UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


N. Chruyk attending for D. Docking; W. Minor attended for J. Grush; L. Jeris attended for A. Rose; D. Jackman attending C. Sorenson.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Balamurilkrishna, Doederlein, Egeston, Gorman, Hamlet, Kafer, Kaplan, Lowman, Marcus, Pernell, Schoenbachler, D. Smith, S. Song, Tallon, Walton

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING – walk-in

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters provided updates on the IBHE and legislative schedules. There are no new issues of immediate concern, and the university continues to monitor ongoing developments in the budget and pension reform processes. The president also talked about the opening of the Barsema Alumni Center. The university community was asked to be considerate of the religious needs of the students. Students were asked to be responsible in their celebrations

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CITC Bylaw Changes – see memo from Earl Seaver – Refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 3-4)
B.  Review of University Council election rules – Refer to Rules and Governance

After clarification of the review of University Council Election Rules, the consent agenda was passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A.  FAC to IBHE – no report

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 – report (Page 5)

P. Stoddard reported that the full Board accepted reports and approved recommendations made by the Board’s subcommittees. The Board received the 2005 Performance Report from Associate Vice Provost Cassidy. Also there was a report from Vice Provost Seaver and Vice President Hemphill regarding NIU’s efforts to improve retention.

President Peters added that the new Chair, Barbara Vella, has requested streamlining Board meetings so that there is more time to hear reports, wants to focus on the retention issue.

F.  Academic Policy Committee – Colin Booth, Chair – no report

G.  Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Amy Rose, Chair – report (Page 6)

N. Churyk reported that RSB is concerned with wheelchair access to Zulauf and raising prices of natural gas. The committee will be having different representatives come to each of their meetings to determine what issues are out there, and what resources we have to work.

J. Stephen pointed out that there are no automatic doors into Cole Hall.

H.  Rules and Governance Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

1.  Proposed changes in responsibilities of the Academic Planning Council. FIRST READING (Page 7 and walk-in)

On behalf of R&G, J. Wolfskill proposed two changes to the duties of the APC: 1) to work with colleges and departments and to report to the University Council and 2) add proposed text in
14.333 with “achievement of student learning outcomes.” Other editorial changes were also proposed.

2. Article 8: Sabbatical Leave Policy FIRST READING (Page 8)

J. Wolfskill also proposed, for first reading, a change in the sabbatical leave procedure, to wit, the addition of text stating “Where differences exist between the departmental and college rankings, the dean’s cover letter shall include an explanation of any changes made by the college to departmental rankings.”

L. Kamenitsa asked if the departments have any chance to respond to the dean’s change of rankings. I. Legg answered in the negative. J. Wolfskill elaborated, saying that the UCPC is not bound by the dean’s decision.

I. University Affairs Committee – Xueshu Song, Chair
J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Sally Webber, Chair

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Change in title – Associate Vice Provost to Vice Provost.

Paul Stoddard introduced the proposed title change by suggesting that the first reading be waived.

L. Gregory moved to waive the first reading.

The motion passed with more than the necessary three-fourths approval.

L. Gregory moved approval of the title change.

The motion passed.

B. Approval of Search Committee for Executive Director of Enrollment Services – walk-in

The Council then passed a motion to approve Vice Provost Seaver’s request to empanel the search committee for Executive Director of Enrollment Services.

C. Receipt of Annual Reports

1. University Benefits Committee
IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

P. Henry, President Peters and B. Tolhurst discussed the desirability of adding more bike paths on campus, and linking them with the surrounding community’s paths.

L. Kamenitsa, President Peters and E. Williams talked about coordinating NIU bus service with the new train service to Elburn.

J. Wolfskill asked about replacing the old outdoor track. E. Williams responded that there is a long-term commitment to do so, but that there are logistics to work out, such as location.

J. Stephen, E. Williams and President Peters talked about NIU’s heating costs in light of high natural gas prices.

P. Stoddard announced Sharon Holmes from CAHE will serve as representative to the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE.

President Peters announced that he will be empanelling a search committee for the Executive Vice President/Provost position.

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 (CAPCE)
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
K. Alternate Policy list (Page 9)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.