UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2006  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


C. Montgomery attended for J. Grush; S. Kuo attended for P. Vohra; D. Wade attended for S. Webber.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


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 (walk-in for VI Academic Policy Committee).

III.  APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING

(Pages 3-7)

The minutes were approved as amended (correction to date of last meeting).

IV.  PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters undated the council on budget matters. While the university administration still feels optimistic that NIU will see a small increase, they caution that the state budget talks are a “fluid” process.

S. Pace informed the Council that the official student support system kick-off announcement will be April 11, 2006.

V.  CONSENT AGENDA
President Peters acknowledged and thanked Shey Lowman, who is retiring, for her 32 years of commitment to the institution.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sharon Holmes – no report

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – report (Page 8)

F. Bryan pointed out that Buck Stephen presented the report last time, but stressed that we do have a very supportive Board in terms of faculty sabbaticals. President Peters echoed that sentiment.

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

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Rachel Turner and Shey Lowman – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

P. Stoddard reported that the full Board met and approved the recommendations previously made by the committees for Finance, Facilities and Operations, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel, and Legislation, Audit and External Affairs. In addition, there was a brief report from two of the resident advisors.

F. Academic Policy Committee – Colin Booth, Chair – report – walk-in

C. Booth reminded the Council that the committee was charged with reviewing the instructions for administering student evaluations of instruction. Outdated instructions were eliminated and the revised version is a walk-in item. He then moved that the revised instructions which are included here be adopted effective Fall of 2006.

W. Tolhurst asked about the timing of the returning the reviews to the department. C. Booth replied that there was no change to that instruction.

J. Wolfskill proposed that for item C, which currently states, “*Note: The student administering this evaluation should clearly write information identified below by an asterisk on the board for the class to read.” that the asterisks, instead of it being at the end of the statement in items 3, 4 and 5 for example, be put on the numbers so that they would stand out more. C. Booth, as committee chair, agreed.

W. Tolhurst and C. Booth debated the merits of having the instructions to the class written on the blackboard, as opposed to using the ELMO system, for example.
C. Booth added that the committee recognized that departments have their variety of instructions. The walk-in being voted on is meant to be a set of guidelines that go out from the Council to the departments.

The motion passed with the editorial change.

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Amy Rose Chair – report (Pages 9-10)

S. Lowman reported that the committee has been investigating how budget cuts have affected the physical plant and the maintenance of the university. Highlights: 1) performance contracts (energy savings which pay for improvements) and 2) the President’s office has recently indicated it will dedicate funds to aid in the effort to have quicker response to repair requests. The committee recommends improving communication concerning the status of work orders by the development of a website where the status of work orders can be monitored and a newsletter or quarterly publication which can be posted on the website to update the university community on maintenance related issues.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – report (Page 11)

J. Wolfskill, on behalf of the committee, moved a change to the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual’s working rules for the UCPC, specifically the voting procedures; to wit, adding the following section of text:

“In any case involving a recommendation of an individual’s tenure, promotion, or sabbatical leave which comes to the UCPC for action, the motion to be considered by the UCPC must be made in the positive sense; that is, a motion to recommend tenure, promotion, or sabbatical leave for that individual.”

as Item. 1.4. The current paragraph listed as 1.4 would then be pushed back to 1.5.

The motion was seconded and passed.

I. University Affairs Committee – Xueshu Song, Chair – report (Page 12)

X. Song, on behalf of the committee, moved for the UC to approve the attached academic calendar for 2015-2016.

The motion was seconded and passed.

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Brigid Lusk, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

P. Stoddard read the following proposed resolution:
“Whereas Ivan Legg has faithfully served Northern Illinois University in the cause of public higher education for many years, and whereas he has contributed significant new knowledge to the scientific world as a research chemist and long-time professor of chemistry, and whereas Dr. Legg’s steadfast support for student and faculty priorities has strengthened academic life at every institution he has served, and whereas his heartfelt commitment to diversity has enriched the NIU experience for students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds, and whereas Dr. Legg’s leadership on issues involving student life and academic support issues has measurably improved the overall collegiate experience for countless NIU students, and whereas he has consistently provided strong direction and wise council to college deans and other academic leaders, and whereas his support for NIU’s system of shared governance has helped build consensus for numerous key initiatives, and whereas Dr. Legg is nationally recognized for his expertise in the area of faculty rewards and professional development, and whereas his commitment to providing students with maximum exposure to real-world learning experiences has increased student participation in faculty research, internships and service learning experience, and whereas Ivan Legg’s reputation for person integrity and generosity of spirit has created a leadership legacy at Northern Illinois University. Now, therefore, let it be resolved that the University Council and Faculty Senate of Northern Illinois University extends this expression of appreciation and gratitude to Provost Ivan Legg, scholar, teacher, gentleman, and beloved friend.”

The resolution passed by acclamation.

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 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 3:40 p.m.