UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT
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

President Peters: Let me call the December 8 meeting of the University Council to order.

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Our first order of business is to adopt the agenda today as printed. There are no walk-ins. There is a walk-in? Oh, we will add as a walk-in the report of the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE. All right? Now, is there a motion to adopt the agenda? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right.

The agenda was approved as amended.

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

President Peters: On pages 3 through 6 following we have approval of the minutes of November 3. Let me call for additions or corrections. Hearing none, is there a motion to adopt? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? We’ve approved the minutes of November 3.

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS
President Peters: Well, this is our last meeting of the semester and this is finals week and I see we’re a little light on attendance but if you don’t care, I don’t care and I know students are here still studying for finals and the professors are going into grading fatigue. I want to thank everybody for another semester. We will have commencement Sunday in the Convocation Center. There are two commencements and I am not sure – Gip Seaver, do you know how many graduates we have? Let the record show that we have lots of graduates. Yes, I know how that works but that’s always the best time of year for the university when the students receive their degrees and their friends and families can be there.

Just as an announcement, for those of you who are in the community, we’ve had such an overwhelming number of requests to tour the renovated Altgeld since we had our open house October 15 or 16, that this Friday from 6 to 9 there will be an Altgeld open house and the Altgeld is seasonally and tastefully decorated in the secular fashion. There will be tours, festive music, the public spaces will be open. If you know people in the community who missed the tour the first time and have expressed an interest to see it, that would be a good time. I understand we are going to have a horse-drawn carriage, ala 1899, to bring people form the visitor’s parking lot up to Altgeld. I will not be driving the carriage. I do not like horses and they don’t like me, although I grew up with them. So those two things – I’m very, very pleased as you know from my e-mail message to you that we were able to see our way clear to release the 1% add-on salary increment. That’s being processed. We considered it an acceptable risk position although we’ve been challenged to get that done but it’s the right thing to do and I’m very, very pleased. I look on that as, you know, a holiday expression of good feeling.

I’m going to talk a little bit about the budget which is – by way of an update, I don’t have too much, but maybe I can add to and give context to some of the reports you may hear from Pat. Monday – in case you missed it – at Naperville NIU, whenever we have a major announcement and we like to try to crack into Chicago media we use NIU in Naperville because you get a bigger media. We announced the establishment of the NIU Neutron Therapy Institute and I am very pleased about that. Let me just say a little bit about that and what is it. For many years, for a couple of decades, twenty-five years, at the Fermi Lab in Batavia and in relation to the accelerator, there was an experimental program that took neutrons from the beam line and people were lowered near the beam line and then the beams – and I’m not a medical person – but the beams were targeted at inoperable cancers, particular of the head area, sarcomas, those things which could not be surgically removed or had not responded to photon radiation therapy with considerable success. It is experimental but it, you know, you need a major national laboratory, there are only two or three in the country, and, you know, NIU had been involved with Fermilab for many years through our physics department basically with the NICAD experiment and, you know, we’re heavily invested there now. Jerry Blazey has been involved in that. At any rate, 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 and, to make a long story short, several individuals at the university, faculty and others, were able to do some things that have revived it and put it on a footing that is much more exciting than the small program that it was. We’ve secured transitional funding from the federal government, upwards of 2 million dollars in hand from the speaker, from Dennis Hastert who, you know, FermiLab is in his district and he’s had some – I don’t know if it was members of his family –
but friends who have been treated there and it added ten to twelve years to their life and so 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 hired a radiation oncologist to be the medical director, a wonderful person who you may have seen around, A.Z. Diaz, and I see Rathindra is here and Rathindra was very much involved with this as has been Anne Kaplan and Kathy Buettner. He’ll be the medical director on site. We have some larger plans for the future. My belief is it’s going to attract a major, major investment funding. It’s more than just a clinical situation for us because we believe we’ll be able to, with some of the other research we’ve done on cancer therapy – Professor Hosmane with his baron experiments to be able to perhaps develop protocols about neutron therapy, proton therapy. Our clinics, speech, hearing, language, rehabilitation have a role to play because there are obviously side effects and, you know, from any of these cancers. At least this treatment doesn’t, you know, destroy all the good tissues as you go to the tumors. Research will come from this and so we had a press release on Monday in Chicago and I know that Dr. Diaz and Arlene Lennox who was kind of the medical director and really the person who throughout the years really put this thing together, they were on – what’s it called – Chicago Tonight. I didn’t see that. I want to see the tape but, you know me boy, when we get media attention – except for the bad stuff – it’s just great whenever we can get into the Chicago media market. I can’t tell you the number of people who worked very, very hard on that. That has not been easy. You know, there are so many heroes and heroines out there at NIU who slave away for months and years and then they never get the credit and they don’t ask for the credit because the credit will be, if this thing is as good as I think it is, will be many individuals whose quality of life – their life will be extended and the quality of their life will be there. They’ll be able to enjoy the holiday season with families for years to come. That’s what NIU should do. That’s the kind of research we should do; the kind of outreach so I’m very, very excited about that.

Now, to talk about budget. We had a preliminary budget hearing with IBHE which was a non-event. We were in Springfield, a group of us, and I spent two days during the veto session talking to legislators who are in a position to know what’s going on. I just got back yesterday from the IHBE meeting and there was very little discussion there of the budget for next year, the ’06 budget. So let me tell you some of the factors I’ve picked up on so that you’re as informed as you can be as we go into the break.

Even though State tax revenues are turning around, they haven’t turned around as much as people thought so that’s good news but it isn’t great news. So, in other words, increased revenue will not alone solve what is developing as another big budget hold for next year, for ’06. Now, there are things that are contributing to that that will create an interesting session. There was recently a District Court opinion handed down that a state – and actually struck down – several provisions of new business fees that were levied by the Governor and legislature on businesses and the ruling there was and it’s pretty clear constitutionally if you look at it, that a fee, technically a fee, is not a tax but a fee is an extraction for a very specific service and you cannot tax, for instance, a federal gasoline tax that goes into a special highway fund for that purpose. That’s a fee. In other words, you can’t put this money into the general fund. Well, so what’s happening is that money is now being escrowed. They’re collecting the fee on these business taxes but they’re going into an escrow account and not into the general fund and the law on this is pretty clear and when it’s all said and done, that will add up to 350 million dollars. All right?
So 350 million dollars out of the general fund creating to that hole, so that hold is now between a billion and a billion five for ’06. All right? So, the attention of the Governor and the legislature turns to “oh my god, what do we do about the hold” and so is it more casinos? Is it a gambling bill? Who knows. That will get a lot of attention. That’s one thing.

Another thing that you’ll be hearing about is that the pension systems are under-funded. You know, the university employees have the SURS system, the State University Retirement Plan which is well managed, is a good one. It’s independent of the – let’s see, there’s the state employee, then the teacher’s – is that it? Steve Cunningham is here. Right? Those are the main ones. Needless to say, those are all being looked at very carefully in terms of benefit levels, contributions, I mean Steve could give you – if you’re in that question, Steve’s an expert on it – and it’s scaring the hell out of everybody including me. I don’t know what it means because there’s some real 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. But that’s out there, and that’s a big number. I don’t know what it is, but it’s under-funded. All right. And then you have raising health care costs as another issue. So of these things, before you even get to policies and priorities and the Governor’s priorities include investment in K-12 and health, and so before you can even get to that, you’ve got the gap – the hold that needs to be filled and my guess is that that will dominate the early decision making and discussions in the legislature. It’s going to be around how do you find revenue? How do you close the gap? Our view on all of this is we’re trying to protect our base and by that I mean not just our general revenue base but the amount we put in for benefits and health because one way of reducing the outlays to universities and higher education, while maintaining our GR base, is to pass through new increases on health care or benefits and so we’re going to be watching that very, very carefully. There has been no capital bill period for FY05. It’s just been rolled over to ’06 consideration so there may be something around the edges but as we sit there today, there’s no capital bill which would the major projects like Stevens and also Eddie, what’s it called, the capital renewal and we get about a million and a half a year. Now, that doesn’t sound like a lot of money but guess what, a million and a half dollars a year – we lost that for last year – that’s used for, you know, when you’re sitting at your desk grading papers and the water starts to leak on your papers and that’s not your tears, but, you know, that’s where we reach in for emergency money or if we need a street repair but any smaller, emergency capital need or renewal, so that’s a million and a half million dollars we don’t have and that hurt. So, there’s been no action on that.

In terms of some 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, and we were engaged on the topic and tried to add some information about the complexity of this issue but I think that, from the point of view of the Governor and all of our points of view, the costs of textbooks and instructional materials is a serious issue and we’ve had committees looking at this and I want to commend our people for doing everything they can to put instructional materials into the hands of students and the materials that they need to be successful. I mean obviously, when you think about, why in the world would you pay a lot of money for tuition and sit in class when you didn’t have the tools you needed to be successful. Even thought it’s expensive, you know, when you think about it from the point of view of an education, it’s a small part, but still it’s not cheap so we’ll be working on that but I would expect to see something come out of the
Governor’s office. And you know, the faculty could debate this all day about what the right approach is and whether there could be cost savings and so forth but you know how difficult that situation is but we’re monitoring that as well.

Okay, we have done very well – although it’s not – with our federal earmarked agenda and part of it I just mentioned, the money that went into the neutron therapy. We have several other grand totaling millions of dollars that we will be announcing during the year as is appropriate when the members of Congress that supported those measures are ready to announce with us. We’ve had a very successful year in Washington and I’m excited about that.

Finally, did you see this? Silicon Valley Football Classic! We just had a press conference and one of the things that is delightful to me is the hard work of the student athletes who are – they do whatever they do – I know they go to classes or they don’t pay, at least that’s what we do at NIU. They have to be in good physical condition. They get up and lift, you know, weights at five in the morning. They still have all the obligations. They’re in the spotlight and they have to be careful about that. The coaches work hard and they deserve this and we are going to a bowl, the Silicon Valley Bowl. We’re playing a very good team, Troy State, that has a very good reputation. They beat Marshall at home and that’s hard to do. I think Marshall was 29 and 0 at home until Troy beat them this year. They beat Missouri. They played LSU which was – they played LSU this year who was last year’s national champ and they beat them. LSU beat them like 24 to 20 and so this is not a pushover. It’s not a cream puff. This is great. We’re going to – we’ve had a lot of expressions of interest and in case any of you are interested, there will be a university charter, we’re working on the details, that will leave on the 29th and come back on the 31st and we don’t have the details on price worked out but we’re working on that. That’s kind of a package deal. I know – we just had a press conference – this will be my 16th bowl and I always went because I was part of the official party and what I like about this is it’s going to give us a chance. Right now, 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?” How many students? What do you know; what are you known for and you can be sure that we’re going to be working on media on neutron therapy, on our accountancy department, on public administration. I don’t want to leave anybody out. I see too many deans here. You all have excellent programs and we will make sure that this is an opportunity because, it will be national TV and it will be broadcast back here on ESPN at 10:00. People were complaining about that to me and I said “how old are you” and they said “58” and I said “young people just start to rock and roll at – I don’t know, are you guys even up at 10:00 – don’t things start at midnight?” So I’m really looking forward to that. So once again, NIU has come through with the leanest budget, with hard work. Our new athletic director had to work real hard to get us a bowl and he did and I’m real 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. You know, I traveled with the team and I want to say this to the family here, after spending all those years traveling with teams, you kind of get a feel for young people and our team travels in suits and ties and when they talk to the media you can tell they’ve been schooled by Lois Self, I mean, they can put words together. They say good things. Their grammar is reasonable and it just – the way they handle themselves, the message they send to the outside. The community service they do. That’s the real story and hopefully we can tell some of that. As you can tell, I’m real proud and excited for them but I’m also proud of all these other academic achievements and will
be very proud when we graduate. I think it’s almost 2000 by the way Gip, of graduates on Sunday. All right? With that, Consent Agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

President Peters: Is there a motion to accept the Consent Agenda? Second? All right, all those in favor say aye. Opposed? Okay and you can see there are two items there that we are referring to the Rules Committee.

A. Inclusion of Compute4r 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)

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

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

President Peters: All right, reports. Patricia Henry?

P. Henry: I apologize. I’m saddling you with two reports today. The first one is the FAC meeting of November 12 and some of you have already heard this if you were at the Faculty Senate meeting so I’ll just skip over some of the high points. We did meet with some 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 just working fifteen hours a week or twelve hours a week depending on what our class load is and, in particular, Representative Beaubien from the 52nd District had something to say about the advisability of contacting members of Chambers of Commerce and so forth to help make the case for supporting us in having a high quality education system for the state and that the legislature is likely to respond with that kind of input as well as just faculty members saying this stuff. The FAC in general is sort of trying to make the case to whoever will listen including the IBHE and the legislators that we talked to that, indeed, the long-term needs of higher education are really a matter of great concern given the ongoing budget cuts and we keep trying to sort of explain that fifteen contact hours actually require a lot of preparation, research, curriculum development and so forth. The other person who addressed the group was John Murphy who is the Executive Vice President and Legislative Director of the UPI who mentioned the project – that the unions had had to sort of stop the bleeding last spring and talking about the budget cuts in higher education in the legislature. The basic sense of the legislators there was that, indeed, this past year the Governor’s budget would have been a much more drastic cut by having things go to a special session. This gave the minority, the Republican legislators, more of a bargaining position and that they used this bargaining position to among other things, protect higher education. These were Republicans who were saying this of course but this not necessarily going to happen this year and they were not overly optimistic about increased amounts of money.
Just briefly also – just to finish up with report number one – the PPA, Priority, Productivity and Accountability Committee – has been meeting a couple of times. On page 16 is a list of some of the concerns that are being looked at by them. In the middle of the page there where it says “transfer and articulation are central questions”, one of the issues is that if, in fact, higher education is being, their institutions are being looked at for their productivity, if someone takes some classes in one university and then transfers to another university, the second university gets the graduation numbers but the intervening institutions don’t necessarily get the head count as it were. This is something that is continuing to get more and more common.

The OpEd piece that I brought to you before is, in fact, pretty much done and is coming out in a number of papers throughout the state. The last page, page 17, gives you a proposed letter to the Illinois State Legislators which is sort of in the works. The FAC expresses the fact that as a group, they’re concerned that many Illinois could be priced out of the higher education market if the budget trends of the past several years continue and at the very end of the last paragraph there it makes mention as we often do, of the fact that Illinois has tumbled from the highest rated system in the nation into the present ranking of eight according to the National Report Card. These are points that we think need to keep being emphasized and we’ll continue to do it.

Turning to report number two, which is the walk-in, this is the meeting which took place just last Friday in Springfield. There are actually – there’s really sort of four parts to this – we had a discussion with Dan Lazelle concerning the budget which as President Peters has mentioned is still pretty much up in the air. A discussion with Tom Lamont who’s the Executive, actually Acting Executive Director of the IBHE. We also talked with a couple of Board members, Gil Rutman and Proshanta Nandi.

The fourth item is a piece that just sort of came through the e-mail about discussions that are ongoing and have not yet actually resulted in anything but discussions that are sounding scary about the retirement system. In addition, and I don’t know – I think that there are enough people absent that things that I ran off – I also wanted to make available to you an amendment that is going through on the Illinois Commitment that I think actually has taken place last Tuesday, yesterday, at the Board meeting and I’ll get back to that later. I apologize for not having had it in the packet.

Just briefly – actually in the first paragraph there, I also mention this court case and I should correct that. I said Illinois Supreme Court but it’s a District Court that made the decision that the fees should be kept in escrow so make that correction. Dan Lazelle as how that indeed, the gap is there and it will continue to be a big concern. The IBHE has guiding principle that it will follow as listed in the bullet points there including further advancement of the Illinois Commitment. The FAC does, in terms of the second point, policy based recommendations. Our concern is often that things get cut across the board but then when the money comes back policy driven, which means that it’s sometimes hard to get things back that went away but that’s the way the Board wants to keep it so that’s what will happen. I think the rest of that is fairly self-evident. The budget priorities again ensuring affordability, that was one thing that we took a big hit on in terms of the National Report Card because of the varying tuitions and the cuts in MAP grants have made it much less affordable to have higher education in Illinois. The FAC mentioned and emphasized that just affordability in itself without concomitant quality of
academic programs was not going to be desired. That just getting into a college is not going to be necessarily useful if you don’t get out with something valuable and there are a lot of pressures from on-line and for-profit institutions that are sort of pushing in the opposite direction or at least making it more difficult to make this case. No indications at all at this point as to how things are going as President Peters said.

The discussion with Tom Lamont on the second page again, there’s just some points of information in terms of what the IBHE is up to. It’s several members with a lot of institutional memories. The FAC would like to be involved in the committee that is going to be choosing the permanent Executive Director and hopefully that will happen. Again, the discussion especially with Proshanta Nandi who is the chair of one of the committees, of the PPA committee, actually I guess Rutman is chair of the other half of the committee come to think of it. Again, the issue of quality which is just such a wishy-washy term and nobody really quite knows how to punch it up and make it be paid attention to but they are aware of our concerns over it, that it isn’t just a question of training people in a more efficient way but that some of the aspects of higher education, in fact, some of the very inefficient aspects of traditional higher education are actually a big part of why higher education in the United States is among the best in the world.

We’re – let’s see, I think that hits most of it. Number four, the article – the discussion on SURS is available on-line at www.news-gazette.com and was not really part of our meeting but one of my colleagues on the FAC forwarded it to me and, especially since they said that they really want to make this public, we decided that “well, we’ll just make it public”. The concerns are very real and I think, I mean, it’s like Social Security or anything else, the increasing cost of the pension system and SURS in particular is making great contribution to this budget gap. There’s a lot of concern that the ways they have of trying to solve this including limiting salary increases or asking members to pay extra for survivor benefits are some of the things that are being discussed. You’ll see there that Jim Hacking is on guard as this seems to be an unconstitutional diminishment of benefits but just as a point of information.

Finally, the last little handout where in the preface that goes with the Illinois Commitment and I bring this up simply because it’s been like three years that we’ve been working to try to get some sort of nodding admission that, in fact, higher education does contribute to the quality of life in the State. The underlined portions there are added collectively. These institutions enhance and enrich the quality of life for all Illinois residents and then as you work down the bullet points, the first bullet point – this is something that one member of the Board in particular was very concerned with – “preparing an informed and responsible citizenry that has an understanding of and appreciation for the fundamental principles of democracy as well as adequate preparation to succeed in a rapidly changing global environment”. The finally in the middle there “the Illinois Board of Higher Education recognizes and affirms the multi-faceted roles of higher education institutions and the many benefits that extend to the State and to residents from higher education”. What we will continue to push for is the inclusion of references for the need for research and quality education and so forth throughout the Illinois Commitment, not just in the preface but that’s at least a start. Okay? That’s it.

**President Peters:** All right, questions or comments? That was a good report. I think that captured the essence of what I understand. I had dinner with Professors Rutland and Nandi and
they’re like us. Of course, they made the mistake of sitting next to me for dinner for four hours. I think there’s a good set of commissioners now. They seem to understand the issues. It’s just a matter of everything being dominated by no money and that always pushes the debates in different directions. I would add one other thing that I forgot that’s related to this and that’s implementation of the ethics – there’s a lot of discussion about that. First of all, let me just say – Deborah, if you’d stand up – we have a – give your report. We have a – grab a microphone. Let’s get this on the record.

D. Haliczer: This is hot off the press and even our ethics officer doesn’t know this. We have only one person left out of 8,329 to have completed ethics training and the administrator downstate – and it’s a faculty member I’m sorry to say – the ethics officer downstate says that Northern has the best compliance rate. One other university has 100% compliance but they only have about 800 employees so we have the most people, got through most on time, most efficiently with good work rounds. I have to say thank you to all of you because lots of people did a whole lot of work and nagging to get this done but we got a good mark.

L. Kamenitsa: Can we know his name?

D. Haliczer: That’s confidential.

President Peters: That’s the good news. The bad news is that we have to do it all again next week and what we’re hoping, and I think this is where PPA, that is the one without the quality, I think it’s Committee B is putting a list together of things that may go into a fix-up bill that may make this a little more reasonable. I don’t understand why part-time students have to take the ethics test. There’s some other – why every year, you know, why not three years or five years, but I might caution that anytime you put a clean-up bill in the legislature, the target of the clean-up may not be the thing that gets the cleansing and you may end up with something that you never anticipated like a big expose of work load analysis and so I’m always nervous about that. The other thing and it’s like anything in politics, you don’t want to appear to be against ethics. I know that you’re all thinking – I always say to people, don’t ever commit the fatal error and slip into rationality on this. That’s the first thing you should put aside. I just want to say thank you. Now, the consequences for not doing it for individuals could have been pretty severe. I mean, there are penalties involved with not doing this and, you know, it’s the right issue, the ethics issue, I don’t know if this is the right, complete solution but NIU won’t be the poster child of bad or non-compliance and I appreciate that. Yeah, okay, we can do that.

Let’s see, there’s no report from the BOT Academic Affairs. Tomorrow is BOT and it’s not in this room. It will be for the first time, in the boardroom at Altgeld. No Finance report from BOT. No BOT Audit, they haven’t met and no report from Paul on BOT.

If you would permit there, there is one vacancy on the Board and three of our members’ terms are up in January so that’s potential for four trustees. The process is not a process we can or should participate in. Those are gubernatorial appointments with Senate confirmation and we have heard nothing so, you know, we have how many trustees? Yeah, seven, so think about that. I do. I don’t sleep when I think about it. You know how great our trustees are. Now we’re
going to try – we’re hoping – that several of those people will be reappointed but there’s no guarantee.

Okay, no report from Academic Policy. No report from – yes, we have a report. William is here? He that gets all the publicity.

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: Okay, I know you’re all eager to get back and close out the semester and grading and so on so I’ll briefly run through the points. We had a meeting with Provost Legg on November 10, Resources, Space and Budget and the first point that he made is just a review. The Governor did sign a memorandum of understanding that we would not receive a rescission mid-year and we’re hoping that holds. We’re planning on it. Also, as you all know from the size of your class, we reached maximum enrollment for the resources that we have and an approximate estimation of the cap we’re placing on the number of students we can handle is 24,000 total and 3,000 entering freshman class maximum unless there are new resources that are provided. You may or may not be aware that there is a new initiative which provides a one-time opportunity for certain courses which are in high demand to be funded with extra funding to hire faculty when there is high student demand but it’s only a one-shot deal and it’s not a permanent solution to any problems we have with the high enrollment that we’re trying to handle. Also, as you’ve heard many times, salaries remain the top priority financially for the university and libraries are also high priority because, of course, they are extremely important to support the work we do and the work the students do. Also, although there is no money to fund fixing any problems that are discovered, Human Resources is conducting the salary compression study based on regression analysis and if funding should ever be available, I assume that that would be taken into account when salary increases are available in the future. You just heard the capital budget is non-existent for this year now so that did come to pass. Finally, on a happier note, the Provost wanted to commend really the entire, all the employees of the university at whatever level they’re at because we do have budget problems obviously but the morale and the attitude of everybody in terms of their work has been very good. I’ve observed it and the Provost observed it and commented on that specifically on that to our Committee. So thank you everyone from the Provost and from the RSB Committee.
President Peters:  Comments or questions?  Pat?

P. Henry:  Just one quick question.  You mentioned the entering class of 3,000 maximum, does that 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 instituted – we preferred individuals transferring in with 60 hours or more or was it 30 hours again?  Sixty hours so that someone, you know, goes to community college and finishes in 2 years versus someone who started community college and gets 12 hours and transfer and so we sort of shut the spigot off that that and, you know, my view is – and I think everybody’s view academically – it makes more sense to use the transfer as the search tank to regulate enrollment.  It’s a little harder on the front end.  The tools that we have are basically our timing and it worked pretty well this year and it’s not a fine instrument.  I think we had 2,974 was our target – 3,000 was our target – we missed by a few so we set the same target for next year.  We turned away, by the way, upwards of 1,500 fully qualified students and that ought to make policy makers in the state tale notice.

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

President Peters:  All right, where are we?  Carole, Rules and Governance.  We’ve got work to do.

C. Minor:  Yes we do and I’d like to begin by thanking the Committee for their good work in this semester and remind the Committee members that the Committee will meet again on January 31, that’s a Monday, not a Wednesday at 2:00 to consider items that we were given today by the University Council.

We would like to bring forward this motion to you.  This is the second reading of this because it is a bylaws change.  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 vice provost for student affairs has had a change of title to the vice president for student affairs.  That’s the reason for that change.  The second change was stimulated by the fact that a public affairs representative has always been on the Committee but it had been lifted as a designee of the vice president for development and university relations.  Now the public affairs office is no longer in that vice president purview and since the public affairs representative was what was desired on the Committee in the first place, it was thought it would be best to just specify public affairs representatives.  Those are the changes and this is the second reading.  I so move.
President Peters: It’s a motion. Do we have a second? All right. This is basically a title – bringing the bylaws into comportment with the title changes. All right, we ready? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right.

The motion passed.

1. **Change** in Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee membership

**ACTION ITEM** (Pages 19-20)

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

President Peters: University Affairs, Richard?

R. Orem: Let’s see, starting on page 21 an action item and I just wanted to make an observation that this is the most space this committee has taken up in an agenda packet in probably the five years I’ve been on this committee so. If you recall in September, University Council was asked to make sort of an emergency change to the academic calendar for ‘05/06 and you’ll see that on page 21 and as a result of that, we were charged with looking at the 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 met and we approved the schedule found on pages 22 through 41. So at the November meeting, this was presented as a first reading and we are presenting it now as an action item and so I move approval of these calendars.

President Peters: All right, there’s a motion. Is there a second? All right, now discussions. Richard do you see any – would you direct us to any items that you think maybe have been debated more than others?

R. Orem: Well, what we’ve tried to do is we’ve tried to be consistent with the start dates. The only really potentially problematic ones are the ones coming up this next year. You’ve got a calendar starting August 16.

President Peters: Yeah.

R. Orem: 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.

President Peters: I think this body aired that issue you referred to. All right, ready to vote? All those in favor of adopting the calendar say aye. Opposed? Good work.

R. Orem: Just one other item too that – I made this announcement at the Faculty Senate – we are in the process of reviewing the Office of the Ombudsman. Some of you probably have already been informed of that. 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. I’m in Groupwise. You can send any correspondence through campus mail to the Department of Literacy Education. I’ll be happy to take that into consideration. The Committee will meet again in January to take up any feedback and hopefully we’ll have a report for University Council as early as February.

**President Peters:** Okay. I see there’s no report from Sally on Elections and Legislative Oversight.

1. **Proposed** Academic Calendars for 2005-2015. **ACTION ITEM** (Pages 21-41)

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

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**President Peters:** Any unfinished business?

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Privacy Policy – refer to University Affairs?

**President Peters:** We have an item of new business, the Privacy Policy with a refer to University Affairs.

**P. Stoddard:** This basically comes out of our discussions last time about events that happened at rallies, I guess it was 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 participation rallies like that, freedom of speech issues, etc. and it was thought that University Affairs was probably the best place to send this since they did so well with the calendars.

**President Peters:** So, you’ve sent it there.

**P. Stoddard:** Well, the motion would be to send it there. Carole?

**C. Minor:** I move that we send the issue to the University Affairs Committee for further research and study and recommendation.

**President Peters:** Yeah, we have a motion on the floor. There is a second.

**J. Stephen:** We might recall this has also been referred to the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee of the Faculty Senate too.

**President Peters:** All right. Ready to vote? All those in favor of sending this issue University Affairs say aye. Opposed? Any abstentions? All right, we will send it there.
The motion passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters: Any comments or questions from the floor? Anything for the good of the order? Yes?

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.

President Peters: I think probably the issue is extremely more complex. We have different levels of different kinds of policies and does anybody want to address that issue? Ken’s here. Ken Davidson? You’ve got to have a mike Ken.

K. Davidson: Thank you. This is a very complex issue depending upon the precise aspect of the question that you’re looking at, I can say with some generalizations that 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 individually 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 and there’s a pot of money from the Secretary of States appropriation that would address that if there was adequate legal justification for it. There’s a question of where does one present a claim if you had a loss for consideration. 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.

President Peters: Is that adequate?

J. Stephen: Yes, thanks Ken. 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: Yeah, I think that’s a pretty standard clause in most – renter’s insurance if you have a renter’s or homeowner’s – it should cover reasonable – now, if you have special collections or things like that, that kind of gets into – I’m saying that because you’re looking at someone who lost – try to get 2,000 political science books replaced. The insurance companies don’t think they’re special but let me just say, we’re looking at this because we don’t have – many universities do set up self-insurance programs where base budgets, a very fractional part of a base budget is taxed and it builds a pool and we really haven’t done that here but even at that, the deductibles are pretty high. We had one at Nebraska and if you lost a computer, the deductible was something like $2500 to a department so, you know, even at that I’m not sure that is – what do you do about a flood in a basement. I think we just sort of have to cover that don’t we?
**E. Williams:** Those of you who go back in history will remember that in Anderson Hall we used to have consistent flooding of the first floor and damage of the wood floors and so forth. In most instances we ended up internally trying to find ways to cover that because the insurance just did not cover adequately or the costs were not such that exceeded our deductible. So, I think it’s a case-by-case as Ken has indicated. We do have an insurance specialist on the campus, Clare Williams, and any situation it does not hurt to bring forth a claim or bring forth the information so that we can analyze it and it can be properly submitted to that area that can handle it.

**President Peters:** Good question. Other comments or questions. On behalf of Barbara and I, I hope you all have a restful and joyous New Year and we’ll see you in Silicon Valley. We’re adjourned.

**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.