I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: I’m pleased to call the September 8, 2004 University Council to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: The first item of business is the adoption of today’s agenda. You’ll notice at your place, there is a walk-in item. The subject is the Fall 2005 Calendar dates and summer. This is a walk-in. The issue is consideration of adjusting next year’s start date and I think we should slip that in under New Business. All right? So, I will call for a motion to adopt the agenda. All those in favor say aye. Opposed? We have an agenda.

The agenda was approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2004 MEETING (Pages 3-6)

President Peters: We have on page 3-6 on today’s agenda, the minutes of May 5. I’ll call for additions or corrections. Motion to approve? Second? All those in favor of approving the minutes of May 5 say aye. Opposed? Okay.

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: Well, welcome back everyone to our year although it’s what – we’re already a couple of weeks into it. My first announcement is really a welcoming of our new Vice
President for Student Affairs designee, Brian Hemphill who is right over here – this young man right over here. He came to us from the University of Arkansas and he will be formally approved by the Board of Trustees on September 23 and he’s already off and running and he will be approved. Well, now’s your time to – you’ve got a few days but we’re very excited about this. We’re very happy to have you. Brian brings an energy and excitement and yesterday, of course, we said good-bye to our good friend who was with us for 35 years in Student Affairs, Gary Gresholdt and so we have nice continuity here. Although he couldn’t be here today, also this year we have hired a new Athletic Director who will be at a future meeting, Jim Phillips who was the Senior Associate Athletic Director at Notre Dame. He is working and is a person that wants to get to know everyone in the community, particular students, faculty, and staff and he’s very excited about being here. He’s very student oriented, very student athlete oriented and very, very hard working. Let me just say that for me, it’s a pleasure to have two individuals joining us of the experience and energy and vision of Brian Hemphill and Jim Phillips and I feel very good that their divisions are in good hands and we’re expecting to see an awful lot of good changes and movement forward.

Okay, well, what did I do on my summer vacation? No, not really. I must say that the cycles and the rhythms of the university have certainly changed since I started my paid academic career back in the late ‘60s, particularly the budget cycle. As you know, the last time we left in May, we were not sure what sort of budget we were going to have and at that time, the most likely scenario was a 2% to 4% cut in our appropriated base of last year, fiscal year ’04 and, you know on the short-hand, when we talk about the appropriated part of our budget – that is the dollars that come from the state in general revenue – a percent is about a million dollars. That’s the way to look at it, a little more than that. So every percent you have to cut is another million dollars in base. You know, we have other funds that come from other sources, food service, dining, and all that sort of thing, federal grants and contracts because our budget is about triple what our general revenue base is. So, this was really quite challenging and it was challenging because those of the university who have to balance the books and have to mesh the needs of the university with budgets, like Dr. Williams, who just walked in and others – the Provost Office and Dr. Kaplan and the academic departments, the deans and the department chairs – you know, not knowing what your budget is going to be on May 1st, on June 1st, on July 1st – leads to sleepless nights, especially when you would like to know if new instructors need to be hired, equipment needs to be purchased and it’s debilitating to tell you the truth. We’ve done a remarkable job. All right, so that being said, what happened this summer was clearly – if we worked hard April through May – the amount of work that the staff put in, the budget people, the fiscal people, our government relations people – let’s triple that. At one point, we were facing – and it changed daily and we were working without information or much information – at one point we thought for sure we were going to lose 4% of our base. Well, to make a long story short, after an awful lot of good lobbying and help from the legislature, including something that was fairly unprecedented and that is the thirteen public university presidents and chancellors who did something that I can’t find in the history books and that is we got together and we crafted a joint statement and each president and chancellor signed that statement and it was sent to every member of the General Assembly at a critical point in this process of budget negotiation with the Governor’s Office and it was sent to the Governor too, and basically what it said was we’ve been cut enough. That if our budgets are cut, students are going to go without educations and that we have administratively been lean; our faculty are working hard, our staffs are working hard, we’re
efficient in our purchasing. We’ve got more students wanting to attend the university than ever and – that paid off I think along with the support of a lot of other people. So, as it came down, our budget was kept level with FY04 and that’s good news, very, very good news and all the code agencies in the state were cut 2%. They were cut 2% and I don’t know how they’re going to do that because they’re down to the bone too but we feel very fortunate. In addition to that, there is a memorandum of understanding with the Governor and the Legislature that higher education appropriations, our general revenue for ’04, there will be no requests to reserve or hold any of that back, that it should be expended for the full purposes for which it is appropriated. That doesn’t say that if there is a budget crisis in the state revenue wise, that there couldn’t be a rescission but the numbers are not real bust in revenue, but they’re not negative and, at least the budget as put together now, is a balanced budget for the state. Last year there was some concern that maybe it wasn’t balanced at the get go. They haven’t acted on capital yet. Well, you know and as I indicated to you, you can’t imagine how elated we all were at that and how proud I was of our staff and how proud I was of the other presidents because we were hanging together on this. Let’s face it, there’s a lot of needs in this state right now that are not being met but yet what we represent is higher education and so we have to argue for that. What that permitted us to do then, and this happened relatively quickly but deliberately, was a couple of things. First of all, in setting the ’05 budget and that internal budget distribution will be approved by the Trustees on September 18, we were able to set all base budgets, general revenue budgets, by division at FY04 levels. So no cuts and I’m sure that was welcome news to deans, department heads – vice presidents could choose within their budgets to move money around and I’m not sure how much of that has happened but the base budgets were the same so that’s the very, very good news. The bad news is our budget is the same as ’04 and we still have 30 to 40 million dollars hacked out of our budget over the past three or four years. But, I guess we’ve bottomed here and I’d like to think things are going to look better. I can’t predict that but I’m hoping that we’ll be able to rebuild somewhat. As I’ve said many times, I’m one who believes that these levels across the nation for public higher education will never come back to the level that it was. I think that’s why we put so much attention to other sources of revenue. All right, so I guess I’m saying – what I told all the vice presidents – was don’t spend like crazy because we still have a very lean budget and we have needs that have not been met. The other thing that was clear to me and based upon the directive that I received from the Trustees, I needed to do all I could to find a way of rewarding our faculty and staff who have had lean or no salary increases or marginal across-the-board increases over the past few years and so we went to work and with the knowledge that we had a stable budget for ’05 and taking a reasonable risk that we would not have a rescission this year and knowing we won’t be asked to hold back, I guess I was in a position to say “let’s put together the best salary package we can for our faculty/staff – for all our employees that are eligible and not on contract or not collectively bargained for which there are contracts covering that”. So, we came up with a plan that basically, and the Trustees are going to act on that and there’s input coming in from all the shared governance groups, we have a plan that looks like 3% for faculty/staff depending on the category that’s divvied up in little ways immediately and when we get to it, probably October 1, the pay will be retroactive to your start date. So if you’re a July 1 employee, July 1 of ’04 or if you’re faculty on the nine-month, August 16, contract, it would be retroactive to August 16. Then in addition to that 3%, I have language that says – and if the Trustees act – if – and I think they will – if the FY05 budget remains stable and that’s different than a wish, I mean, if it remains stable and I have every reason to believe it’s going to remain stable because we have a memorandum of understanding
that we won’t be asked to reserve any of that, and then again I think the economy is such I don’t see a crash in the budget for a rescission so, I mean, it’s not 100% guarantee but it’s close – that we’ll have another 1% in January. That’s a 4% package, you know, if you add that up. That doesn’t mean everyone will get 4% because the distribution is based upon a combination of long-term merit, critical need for some of the pay grades adjustment of the ranges. So, I mean, what did I do on my summer vacation? I did a lot of that. So, I’ve always said that salaries are the most important thing because when I came in in ’04, we were doing okay but we needed to keep feeding that and, you know, after it’s all said and done, we can work real hard on technology and buildings which we need do and we’re doing a good job of that but, you know, when it’s said and done, a university’s strength is based on its people and its professors and its staff and so that’s why we have to remain competitive and I’m very pleased about that.

So, we have not heard on capital. Capital and our major projects are the Stevens renovation, which has been on the list for a long time, and we have some other capital projects. We won’t hear about that until the veto session. We’re already putting together the FY06 capital budget in place and we still haven’t heard on that capital budget so I really – we have a plan, you know, we have a plan and we’re going to do our best on that.

So, other things that have – so I’m pretty wore out – then the year started and I’ve been energized again with the arrival of new people like Brian and Jim Phillips and I realized what a great place it – a great thing it is to be at a university because some things happen within, you know, a short period of time. For instance, what is your day like today? Well, this morning I got up. We went out to Naperville, to NIU Naperville, which – if you’ve never been out there, you have to stop out there on Diehl Road. It’s really a great facility. We had media there from the Tribune, Sun Times, CLT TV, a Rockford radio station, print journalist, why, because we were announcing NIU Net and what is NIU Net? Well, you’ve read about it in the Northern Star and perhaps some of our other publications – Northern Star isn’t our publication but I think Northern Now is and really what it is is an attempt to link and to bring internet from DeKalb to. from Fermilab to, originally it started out to bring it to our educational sites – Naperville, Rockford, Hoffman Estates – and we started talking to our partners and pretty soon it started to look like a big loop and a big network. FermiLab was involved and from Fermi we connect to Chicago, to I Wire. We have partners in Batavia and, you know, along the interstates you have in the ground, dead fiber optic that you lease, you know, you lease these fiber optic cables and then you light them up and so we’re thinking of a 175 mile loop from let’s say Naperville, just to pin it to a geographical area, up to I90, Hoffman Estates, up to Rockford and 88, the Ronald Regan, to Batavia, DeKalb, Rochelle, Sterling and then the other link is I39. We have to get the cable laid for that. We’ve got a plan for that using somebody else’s money – it’s an NIU strategy – from Rockford to Rochelle. So you see a triangle? Then off of that, and there’s two versions, one is the high speed research network that we’re interested in for education purposes, but the parallel thing is a private business thing, the Illinois Municipal Broadband Community Association and that’s the thing that sells high-end service to companies, hospitals that need digital imaging, MRI, to download in seconds rather than hours to bring help with rural medicine. The uses are unbelievable and I was very proud about NIU because we were doing what we said our university is supposed to do in a region. We talked to all these partners and we got them excited about this and so I happen to think that’s a pretty big deal. Then I jumped in the automobile and came back and just got back from a press conference held at our first fully federally funded
building, the Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Research Center out on west campus. That’s that building out – if you ever wonder what that is – that’s what it is and we had kind-of our first public event and that is we were again a partner with Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Verizon on a program that Verizon is paying for. It’s an educational program on domestic partner abuse. It’s a very serious issue in this society and here we were – Attorney General Madigan couldn’t believe our building, that we would – this university – would make a commitment to such an important topic. Then, of course, just a few weeks ago – I mean, talk about – this is all fun, because all I have to do is announce it but our good people had to do the work and have the ideas. We started out the week on Sunday hearing Harold Kafer and Cecillia – I don’t know if Harold is here – their recital over at the Music School. You know, we have I think pound-for-pound, one of the best performing arts areas in the state and in the country. It’s really a diamond in the rough. I mean it’s astounding the musicianship and the artistry and all the other things that are happening. I had to occasion to fly with our new Athletic Director and our team to Maryland where our athletic teams have earned the respect at the highest level of competition. We almost won – they cheated. It’s also rewarding to have alums from NIU who, you know, even though 80% of our alums stay in the Chicago area, we have 3,000 alums in the Washington, DC area and many of them show up to meet us and so it goes on like that. So, yeah, we’ve been buffeted hard by the budgets but everywhere I look when I walk around campus, we’ve worked very hard and we’ve controlled enrollment at 25,000. That’s the good news. You know the bad news? We’ve turned away 1,000 to 1,500 fully qualified Illinois citizens who wanted an NIU degree. That’s the bad news but that’s not our fault. I mean, the state has to step up because we can’t hurt our quality. We can only do so much with our quality and the campus – Dr. Williams – with very little money the campus has never looked better and I know sometimes it’s hard to understand some of the projects we do for health and safety but it looks beautiful and then this will be, in the next couple of weeks, people will be moving over to Altgeld Hall and that is – Altgeld Hall is such a symbolic expression of what this university has become. We’ve prepared it for the next hundred years. It has such great public spaces. You’ll all be proud to hold, you know, lectures and meetings and take visitors into beautiful Altgeld Hall. We’re not going to have a lot of grand openings because we don’t really have the money for that and so we’ll have several smaller events like my State of the University address that, if you have trouble sleeping, just come and listen – but it will also be kind-of the formal rededication. We’ll blend a couple of things and I think the Vermeer is going to play in there. I think the first public lecture will be in honor of Bruce Lincoln, our deceased professor of Russian history and so that’s the way it’s going to go. Our Art Museum will open up and I’m sure that you will all be very, very proud of it.

So, that’s what we’ve been doing. As I’ve said, I want to thank everybody. I’m very optimistic because of what you have all done. I know how difficult it’s been and I know the Trustees are very appreciative but, you know, that’s the way of things and I know that NIU is respected in this state as a university that tries very, very hard with little money and it’s all because of you. All right? So, with that, let us move forward.
V. CONSENT AGENDA

President Peters: You see before you the Consent Agenda, #V. Do I have a motion to accept that? Is there a second? All those in favor of the Consent Agenda, say aye. Opposed?

The Consent Agenda was approved.

A. Approval of the University Council Committees for 2004-2005 (Page 7)

B. University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees – 2004-2007

C. Membership of Faculty Senate and University Council – refer to Rules and Governance

D. Deletion of the Student Affairs Professional Staff Advisory Committee from the Committees of the University – see memo from Brian Hemphill, Vice President for Student Affairs – refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 8-9)

E. Change in Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee from the Committees of the University – change Vice President for Development and University Relations or designee to Public Affairs Representative – refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 10-11)

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

President Peters: Now, let’s move into our reports and I’m pleased to welcome back Patricia Henry who will give the Faculty Advisory Committee report to the IBHE.

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 12-15)

P. Henry: Thank you. Yes, as most of you know, I give the same report to the Faculty Senate as well so I’m going to keep this quite brief. The Faculty Advisory Council is going to meet again September 10, Friday, so issues and so forth that we want to sort-of bring up during the course of this year, we’re going to be thinking about them and if you have thoughts that you would like me to share with them, please feel free to e-mail me. What you have in your report are things from this past summer. There was a report from May, a very short one and also from the meeting that we had in June and since you’ve more-or-less had a chance to look them over, I won’t go into very great detail. It’s also the – I think one of the things from the main meeting which is I think, on your page 12 isn’t it? Yeah. There was much talk of the budget, which is all mute at this point but was very exciting for everyone concerned. The Priorities, Productivity, and Accountability Committee is an issue that we want to sort-of keep our eyes on for the course of the year. It’s a committee that is going to be trying to look at these issues, priorities, productivity, and accountability. We call it PPA. The member from the FAC that is on this committee is Ken Anderson, who’s been on for quite a long time and will try to keep us sort-of up-to-date on what’s going on and later on I’ve got a letter from the chair of one of the subcommittees of this committee that we can come back to and talk. At the main meeting I specifically asked the person from the IBHE staff who’s idea of mission was going to be used to
define institutions’ priority and productivity and it’s still not clear but this is something that’s being negotiated and is something that the FAC intends to sort-of keep an eye on. Another important point that again, sort-of comes up repeatedly is this issue of who’s role is it or among other people – who’s role is it to sort-of advocate for higher education and the letter that the public university presidents wrote was, I think, an extremely good one and a very useful one. I actually shared that with the FAC meeting in May and everyone was very impressed. We’d like to get the IBHE to act in this function as well, as more of an advocate for higher education and there seems to be a certain amount of resistance to this. One argument that they make is that as far as they’re concerned, the universities all say okay, we can manage, you know, we’re doing okay, and don’t tend to complain as much as perhaps they should because the question was raised rather this was, to some extent, enabling by being such good soldiers but I think when the time comes, it’s good to let people know that they problem cannot be papered over anymore and I think that’s what we did.

With regards to the May meeting, sorry – the June meeting which is one pages 14 and 15 of your packet there, I just want to make a point about a couple of things. The Illinois Commitment under review is something that, again, the IBHE is very interested in having people contribute ideas about. Above that I note what the IBHE website is. It’s a really very valuable website for finding out what’s going on with the IBHE if you’re interested in its agendas and minutes and so forth and various reports. One item that carries over from last year is the question that the FAC brought forward saying that there really should be a seventh commitment or some way of working in the idea that universities are not just training, you know, providing people for Illinois business and industry but also are contributing actively to the quality of life. A lot of the things you were mentioned just there at the beginning are precisely the kinds of things that higher education does for Illinois within its community and within the whole state and we’d the FAC, I’m sorry, the IBHE to sort-of clarify that a little bit in the Illinois Commitment. The problem comes in terms of how to evaluate this. One of the things that may happen is the notion of quality of life can be more part of the preamble rather than as a separate goal. We’re still discussing that and that will be something that we’ll discuss next Friday as well. In addition, we tried to emphasize that, in fact, research and the extent to which research plays a very important role in building a currency of knowledge and appreciation of the world is something that should be mentioned more strongly in this IBHE commitment.

Finally, I think I’ll skip over this and if you have questions you can ask me, but the last item just to return once again to the PPA Committee number 5 on your handout there, whatever it is, 15 I guess, this is actually a letter from Proshanta Nandi, who is an IHBE member and the chair of PPA subcommittee A, and I excerpted – we received this over the summer – I excerpted some points. I think it’s noteworthy that he also mentioned collaboration and coordination with universities rather than the IBHE just saying “this shall be your mission and focus”. Concerning on-line instruction, I think there’s a concern there to maintain quality in the midst of this.

Then finally, the last one, concerning how to evaluate faculty productivity. This is going to be an issue that the FAC is going to be interested in. I think there’s an effort here to give some idea of the complexity of faculty tasks and not just sort-of equate it with the number of students produced but it doesn’t seem to mention much about research and we’d like to make the case that that’s a very important part of what faculty do as well.
Finally, there is going to be a statement made that we’re going to approve September 10, this Friday, concerning the budget and what we essentially intend to tell the IBHE is that we recognize that the General Assembly should recognize the need to restore the cuts in appropriations to higher education made beginning 2002, and restore the appropriation cuts in a way that will allow the state universities and colleges to strengthen existing programs, returning them to their past levels of excellence. This might be accomplished through a dedicated appropriation for enhancing undergraduate and graduate education. So, that’s part of what we’ll be bringing forward in our agendas beginning Friday.

President Peters: All right, questions for Pat? Bill?

B. Tolhurst: I’m a bit concerned about the IBHE’s response that we’re saying we can manage. Of course we can and we have managed but that doesn’t mean that there aren’t costs and the folks paying the costs, as our President has pointed out, are the students who can’t come here to get a college education and it seems to me that the IBHE could and should be concerned about those costs even though we manage because we manage at a price and it’s a price that’s paid by the citizens of the state of Illinois.

P. Henry: I’ll bring that up.

President Peters: This is complex. First of all, the Executive Directory of IBHE, Dan LaVista, left August 16 to take up a similar position in Virginia. All right. He has been replaced on an interim basis by Tom Lamont who was a commissioner and had to resign that to serve as the Executive Director. A search committee has been formulated and the presidents have a representative on that. I’m sure faculty do too from the Faculty Advisory Committee. Then, the other thing that is apparent with the IBHE is that there’s been a tremendous turnover in commissioners. I don’t know how many are left from last year but not many. I mean, almost an 80% turnover. Some of those people are very good. Some are faculty types.

P. Henry: Proshanta Nandi is.

President Peters: I think they’re very good people and then, you know, as I’ve said many times – I always find it disingenuous when people say that the universities haven’t made their case or haven’t, you know, squealed or complained enough – that is – I always consider that self-serving on the part of either an individual or a body that’s supposed to be doing that. That isn’t – in fact, the effectiveness in lobbying is at the level of the universities, individually and collectively, and with students and faculty. The other thing that I’ve always found interesting and I’ve tried to make a study of it but I can only take so much, and that is trying to understand the role of these post-secondary education coordinating commissions across the country and, well, basically they’re regulatory. They’re not necessarily advocacy. They’re advocacy for certain policies and so forth, but they’re not necessarily advocacy for us. That’s what we do. That’s what we have to do. They are regulatory in the sense that they’re trying to make sure that degree programs are only approved when they meet need criteria and broad-based policy like the Illinois Commitment so – but, the current chair of the commission, Jim Kaplan, I think is a good person who has a good heart and wants to do the best for us so I’d like to say I’m optimistic about that but – I’m
going to keep working real hard because I think ultimately we’re responsible for our own position in this. Yes?

**P. Henry:** If I can just sort-of add to that. I concur but I think the FAC members often feel that the IBHE can speak for all of higher ed, not just the publics but also the privates and the community colleges and that sort-of broad-based way of looking at it would, you’d think, might be useful at the legislature but they see themselves more as regulatory than advocate.

**President Peters:** Well, the question is, is the IBHE legislative or executive?

**P. Henry:** It’s executive.

**President Peters:** Frederick? Dean Kitterle?

**F. Kitterle:** I just wanted to ask a question. Have you folks been monitoring, your group, House Bill 4073 which is the establishment of the higher education commission act? Let me be just more clear about it. The higher education commission act has been tabled right now, but what this commission would then do is to review all tenure decisions that are made at universities and pass on them.

**President Peters:** That’s dead.

**P. Henry:** At least for the time being.

**President Peters:** Yeah.

**P. Henry:** Yes, we are monitoring it.

**F. Kitterle:** Tabled – does that mean it comes up again? Could ---

**President Peters:** Every once in awhile in our body here we table something indefinitely. That is monitored very carefully, particularly by the Faculty Advisory Committee. All right, thank you. Welcome back Pat.

B. **BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Stoddard – report (Page 16)**

**President Peters:** Now, our next report is from Paul, welcome Paul – are you enjoying your ---

**P. Stoddard:** So far so good.

**President Peters:** BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee.

**P. Stoddard:** Actually, I’ve got two reports and they reminded me of Republican and Democrat for some reason. One was short on action and long on information and the other was long on action and short on information. I’ll let you figure out which is which.
The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee met on September 1 right here in this room. The one action item was to approve the appointment of Brian Hemphill as Vice President for Student Affairs. We then went over several information things regarding budgetary matters primarily. Those are listed here. They did recognize the 27 retiring professors emeriti from 2003 and 2004. They also recognized the various award winners for Essential Teaching and Research Professors, Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Operating Staff and Outstanding Service and Supportive Professional Staff Award for Excellence and a lunch was held for all those people afterwards as well. Like I say, that was primarily information items. The approval of Dr. Hemphill also needs to go to the full Board which the President has reminded us is the 23rd of September. That’s basically that.


President Peters: Okay, and you’re going to give the report on the Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee?

P. Stoddard: Right. In this one perhaps of most interest was the approval by the subcommittee or the committee of the proposed salary increment that the President spoke about. They also dealt with an item regarding Internet II, approving agreements with Batavia and Naperville to lease the fiber necessary to bring Internet II service to the various campuses. They approved the various budgets. Their approval is just one step in a long process. Again, it still needs to go to the full Board and from the full Board to the Board of Higher Ed and from the Board of Higher Ed to the Governor, from the Governor to the Legislature so anything can happen anywhere along the line or, more likely than not, not happen anywhere along the line. As the President mentioned, Stevens still remains at the top of that list and then a couple of others – Computer Science and Technology and an electrical infrastructure and Wirtz Hall renovation are there as well. Trustee Siegel spoke long and impassionedly about the need for funding these requests. The capital renewal portion of the budget which is about a million and a half and goes to basically campus improvement projects such as the DuSable turnaround and that typically is money that we expect to see. Then there was a list of other things, anyone of which I can go into in greater detail if there’s any interest, that were approved – non-appropriated budget (that’s bond sales and money from sales and service units). That money is expected to at least in part help cover mandated sprinkling systems in the residence halls, not dorms, and a Grant Tower tutoring center. Our internal budget for 2005, West Campus utilities budget which is money to bring steam and cold water to the new Alumni Center, repairs on the College Avenue bridge, energy efficiency improvements. This I found pretty interesting. Essentially, we will do things to various buildings, new windows, doorways, etc. That should save us money on heating and air conditioning costs. That is contracted out. We actually say okay, make those improvements and we will pay you from the savings. The contractors guarantee that a certain amount of savings will be realized and that’s what we owe them. So, essentially it doesn’t really cost us anything which is a nice deal. It’s improvements with other peoples’ money as the President pointed out.

President Peters: That’s the NIU way.
P. Stoddard: Yeah. They also approved a large Department of Psychology grant subcontract and a University Health Service multi-reagent open order. We extended a contract and saved money for doing so.

Time was running out so we didn’t get into a lot of information items other than PeopleSoft is a mess and basically, over the summer, I guess, the people we were buying the new part of PeopleSoft from got sued by another vendor on copyright infringement problems so all that’s kind-of up in the air at the moment. Yes, Pat?

P. Henry: You may have mentioned this and I just missed it and I think President Peters also mentioned – what is the status of the Stevens Hall renovation?

P. Stoddard: It’s on the capital budget list and that list, well, at least one version of it has been approved by the Board of Ed and has gone to the Legislature who has not acted on it yet and that’s what the President indicated needs to happen, or might happen, in the veto session. Stevens is number one on our list.

President Peters: It’s number one on our hit parade and has been for three years at least. What happens is when the IBHE ranks these things, our ranking is such that when you draw a line after the reasonable appropriation you can expect from the Governor, which I don’t know – pick a number – 100 million, 125 million, usually we’ve been falling at the 175 to 200 level so it’s been recommended but not funded. So, as these higher priorities have been funded, you’d think you’d be moving up. Health and safety have been a big deal with the current IBHE and the thing about Trustee Myron Siegel, his passion, he felt this was a safety issue and it was either last year or within the last 18 months, all Trustees went down to Springfield – all of them, every one of them – and they’re busy people, and I think Dr. Williams was there and we met with the previous Executive Director of the IBHE about this issue and they were pretty forceful but it didn’t – so far, it hadn’t paid off and that triggered Trustee Siegel’s renewed passion to say, you know, we’ve been treated fairly by a lot of people – we do a lot for ourselves. We’ve done tremendously well at the federal level. We’ve done okay on HECA grants and so forth but we’ve been screwed on state capital and we’re going to try to rectify that. So we want both Stevens and our new computational science building. That’s what I want. The price went up. Yeah.

W. Baker: Might I ask for clarification of something in the report. I don’t know if this is the appropriate time to do so but the whole issue of PeopleSoft was raised. Could we have some clarification about that and especially the issue of who, in fact, is overseeing or controlling PeopleSoft within the university itself.

President Peters: Okay, we’ve got a lot of people in here who can answer that. I’ll do 30,000 thousand feet and then – PeopleSoft is – we embarked upon a PeopleSoft systemic acquisition several years ago and drove hard bargains and to this date, we’ve come in on time, on budget and compared to some of the fiascos you hear about these systems being implemented, you know, like Ohio State tanked on it. Cleveland State tanked on it. We didn’t do that. The first module that we implemented was HR or financial? That was up and running two years ago? Three years
ago. On time, on budget. That’s a centrally controlled system. It then talked to the second system, which was HR, and I see Steven Cunningham is here and that was implemented completely as of a year ago at least?


President Peters: All right. That was a – that’s working. It takes a lot of retraining. Then the third piece and when I came I was – lobbied would be too strong a word – but I was visited by the Student Affairs’ people and students about replacing our legacy systems in student affairs with something. At that time, I had just come off a bad experience with an enterprise system at a large state university of the same complexity of us and it was Vaporware and it was bankrupting that side. So I said no, we’re going to wait until some of these things mature a little bit. Now, because we had had a relationship with PeopleSoft, a business relationship and more than a business relationship, we had a successful implementation relationship, I mean, we held their feet to the fire, they delivered and, as a matter of fact, we did a lot of changes in their base coding that then they adopted in their own systems. So, because of that we cut a fantastic deal on purchasing and implementation of the student module and we’re ready to go. I mean, we’re ready for it. What happened was, and I happen to believe that the PeopleSoft product at this point in time is the best product considering that we have the other two, we got a good deal on it, we have experience with it and it’s a full enterprise system. Everything speaks – it’s not nine different systems that won’t talk to each other so this is the way to go and we had a history of bringing it on time and on budget. Well, what happened was Oracle made a hostile takeover for PeopleSoft and that slowed everything down. So, we’ve taken a cautious step-by-step approach. It’s a mess from the legal point of view. For us it’s not a mess. We have contractual obligations and whether Oracle takes it over or not really doesn’t matter because we’ve got guarantees that the system will continue. Now that’s the view at 30,000 feet. Now, obviously these are central systems but they’re integrated throughout the whole university. Did I mess up anything there or ---

E. Williams: The President never messes up anything. The good news is that from an operational perspective, these systems are functioning and functioning well on our campus. So, from that perspective, our financial systems, our HR systems are operational. They are functional. We’re upgrading. We’re probably in our fourth or fifth upgrade of the financial system and we are the envy of the nation in terms of the implementation of these systems. With respect, as the President has indicated, with respect to the student system, we became very cautious because of the court action that was taking place and because of that, we have phased the acquisition and implementation of the student system and we shall continue to monitor that. Every step we’ve taken has been carefully discussed on the campus and then discussed with our Board of Trustees and each step that we’ve taken to this date is a guaranteed step which means that there are guarantees in terms of the outlay of resources that we have made for that particular step so that if there is a problem that occurs through the courts, we are protected. There was a separate issue that did not really involve PeopleSoft that was also pointed out and this was a company that provided the database – which the database extends far beyond just our PeopleSoft system – and we had obtained approval from the Board of Trustees to move forward with the acquisition and implementation of a database system and it was that particular company in a separate court action that ran into some difficulty with another vendor. Because of that situation,
we have begun the steps necessary to cancel that contract. We have not paid them anything and we have several options in terms of other companies that provide that database so, in terms of the concept of mess, I think it’s off of this campus, outside of our campus and our operation and we feel very comfortable in terms of our being protected.

**President Peters:** When we get to, and we will – you know, one of the good things is we have one of the most fully functioning legacy student systems. I mean, it’s not on its last leg but still, we need to – there’s so much more we could do with a fully implemented student module like get rid of social security numbers for one thing. But it’s much, much more than that. When we get to the implementation of that, faculty departments will be heavily involved in decisions that are not technological; they’ll be policy decisions that – how you map the curriculum into it for purposes of audits and – if that’s part of the module and that sort-of thing but stay tuned. Okay, Pat?

**P. Henry:** Is that where the grade system change that we voted on last year would go in as well?

**President Peters:** Well, that’s the kind of thing we’re talking about, you know, what’s your algorithm for determining your grades. How are the grades going to be input, that kind of thing. I mean there’s a myriad of things like that. I mean, there must be a punch list three, four pages long. All right, where are we? BOT meeting – Paul, no report.

**P. Stoddard:** Actually, I think there’s I think another ---

**D. Stoddard:** BOT Legislative, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Donna Smith and Shey Lowman – [report](Pages 17-18) (Pages 17-18)

**President Peters:** Oh yeah, Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee, Donna and Shey. Welcome Donna and Shey.

**D. Smith:** Thank you, thank you. On August 11, Shey Lowman and I attended the Legislative, Audit, and External Affairs Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ken Zehnder made the report of the 93rd General Assembly and I’ve listed the legislation that he noted. I’d like to point out the bills that did actually pass. Those would be House Bill 3877, House Bill 4361. This one’s of concern because it did not come with any fiscal support I believe. House Bill 4491 passed as did both Senate Bill 3107 and Senate Bill 3340. Kathy Buettner made the Federal Report. Of note was an additional support from the Department of Defense and 3.5 million dollars for the ROCK program. That brings the total funding for that program up to 5.75 million dollars. John Lewis reported on the Belvidere/Boone County New Uses Ag-Tech Park. Of note, the partners with NIU in that new Ag-Tech Park are Growth Dimensions, the City of Belvidere, Boone County, ComEd, DareCloud Development, Illinois Coalition, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Mr. Lewis – Dr. Lewis – reported on NIU staff. That would be Dr. Steven Ink, Norbert (Norb) Ziemer and Brian Vollmert. Sharon Dowen reported on NIU procedural audit revisions that would make campus departments accountable for complying with previous NIU Internal Audit findings.
Lastly, President Peters announced that House Speaker, Dennis Hastert, has designated him to the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program Commission. Congratulations.

**President Peters:** Thank you. When I find out what it is, I’ll let you know. No, it’s an honor. I appreciate it. Very good. I would like to report on audit that we had another very good state audit and we were not required to go before the Legislative Audit Committee. That being the case, the Trustees and I are very concerned – the number of audit findings we have is down to no more than four to five a year which, for an institution this size, is not bad. I mean, we were upwards of more than that but what is not acceptable is repeat findings and so the Trustees had us examine ways in which we could tighten up on that. We don’t have many but repeat findings are – that’s a big no, no so we’re going to work on systems to help tighten that up. Okay?

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

**President Peters:** No, Paul, no report from the BOT?

**P. Stoddard:** Right.

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

**President Peters:** Moving on to our committees, John Wolfskill, Academic Policy Committee.

**J. Wolfskill:** I’d like to make a couple of brief remarks. First of all, my committee will meet one week from today in this time slot, at 3:00. The location will be one of the conference rooms downstairs. I apologize. I don’t have that location with me. I’ll get the word out to you committee members as soon as I can. Again, one week from today we’ll meet. The purpose of that meeting will simply be to collect any agenda items for us to consider during the fall term if not the full academic year. At this point, I would like to appeal to the entire Council or the whole university community, if there are concerns you’d like to bring forth to the Academic Policy Committee, please let me know as soon as possible and I’ll be sure that they at least get considered by the Committee.

**President Peters:** Any questions for John? Thank you. Welcome back this year.

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

**President Peters:** Bill Goldenberg, Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee.

**W. Goldenberg:** I could just say ditto and make it real quick. We are meeting in one week at 3:00 in the third floor of Lowden Hall conference room and, again, for the purpose of developing an agenda and discussing issues that are important to the whole university community for this year. We’ll invite guests and so on.

**President Peters:** Thank you and I heard you without a microphone. Very good.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Carole Minor, Chair
President Peters: And now our favorite committee, Rules and Governance, Carole Minor.

C. Minor: Our committee has not yet met because we have no business. However, we were referred business on the Consent Agenda and so the committee does need to meet. I’d like to ask the members to hold next Wednesday at 3:00 for that meeting and I will be in touch about the location. If there is a problem with that that anybody has, please see me after the meeting. Thank you.

President Peters: Thank you Carole and welcome back. Comments?

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair

President Peters: All right, Richard Orem, University Affairs.

R. Orem: I have no report but likewise I will be in touch with members of the committee to at least talk about the business of the committee and likely meetings or no meetings during the year.

President Peters: Do you have any questions?

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

President Peters: All right, Sally Webber, a new chair, I think, of Elections and Oversight Committee.

S. Webber: I also have no report. I’m sure that the members of this committee will be pleased to hear that I’m not planning on having a meeting next Wednesday. Like Richard, I will be in contact with members of the committee and we typically don’t have any business during the fall semester.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Peters: Okay, is there any Unfinished Business before the house?

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
President Peters: New Business, we have receipt of our annual reports. Are there any questions, I’m sure people will be happy to answer and if not, we’ll take up the walk-in item. Paul, are you going to introduce this item?

B. Proposed changes to 2005-2006 Academic Calendar – current, proposed – walk-in

P. Stoddard: Sure. Earlier this week, and this being a Labor Day shortened week, I’ll let you figure out, that was yesterday, I got a frenzied call that the schedule – the academic schedule for the fall semester – has a bit of a problem in that the late ending date, which is December 18, is going to start compressing the amount of time necessary for the advising deans to make judgments about dismissals, academic dismissals. The way the schedule is right now it gives them 4 hours. In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, it’s estimated that the number of cases that they will have to look at could be as high as 350. If any of you guys are in Liberal Arts and Sciences, I’m sure that doesn’t apply to you. Looking over the files of 350 students in 4 hours is probably not something that’s going to lead to really good results. So, they asked me to look into the possibility of giving them some more time. The way we can do that is by having the fall semester of 2005 begin a week earlier. A quick glance at the calendar will also show that should probably necessitate moving the summer session for 2005 a week up as well so that we have a week break in between the two to let Housing and so forth be able to turn the residence halls over. This is very similar to a request we got last year at this time to do exactly the same thing for exactly the same reason. Sue Doederlein apologized at length about not having looked at this year earlier after she looked at last year, so after we decide what to do about this year, this is an issue that will end up in the purview of University Affairs to look at further years down the line and ---

R. Orem: Did anyone look at ’06?

P. Stoddard: Yeah, right and you will. That’s why you’re chairing that committee. You’re right on top of it. So, the first page of this, the e-mail from Marvin Hendricks, lists several reasons where people find it would make a lot of – make their lives easier if we moved the start date for fall up a year – a week, not a year – teach two classes right now. The major complaints that were listed in this e-mail were about the short time between summer and fall. That’s why I suggest we should also move summer if we do move fall. The other possible problems with moving the schedule a week like this is that it means classes would start on the 22nd of August which means the week before that, which is typically the week for faculty meetings which start the 15th, and since faculty don’t – their contract doesn’t officially start until the 16th, essentially we would have one day fewer for faculty meetings that week. So, that might not be a problem. Okay. The other problem, I don’t know that it’s a problem, it does make the break between spring and summer 4 weeks rather than 5 weeks. There may be a problem, although I don’t know that there is, with camps, summer camps, that are held on campus with the dorms – the residence halls, sorry – if any of those – if residence halls have been booked for summer
activities on campus. This schedule, however, is very similar to the one that we’re currently operating under so I don’t know that that would be a problem. Any feedback?

President Peters: No, I think what we’ve been saying all day on this one is there are lots of good reasons to do it. Has anyone come forward and have a good reason for us not to do it and I think that would have to come from the non-academic side of the house in terms of camps or preparing the university or other contractual obligations that I can’t even imagine. I don’t know. Dr. Williams?

E. Williams: Okay, I’ll just make a couple of observations. I don’t know what the impact of this will be on our operations in terms of utilities for example. It means, of course, that we will be probably air conditioning buildings earlier than we would normally have to do that. I do recall years ago when this calendar was put together one of the reasons that the spread was given between spring and the beginning of the fall semester and how the summer session would fit in, was because many were concerned that students would have an opportunity for summer employment and I remember that was a real concern when they were doing the calendar. I don’t know if that’s still an issue for students or not but I know that we do have a number of activities that occur during the summer. I do not know at this point in time how many of those would occur say during that week of August 15th and that’s something we’d have to explore but it would impact, you know, we would not be able to accommodate those activities during that period of time. Other than that, those are our observations after one day’s notice.

P. Henry: I think some of the orientations, like international students and so forth, also take place in that week preceding classes so they might be pushed by that.

President Peters: Yeah?

L. Gregory: I’d like to bring one point of information and ask that you look into it before deciding. A large number of our summer students are schoolteachers and we want to be sure that we don’t overlap their school or not them enough time to clear their own classrooms before they start in ours. I really don’t know if it’s a problem or not. I certainly have nothing against this move; I would support it, as long as we’ve looked in the things that have been brought up including this.

President Peters: You’re talking about the front end?

L. Gregory: The front end. Pushing summer earlier.

President Peters: Good point. I hadn’t thought about that. Yeah?

L. Kamenitsa: Isn’t this session essentially the same calendar we had this year so if any of those problems were to occur, shouldn’t we have already have run into them?

P. Stoddard: Yeah, this is just the, you know, the normal one-day variation because of the number of days in a year. So yeah, this is essentially the same schedule that we are doing right now.
W. Tolhurst: It seems like we have a serious problem here and changing the schedule as proposed may not be the best answer but if it’s not, we still need a solution and so it seems to me we need to contact those who might be impacted and have them report back so we can begin discussing what an appropriate solution would be with full information. I’m not sure we can figure out right now what the best thing to do is.

President Peters: So what you’re saying ---

W. Tolhurst: I won’t use the word table, but ---

P. Stoddard: I would point out as most of us in the university know, decisions like this have to be made well before the time and we are, believe it or not, coming up to the date when we have to decide what the calendar is going to look like. Now I’ve spoken with Kay Van Mol with the catalogue and she says if it absolutely has to be, she can hold off until next month before, I mean, the catalogue is actually already in the works but she can make changes as late as a month for now for something important like the schedule. Registration and Records has gone to – they’re not going to be printing the schedule booklets this year. They’ll be on-line. That saves us two weeks. I’m not immediately sure that they don’t need a number or date before our next meeting. They haven’t gotten back to us on that. So, yes it would be very nice to be able to take a lot of time to do this. I don’t know how much time we really have.

B. Hemphill: Just one other thing. I would agree in theory, considering we’re working on the same schedule, that it should not be a major problem in terms of moving to this but I think that one of the things that we’ll have to go back and look at, especially in Student Affairs, is that you’ve mentioned camps and in many cases we’re booking some contracts out two and three years in terms of commitments with potential organizations who are using our residential facilities and so we’ll definitely have to go back and look at that. In terms of turning around the halls, I don’t see that as a major challenge. I think we’ll be able to accomplish that, but I would be concerned about the contracts and us making the decision before we looked at some of those components.

President Peters: All right, Provost?

I. Legg: I think that what we have to look at really seriously is what brought this about and the opening statement and that is we’re dealing with the lives of two to three hundred students who may or may not get dismissed from the university and I think we should go way out of our way to take care of that particular issue and if we cannot find a solution that does not involve a calendar shift, we’re going to have to work with a calendar shift and make it work. Secondly, it has been pointed out that this is not that different from this year so my guess is the adjustments will not be that significant compared to what we need to do and that is to give our students every benefit of the doubt and the time that’s needed to consider that.

J. Wolfskill: I’d like to ask, looking ahead to next summer, if there are any major construction
projects planned. An analogy, for example, like the bus turnaround project around DuSable which was finished at the very last minute this year and we had to start a week earlier this year, then that would have been extremely awkward.

**President Peters:** I think that always goes into the construction mix. Yeah, right, sort-of like “This Old House” finishing its last, you know – I will say though, you know, I’m going back to what the Provost said, I’m very sympathetic to that and I remember being Provost, this was a perennial issue and you have to attack that problem and that is systems that have identified students on academic – who are in academic trouble and you have them queued up and, you know, you don’t wait to get the file to make the judgment. You know, I think we can make some efficiencies in that. Nonetheless, a few hours is not enough to do a good review. Hopefully, we will get to the situation where no one is in academic trouble. Right? That would solve the problem but I’m kind-of sympathetic to that but everyplace I’ve been, there’s always that problem. How do you notify these students before you turn the lights out and go dead during winter break so that they know they’re not supposed to show up at their dorm room or they’re fretting about it and I agree with that but I think we have to look at both ends of this. I think the Dean wants to say something. Yeah?

**F. Kitterle:** Is there a motion on the floor then? Where are we with this then? Carole made a motion and so ---

**President Peters:** We don’t have a motion. All right, we have a motion to accept. Is there a second? All right, now discussion. Again, the only thing I’d say is have we heard from everybody we need to hear from about the impact of this and I’ve heard arguments, but I haven’t heard any compelling arguments to say no, we can’t do it.

**W. Baker:** Call the question.

**President Peters:** Call the question, all right. All those in favor of calling the question say aye. Opposed? All right, we go immediately to the motion. All those in favor of moving back – make sure we get this right – this is the proposal, to move back both fall ’05 and summer ’05 to the date suggested say aye. Opposed? Passes.

The motion passed.

**I. Legg:** John, shouldn’t we get something in action to look at subsequent years?

**President Peters:** Well, we have an appropriate committee that is working on the rollout --- yeah.

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

**President Peters:** Anything for the good of the order? I will just add that we just received notification this week, and you’ve already heard this, that the Higher Learning Commission has now certified us completely for a full ten-year accreditation. The report has been accepted and thanks to Virginia and Jan and everyone so, all right.
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. 2004-2005 Meeting Schedule (Page 19)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Peters: Motion to adjourn? All right, we’re adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.