UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


R. Self attended for J. Grush; M. Pritchard attended for S. Richmond; D. Wade attended for S. Webber; L. Jennings attended for M. Dick.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters called the Council to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda passed with a minor amendment.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2005 MEETING

(Pages 3-5)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters reminded the Council that March is Women’s History Month by noting, at some length, the important role women have played in NIU’s own history. He also updated the Council on budgetary matters and on the status of the Provost search.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

President Peters: All right, let’s move to reports.
A. FAC to IBHE – Sharon Holmes – no report


J. Stephen reported on the AASAPC meeting of March 1. The committee endorsed recommendations for all sabbatical leaves after hearing F. Bryan and J. Stephen speak to the issue. The new minor in Interdisciplinary Studies and Cognitive Science was endorsed and forwarded to the Board of Trustees. Denise Schoenbachler’s appointment as the Dean of the College of Business was endorsed and this endorsement was met with expressions of approval of the Board of Trustee members and very high praise from President Peters. The IBHE’s study on under-represented groups this year is focused on people with disabilities.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – report – walk-in

P. Stoddard reported that the FFOC endorsed the student fee structure for 2006/2007, as well as various capital improvement ventures, among which were new elevators for Zulauf Hall. Stoddard noted wryly that this will leave Davis Hall with the oldest elevator on campus.

J. Meyer, P. Stoddard and President Peters explored the student fee structure, specifically health insurance, in somewhat more detail.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Rachel Turner and Shey Lowman – report (Page 6)

S. Lowman passed along the LAEAC opinion that House Bill 4867 (regarding the textbook pricing) probably would not pass. Chair Myron Siegel stressed that the policies in the Review of Employee Conduct and Accountability need to be communicated to employees through training.

J. Stephen: What is meant by the Employee Conduct and Accountability Policies? Is that our fifteen minute – do we have to keep track of our time to fifteen minutes or ---

S. Lowman: I believe that it’s all the policies that have been made over the years that just have never been gathered into one thing so that’s what HR has been working on for ---

J. Stephen, S. Lowman and President Peters came to the conclusion that the Employee Conduct and Accountability Polices are meant to include time reporting by faculty and staff.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – Colin Booth, Chair – report (Pages 7-12)

C. Booth reported that the committee was reviewing the assessment procedure regarding teaching effectiveness, as had been requested by the Council.
C. Booth further reported that at the request of student member N. Pappanduros, the committee was revisiting the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual (Section II, Item 14) wording regarding student evaluations of teaching, which had been revised last year. Specifically, changing

“The only specific question to be included on all forms is one requesting an overall rating of the instructor’s effectiveness”

to

“The only specific questions to be included on all forms are ones regarding an overall rating of the instructor’s effectiveness, skill in presenting material, respect for the student as a co-learner, effectiveness in creating an atmosphere that will encourage and facilitate students’ efforts to learn, openness in the examination of a variety of views, and fairness and skill in evaluating student performance”.

This is based directly on the extract from Bylaw 5.216.

J. Wolfskill asked if the intent was for one question or several to be asked. C. Sorensen noted that the proposed language suggests that departments should include at least six questions on their instructor evaluation forms, one including the overall effectiveness and five that deal with these other items that are directly out of Bylaw 5.216. C. Booth expressed comfort with that interpretation.

C. Booth then formally moved the above wording change.

The motion was seconded and then passed.

J. Wolfskill asked when the above change will become effective. C. Booth thought Fall of ’06; P. Vohra suggested Fall ’07. C. Sorensen thought Fall of ’06 was a realistic goal.

J. Wolfskill moved that the change begin in the Fall, 2006 term.

The motion was seconded and passed.

C. Booth moved that in the following paragraph, the current wording:

“In addition to the approved form for department use, instructors shall be provided the opportunity to ask questions for that instructor’s own use, and may use any evaluation technique considered appropriate, such as adding multiple choice questions or requesting that additional comments be written on the back of the answer sheet.”

be changed to

“In addition to the approved form for department use, instructors shall be provided the opportunity to ask questions for that instructor’s own use and may use any evaluation technique consi-
dered appropriate such as adding multiple choice questions or requesting that additional comments be written on a separate sheet.”

The motion was seconded and passed.

C. Booth noted that under “Distribution of Results” the text reads

“The student responses to both the department evaluation form and the instructor’s additional questions shall be sent to the instructor involved not later than five weeks after the beginning of the subsequent academic term.”

and that Testing Services sends all their responses just back to the department, not to individual instructors. C. Booth asked if a change in wording was necessary.

C. Sorensen responded that the departments are responsible for distributing the information back to the individual instructors so this doesn’t specify that Testing Services distributes it to instructors; therefore, no change in wording is necessary.

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Amy Rose, Chair – no report
H. Rules and Governance Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – no report
I. University Affairs Committee – Xueshu Song, Chair – no report
J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Brigid Lusk, Chair – report

President Peters: Elections and Legislative Oversight. Mike?

1. Results of University Council election

M Spires announced the winners in the University Council elections:

From the College of Business, David Wade, Department of Management; Department of Education, Laurie Elish-Piper, Literacy Education; Jean Pierce, Department of Education Psychology and Foundations; College of Health and Human Sciences, Linda Derscheid, School of Family Consumer and Nutrition Sciences; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, James Giles, Department of English, Eric Mogren, Department of History, Joseph (Buck) Stephen, Department of Mathematical Sciences, and Paul Stoddard, Department of Geology and Environment Geosciences and from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Lee Sido in the School of Arts.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Extension of Acting Dean for Liberal Arts and Sciences Joseph Grush
I. Legg moved that to extend Joe Grush’s appointment as Acting Dean for Liberal Arts and Sciences for another year.

The motion passed.

B. Appointment of or search for a Faculty Personnel Advisor announcement

P. Stoddard called for nominations for Faculty Personnel Advisor.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

P. Henry asked about federal student aid that is now going to go to schools with more than 50% on-line classes. President Peters responded that the federal education budget is still in flux.

J. Stephen commented that NIU was looking into the Roth 401K/403B plan.

J. Stephen also noted that he is quite proud to be associated with a public university which offers so many opportunities to non-traditional students and minority students. We did not have a meeting last month in which to recognize NIU’s commitment to the African-American population; therefore he pointed out now that the name of our newspaper, The Northern Star, is very close to that of Fredrick Douglas’s newspaper, The North Star.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
C. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality
D. Minutes, Committee on Advanced Programs for Certification in Education
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 adjourned at 4:10 p.m.