
W. Minor attended for J. Grush.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Bose, Doederlein, Factor, Kafer, Kaplan, Kowalski, Marcus, Schoenbachler, Tallon, Tollerud, Walton

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: I call the September 14, University Council to order. Welcome back everyone.

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Our first order of business is the adoption of the agenda and we have some changes to announce before we approve the agenda. If you look at V. Consent Agenda, D, time line for grievance over summer, let’s delete that. That will not be dealt with today. We’re going to add, we’re not going to re-letter, but we’re going to add F, which is a walk-in. You should have it in front of you, Article 8, Sabbatical Leave Policy. That is a change that will be referred to Rules and Governance. So we’re going to refer it to that committee. It’s a potential change; the change is in bold on the second page but that’s a referral on the Consent Agenda. Then, another walk-in under New Business which is VIII, we’re going to add B which is approval of the holiday schedule for 2006 under New Business and Steve Cunningham will be here to present that. You remember that’s a Council responsibility to approve the holiday schedule. With that said, I’ll call for a motion to adopt the agenda for today. Is there a motion to that effect? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right, we have an agenda.

The agenda passed as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2005 MEETING – walk-in
President Peters: Item III, which is a walk-in. Before you there are the minutes of the May 4 meeting. Are there any additions or corrections? Not hearing any, is there a motion to approve the minutes of May 4? Second? All those in favor say aye. Okay, we have minutes.

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: Welcome back. It seems that the University Council is starting later than normal but it seems like we’ve been in session already for a few months, but welcome back. We are welcoming to the campus I think about 50 new tenure/tenure-track faculty and I didn’t get a report on the number of staff but a substantial number of new staff. That’s not additional; that’s replacement staff although we were able to add a few more faculty this year and so make sure we welcome those new people.

As you know, very recently we experienced the deaths of two very, very distinguished professors, Gustaaf Von Cromphout from English and James Schubert from Political Science. They were extraordinary professors who touched a lot of students and their faculty and I know that, in Professor Schubert’s case, there’s going to be some sort of campus memorial for him. So I’d asked us to remember them. Also, this week at the Northwestern football game we had a tragic loss of one of our donors and supporters, George Wilkins, who died of a heart attack at the game. He was a supporter and his daughter, Beth Wilkins, is in the College of Education. George had become a good friend to many people, myself included. He was a physician, a banker, was on the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees for many years and I came to value his perspective on higher education in Illinois from the view of a former trustee and a business person and a physician and he was part of the NIU family and it gets difficult to sustain losses like those three in such a short period of time and coming on the heels of the natural disaster that occurred in the gulf states. I’m going to ask Gip Seaver, who is here, to give you just a little report on what our response is to Katrina has been and I am overwhelmed at the reaction of the higher education community in general across the country in trying to accommodate students and faculty and others from the basic six universities that are virtually or in fact, not virtually, shut down and may not reopen this year. So Gip, why don’t you give the University Council a few of what we’ve done and where we stand.

G. Seaver: Starting, this seems like a month ago, we started receiving phone calls from students who were interested in attending Northern who came from the universities that were closed. We currently have six undergraduates who are enrolled for classes that we got enrolled over about the last week and a half. At the present time, we don’t have any graduate students enrolled but we did talk to a number of those individuals. We’ve also identified about nine students who are NIU students who are from Louisiana and Alabama and we’ve been able to reach out and talk with those students as well. Once we started getting calls, we put into place a plan to try to respond quickly to these students. The undergraduate students were admitted as visiting students. That gave us a lot of freedom in how we could go about the admission process. We literally had a system that when the students came, we sent them off to admissions and I really have to thank Bob Burke and his people in admissions for doing such a great job. These students
don’t have transcripts; they don’t have hardly any student records at all. We then sent them off to advising, first to the Academic Advising Center to be triaged and then off to the colleges and I really want to thank Michael “Brody” Broshears in the Academic Advising office and his staff as well as all of the advising officers in the colleges that really just stepped up and took over. We ran into – we had no barriers put up in front of us at all. Everybody just immediately rushed to the aid of these students as they came to campus, many times unannounced. From there we sent them to Student Financial Aid and with Kathleen Brunson and her office and also the Bursar’s office so that we didn’t start them having bills show up immediately for these students until we could start to work out some financial arrangements for these students and there are some students who have significant financial issues; not only the students who are coming to use from the gulf coast universities, but also our own students who have some significant financial issues to be able to stay here at Northern. Also, Michael Stang in Housing and Dining services who was very helpful in terms of trying to make arrangements for housing. I think I said in the paper the other day that we’ve had a number of faculty and staff at Northern, we’ve had local realtors who have called our office to say I have a room in my house; they can it for free for the entire year – I have an apartment, they can have it for the entire year at no cost. The response by the university and the community has just been fantastic. Two other people that I really need to recognize that have been very special in this is Dana Gautcher in the Scholarship Office. She has been really the point person for all of the financial aspects of trying to see what scholarship money, tuition waivers – what we can do to help these students financially and also through development. The other one I have to really thank is Molly Keller. Fortunately, we put Molly on the point on this who had to take all the phone calls and from the moment our release went out, our office was swamped with calls from parents, from students, from any of a number of individuals so Dana and Molly, who continue to work with these students, we owe them a great deal here at the institution. We will continue to follow these students and keep track of them, not only our own students, but also the students that are here in terms of coming in as visiting students. We are also starting to get now more calls about students who are interested in transferring from gulf coast institutions, not necessarily those that are closed, as of January. So we’re not done with the response to this but we’re going to keep close tabs. Dana is calling about every couple of weeks or sooner in terms of the students that we’ve identified; find out how they’re doing, how they’re transitioning. We’re going to keep close tabs on these students while they’re here. I need to thank all of you out there who have helped us with it. I think all of us have just been so proud of Northern Illinois University and the community of DeKalb including Rockford. We were getting calls from churches in Rockford offering houses and rooming spaces as well. The response by the community has just been fantastic and I thank all of you for that.

President Peters: Very good. Dean Richmond, you have something you want to add.

Dean Richmond: Yes, I just wanted to add ---

President Peters: Make sure you speak into the microphone. Don’t speak into your phone.

Dean Richmond: Just another way of being proud of what the university can do, we have been with some of the other families coming in with children to be placed in the public school system here. Tri-County Community Health Center is helping with physicals, immunization type things,
to help those working with the Public Health Department to get those families in and help them
get into school so again, that’s just another part that a lot of people probably do not realize that
the university has access to but we’re helping in that way and we’re very glad that we were
contacted so we have a lot to be proud of with the university.

**President Peters:** Thank you very much Shirley and thank you Gip. Early on we decided that
there needed to be a case worker approach to this. There had to be an entry point and someone
who would follow through and we made Gip Seaver that person and you’ve done a good job and
it sounds as if other people have been involved.

I have a few observations and I think Shirley mentioned it. I think it was last Thursday there was
a community meeting called and Dr. Williams and I represented the university, a community
meeting of DeKalb, Sycamore and the county and there must have been thirty or forty
representatives of government, of the social service agencies, the hospital, banks, and the
information exchange was quite substantial and I felt quite good about the community and we
offered what support we could for the larger issue, the issues of evacuees, and I don’t know what
those numbers are, but we there as well. I have two other thoughts, I know reading the editorial
in the *Northern Star*, the *Star* was quite upset and chagrined that their efforts to raise funds did
not reach their goal, and I thought about that and, you know, that knowing how these things go, I
think that the response was quite good and the response of an institution and its individuals is not
always in dollars and cents, especially students who are, you know, struggling to get by and I
think our response has been quite admirable and I wouldn’t be so down because hey didn’t raise
their goal of $40,000. It’s very difficult to raise that kind of money in a student population. Of
course, faculty and staff had probably immediately given what they could to their churches or
other agencies, the Red Cross. Here’s the thing, our work isn’t done here. The work just begins
to rebuild the gulf area. The issues of admitting and transferring students will continue and I
know we will go forward in the same spirit that we reacted to the crisis. The six presidents of the
heavily impacted universities are hoping that the students remain students at Tulane and the
University of New Orleans and Dillard. They would prefer they not transfer and so that’s why
we have admitted these students as visiting students and the expectation is that they will be able
to resume their studies at these universities. There will be – we’ve already been contacted and
maybe some of the departments have – about faculty from these universities. I know I was
talking, when we were up in Ann Arbor for the Michigan game and I talked to President Mary
Sue Colemen, they had taken I believe, fifteen of the medical faculty from Tulane and similar
law faculty and it’s – those institutions that were on the quarter system that are just starting next
week, have received great numbers of transfer students. It was a stretch for us because we were
in the second week when this happened. As we go forward, we will have – I am sure that our
faculty and our staff and our units and our student affairs and the *Northern Star* will be figuring
ways to help out on a continuing basis, interims, what we do on spring break, there are
educational and academic issues that I think are important here that should be studied and that
can be learning and living laboratories and so I hope that, I know, that our response will not just
be momentary but will be deep and long term because that’s what it’s going to take but I would
say so far I’m very, very proud of what our institution has done.

Tomorrow is Board of Trustees meeting and we will be approving our internal budgets and our
budget recommendations that go before the legislature to the IBHE. The period of time right
now is quite quiet. We are not hearing anything about budgets. We’re tracking revenues; revenues are better. Whether or not we will be in line for a good increase, I’m not sure. We’re going to make the case. Our budget meeting with the IBHE is – Eddie, do you know – is it November?

**E. Williams:** Early November.

**President Peters:** Early November. It’s later than normal. So, I guess, no news is good news. I do not anticipate a rescission. We’re tracking energy prices. We heat ourselves with natural gas basically and, you know, as we read in the paper, anywhere from a 39 to a 70% increase and Dr. Williams, of course, has – we buy at the wellhead and I don’t know if all of our contracts are taken care of for this year, but sooner or later we get hit with those energy costs. We have a very big physical plant and, you know, so – mile winter? That’s what the *Almanac* says. We may have some unanticipated costs that we didn’t expect.

We are moving, by the way, toward approval to acquire a student system for Oracle – the old PeopleSoft – and we’ll be moving toward implementing that. It will take a good bit of time; it will take a lot of cooperation. We have great experience at this because we have been able to bring on line the personnel system and the financial system so we’ve got experience, but it will be a challenge but it’s a very positive thing because these are very, very good, sophisticated systems.

I’m not going to say too much in general about policies or directions because, as you know, on October 6 at 3:00pm in Altgeld, I’ll be giving my State of the University address and the address will be, this year, in kind of two parts. One is looking back five years and then looking ahead five years, kind of taking a time on where are we, where are we going, what are the constraints that we operate under, what are our opportunities, what are our goals. So that will be October 6, 3:00pm in Altgeld.

I can give you a small report today on enrollment, if I brought it. Yes. You know we’re a very attractive institution to many students and our problem was matching increased demand for enrollment with our resources of every sort, particularly instructional resources, and so Ivan Legg and I and others in the enrollment management group have tried to keep our enrollment stable. We set targets and we’ve hit them; they’ve done a very good job. In terms of new freshmen, our official enrollment is 3,165. That’s an increase of 7.6% from the fall of last year but last year was down a little bit so that enrollment is much more like 2003 and 2002 so that hit our stable number. Our stable number is anywhere between 3,000 and 3,200. There were 2,169 new transfer; the majority of them community college students. That’s an increase of 10.9%. That number usually tracks with the number of students who are ending their career at the two-year colleges. That’s a pretty normal yield. So, overall – in terms of graduate students, we have about 6,408 graduate students. That’s a decrease. We’re experiencing a decrease of about 2% in graduate students and that is a national phenomena. When the economy is good, people don’t go to graduate school. We’re experiencing a little of that across the state but I still consider that stable. So overall, we’re at about 25,000 – we are at 25,208. That’s a 1.6% increase so if you think about that for a moment, we haven’t analyzed it yet – we want to look at retention rates at the sophomore, junior, and senior years – and see how those were; see if we met our goals.
We’ll be reporting later about the makeup of the classes, you know, quality, diversity and so forth. It’s a very diverse group and on all of those measures, it looks pretty good. So that is just a snapshot of the enrollment picture.

One or two other things, I said I wasn’t going to talk too much about goals and what we need to focus on, but yesterday I spent time in Washington and, as most of you know, I’m a member of the Abraham Lincoln Commission on Study Abroad which is a group of about twenty people appointed by the Congress and President to try to fashion a public policy, a federal public policy, whose goal is to try to get a million undergraduates to study abroad by the year 2017-18. We have about 300,000 students across the United States who study abroad currently and the increase, even with the threat of terrorism in the Middle East and around the world, has been increasing at a rate of about 9.7% a year so even with that, we’ll be at half a million to 600,000 students who study abroad by that time. The Commission’s work will result in a study much like the Nation at Risk kind of study with a set of recommendations and we’re moving toward a November date and the report is going to make the case why this is important and I don’t want to belabor that here, but, you know, at some other time I would like to talk at length about it. I know this is study abroad week/day at the university. I think if you talk to our faculty and many of you who are here, that an understanding of the rest of the world, the global issues we confront, the importance of acquiring languages, the importance of understanding different cultures and not the traditional study abroad which is, you know, the junior year in Paris – I’m not referring to that – and most study abroad experiences now are eight weeks; they’re not even a semester and I don’t know what you can do in eight weeks but it’s a start. I do think that at that level, we need to pay attention to our study abroad. I think it’s good; it could be a lot better. We need to pay attention to the globalization and the internationalization of our curriculum and I’m kind of giving you a snapshot of one thing I’m going to talk about in the State of the University Address. This would not be cheap at the federal level because even with a grant let’s say, for eight weeks of $1,750, in order to reach that goal of a million, you’d need about half a billion dollar annual appropriation. You know, with everything that’s on the plate of the federal government, is this possible? I don’t know. We’re going to make a try; we’re going to make the case but I think the case has to be made. The other way I look at it is it’s a great benefit to the country; it’s a great benefit to the students, but it’s also a great benefit to the country. You know, think of a million students every year being exposed to a different culture and, hopefully you know, not the traditional destinations. I think that has a great impact on the future of the world and us. Also, sending a million students, our best and our brightest I hope, I think is important in the world right now. So I came back kind of enthusiastic and charged up about that task I’ve been given and I think higher education has to do its part if we’re going to sell this to the Congress. You know the way the Congress looks at this is well, what we need is – will that help us fill out our quota for people for the military, for the CIA, for, you know, everything we need with regard to employment. I think we have to make the case that this is intrinsically important for our society and to be an educated citizen. So I’m going on a little bit but I feel deeply about it and the only way I know to get the message out is to tell you so you can begin to talk about it around the water cooler.

I’d like to introduce somebody who’s joined NIU, Dr. Tom Krepel is here. He’s joined the Office of the President as Assistant to the President. Tom, if you’d stand up. Welcome. Tom was seven years president at Chadron State College and he brings a wealth of experience over
many, many years in higher education and I am hopeful that this going to permit me to do some things I haven’t been able to do. Do a little more teaching, watch out students, and a little more involved with vice-presidents. We have so many, so many things going on right now that require my attention that Tom’s presence is going to help me tie up some of those loose ends.

All right, with that I’ll open the floor right now if there are any questions. All right, let’s move to our agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

President Peters: Is there a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, V? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right.

A. Approval of the University Council Committees for 2005-2006 (Page 3)

B. University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees – 2005-2008 (Page 4)

C. Proposed Changes in Responsibilities of the Academic Planning Council – see memo from Legg – refer to Rules and Governance (Page 5)

D. Timeline for Grievances over summer – refer to Rules and Governance

E. Faculty Grievance Committee structure – refer to Rules and Governance

F. Article 8: Sabbatical Leave Policy – refer to Rules and Governance – walk-in

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Joseph “Buck” Stephen – report

President Peters: Now, let’s move to reports. We have a report form Buck Stephen on the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE.

J. Stephen: I’m also covering the BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee so when I’m done with the FAC if there are no questions, we’ll just smoothly segway into that.

President Peters: Oh, we’ll have to vote on that.

J. Stephen: The FAC met twice this summer, on May 20 and June 24. To be honest, the schedules were rather light. The May 20 schedule – we met with Elaine Carruthers, Faculty Senate President for the Public Institutions. We were supposed with Don Severson, the legislative liaison to the IBHE, but he wasn’t about to attend. Mostly we talked about budgetary concerns and our unhappiness with the pending budget and the legislative approach to the changes in the SERS retirement plan. There was some positive discussion about changes in the House Bill that had been later voted down so there’s not much need to talk about that. Allan
Karnes, the FAC Chair is a chemistry professor at Southern Illinois University and he pointed out that the cap on earnings for the state contributed portion to our retirement funds was most likely unconstitutional and very likely to be legally challenged very quickly. I don’t know if anything has happened on that yet. We then discussed some internal structural planning for the coming year because we had to elect and select new committees and subcommittees. Little bit of details given there.

We then met June 24 at Lincoln Land Community College. We first met with a committee of students and discussed the problem of textbook costs. That took up a lot of time and we found that even at the level of a state committee of students, that there are a lot of misconceptions about how textbooks are chosen, including the fact that professors get kickbacks for picking certain books, that it’s appropriate to use the same textbook for the same course across the state, where it isn’t. There was some idea that some it should be within our standard job to prepare all classroom materials for the web and that’s unreasonable in terms of the workload and, in particular, whether or not some professors are prepared to write at that kind of level. We also talked about the lending system. While that’s worked well at other universities, we pointed out – well, I pointed out to them that at NIU that would cost us approximately 4% of our budget just to set it up and that it was an unfeasible thing to do. Then there were two people, myself and another member, who actually are textbook authors and work for textbook companies as editors and things, and we talked to them about the pricing schedule and gave them some details on that and the fact that, in particular, as a university, it’s very hard for us to control textbook prices which come from major publishers. Then on a positive note we talked about some of the approaches to alternatives to textbooks such as Professor Tolhurst has talked about in previous classes about making library resources available on-line to lessen the costs and some of the course packet availability stuff that many classes are doing. They actually took this discussion very well and found it quite information and are still quite interested in figuring out how to lower the textbook courses. Personally, I think the suggestion by the Lieutenant Governor that they eliminate sales tax on textbooks is one of the best suggestions that I’ve heard. That’s 10% savings about right there.

We talked a little bit about the details of 2005-2006 schedule for the FAC. Basically, that’s where were the host institutions going to be. Allan Karnes stepped down from his position as chair. He was thanked for his guidance as FAC chair. In addition, there were thanks given to those members of the committee who were leaving and I was asked to extend a thank you to Pat Henry for her past years of service and the quality of her representation for NIU to the FAC. We’re still looking for a replacement by the way. We had a mild discussion on whether we wanted to start the Thursday session a little earlier to be able to include a round of golf. The NIU representative did not participate as he doesn’t play golf.

Wayne Evans of Bradley University was elected as the new president of the FAC and on a personal note; I’d like to say I think that was an excellent choice on the part of the FAC. Anne Draznin is the Vice-Chair and Terrence Riddell is the Secretary. They served in that post over the last year.

Are there any questions about the FAC report?
**President Peters:** Could I comment Buck on a couple of things? Number one is we need to find a replacement – this is a very, very important position and one that I think is interesting – could be very interesting.

**J. Stephen:** Actually, it is very interesting. It takes on Friday a month and it’s incredibly informative. It’s a wonderful group of people to work with and it’s a wonderful experience to learn more about universities other than our own and the privates too.

**President Peters:** And, you know, this individual represents NIU and we should be at the table because sometimes things like the textbook issue which has traction, this definitely has traction, this is not going to go away, and you may see legislation on this but I know we’ve been working on it very, very hard and have taken a rational approach to what we can control and what we can’t control but I think there are issues that will be coming up where a faculty representative for NIU should be at the table. Yeah?

**P. Henry:** Just to follow up on that, I thought it was especially good that the FAC is communicating a lot with the Student Advisory Council and that’s another sort of layer of communication that I think is really important to maintain.

**President Peters:** Yeah, and I don’t know if you’ve seen it, but as a result of your input the Student Advisory Council of the IBHE issued a report on textbooks.

**J. Stephen:** No, I didn’t see that.

**President Peters:** I think that’s probably on their website. Everybody ought to look at that, every faculty, because there’s still slippage in it. You know, there’s still things that aren’t quite possible.

**J. Stephen:** I was quite vocal during that discussion, as usual.

**President Peters:** It is a serious issue, you know, as much as you say it’s an oligopoly and we don’t really control a lot of that, you know, maybe there are things we can do like, you know, bundling up of text materials and CD’s when you don’t use – it doesn’t make a lot of sense and sometimes, you know, I know when I used to fill out those slips, I didn’t know what was coming with the packet. So, I think what we need to do is be vigilant and know and then I did a walk through, actually I saw Bill Tolhurst over at the bookstore, I always walk through and see what my colleagues in Political Science are using and I went through and Bill was there with his shrink-wrapped package of textual materials that he got for his class and he was able to jawbone a good price, I think it was $30 or $40 bucks for five different treatises. I thought it was great. But then I looked at things that are little more than Xeroxes and it was $40 and you begin to wonder, you know, can’t we get control over this situation. It’s the same thing with serials, you know, it’s out of control. Now, then again, I think some of the information that’s over there is a little overblown. I think our average textbook cost per student is about $450 which is still a look of money. I don’t know whether that’s changed as a percent of one’s overall tuition over time but it’s not going to go away.
**J. Stephen:** Yeah I might note that both bookstores are very aggressive about stocking used textbooks and the price of textbooks does depend on discipline. I’m in mathematics and math is just notoriously expensive for the ones from major publishers. For some of our high volume classes, Math 101 and 201, we use texts prepared by others here which come in quite a bit cheaper. Oh, another thing about the FAC, you can meet some pretty interesting, high power people, representatives of the Lieutenant Governor’s Office, and it’s a great chance to just dump on some of these folks. If you’ve got time, it’s really worth it. If I had time, I’d continue doing it if I didn’t teach – didn’t have 270 students every Friday.

**President Peters:** Just let me know the results of the dumping.

**J. Stephen:** They go out in the hall and they call the Lieutenant Governor.


**J. Stephen:** Okay, NIU BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee, September 1, 2005. We met at 9:00 on September 1, 2005. There were five informational items discussed. The FY07 programmatic budget requests were received. The wish was for funding – for us funding for mission critical faculty, degree completion for community college students and faculty diversity. I’ll return to that in a minute.

Recognition was extended to the 2004/2005 retirees and the status of emeritus faculty was awarded. That again, I’ll return to.

We discussed a little about the University Performance Report. It seemed pretty positive. The indicators show effective practices and adequate program review. The full report has not yet been prepared because the date has been changed. It’s due tomorrow and I assume it will be in the BOT packet for tomorrow. The BOT supports full public disclosure of these performance indications which I think is a wonderful sign of openness on their part. Then the BOT recognized those people who were awarded professional excellence awards. This included the people in the Supportive Professional Staff, the Operating Staff, people receiving Presidential Research Professorships, Presidential Teaching Professorships, and the CUIE Award for the Excellence in Undergraduate Education. All awardees were invited to attend the meeting and we had a lunch at the BOT where they were all introduced and basically applauded let’s say. It was a nice lunch; well attended.

The progress of the University Mission Increase Extender External Funding was discussed by Vice President Bose. We had a good discussion about that and it was noted that President Peters has met his goal to increase the funding and it’s quite an admirable accomplishment on his part.

Grants in FY05 are up 25% for a total of 60.7 million which is quite a feat. Vice President Bose also discussed high profile grants and stressed the benefits of research to the university community and the quality of education. As a note to those of you who might read this report, you’ll see that a good proportion of those grants come under what are called “other academic units” which is sort of unclear. I think a better title for that would be “interdisciplinary grants”
or “intercollege grants” because that includes things like the K-20 project and things like that where there are multiple colleges involved so it’s not “other academic units”, it’s actually multiple college grants.

President Peters spoke briefly. He stressed – this is what I mean to return to – he stressed the coalition between the number of new emeritus faculty, we lost quite a few faculty to retirement, and the need to fund mission critical faculty slots citing the higher number of recent retirements of higher respected researchers. About that time, he got called out of the room and the Governor asked him to try to figure out a way to try to accommodate students from Louisiana and also that’s when we heard about the passing of Professor Von Cromphout. I miss Gustaaf a great deal.

Then there was discussion that the University Foundation has made the establishment of endowed chairs a fundraising priority. I think this is a great opportunity for us. I wish them great success with that. We have them in several colleges and I think that would be quite an accomplishment if we can get these throughout the other colleges.

Any questions about that?

President Peters: Questions? All right. Very thorough.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – report (Page 6)

President Peters: Paul and Xueshu, the BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee.

P. Stoddard: Right. On September 1 that committee met. I have a written report for you on page 6 of the packet. Skip over the first two items which were pretty routine. The first one is, unfortunately, very routine. We do this same exact thing every year because we never get any money to actually act on it.

Number 3 was a highlight. Huskie Sports will now be available on AM 670 out of Chicago, that’s WSCR, also known as “The Score”. We’ll have all of our football games there. Hopefully, we’ll win a few of them and 20 of the NIU men’s basketball games will also be there. In addition to the games themselves, there will be post-game and pre-game shows. So this really is quite an opportunity for NIU to get a lot of exposure in the region. They claim, The Score does, to cover an area of 68 states and parts of Canada ---

President Peters: 38.

P. Stoddard: 38! I thought it was overblown but I didn’t think it was that overblown. Although looking at their map, I think in a couple of the states, you’d have a hard time getting reception. Certainly throughout the Midwest, between the Appalachians and the Rockies. I think you’d probably do pretty well. I have actually heard them out in South Dakota, in Rapid City, but not in New York. So that was a nice coup for the Athletic Department.
As the President indicated earlier, we are close to completing negotiations to replace the student services system, what used to be known as PeopleSoft. The negotiations should be completed soon. Implementation, again as the President indicated, will take a bit longer but that gives us some time to get ready for it as well.

Finally, an information item which I think will also come up again in the subsequent report and this has to do with the final, at least for now, results of the pension proposals. So there’s a brief summary here. Basically, a couple of the more troublesome proposals, at least for now, the cost of living adjustments and the current age requirements were not changed. It has been suggested they might be in a negative fashion. The money purchase option was eliminated for employees hired on or after July 1, 2005 so everybody who was here before that won’t see a change in regards to that. However, now we have implemented a two-tier pension system for the universities. The effective rate of interest calculation had been done by SURS itself; now it will be done by the Office of the State Comptroller. My understanding is that the comptroller has just completed that calculation and came up with a number that was very similar to SURS this time around. There’s some uncertainty as to how strict the rules are on that calculation and how much the comptroller himself or herself might actually have to say about that rate but the rate he came up with was 8% and I think SURS had come up with for this year 8% and for next year 8.5%. I might have those backward, but there’s concern that the rate could be calculated as low as 6% which would obviously increase the amount of time until you were able to get your full benefits upon retiring.

The other concern is that the State will under fund SURS by a total of almost 400 million dollars or about 47.5% for FY06 and FY07. Full funding will not resume, according to their plan, until FY11 so that’s another 5 years of under funding the plan which I won’t comment on.

Also, and I think, was it Buck referred to this, universities will be responsible for increased annuities resulting from raises or salary increases over 6% during the “high 4-year period” so there’s still some negotiating going on with that as to whether or not if you start teaching summer courses during those 4 years, will that count towards a pay increase, if you get promoted, that might count towards a pay increase so this could really stick the university with a large bill which, of course, is not funded. This is something that I understand is being negotiated with but it’s something we have to keep a very close eye on still.

**President Peters:** Yeah, I would add this is on our radar screen daily. This is an important issue and it’s yet to be determined as to how this will play out.

**J. Stephen:** Two comments, one is the comment I made from the accountancy professor has to do with how the interest rate is calculated and the fact that the state had tried to say that they would calculate interest differently on our contributions versus the state’s contribution and I have one question about the annuities resulting from raises over 6% during the high 4-year period, should that read 6% per annum?

**P. Stoddard:** Yes, it should.

**J. Stephen:** Okay, thank you.
President Peters: Yeah, and Steve Cunningham is here if there are any questions before or after. He’s done yeoman service for the whole state, all the universities and knows as much about this as anybody. Okay.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Donna Smith and Shey Lowman – report (Pages 7-12)

President Peters: All right, Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee, Donna Smith and Shey Lowman. Okay, Donna.

D. Smith: That committee met on August 19. Shey and I attended the meeting in Hoffman Estates. It started out with Ken Zehnder making a 94th General Assembly report and I won’t read all these details for you, just highlight the points that he mentioned. He said the accomplishments this time were those that did not pass. First of all is House Bill 476 – Naming Rights which would take away naming rights from the university and that did not pass so the university can name buildings after people who make large donations, etc. He thought there might some effort at a later date to push this through however.

The next bill is Senate Bill 131 – Amends the Public Community College Act. This was referred to rules and Zehnder does not expect to see this bill resurrected.

Another bill that is not in your written report because I was waiting for some confirmation from Mr. Zehnder is Senate Bill 1628 and that deals with the higher education inspector general proposal. This originated because of some opinions that the office of inspector general should not have to deal with both code agencies and higher education. The proposal would have cost about a million dollars a year to duplicate what was already in existence and it was the feeling that that money should go to the institutions of higher ed and not to a separate bureaucracy so that did not pass either. It’s been placed for a third reading.

Other items of note from Mr. Zehnder’s report was House Bill 715, that’s the Amendment to the Election Code. It would require universities and colleges to ask each student who is an Illinois registered voter if they want to change their voter registration address. Originally, there was some concern there would be some cost involved with paper forms but they found out they could do that electronically and NIU is complying with this legislation.

House Bill 873 – Amends the Ticket Scalping Act. This was supported by NIU Athletics and the Convocation Center and that is effective immediately.

President Peters: Were we for scalping or against it?

D. Smith: We were against it. House Bill 2515 – Amends the Board of Higher Education Act that requires the Board to implement and administer a state-wide program to assist student advisors, faculty, and administrators in obtaining consistent and accurate information about transfer courses. This is effective immediately. NIU and UIC are already compliant with this legislation.
Senate Bill 445 – Creates the Social Security Numbers Limited Use Act and prohibits the use of social security numbers by persons or entities except for certain uses. That’s effective immediately and NIU is compliant on this legislation.

Mr. Zehnder also noted 4 other bills that were signed by the Governor. House Bill 815 – Amends the Higher Education Student Act and House Bill 3724 – Amends various acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois and the Public Community College Act. Both of those deals with veterans and those serving in the National Guard. Senate Bill 1857 amends the Open Meetings Act. Senate Bill 2091 amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law.

Another bill of note and we’ll let Shey Lowman elaborate on this one, is House Bill 1384. That amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code to direct the system to conduct a divided Medicare coverage referendum and I’ll let her elaborate when I’ve finished the entire report.

Mr. Zehnder also reported that there are no vetoes or mandatory vetoes expected in the fall veto session. Kathy Buettner thanked Senate President Emil Jones for recognizing our C.H.A.N.C.E. and all the efforts they do. There was an additional $700,000 allocation to NIU specifically for the C.H.A.N.C.E. program. Steve Cunningham reported on Public Act 94-0004 which Paul’s already outlined so I won’t go into details there. Ken Davidson reported on that each one of us should be receiving information about the 2005 ethics training so be looking forward to that again. Kathy Buettner made the Federal Legislative Report. First of all the Federal Transportation Equity Act Reauthorization passed giving NIU 8.32 million in federal transportation funds. These funds will be used to put boulevards out on the west campus.

The House maintained the funding levels for the fourth year in a row for several grants and restored the TRIO and GEAR UP programs. There was no increase in the Pell maximum award and the program was level funded at $4,050.

There’s also a move in response to negative media attention regarding the tax-exempt sectors and this could affect donors to the foundation as well as individuals who are received tuition waivers. She also provided details on the Higher Education Reauthorization Update.

The Board of Trustees Committee received from Dean Shirley Richmond from the College of Health and Human Sciences. She reported on the new facility going up out on Sycamore Road, NIU/Monsanto facility that will be called Family Health, Wellness and Literacy Center.

Associate vice president from University Outreach, John Lewis, reported on the status of the NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy at FermiLab and NIU Internal Audit director, Sharon Dowen, gave a general report on the Department of Internal Audit.

I’ll now hand it over to Shey Lowman to elaborate on that other ---
S. Lowman: I just wanted to make a comment on House Bill 1384 because of it’s one of these very few legislations that are actually going to impact people here on campus. What they’re doing is having SURS administrate – people who have not paid into Medicare, if you were employed before March 3, 1986, you haven’t been paying into Medicare, you haven’t been paying into Social Security or anything and you’ll have one chance to opt in for Medicare coverage. You’ll still have to pay for the 10 years of the 40 quarters and if you’ve got that much time left, you can qualify for it. I know I’ve been here for 30 years and haven’t paid into any of this and if anyone had offered me this 10 years ago, I certainly would have done it. If you were employed after March 31, 1986, you have been paying 1.45% of Medicare. So expect, those of you who would be eligible, you should be receiving some information from SURS within the next couple of months I believe.

President Peters: All right, that’s pretty important. I presume, Steve Cunningham, that HR is going to be helping on that?

S. Cunningham: Yes.

President Peters: Okay. Comments or questions? There was a lot there; any comments or questions on any of that. Some of those pieces of legislation that died are unraveling and difficult and then we spend a lot of time working to try to educate legislators on the impact of some of these bills. Take, for instance, the naming rights bill. That means – one of our new buildings that was just put up with all private money, we would have to go to the legislature and have the legislature act on that. Now, you know, what person, individual who wants to give a lot of money and want something named, is going to go through that. So, all the universities have been working on that one quite diligently. We exercise predator control quite a bit on some of these things. Thank you for this report. Questions, comments?

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

President Peters: Next report is Paul Stoddard.

P. Stoddard: I have no report on the BOT at this point.

President Peters: That’s tomorrow.

P. Stoddard: That’s tomorrow.

President Peters: We have no reports from any committees.

F. Academic Policy Committee – Colin Booth, Chair

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Amy Rose, Chair

H. Rules and Governance Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair
I. University Affairs Committee – Xueshu Song, Chair

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Sally Webber, Chair

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS


VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Receipt of Annual Reports

President Peters: Under New Business we have receipt of Annual Reports. You can go to the websites and look at them if you have any questions on any of these reports.

1. Academic Planning Council
2. Athletic Board
3. Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
4. Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
5. Faculty Personnel Advisor
6. Graduate Council
7. Undergraduate Coordinating Council
8. University Assessment Panel
9. University Council Personnel Committee
10. University Ombudsman

B. Approval of 2006 holiday schedule – Steve Cunningham – walk-in

President Peters: We do have an item of new business, that was the walk in and that was the Holiday Schedule. Paul, I'll turn it over to you and Steve Cunningham is here to answer questions or amplify.

P. Stoddard: You have in front of you, or should have in front of you, the Holiday Schedule for 2006/2007. It is the task of this Council to approve this each year. I think it’s pretty straightforward. If you have any questions about anything, Steve is sitting back there. It looks like he’s dying to speak so.

President Peters: Steve I think this comes from a process where we check with all the appropriate employment categories?

S. Cunningham: Yes, that’s correct, it does. The Operating Staff Council has reviewed and Shey, I think you also arranged for review by the SPS Council members. There’s not a lot of variables that we can deal with this year. Independence Day falls on a Tuesday which is sort of unfortunate and over the Christmas Holiday, because of the way the calendar falls, we’re probably back to a relative short Christmas recess or holiday break of 11 days.
President Peters: Okay, all right. Now we are required, the Council is required, to approve this. Is there a motion to approve the 2006 Holiday Schedule? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed. Okay.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters: Do we have any comments or questions from the floor? Yes, John?

J. Wolfskill: You ran over the committees real fast. I just wanted to announce the first meeting of my committee. Seeing as how we have items that were just referred to on the Consent Agenda, so Rules and Governance will meet one week from today, September 21, Wednesday in this time slot at 3:00 p.m. in Room 303 of the Student Center and for the student reps here, I’d ask that someone get the word to whoever is going to be the student rep so they can join us at that time.

President Peters: All right, Buck?

J. Stephen: Three comments, one is it came to my attention when I was filling out the reports for the FAC trips that the important numbers for us to have is our employee ID number, right Donna? I was wondering why that couldn’t be on our NIU card. We had to make phone calls – I didn’t know mine, I didn’t even know I had one and it seems like that should be the type of thing we should have ready reference to when needed. I don’t know who answers that kind of question.

President Peters: Is there anyone here; any expertise on that in the audience? Steve Cunningham? I didn’t know I had one either Buck.

S. Cunningham: The ID should be on our payroll vouchers. It can be located there. The university One Card does not integrate those yet. Some day it will but it doesn’t yet.

J. Stephen: But you are planning to integrate it.

S. Cunningham: Someday, yes.

J. Stephen: Mine’s delaminated so I need one pretty soon anyway. The second one is just a comment. I sent an e-mail to President Peters about this last year. I would like the Space and Resources people to consider relocating the Clinical Lab Sciences folks once the new area is useful out at the old Monsanto property. If you’ve ever to the Clinical Lab Sciences place, it’s a dark and dreary kind of place to be.

President Peters: Where are they located now?

J. Stephen: The basement of DuSable Hall.

President Peters: I’ve never had the pleasure. I will though.
J. Stephen: It’s most easily gotten to by the steam tunnels. The next question I had is I think rather serious. The new centralized advising that we’ve hard about so much, it seems to me that whoever will be heading that up, that advising is an issue for advising deans so that what we’re doing is de facto creating a new dean and that I find troublesome.

G. Seaver: That office reports to the Provost Office. We are working on language within the catalog that talks about being able to deal with issues of withdrawals, reinstatements, dismissals. If you notice, it does say the dean or the dean’s designee. So we’re working with the advising group to be able to do that. It’s not the intent to create another college or create another dean. So we are in discussing with that with the advising group.

J. Stephen: So the language about deans or dean’s designee would that mean that the person at the centralized advising would be dean’s designees of the advising dean’s council?

G. Seaver: No, no – the language we’re looking at would be the designee of the Provost’s Office – by designation of the Provost’s Office.

J. Stephen: So this is being addressed?

G. Seaver: Yes it is.

J. Stephen: Thank you very much.

President Peters: That was a good question. More for the good of the order. Yes?

S. Webber: I would like the members of the Elections Committee to stay for just a minute afterwards. We need to set up a meeting to count some ballots.

President Peters: All right, Elections Committee if you can stay for a few minutes. All right, what else?

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
J. 2005-2006 Meeting Schedule (Page 13)

XI. ADJOURNMENT
President Peters: Motion to adjourn? We’re adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.