UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Buffo, Crisler, Fox, Kolb, Larson, Loubere, Peterson, Rusin, D. Schneider, Smith-Shank,

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted, with additions to New Business and Information Items

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2003 MEETING - approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome back. The ten-hour, four-day summer workweek was a success; there has been some desire to make it permanent. Rhoten Smith, NIU president from 1967 to 1971, was warmly remembered. He was president during a time of unrest and rapid change.

The ’04 budget is not looking good; revenues are below projections. Nevertheless, the football team is winning, faculty are teaching and doing scholarly work, students are learning.

Greg Paveza is spending a year here with the American Council on Education Fellowship Program. There are 55 new (replacement) faculty this fall. The enrollment strategy has been to stabilize at 25,000 students; this fall we have about 25,250. African-American and Latino/a enrollments are up. The Enrollment Committee has been working very hard, and deserves appreciation. Large class sections are scheduled at many universities, and have been for years; there are techniques for effectively teaching them.

The cut in our state-appropriated budget – which is about a third of our total budget – was $9.1 million this year compared to last year. In addition, there was a $3 million rescission towards the end of last fiscal year, and a requirement that the University pay $3.5 million for medical insurance that had previously had been paid by the state. We have put off doing maintenance of facilities, put on a modified hiring freeze, and cut various non-instructional costs. This winter, we will extend the break by two days. Meanwhile, we are planning for a possible mid-year
rescission again. The normal budgeting process has been delayed this year, so we will not know what our ’05 budget is until fairly late. Both the rescission and the ’05 budget will depend on how well revenue meets estimates.

The “Truth in Tuition” law was passed this spring; it will take effect in 2005. This is manageable as long as our base budget is not cut.

The large policy question is how to provide the adequate education, quality education for all students who are going to be coming through the high schools in the next decade and then wanting to go to college. President Peters will work on shaping that debate, and on getting commitments from public officials to address it.

Our ten-year accreditation is progressing well; many people have worked very hard on it. Special thanks are due to Jan Rintala, who chaired the steering committee.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – approved

A. Approval of University Council Committees for 2003-2004 (Page 6)
B. Approval of Xueshu Song to serve on the University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees – 2003-2006 (Page 7)
C. Recommendation for Advisory Board for Technology Services – refer to University Affairs (Page 8)

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

The FAC is concerned about allegations of administrative bloat, and what exactly is considered to be administration. This often includes such necessary functions as technical services and advising. Also, too many requirements for accountability can add to the administrative workload; the process should be streamlined as much as possible.

The FAC continues to promote the 7th goal for the Illinois Commitment, and is working on an op-ed piece to show the effects on repeated budget cuts.

The IBHE website is very useful, and has internal reports on affordability and diversity, as well as information about developments affecting higher education in general.

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

The Committee approved three action items – a collective bargaining agreement for 150 instructors, a request for authority to offer a BS in nursing at a regional site, and the

At the September 4 meeting, the committee recommended and forwarded to the Board of Trustees three action items: a collective bargaining agreement affecting about 150 instructors; a request for authority to offer a BS in Nursing at a regional site; and the transfer of tenure and
tenure track locations for three faculty, from Counseling, Adult and Health Education to Allied Health Professions. There was also a presentation of the continuing process of reorganization of the College of Education.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Sue Willis – report

The Committee approved the appropriated capital budget, the capital budget repair and renewal, and the non-appropriated capital budget. There was also a presentation on the Convocation Center, which in its first year of operation brought in $900,000 more than was

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

This meeting, on June 10, was primarily concerned with legislation that affects higher education, including the Truth in Tuition bill, and a bill concerning how to determine whether someone is an Illinois resident or not for purposes of setting tuition.

SURS wants to move in the direction of having all employees have the same unused sick leave payout policy at retirement; right now things are different at different places due to union negotiations.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – report

The Board had a special session on May 5 to set tuition rates for the fall, so students would be aware of the new rates before they left for the summer.

At the regular Board meeting on June 19, Gary Skoien was elected chair. The Board approved the FY05 funding guidelines, which then go to the IBHE. They also approved a salary increment of 1.5% effective July 1 (August 16 for faculty) and a second 1.5% to be effective January 1. If more funds are available, this may be increased, but it will not be decreased.

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 – no report

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. Receipt of Annual Reports

1. Academic Planning Council
2. Affirmative Action Diversity Resources Advisory Committee
3. Athletic Board
4. Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
5. Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
6. Faculty Personnel Advisor
7. Graduate Council
8. Undergraduate Coordinating Council
9. University Assessment Panel
10. University Benefits Committee
11. University Council Personnel Committee
12. University Ombudsman

B. Amend 2004-05 academic calendar – walk-in

Walk-in item: The calendar for fall 2004, according to Sue Doederlein, needs to be changed. As it stands, classes begin on the 30th of August, and Commencement is on the 19th of December. The problem with this is that the advising deans do not have time to process dismissals before the break. This is important to students, because they need that time to make alternate plans for the spring semester. It was therefore proposed to move the whole schedule one week earlier; this would make Fall 2004 look much more like other academic years. There would be two weeks between summer and fall semesters, as in other years, rather than three. This is, in fact, the same schedule that was used in the 1999-2000 academic year.

After discussion, it was established that this change would not require approval by the Trustees, just notification. In order for the change to be included in the Spring 2004 schedule book, it would need to be approved immediately.

The motion to modify the Fall 2004 calendar, so that the first day of classes is August 23 and commencement is on December 12, was approved.

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
J. 2003-2004 Meeting Schedule (Page 15)
K. Alternate List – walk-in

XI. ADJOURNMENT