
D. Lonergan attended for J. Hurych; W. Minor attended for F. Kitterle; M. Morris attended for L. Pernell; M. Pritchard attended for S. Richmond.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters called the meeting to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda, with the addition of a walk-in item, passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2005 MEETING

(Pages 3-7)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters updated the Council on legislative efforts in Washington, D.C. and in Springfield. In Washington, he met with members of the Illinois Congressional delegation to talk about next year’s federal agenda for NIU. The Iraq war has put pressures on the domestic budget, as evidenced in President Bush’s budget, particularly with regard to many Department of Education programs and NSF and NIH funding. Some of things that are of concern to us in general are funding for major programs like PELL Grants and Perkins Loans. Also of great concern are proposed cuts to Upward Bound and Gear Up Programs, among others. We will be working to get money put back into those. On the plus side, our own, specific NIU ear-marked agenda is in really good shape.
In Springfield, the President has been meeting with new members of the House Higher Ed Appropriations Committee, which is currently having hearings. The Committee has a lot of questions about recruitment of minority faculty and students. There will be questions about how the budget cuts impact our accommodating student access. The President will get a few minutes to read a statement and will once again present the case that we’ve really been rocked by 40 million dollars of cuts to our base budget; that we’ve had to limit student enrollment. We need money for salaries; that’s always a top priority. Speaker of the Illinois House, Michael Madigan, has called for field hearings to be held on the budget. One will be held May 14th at Kishwaukee Community College. The President and heads of the constituent councils will testify.

Regarding the consolidation of Spring and Summer Commencements, the President said that the goal is to increase the focus on the May Commencement, perhaps with an eye towards honorary degrees and nationally recognized speakers. There was also a cost savings component to the decision. The university is working very hard to accommodate those students negatively affected by the consolidation.

The President has been involved in athletics at the national level, specifically with the NCAA and the New Academic Reform Standards. The NCAA and the presidents have come together to inject some difficult, tough academic standards into our programs. An ad hoc group of people, including people like Gip Seaver and Jan Rintala, perhaps a faculty representative of this group, are being assembled to mesh these with NIU’s program.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Joseph “Buck” Stephen – report (Pages 8-10)

J. Stephen attended the meeting for Pat Henry. HB750, the Property and Income Tax Reform Bill, is probably not going to pass because it will involve a new tax rate, in opposition to the Governor’s “no taxes” stance.

A recent AAUP report places the salaries at our public universities in the lowest 20% nationwide.

Of great interest to students is what has happened to the MAP grants. Last academic year, 16,000 eligible students didn’t receive funding. This year that number increased to 50,000.

There’s some discussion about what we can do about communicating the impact of the financial crisis at Eastern Illinois University, the students have developed a series of I Stories. These are brief discussions of their experiences, their aspirations and their difficulties in meeting their educational goals because of the shortage of resources. The FAC suggests that this type of approach might be taken at each institution and that a similar approach to it might be done by faculty members.
There is a web link to the UPI www.upilocal4100.org which talks about issues of interest to those working for the universities.

Under Priorities, Productivity and Accountability, the FAC approved a couple of recommendations of interest. One is that they believe the baccalaureate Follow-up Survey should not be discontinued. We feel that that feedback is valuable information. We support an IBHE movement to eliminate the Capital Development Board and the Capital Development Board Construction Administration Fee of 3%. This provides our administration direct appropriation and direct design in building authority of our capital projects. It should streamline the process also.

Finally, under Resources and Legislative Contact, there are some recent articles the FAC thought many faculty members might find interesting. One concerns the connection between business and higher education in Virginia. That appeared in the Chronicle, February 25 of 2005, and the other one is an Academe article called “Insuring the Nation’s Future: Preserving the Promise of Higher Education”.

The letter that we’ve seen at previous meetings has already appeared in several newspapers and new drafts are continually being formed as the budget and pension approach continually gets reformed or whatever they’re doing to it.


J. Stephen reported that the BOT Subcommittee on Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee approved all forty-eight requests for sabbatical leave from faculty (there were none from SPS). Trustee Boey expressed his appreciation for the purpose and the value of sabbatical leaves.

Also approved was 1) a request for an M. Sc. in Industrial Management to be offered in the Naperville area; 2) requests for new specializations (Art Education and Science, Social Studies and Environmental Education Integration) within the Ed. D. program, both in the Curriculum and Instruction program in the Department of Teaching and Learning; 3) a new minor in Computer Sciences; 4) the deletion of the emphasis in acoustics in Physics and the specialization in Elementary Education.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song report

P Stoddard reported that the main order of business for the Finance and Operations Committee was the approval of the new student fee schedule for next year. The average fee package, excluding student health insurance will increase 2.83%. Student health insurance, however, will increase by 23.6%. The university had to sign a new contract because the old health provider actually wanted to raise the cost by something in excess of 50%.
The committee approved the purchase of three mass spectrometers and a submarine remote-controlled vehicle for the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. This equipment totaled about $1.5 million and will be paid for by funds earmarked by Congress, thanks to our representative, Speaker Dennis Hastert.

Also approved were 1) fixtures and equipment for the Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center funded by existing bond revenues and gifts; 2) internet conduits for four residence halls, which will be paid for out of bond revenue, resident hall funds and telecommunication funds; 3) a new collective bargaining agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150; and 4) the purchase of 196 computer systems complete with flat panel monitors to be used as replacements in existing student computer labs across campus.

President Peters added that we filed our budget bill at the level of the IBHE, not the Governor’s level and so tomorrow when I testify, I will be supporting the IBHE budget which is about a percent more than the Governor’s flat budget. All the universities will do the same.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Donna Smith and Shey Lowman – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – report

J. Wolfskill announced that per guidelines in the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual the APC is undergoing the 5-year review of student evaluation of instruction.

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – William Goldenberg, Chair – no report

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Carole Minor, Chair – report (Pages 11-14)

1. Bylaws Change for 18.32 – ACTION ITEM

C. Minor moved changing the language of Bylaw 18.32, to wit, the deletion of the phrase, “and the Dean of the University Libraries” from the deans’s section of the administrative personnel document. This would occur in the title of 18.32 and in the statement of what 18.32 means. There was a request of the Committee to review the recruitment, appointment, and performance review of academic administrators and vice presidents for potential inconsistencies regarding one person being recruited or reviewed as a vice president and as a dean. None were found.

S. Webber pointed out an inconsistency in capitalization, which will be fixed.

The motion passed.

2. Bylaws Change for 19.1 – ACTION ITEM
C. Minor moved two changes to Bylaw 19.1. The Ombudsman. Language directing the ombudsman to provide an oral summary annually at a University Council was added to 19.1. You see that down at the bottom “report annually to the University Council regarding the operation of the Ombudsman’s Office and provide an oral summary at a University Council meeting.” In Bylaw 19.41, we’ve deleted “quadrennial” and “four years” and added “eight years or at the time of the next vacancy in the office whichever comes first, but not during a review/search year) during the fall semester.” And we’ve deleted the other references “those years in multiples of four.”

The motion passed.

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair – no report

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Sally Webber, Chair – report

1. Results of University Council Elections.

S. Webber announced the newly elected members of the University Council. For the College of Business, it’s Diane Docking, from the Department of Finance; from the College of Education, Rebecca Butler, Educational Technology, Research and Assessment; M. Cecil Smith, Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundation; from the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Shin-Min Song from Mechanical Engineering who’s been re-elected; from the College of Health and Human Sciences, Bridgit Lusk from the School of Nursing; from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Lynn Kamenitsa from the Department of Political Science has been re-elected; Amy Newman from the Department of English; Jay Stravers from the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, and William Tolhurst from the Department of Philosophy has been re-elected; from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Deborah Grall from the School of Art and Jeff Kowalski from the School of Art; and from the University Library, Byron Anderson.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Extension of Acting Associate Dean’s for Graduate School Appointment – see memo from Rathindra Bose to Paul Stoddard (Page 15)

P. Stoddard: As per bylaw 18.522, any extension of an appointment of an acting associate dean needs to be approved by the University Council. Vice President and Graduate School Dean Bose is requesting the extension the position of Acting Associate Dean of the Graduate School for one additional year.

J. Stephen clarified that the action refers to the extension of the position not the assignment of the person in the position.

The motion passed.
IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

C. Minor noted, with some irony, that despite two handicapped signs (one huge) on one of the HSC doors, there is no button to open the door. She requested the Council look into either having a button added or the signs removed.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
C. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality
D. Minutes, Committee on the Advanced Programs for Certification
E. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
F. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
G. Minutes, Graduate Council
H. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
I. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
J. Minutes, University Benefits Committee minutes

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:05.