UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2003, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM

L. Jennings attended for S. Clayton. Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan also attended.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Barr, Becerra, Bisplinghoff, Crisler, Graf, Larson, Loubere, Peterson, Richmond

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – “Second Voting Member for SPS and OS” added to consent agenda, to be referred to Rules and Governance. Agenda adopted as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2003 MEETING – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters is concerned about how universities are going to accommodate the new wave of students that is coming. Without additional resources, there is no way we can accommodate more students.
There is no budget news right now, and at the request of the Governor’s office, the IBHE is postponing FY05 requests until a later date.

A. Change in title of Vice Provost for Student Affairs to Vice President for Student Affairs – see memo from Ivan Legg

Provost Legg outlined the case for the title change. The reporting lines would stay the same, but the new title would automatically place this person on the President’s Cabinet, and would make it easier to attract candidates of national stature to the position. Various constituencies were consulted by outside evaluators, and the deans and Faculty Senate were supportive. The University Council had no objection to the change.

President Peters and Dean Sorensen then talked about our partnership with the DeKalb schools; a new school with emphasis on the arts and technology will be created, using the old Malta High School building. This will involve faculty from both the College of Education and the College of
Visual and Performing Arts. C. Cummings has received a grant of $1.5 million, part of which will go to this partnership.

President Peters introduced Ken Davidson, the General Counsel and the head of our Office of Legal Services.

President Peters then discussed the football team and their fans. The team is bringing recognition and respect to NIU. Fan behavior has been generally very good; we want to keep it that way, and make opposing teams and their fans welcome while they are here.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – adopted as amended

A. Voting membership of University Council – see memo from S. Willis refer to Rules and Governance – walk-in

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

P. Henry said that DeKalb is now included in the Chicago metropolitan area by the state. This has effects on how the state interacts with us concerning economic development. The IBHE is once again becoming concerned about faculty productivity; according to them, university administration has already taken a significant cut, and they believe it is now time for faculty to do the same – or at least to increase their productivity in ways that result in more money coming to the state - so that resources can be directed into high-priority areas. The FAC is discussing how best to address this. President Peters expressed his surprise that such a request would be made directly by the IBHE to the FAC without informing the presidents and chancellors. Dean Kitterle pointed out that the IBHE has been asking for this kind of information for quite some time now.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – no report

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operation Committee – Sue Willis – no report

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Sara Clayton and Bev Espe – no report

E. BOT – Sue Willis

The full Board met on Sept. 18th. President Peters clarified a statement about appropriations not being released – this is a long-term practice and does not represent a new cut. The NIU Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal by $1 million, and the Convocation Center made $900,000 over expenses plus bond payments. The University has entered into another performance contract, where energy improvements are provided at no cost to the university, and the company is paid an amount representing the energy saved, over a period of 10 years.
F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – William Goldenberg, Chair

W. Goldenberg expressed his appreciation of the football team and fans. RSB had an organizational meeting and had some discussions with Eddie Williams; they are planning to have Provost Legg and then Chief Grady attend one of their meetings. Bill then reminded us that capital funds cannot be mixed with faculty salary funds.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Carole Minor, Chair

The Rules and Governance Committee recommended that no change to Bylaw 17.41, Selection Process for Other Administrative Appointments, be made. Such a change was referred to the committee last year, but the committee believes the bylaw is fine as is.

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair – report

In response to a request from the Faculty Senate, the University Affairs committee brought forth the following recommendations:

1. that a new advisory board for technology services not be created;

2. that the current description of the functions of the Computing Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) be amended by adding a third function using language from the current recommendation under consideration: To review and make recommendations about major changes, deletions, and new technologies that have a broad effect on campus information technology practices.

3. that the CFAC initiate procedures to improve communication of current policies and notification of proposed changes in information technologies to faculty most likely to be affected by such policies and changes in technologies.

These recommendations were approved by the University Council, and the Committees Book has been modified accordingly.

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Deborah Smith-Shank, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Questions were raised about how the CFAC is to report to the University Council. This is a committee that reports “indirectly” to the University Council; there is in fact no reporting
requirement specified for this committee. S. Willis will look into this further and arrange for better communication.

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