
M. Morris attended for L. Pernell.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Bisplinghoff, Burns, Clayton, Egeston, Goldberg, Gorman, Graf, Kaplan, Kazmi, Minor, Orem, B. Peters, X. Song, Strader, Wang

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: We call the October 6, 2004 meeting of the University Council to order.

The meeting was called or order at 3:10 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Our first order of business is the adoption of today’s agenda. Do I have a motion to adopt? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? Okay, we have an agenda.

The agenda passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2004 MEETING

(Pages 3-10)

President Peters: On pages 3-10, we have the minutes of our September 8 meeting. I’ll first call for any additions or corrections. Hearing none, is there a motion to approve? Second? All those in favor of approval of the minutes of September 8 say aye. Opposed? All right, we have accepted our minutes.

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS
President Peters: My announcements will be short today given the fact that tomorrow is the State of the University address at 3:00 and the reopening of Altgeld Hall, the first really public – official public activity there at 11:00. We do have a fairly short rededication ceremony with dignitaries and individuals from the State to rededicate our wonderful Altgeld Hall. There will be, from 10:00 to 2:00, guided and unguided tours of the building which should be very, very interesting. Everybody is certainly welcome to take a look at that wonderful building. Not everyone is set up and moved in completely. There are still boxes on the floors and so forth but it’s a stunning public building and I’ll be – in my speech, I guess the theme of my speech is going is to be connecting from the previous 100 years of our history to the next 100 years and I think the connector is Altgeld and really not the building necessary, but what it has meant to us because when you read the history of the building, you read the history of NIU and there is much that is fascinating in it and we’re all very, very proud of that building. So that’s tomorrow. I will have many announcements to make about new programs and awards as well as recognitions of students, faculty and staff and programs as I always do so that’s at 3:00. I will not be saying very much in that speech about the budget. There’s not much to be said that hasn’t already been said and as far as our budget for next year, I was not able to attend the IBHE meetings yesterday. We were represented and I got a report today. Virtually nothing was said about FY06 budget development so I’m not saying it was a inconsequential meeting, it’s just there was not much there to report on in terms of budgets. It is the political campaign season and, therefore, there’s not a lot of activity. There are hearings going on in the General Assembly but there is nothing substantive happening with regard to any budget development and that will happen as we move toward the veto session after the November elections. So, not much to report.

I do want to say something, and it isn’t formulated completely yet, but it has to do with things we ought to attend to and think about. Largely through the work of our faculty and our P20 group, I got invited this past Monday and Tuesday by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Rod Page, to go to Washington with a select group of university presidents. There were about 20 there, ranging from institutions like Madison, University of Georgia, Northern Illinois, historically black colleges. You know, a good representation of public institutions. From time to time I get invited to those things and I wanted to go because we’ve done so well with P20 and with becoming a national model in trying to improve teacher preparation and student learning across the colleges and that’s caught attention and I think that’s why I got invited. You never know what to expect when you go to those things but Monday night started with a reception in the Indian Treaty Room in the old Blair Mansion. It’s the White House executive office building; it’s called the Eisenhower Building now. If you’ve never been there, the Indian Treaty Room is just a magnificent architectural, high-ceilinged room with marble paneling and a lot of historical things happen there besides – I don’t know that Indian treaties would be something that I would hold out as significant given the history of those treaties – but many, many other important and momentous decisions were decided in that room and we had a, Secretary Page gave an opening, and then we heard from either, if not directors, deputy directors, of the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanographic Agency, NASA, the Department of Energy, Geological Survey, Homeland Security and the topic was the crisis that we’re facing in the preparation of individuals with mathematical and science competency. In “No Child Left Behind”, was important for one thing and that would put a good emphasis on reading and math and, to a lesser extent, science. Each one of these individuals gave a brief report on the crisis we’re facing in supplying those critical industries and our economy and our security and just,
you know, the basic R&D and technology on the need for well-trained and prepared individuals in these fields. Many, many statistics were put forward and some of you know them better than I do. You know, 9 year olds today in school when they test across countries on the International Math Test, we score – our 9 year olds – score at or at about a little above the average but then what happens with each succeeding testing cohort up to the age of 17, we drop like a rock – I think we’re 47th. Our 17 year olds on average are 47th in math and science competency. So why the presidents, you know, I asked “well, why am I here?” Well, as the days unfolded and we heard more and more presentations, it became clear that, once again, the policy makers are turning to universities and in this case they’re turning to those of us who produce teachers. You know, we have 7,000 of our 25,000 students currently enrolled in some sort of an educational program here at NIU. Within that, the problem becomes, one piece of the problem, is the preparation of teachers in the subject matter areas of math and science and it’s – we’ve done a very good job at that. Others have not. Then the real problem becomes, and it’s the one that I want our P20 to start chewing on and the faculty and others, is what do we do about the content preparation of our middle school teachers and our elementary and secondary teachers who may not have this content knowledge in math and science? What are we doing; I would like to know? How are we doing? What can we do? So, I see Gip Seaver looking like “oh my god, another project”. I was – usually these – I’ve got a pretty good armor about these things, but I looked at that and we will not be able because of the terrible situation we find ourselves in, we will not be able to populate the math and science needs for jobs in the area of homeland security and defense because obviously, you cannot use foreign nationals for those purposes and it goes on, and on, and on. We’re about within a generation to, if we haven’t already, we’re about to lose our lead in basic R&D and so I’m moved to this now and so I thank, just as our founding individuals did a hundred years ago when they developed the normal school concept as an experiment to develop the perfect teacher, I think we ought to use our power, our brain power and our creativity here to bite a piece of this – and we have been. Our cognitive work in learning that we are doing, but I think we need to step that up and we need to determine if there’s a piece of this that we can bite off, much as we did P20. This is very, very specific. It’s obvious that there will be funding to do this. I also came away, if I can just go on for another second, thinking that talking to these policy makers, I encouraged every one of them – I said “you’re thinking too small”. I mean, this is an issue of national security in its broadest context much as the need for the Morel Land Grant Act, the GI Bill, the establishment of the National Science Foundation or the National Defense Education Act Fellowships. I’m sure many of our faculty, like myself, had NDEA Title IV Fellowships. I have no idea what a PhD in Political Science meant to national security, but I was able to have a fellowship to pay for my graduate education in large part. Well, I think there are rumblings that we would like to reinstitute that. Plus loan forgiveness. Direct student loan forgiveness for those who decide to pursue these careers and serve their country. So anyway, I was very, very much impressed the Secretary of Education brought all these agencies together. You know, they usually don’t talk to each other. I mean, if you think talk across intelligence agencies is bad; talk across Department of Education and the NSF and, you know, who’s responsible for the program and who’s going to take ownership. Well, they should take a page out of NIU’s book. Here we haven’t balkanized the certification of teachers. It’s all of our responsibility. They ought to take a page out of our book and I told them that. They said, “where are you from again?” I’m from NIU and we’re in your face. So, anyway, that’s my inspirational for the day.
V. CONSENT AGENDA

**President Peters:** Let me move on to the Consent Agenda. You see the Consent Agenda before you. Is there a motion to adopt or would someone like one of those items removed? Motion to adopt? Second? All those in favor of accepting the Consent Agenda say aye. Opposed?

The Consent Agenda passed as written.

A. Academic Textbook prices – see memo from Earl Seaver – refer to Academic Policy Committee (Pages 11-14)

B. Deletion of Teaching Assistant Training and Development Advisory Committee from the Committees of the University – see memo from Murali Krishnamurthi – refer to Rules and Governance Committee (Page 15)

C. Review and prepare Academic Calendars through 2015 – refer to University Affairs Committee

D. Evaluation of the Office of the Ombudsman – refer to University Affairs Committee (Pages 16-18)

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 19-20)

**President Peters:** All right, let’s move on to Reports from Councils, Boards, and Standing Committees. Patricia Henry, I think you have a written report?

**P. Henry:** Yes, I actually have two for the price of one because yesterday was the IBHE meeting that the Faculty Advisory Council sits in on just to observe. So, your walk-in represents, with many thanks to Donna, a rapid turnaround of what went on from the FAC’s point of view at the meeting yesterday. In addition, in the packet there’s a report on the meeting last month at St. Xavier University which I’ll just summarize very briefly. As is our custom, we try to meet with the local legislators who had things to say about higher ed in terms of trying to get the word out through letters and direct sort of antidotal evidence of how budget cuts cause real pain. This is sort of an ongoing project and the FAC, by the way, will write a letter of thanks to legislators who supported higher education in this past session. One thing was noted also that came up yesterday as well that the National Report Card which is put out, this was actually agenda #5 on today’s – I’m sorry – the report – the remarks from Thomas Lamont. The National Report Card on higher education which is issued by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education had, several years ago, ranked Illinois as #1, then we slipped to #3. It was projected we would go lower and, in fact, we went down to #8 this time. This is also something that the FAC wants to sort of keep in the air as far as the IHBE is concerned and well as with the legislature.
One point that was brought out that sort of ties in with what you were just saying is that while the Governor’s budget or the Governor’s sort of point of view sort of emphasizes a lot of emphasis on K-12. It’s very important to make note of the fact that 70% of the K-12 teachers in the state are produced by higher ed institutions in Illinois so that what affects us ultimately affects them. The need for continuing to make repairs from what had been cut from the budget over the past few years is also a continuing concern.

I think I can skip pretty much the rest because it sort of can blend in more with what went on yesterday at the meeting of the IBHE at IIT. So that’s on your walk-in here. As I mentioned, Thomas Lamont who is the Executive Director of the IBHE does view as something to ponder the fact that the rank of Illinois has slipped to 8th due in part, I think, to a much lower grade in affordability but still it’s something of concern. There is listed there the website in case you’re interested in looking at the entire National Report Card on Higher Education there.

I’ll just touch on a couple of the agenda items that, in my opinion and the FAC’s opinion, sort of were noteworthy. Item #5 was the FAC report which, again, was pretty much what we said it would be. Agenda item #7 gets us to the mid-term review of the Illinois Commitment which is something that’s sort of been going on here from last year on. A couple of points, the question of quality of life has sort of migrated from being a separate goal of the Illinois Commitment to now being something that is to be incorporated as part of the preface and it’s also sort of part of looking at how to develop a responsible citizenry and with contributing to the overall quality of life. Research often gets mentioned sort of in paraphrases as something that also is good. It is not highlighted in the Illinois Commitment to the extent that many of us think it should be. Board Member, Sam Gove, in particular was concerned that higher education’s role in preparing students to become participating citizens was not, in his opinion, addressed sufficiently in the Illinois Commitment so the staff is going to go back and look at that again and come up with some more language for the next – probably in February. So basically what they’re doing is they’re looking at writing a preface that will sort of give a broader context within which these goals are to be viewed and also sort of trying to look at the overall purpose. Is it going to be something for policy discussion, decision making which I think they think it should be, and also, of course, the effectiveness and efficiency of accountability mechanisms so this is ongoing but it’s beginning to become more clear what it is they actually have in mind there.

Number 10 was actually a very interesting little agenda item in which the degree granting authority for independent institutions in particular for Walden University which is actually a Minnesota-based institution that offers on-line degree programs and what they wanted to do was have a face-to-face presence in Illinois basically at hotels near O’Hare so that when you do a doctorate program in this institution which is more – which is not a PhD in the research sense of the term – it is more professionally based, you could come and have some sessions with people in the vicinity of O’Hare. Some members of the Board had some problems with this in terms of how much oversight should the IBHE actually have over institutions once they actually are on the ground in Illinois and it was basically felt that the statute as it is presently written does not allow much by way of interference or oversight other than just this very broad oversight so that may be something that is looked at further. This is also something that the Priorities, Productivity, and Accountability Committee (PPA) is going to be looking at in more detail.
Just briefly, item #12 was enhancing world-wide web access for students with disabilities which is a priority but it is not clear if there will be additional resources. The question of community colleges offering baccalaureate degrees is also going to be studied. The estimated timeline is a year from November. The community colleges as a group do not want to do anything which this until it has been studied adequately so that’s sort of in the process right now.

As President Peters mentioned, the budget was not really discussed at this point. I guess they’ll be starting talks with individual institutions next week or soon but nothing has happened yet.

Finally, the agenda item #15 is a very interesting report and I have given a web address for it if you want to look it up, concerning quality in a time of change and this sort of goes to the issue of degree granting for on-line institutions and so forth. The whole question of how higher education is going to deal with on-line classes and on-line degrees and things like this where the sort of nature of what a college education means is rather much in flux and is something that is being looked at by the staff at the IBHE. There is a concern that while there are many good things to be said for having access to things via the internet, that quality control is going to be something that has to be really looked at closely. I think – one of the issues that came up for me was the question of consumer satisfaction was something that Chairman Kaplan brought up several times – and I think there has to be kind of concerns or caution as to whose satisfaction and how are they – who is the actual consumer and how do you actually measure this because there’s a lot of complexity that should be entailed in this matter.

Finally, the FAC is going to control to work on the Op-Ed piece that deals with sort of the State’s obligation to educate all its people, both in terms of private and public institutions and how this has or has not been done lately.

I think that pretty much ties it up.

**President Peters:** Thank you very much Professor Henry. Questions or comments?

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

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – no report

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

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

**President Peters:** All right, our next report – looks like it’s Paul Stoddard – BOT report. Paul?

**P. Stoddard:** This will be very brief. Everything I reported last time to you about the subcommittees and what they had done was approved by the full Board. They didn’t really
touch on anything new so just remember everything I told you last time and move it on up one step in the approval process.

**President Peters:** All right, questions?

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – no report

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – William Goldenberg, Chair – report (Page 21)

**President Peters:** I see we have a report on page 21 from Professor Goldenberg on Resources, Space, and Budgets. His report is on page 21. If there are any questions, maybe other members of the Committee could answer. Okay, if not let’s move on.

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

**President Peters:** Carole Minor, Rules and Governance report.

W. Tolhurst: I’m afraid I’ll have to impersonate her at her request.

**President Peters:** Okay.

W. Tolhurst: Carole asked me to report that we are working on the items referred to us on September 8. We’ve meeting times for the academic year. Otherwise, we have no report.

**President Peters:** Thank you. Any questions?

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

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Sally Webber, Chair – no report

**President Peters:** Sally Webber, no report from Elections I see. I don’t want to miss anything here.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**President Peters:** Unfinished Business. Do we have any Unfinished Business?

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Receipt of Annual Reports

1. University Benefits Committee

**President Peters:** New Business? “A” is the receipt of annual reports, The University Benefits Committee. Wait a minute, we have some confusion here. It’s on-line? We will bring this back next month but it’s on line and if you’re concerned about your benefits, go on-line.
B. Approval of 2005 Holiday Schedule – Steve Cunningham (Page 22)

President Peters: “B” approval of the 2005 Holiday Schedule. Steve Cunningham is here and the recommendations are on page 22. Steve, I did see you come in. There you are. This is an action item? Do we adopt this?

S. Cunningham: This is the final of, I think, a five-year schedule that had been developed by Council subcommittees so we will also need to probably ask for the University Council’s assistance in developing another long-term preliminary schedule as well.

President Peters: All right, so we have here the last year of an already agreed upon holiday schedule?

S. Cunningham: Right.

President Peters: So that doesn’t require an approval.

S. Cunningham: The practice has been for the Council to approve it every year.

President Peters: Right, but then you are indicating we are also going to have to get the Council involved in the development of the next cycle.

S. Cunningham: Yes.

President Peters: All right. First things first. Are there any questions about the holiday schedule as printed on page 22. I know your name, I’m just having a hard time saying it Kevin.

K. Miller: That’s fine. Many of you know exactly what I’m going to ask and I think I know the answer to this, I just want to be sure. Now, this is the schedule that applies to faculty and staff, correct? What I’m getting at is that Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the University – the academics – the class side, will still be closed but faculty and staff are still here doing their job that ---

President Peters: There are no classes scheduled for that Wednesday.

K. Miller: Okay, good. Second ---

President Peters: This is a work schedule.

K. Miller: Something near and dear to my heart. Thank you.

President Peters: I thought you were going to ask for another day off there for awhile.

K. Miller: Now that you mention it.
President Peters: Questions? How about a motion to approve? Second? Discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

The motion passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters: Are there any comments or questions from the floor? Yes, John?

J. Wolfskill: If I may, speaking for the Academic Policy Committee, I did sent out an announcement to my Committee some time ago but just to make sure everybody has the word, we will be meeting next week at this time, 3:00, in the Douglas Room of the Student Center, just downstairs, about the issue referred to us on academic textbook prices.

President Peters: I’m very, very pleased that you’re dealing with that issue. It may be that there’s some legislation this year coming forth on textbook prices and I’m very pleased to see that we’re out in front of that trying to determine what we can do on that. Pat?

P. Henry: A further note on that. One of the things that was presented at the IBHE meeting was the Best Practices Report from Kishwaukee College which has a textbook loan system that it uses with some of its students so that might be something that the Committee wants to look at too.

President Peters: I just have to say a textbook loan program is, while it may have some desirable characteristics, is, to me, difficult because it means we would have to get involved in acquiring textbooks, warehousing them, determining the pricing structure, getting faculty to agree upon a uniform adoption. Students are not able to write in textbooks or you can’t sell them back and at a complex, comprehensive, research oriented university, while I think we can take a look at that and we should, I am unconvinced that it’s viable for us. That doesn’t mean we won’t do it; I’m just ---

P. Henry: ESU does it too.

President Peters: Yeah, William?

W. Tolhurst: This isn’t exactly on textbooks, but one of the things we can do to deal with the cost of textbooks is to find ways to avoid using them. The library has a marvelous electronic reserves program which enables faculty members to create virtual anthologies from printed sources within the limits of the fair use laws and post them those on their Blackboards. A great many of the texts that I will be using in my Classical Ethical Theories class are available in on-line additions and I can make those available to the students free by putting appropriate links into the Blackboard. They can then print out as much of that as they need or I want them to have for free and pay nothing at all except the cost of the printing.

President Peters: It’s a complex issue isn’t it?
W. Tolhurst: Well, I mean those concerned about textbook prices might be interested to know that some of us are finding ways to deal with it that don’t involve dealing with textbook costs.

President Peters: Every discipline is so different and knowledge in some fields is rapidly changing because of the changing natures of the field. In my field, we’re going to have another election and all the American politics texts have to be rewritten. Good or bad. We have another question here. Bill, we’ll get back to you.

L. Kamenitsa: Mine’s on another point so if yours is still on textbooks.

W. Tolhurst: Well, I just wanted to follow up is that amongst the things you can put on-line are current articles in various journals in various disciplines so that the stuff that hasn’t even gotten into anthologies can be made available to students.

President Peters: I think you have a good point. Yeah?

L. Kamenitsa: I’m Lynn Kamenitsa from Political Science and Women’s Studies and I’ve been hearing rumblings from both of those units about the recent decision, or the recently notified decision, not to produce printed versions of the schedule of classes and I have some questions about that decision making process and how and when faculty and departments were consulted in that. I realize it’s a great cost savings for the university, but I’ve been hearing some rumbling and grumbling about how that transfers some of those costs to departments who will now spend a much larger percentage of their budget printing up schedules for attracting and advising students as well as cost transference to the library where our students will end up printing their schedules. I’m not sure this is the appropriate forum but I was wondering what other people have heard.

President Peters: What you’ve said is new to me. I’ll have to look into it. Gip Seaver?

G. Seaver: This was a, as you are well aware, a cost saving measure. It costs us about $18,000 a year to publish a schedule of classes which is wrong when it comes out. There are an extremely high number of changes that occur from the time that the classes are turned in. There are a number of universities around, both in Illinois and around the country, that have gone this route. The decision and the process has been worked with with the advising group with each of the colleges. In fact, yesterday we were talking and working with the colleges as to ways that they can deal with this in terms of using computers at the time that they’re doing the registration. Also, there are other ways of getting information that will be available. So we have been working with the advising groups and the colleges, anticipating this would be worked back through those colleges. Is that helpful?

L. Kamenitsa: I don’t know that it really addresses the additional cost transfers to the colleges though. I’m sure the library ---

G. Seaver: How are the costs incurred?
L. Kamenitsa: Well, how are we going to let students know about all of our course offerings? You know, there are issues for smaller units. Women’s Studies, Southeast Asia, how do people find things if they don’t know what they’re looking for?

President Peters: Is it on-line? Is there an on-line course interactive ---

G. Seaver: There’s a searchable – it will be searchable on-line. It will be updated weekly so that the information that the students will have available for them to use will be accurate rather than inaccurate. So, it will be on-line and it is searchable.

L. Kamenitsa: Is it going to be a pdf file? That’s what I’d heard the actual booklet will be produced as a pdf file which is generally not searchable.

G. Seaver: No, that’s not – there will a pdf file and there is a searchable version as well. I suggest you contact your college office because they were given an example of both the searchable version by area and department as well as a pdf files which could be printed as well.

President Peters: Okay? An appropriate question. All right, anything else?

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. Alternate List (Page 23)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Peters: All right, anything else? Then let’s stand adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.