stoddard was confirmed.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A resolution was offered, and a plaque presented, to Sue Willis thanking her for her three years of service at University Council Executive Secretary and Faculty Senate President.

X. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Bev Espe introduced Shey Lowman, the new president of the Supportive Professional Staff Council.

Relief was expressed that President Peters had decided to stay at NIU rather than considering a return to the University of Tennessee.

XI. 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
J. 2004 – 2005 Meeting Schedule (Page 33)

XII. ADJOURNMENT