UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


W. Minor attended for F. Kitterle; J. Arcardo attended for A. Novotney.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Balamuralikrishna, Burns, Castle, Cummings, Egeston, Gilber, Gorman, Hamlet, Hurych, Kazmi, Kolb, Lagguth, Newman, Pappanduros, Pernell, B. Peters, Pierce, Robinson, S. Song, Swanson, Tolhurst, Tollerud, Walton, Wang, Wolfskill, Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended (FAC walk-in report).

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2004 MEETING

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: We will have commencement Sunday in the Convocation Center. Let the record show that we have lots of graduates.

We announced the establishment of the NIU Neutron Therapy Institute. Let me just say a little bit about that and what it is. For many years, the Fermi Lab in Batavia had an experimental program that used neutrons from the beam line to treat inoperable cancers, particularly in the head area, sarcomas, and other things which could not be surgically removed or had not responded to photon radiation therapy, with considerable success. About eighteen months ago it looked like the program, due to lack of support from area hospitals, would disappear and we were approached to see what we could do to help save the program. The University was able to do some things that have revived the program and made it a more exciting program than it was.
We’ve secured transitional funding from the federal government, upwards of 2 million dollars in hand from the Speaker, Dennis Hastert and we have agreed to run it, to manage it, to put a business plan together, to speak the Medicare codes that are necessary for reimbursement, to get affiliations with hospitals. We have hired a radiation oncologist to be the medical director, A.Z. Diaz. My belief is that it’s going to attract major investment funding. We believe we may be able to develop protocols for neutron therapy and proton therapy. That’s the kind of research and outreach we should do, so I’m very, very excited about that.

We had a preliminary budget hearing with IBHE which was a non-event. There was very little discussion there of the ’06 budget. Even though State tax revenues are turning around, they haven’t turned around as much as people thought. There was recently a District Court opinion handed down that several provisions of new business fees that were levied by the Governor and legislature on businesses. This will increase the state’s shortfall next year.

The pension systems are under-funded. The State University Retirement Plan (SURS) is well managed. All plans are being looked at carefully in terms of benefit levels, contributions, etc. This bears very vigilant watching. There’s some very stiff constitutional language that protects the benefits and retirement plan both at the state and federal level for people who are currently in the system. Rising health care costs are another issue. So before you even get to policies and priorities, these will dominate the early decision making and discussions in the legislature. We’re trying to protect our base - not just our general revenue base but the amount we put in for benefits and health. There has been no capital bill period for FY05. It’s just been rolled over to ’06 consideration.

In terms of policy issues, we have not heard much except that the textbook discussions still continue at the level of the Governor and the IBHE and we, the presidents and chancellors met with the Governor’s representative on this and I think we had a good, a frank discussion. The costs of textbooks and instructional materials is a serious issue and we’ve had committees looking at this.

We have done very well with our federal earmarked agenda, including the neutron therapy. We have several other grants totaling millions of dollars that we will be announcing during the year as is appropriate. We’ve had a very successful year in Washington and I’m excited about that.

Finally, NIU is participating in the Silicon Valley Football Classic! One of the things that is delightful to me is the hard work of the student athletes. The coaches work hard and they deserve this. We’re playing a very good team, Troy State. We’re putting together a media package about the university and we’re going to flood the media with what we are. The football will get covered, but the media are going to ask “well, NIU, where is it?” Our new athletic director had to work real hard to get us a bowl and I’m very proud and I’m really most proud of those young men who have made the sacrifice, gone to school and done it the right way.

V. CONSENT GENDA

A. Inclusion of Computer Facilities Advisory Committee and Campus Parking Committee in the Constitution and Bylaws – refer to Rules and Governance
B. Extension of the Tenure Probationary Period – see memos from Ken Davidson and Deborah Haliczer – refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 7-14)

The consent agenda passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 15-17) and report – walk-in

P. Henry: The FAC met November 12 with state legislators, several of whom had comments and suggestions as to how as faculty we need to educate the public about the fact that we’re not actually working just twelve or fifteen hours a week. The FAC is trying to make the case to whoever will listen that the long-term needs of higher education are really a matter of great concern given the ongoing budget cuts.

The Priority, Productivity and Accountability Committee has been meeting. On page 16 is a list of some of the concerns that they are looking at, including transfer and articulation questions.

The OpEd piece is basically done and is coming out in a number of papers throughout the state.

The FAC also met last Friday in Springfield. An Illinois District Court made the decision that new state fees should be kept in escrow (see President’s remarks above). Dan Lazelle said the budget gap will continue to be a big concern. The IBHE has guiding principles that it will follow, including further advancement of the Illinois Commitment. The budget priorities again ensuring affordability - cuts in MAP grants have made it higher education less affordable in Illinois. The FAC mentioned and emphasized that just affordability in itself without concomitant quality of academic programs was is not to be desired.

The discussion on SURS is available on-line at www.news-gazette.com. The concerns are very real - the increasing cost of the pension system, and SURS in particular, is making large contributions to the budget gap.

President Peters: I would add one other thing that’s related to this and that’s implementation of the ethics training.

D. Haliczer: We have only one person left out of 8,329 to have completed ethics training. The ethics officer downstate says that Northern has the best compliance rate.

President Peters: That’s the good news. The bad news is that we have to do it all again next year.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – 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 – no report

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

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

(W. Goldenberg: We met with Provost Legg on November 10. The Governor signed a memorandum of understanding that we would not receive a rescission mid-year. Also, we reached maximum enrollment for the resources that we have (~24,000 total and 3,000 entering freshmen). There is a new initiative which provides one-time extra funding for courses which are in high demand. Salaries remain the top priority financially for the university and libraries are also high priority. Human Resources is conducting a salary compression study. You just heard the capital budget is non-existent for this year now so that did come to pass. Finally, the Provost wanted to commend all the employees of the university because despite budget problems the morale and the attitude and work have been very good. P. Henry: Does 3,000 maximum freshmen include transfer students who might be at a different level or is that a different number?

W. Goldenberg: I think that means freshmen. President Peters: Normally we have about 2,400 transfers. That was way down this year because we preferred individuals transferring in with 60 hours. We turned away, by the way, upwards of 1,500 fully qualified students and that ought to make policy makers in the state take notice.

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

1. Change in Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee membership ACTION ITEM (Pages 19-20)

C. Minor: It is moved that the following changes by made to the membership of the Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee as listed in the NIU Bylaws, Article 16.3.A. The vice provost for student affairs be changed to the vice president for student affairs and the vice president for development and university relations be changed to public affairs representative.

The motion passed

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Orem, Chair – report


R. Orem: We were charged with looking at the academic calendars for the next ten years. I sent a message out to a number of offices on campus for their input. I did get some very
valuable input back especially from the advising deans. The University Affairs Committee approved the schedule found on pages 22 through 41. I move approval of these calendars.  

**President Peters:** Would you direct us to any items that you think maybe have been debated more than others? **R. Orem:** The only really potentially problematic items are the start dates coming up this next year. You’ve got a calendar starting August 16 and that repeats in the calendar year of ’11/12 but the time when it becomes a particular problem is at the end of the fall semester when you have the potential for a short-term turnaround for decisions to be made especially in informing students of any change in their status. The only thing we can’t predict would be increased shutdowns for purposes of energy saving or so forth. So I see no other issues that need to be discussed with this.

The motion passed.

**R. Orem:** We are in the process of reviewing the Office of the Ombudsman. If you have any issues that you’d like to address to me as Chair of the University Affairs Committee regarding the Office of the Ombudsman, please get back to me.

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

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Privacy Policy – refer to University Affairs?

**P. Stoddard:** This comes out of our discussions last time about events that happened at rallies back in October, when various political leaders were on campus. It was thought that there might be some interest in determining what policies actually exist, if they were adequate and, if not, look into instituting policies regarding privacy during such rallies **C. Minor** moved that the issue be sent to the University Affairs Committee for further research and study and recommendation. **J. Stephen:** We might recall this has also been referred to the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee of the Faculty Senate too.

The motion passed.

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

**J. Stephen:** I’ve talked to three different people over the last month whose understanding is that NIU is self-insured and when it comes to accidents such as physics equipment being damaged by floods by chemistry or equipment being damaged by the flood from the swimming pool, no one seems to be aware of how one makes a claim to replace departmental properties or such under our self-insurance program. **K. Davidson:** We have a high deductible on property insurance for university-owned assets and there is not a program for replacement of personally owned property that we might have in our offices or labs. There could be a claim asserted for losses that would
be contributable to negligence and that would go to the Court of Claims. My office handles the risk management responsibilities for the university in terms of the underwriting programs and Clare Williams is the risk management coordinator in the Office of University Legal Services and he would entertain any claims that might be presented either by departments or individuals. **J. Stephen:** I might note as far as loss of personal property is concerned, most people’s homeowners insurance covers that loss in your workplace. **President Peters:** That’s a standard clause in most homeowners and renter’s insurance plans. **E. Williams:** During the Anderson Hall basement flooding we tried to find ways to cover that because the insurance just did not adequately cover losses. So, I think it’s a case-by-case as Ken has indicated.

**President Peters:** On behalf of Barbara and myself, I hope you all have a restful and joyous New Year and we’ll see you in Silicon Valley.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.