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

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Booth, Bose, Burns, Clayton, Crisler, Engstrom, Espe, Fox, Gilbert, Graf, Goldenberg, Gorman, Gresholdt, Henry, Hurych, Kafer, Kamenitsa, Kitterle, Koch, Kowalski, Legg, Lockard, Minor, Novotney, Orem, Pappanduros, Powers, Richmond, Robinson, Rose, Seaver, Smith-Shank, S. Song, X. Song, Sorensen, Stewart, Stoddard, Tolhurst, Wade, Webber, Willis

M. Morris attended for L. Pernell; M. Tahernezhadi attended for P. Vohra.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Barr, Becerra, Bisplinghoff, Buffo, Butler, Cummings, Gregory, Johnson, Kaplan, Kolb, Larson, Loubere, Nelms, Peters, Peterson, Rusin, Schneider, Spear, Wang, Williams, Wolfskill, Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 58, 2003 MEETING (Pages 3-5) – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Memorial Resolution for Representative David Wirsing (Page 6)

Provost Legg spoke of the late Rep. Wirsing and his dedication to higher education in the state of Illinois.

The memorial resolution was heartily endorsed

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Page 7-10)

The budget is still uncertain. The FAC tried to emphasize a number of points to the IBHE: that their budget priorities did not address programs that had been cut over the past several years; that the Illinois Commitment would be a good document for the IBHE to use in promoting higher education to the public; and that indeed the Illinois Commitment should be looked at in detail to
see how the IBHE has evaluated compliance with it. In addition, the FAC reiterated its desire to see some measure of research and quality of life be added to the Commitment.

In response to the demand for input on faculty productivity, the FAC tried to show the IBHE what a complex issue this is; how productivity has changed since the recent budget cuts; that further cuts will damage quality; that the FAC in any case was not the appropriate body to respond to such an inquiry; that the institutions should decide how they are to handle budget cuts; that measuring productivity without reference to quality is not appropriate; and that repeated requests for similar data will reduce productivity and add to administrative expenses.

The IBHE’s response was lukewarm at best; Chair Kaplan indicated the he was under a lot of pressure about productivity.

F. Kitterle inquired why the IBHE was asking the FAC about productivity; hasn’t their monitoring of the Illinois Commitment given them the information they need?

Provost Legg said that it was his experience that one 3-hour course would take about 15-20 hours per week.

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 – report – walk-in

A funding shortfall is still expected in FY05; increases in revenue are not in areas that contribute to higher ed. funding. The AFSCME contract is expiring this year; the negotiations will affect our benefits as well.

On the federal level, the higher education authorization act is up for renewal. Most of this is routine, but there is a motion afoot to put nationwide caps on tuition increases. Institutions whose tuition rises too quickly, compared to the CPI, would lose some federal funding.

These caps would not be satisfied by the state Truth in Tuition Act; the national proposal would compare the tuition for this year’s freshmen to the tuition for last year’s.

X. Song pointed out that the CPI is not the appropriate measure for tuition increases.

S. Willis pointed out that this legislation would affect all of higher education – public and private, community colleges as well as universities.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – report
The NIU Foundation has seen very large increases in donations; this is probably due, at least in part, to the national attention the football team has been receiving. The Trustees endorsed the memorial resolution for Rep. Wirsing and recommended that it be put on a plaque in Altgeld Hall, as Rep. Wirsing was instrumental in getting the funding for its refurbishing.

The President’s appointment was extended to 6/30/2010, and he was given the same 1.5% + 1.5% raise that we all received.
S. Willis also said that she had suggested to the Board that they might want to “shadow” a faculty or staff member for a day; their reaction was very positive.

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

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

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

1. Office Privacy Policy.

After a brief discussion, the privacy policy as proposed was approved. It will be placed in the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual. Following is the resolution as passed:

**OFFICE PRIVACY POLICY**

Access to the personally assigned offices, spaces, vehicles, tools and equipment, furniture or storage areas of NIU faculty (including emeriti), staff, or student employees is normally based on business need, balanced respect, common sense, common decency, and civility. Subject to established principles for stewardship of publicly owned resources, faculty, staff and student employees are accorded the privilege of reasonable privacy with regard to their immediate university workplaces.

Representatives of the university may access its offices and all other areas for official reasons such as efficient operation, cleaning, inspections, repairs, maintenance, safety, security, property inventories and other similar business or operational purposes. These accesses should entail minimized intrusion to the operations of such areas. Except for routine cleaning, other limited accesses, or for emergencies, faculty, staff, and student employees will be provided notification of such access and, whenever practical, notification will precede access. In addition, the affected faculty or staff member or student employee will be offered an opportunity to be present during access, unless circumstances prevent it or make it impractical or unsafe. After an emergency access the office occupant will be notified in a timely manner about the reason for the access and the actions taken unless there are compelling reasons why this cannot be done.

Faculty and staff members are responsible for securing and clearly labeling any sensitive or confidential material, and are responsible for their own personal property.

Questions concerning application of this procedure may be addressed to the university privacy officer at 753-8364.

(Underlined portions were not in the original version presented by the Faculty Senate.)
2. Composition of University Council. **FIRST READING.**

This proposed amendment to the University Bylaws would designate the second SPS and Operating Staff representatives as full voting members of the Council. In order to comply with the overall composition as set up in the Constitution, one more faculty member needs to be added as well.

3. Amendment of Bylaw 5.34.

This bylaw was proposed to be amended to account for the needs of the College of Law; however, it was decided that an amendment was not necessary.

4. Student Grievance Procedure

The committee is working on a task force composition and charge for developing a student grievance procedure.

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair

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

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Provost Legg showed the new magazine that is being put out by the Student Association.

**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**