UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2004, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


D. Lonergan attended for J. Hurych.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Bisplinghoff, Bose, Burns, Castle, Cummings, Cunningham, Egeston, Graf, Kaplan, Kazmi, Miller, Nelms, Orem, Pernell, J. Peters, Robinson, X. Song, Walton, Wang

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3.06 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2004 MEETING

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Review of Nature Preserves and Research Committee – refer to Steering Committee

B. Review of Committee on Ethics and Professionalism – refer to Rules and Governance

The consent agenda was adopted as written.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES
A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 10-11), revised letter – walk-in

**P. Henry** referred to a revised draft (attached) of an OpEd piece the FAC has been working on, relating to public support of public institutions, among other things, noting that several suggestions had been incorporated. A **Council Member** asked about a specific reference to the level of state support NIU receives (~70%) which has been left out of the new draft. **I. Legg** pointed out that the level will vary among the universities, but that for NIU the number is about right. **W. Tolhurst** offered that the letter was much improved and asked about its likely destinations. **P. Henry** said that the letter was being written with the knowledge of the IBHE, and that they have no objection to it.

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

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

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:** The matter of academic textbook prices was referred to our Committee. One proposal, a textbook rental program such as at SIU Edwardsville, would be highly problematic, requiring a huge amount of resources and space and personnel. We think it would be inappropriate if a regent policy were adopted regarding which texts professors could assign, based on price. A point of clarification is that NIU authors are strictly forbidden from keeping royalty money in textbook sales to NIU students. The Governor, Legislature, and IBHE are all interested in this issue. **G. Seaver** added that the Committee did talk about developing ways in which faculty can work to hold down costs where possible. **W. Tolhurst** reminded us that you can create your own anthology out of already published works that are already in possession of the NIU library. It was pointed out that while electronic reserves in the library can work very well in some cases, it does not work for many creative pieces like short stories, novels, poetry, art, photography, etc. **G. Seaver** suggested that the Academic Policy Committee poll the faculty and other individuals who have had experience with other methods to compile a list of suggestions that we could then circulate to faculty in a general format.

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – William Goldenberg, Chair – report (Page 12)

**W. Goldenberg:** reported that the committee discussed concerns about campus parking, traffic and transportation with guests Bob Albanese, the Vice President for Physical Plant; and Norm Jenkins, the Chair of the Parking Committee. Executive Vice President Eddie Williams also spoke briefly.
P. Henry thought the free bicycle program was a wonderful idea. To make the campus more bicycle friendly, she suggested more bike racks, and bike lanes on some of the sidewalks.

B. Albanese addressed problems with Lot 20 and the Dusable bus turn-around. The new turnaround fixed some problems, and created others. Some short-term solutions being implemented are putting some attractive landscaping, painted the curbing to discourage stopping pick-ups and drop-offs, new signage, increased public safety enforcement and expanding the exit to Lot 20. While these measures won’t entirely resolve the issue, they should help out a little. L. Kamenitsa reminisced about undergraduate institution using manure to fertilize areas where they were trying to decrease pedestrian traffic.

Additional measures may include installation of a left turn signal and a left turn lane at Stadium Drive and Annie Glidden, a gated entrance to the bus turnaround and opening the north entrance for two-way traffic. W. Tolhurst suggested allowing only cars with valid permits into Lot 20. C. Minor suggested restricting the last two spaces at each end of the row to sedans to improve visibility and thus safety. She also suggested letting the students walk wherever they want to determine pedestrian pathways. It was also suggested that lots be gated, with the NIU OneCard (or something similar) be used for access. C. Sorensen pointed out that Lot 20 is a heavy commuter lot and we do have a lot of students, which might raise gating issues on weekends and evenings. J. Stephen countered that these solutions will only push the problem elsewhere, and that we need to provide proper loading zones around campus. C. Kenney suggested resurfacing and repainting the lot and using more mirrors. B. Albanese acknowledged that the problem is very complex, and that additional measures are still needed.

J. Wolfskill asked about the prospect for putting in a tunnel or a pedestrian bridge at the intersection at Stadium Drive and Annie Glidden. B. Albanese responded that it is very cost prohibitive - millions and millions of dollars.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Carole Minor, Chair – report (Pages 13-15)

1. Eliminate the TATD Advisory Committee.

C. Minor moved that the Teaching Assistant Training and Development Advisory Committee be eliminated. After a second, the motion passed.

2. Change in Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee membership.

C. Minor proposed that “the vice provost for student affairs” be changed to the “vice president for student affairs” and that “the vice president for development and university relations” be changed to “public affairs representative.” Since this is a change in NIU Bylaws, this is the first reading for this matter. A vote will be taken on it at the next meeting of the University Council.

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair – report (Pages 16-36)

**P. Stoddard:** The proposed Academic Calendars for the next 10 years are included. They will be voted on at the next meeting of the UC.

**J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Sally Webber, Chair – report (Page 37)**

**S. Webber:** 1) Brigid Lusk was elected to fill the College of Health and Human Sciences vacant position on the University Council. 2) Thirty-five faculty members were randomly selected by computer, and the Faculty Senate then voted for 20 people to serve on the Hearing Panel that deals with questions that result from the dismissal for cause of a tenured faculty member or dismissal for cause of a non-tenured member of the faculty before the expiration of that faculty member’s contract period. The names are in the attached report.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Update on Computing Facilities Advisory Committee – report**

**P. Stoddard** reported that the Computing Facilities Advisory Committee is very open to improving communication, and issued a formal invitation to a representative of the University Council to attend all their meetings. Starting in the Fall of ’05, students will have to use their campus e-mail address. NIUnet is Northern Illinois University’s entry into the Internet II consortium. This should be in place sometime next semester. It will mean dramatically increased bandwidth between us and other Internet II locations. These primarily are research institutions such as Northwestern, U. of Chicago, and Fermilab.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Receipt of Annual Reports (Pages 38–40)**

1. University Benefits Committee

**I. Legg:** We have two items in VIII on New Business. One is the receipt of annual reports, University Benefits Committee and that’s available for your consideration online. The information is given to you in the item presented.

**B. Surveillance at free speech events**

**L. Shumo** raised the question of videotaping that was done at the Sen. Durbin rally at Central Park (between Stevenson and Grant), coincident with the Chaney/Hastert event on campus. **J. Stephen** expressed the concern that overly close cooperation with federal guidelines associated with such events can stifle freedom of speech. **E. Williams** explained that security measures were dictated by the secret service and FBI. Video taping, by NIU personnel, was done strictly in response to a breach of those security measures, against the possibility of the need for evidence of a crime. **J. Stephen** asked about the final disposition of the video tape. **E. Williams** answered that the video tapes were destroyed. They were never given to anyone other than NIU personnel. **W. Tolhurst** suggested that, given the significant chilling effect such videotaping can have on free speech events that the university develop a specific policy for free speech events.
L. Shumow asked if the university has a policy about releasing information like video tapes or lists to government or law enforcement agencies. E. Williams responded that the university can look at this matter in terms of what our policies are but our policies have been very consistent. We do not video tape events here at NIU and the only time there is a situation where video taping might be used is in the case where there is some kind of illegal activity. It is not university policy to release any information whatsoever of the nature being discussed. K. Davidson (Counsel for the University) assured the group that his office is very strict in the use of the legal standards that exist (e.g., Freedom of Information Act, the FERPA statutes, the subpoena standards of state and federal law). It’s very hard to get information out of this institution unless the law requires it.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.