
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: Balamurilikrishna, Doederlein, Egeston, Gorman, Hamlet, Kafer, Kaplan, Lowman, Marcus, Pernell, Schoenbachler, D. Smith, S. Song, Tallon, Walton

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: I’m going to call the Wednesday, October 12, 2005 meeting of the University Council to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Our first item of business is the adoption of the agenda but let me do some potential amending. You have before you some walk-ons which consist of the minutes of September 14, the first three pages, and then on the back of the third page, you have Item VI, H, 1 which is the backup material for the first reading of a proposed change in the responsibilities of the Academic Planning Council and then there is an information item, the last page, from Gip Seaver – I don’t know who Earl Seaver is – which announces the search committee for Executive Director of Enrollment Services because of the retirement of Don Larson. All right? So, with those changes – oh, this is not informational. That is an approval so where – is that new business? That’s the second item of new business. All right, let me restate that again. So we’ve got the minutes, we’ve got the first reading for the Academic Planning Committee changes, and we have the approval of the search committee to replace Don Larson. All right, with that, is there a motion to accept today’s agenda. Second? All those in favor say aye. All right, we have an agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING – walk-in
President Peters: Approval of the minutes of September 14 which you are looking at right now. Let me first call for additions or corrections. Hearing none, is there a motion to approve? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? Minutes are approved.

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: Welcome everyone. I think the weather’s changing but it’s not too bad. As a matter of fact, it’s pretty nice. I don’t have too much to say today because I think I said it all last week and as kind of a postscript to the State of the University, I began to collect, I collect information on what you all do during the whole year – I have files that every time something good happens, I put it in a file and if it’s bad, I throw it out – no, but I began this process of trying to assess what we’ve done in five years – what you’ve done in five years and I began that in earnest in June, spending time almost every week on it and spending a big chunk of time in July. What I mentioned, particularly at the college level, was substantial but what I left on the cutting room floor was even more substantial. I mean, the things that are – I couldn’t mention everything that’s happened and I’m just trying to get the flavor for it but by any stretch, what this university has accomplished – its faculty and staff – in the past five years, I mean, under some pretty tough budget cuts, is remarkable. The people of the state of Illinois should know what a great resource NIU is and what a treasure it is and how responsive an institution – so, I was happy to do that. I know a lot of people were there and a lot of people have read it. I’ve received a lot of comments and comments that said why didn’t you mention professor x or student y and I wish I could, but I didn’t have all year to give the speech. It was just – that experience for me was rather – was kind of a summary experience as I looked at what we’d done in five years and then to conceptualize where we’re going in the next five and if you read the tail end of the speech which doesn’t take long, those characterizations of engaged institution and responsive and accountable and global institution are going to – you’re going to hear those an awful lot in the next five years and I urge all faculty and staff as they develop their own strategic plans at the level of the their departments to take those guideposts into consideration and I think if we do that, that will serve us well over the next five years. So, again, if you haven’t read it, read it. Don’t watch the video. I don’t even watch the video.

We have an IBHE meeting coming up this week in Urbana and there is not really much on the agenda although rumor has it there are some personnel changes of some significance. I will be going to monitor that, at least on Monday, and we have heard nothing – this is the quiet time before budget preparations begin. We have veto session coming up and we intend to be engaged in veto session, particularly monitoring things like employee benefits and pension plans which we monitor on a daily basis because it is of utmost concern to us. There are other things we’re monitoring as well but – and also now that we believe for the first time in two or three years – the conditions are right for a capital bill and we are redoubling our efforts to try and get some state money for the substantial renovation of Stevens and planning on other money for a computation center but Stevens is our top priority. We’re also hoping for a more substantial capital renewal budget. I know Dr. Williams will welcome that because we have, he and his people, have done a remarkable job of keeping us pasted together with very little capital renewal
money when a roof goes. You know we have a lot of flat roofs and with flat roofs you’ve got
problems. I don’t care how new the building is. Road problems, bridge problems, water
problems; it’s just a big place with a physical plant that needs attention all the time and again,
that’s one of the things in five years that you review, you don’t – you know, it’s not glamorous,
but, you know, keeping the physical plant going takes an awful lot of work. So we’ll be focusing
on that; watching what happens in veto session.

There is – I want to talk a little bit about the opening this week about the Barsema Alumni and
Visitor Center and I have seen on college campuses across the country, many gateway buildings
like this and when I first came here, one of the first things that I noticed was that there was no
obvious gateway building, a place where alumni would come or visiting students, potential
students, where they would be directed to to congregate. There was no place where alumni
would come back to congregate, to celebrate their achievements here and reminisce. There was
no central focus point for faculty when they had visiting colleagues from across the country or
the world to go and meet and congregate although this is a great facility and so with the work of
a lot of people, the University Alumni Association and the Foundation, we raised all the private
money to build that and we will be opening that building Saturday and this is not just an alumni
building. It’s a building for faculty and for students and again, I’ve seen a lot of these buildings
and architecturally, this is a stunning achievement. The way it’s situation on the landscape if you
walk around it, it just beautifies that whole area that needed a little brushing up. It sets off and
makes – points to the Oderkirk buildings which are beautiful, historic landmarks that needs some
attention but they’re there and we’ll figure out how we’re going to use those down the road. It
sits nicely between the campus and the athletic complex. Its roof angles are stunning. The
building is extremely functional. It is also a point for memorializing faculty, for students,
parents, institutional and university organizations and if you’ve been walking around there, I’ve
been over there quite a bit, and I like to walk – the students have found it – they like to walk
through there now and you read on the bricks – you read the names of students who have
graduated here over the years and parents and the benches memorialize individuals who have
contributed to the university. Of course, they made donations to have that bench but for faculty,
as you walk in the Annie Glidden Street side of the grand hallway, the great hall, on the left as
you walk in, there are plaques on the wall with the names of all of our Presidential Teaching and
Research professors and teaching award winners and then right after that, there is an incredibly
traditional faculty library that I image is going to be used extensively by faculty who want to
meet and congregate there. It’s also a place where our orientation tours will begin. There are
video areas where we will show the history of the university, orientation films to students,
prospective students. It just goes on and on and I hope that all of you will feel that it is your
building and is to be used by our current students and faculty and it’s not just for alumni. There
will be plenty of times to compliment people. My guess is this is an award winning building
architecturally and so if you get a chance in the next weeks or so, just walk through and take a
look at that. My guess too is that – it is a community building – we are already booking
weddings and various activities. I’m just really very, very pleased with it and I’m really pleased
with the fact that this was all private dollars; that it came from our alums and our friends and it
was sort of a vision that I had and I never thought it would come about but boy it did. So, I just
wanted to let you know that.
On another issue, tonight being Yom Kippur, we’ve been through a period, as the *Northern Star* pointed out this morning of, you know, holy days beginning with Rashashana, ending this Thursday and I just want to thank the faculty who have been sensitive to the religious needs of our Jewish students. We realize that exams have to be given; we are a university, and that some of these are scheduled at night but our faculty has been sensitive. You know, we don’t dictate things at a university, particularly our university with our system of shared governance and we rely upon the good judgment of faculty to make these judgments and that’s the way it has to be. From time to time we do get complaints, but we do have a good procedure and I just want to, on behalf of all the students and the Jewish community, thank the faculty for being by and large very, very sensitive to that.

Then on a fatherly note, this Homecoming and it’s a time of good excitement, alumni coming back and to our students, I’d just like to say that I hope you enjoy yourselves and have a lot of fun and be responsible. I always tell students Friday nights and Saturday nights and middle of the night are not the best times for me when the hotline rings at 3:00 in the morning on my bed stand and usually when something bad happens, alcohol has impaired judgment so what I’m – I’ve asked the students to talk to – we have a very responsible set of student leaders here – to spread and I know all our people are spreading the word – to take care of each other and act in a responsible manner. This has become again, it cycles, a serious issue on American college campuses – that’s abuse of alcohol and so, you know, I don’t want to be too harsh in my criticism of this but, every time we lose a student or a student does something that creates an issue for them in their future, I get very sad and worked up about it and don’t know quite what to do about it except to say it doesn’t have to be that way so let’s take care of each other.

With that, I’m going to end my comments and let’s launce into our agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

**President Peters:** I’m going to call for approval of the Consent Agenda which has two items, the CITC Bylaw changes. That has to referred to Rules and Governance. That’s V, A and B, the Review of University Council Election Rules. Both of those go to Rules and Governance. Is there a motion to accept this Consent Agenda. Second? Any discussion on this? Yes?

**J. Stephen:** Could you explain what the review of University Council Election Rules is about?

**P. Stoddard:** This is to make it easier to get alternates in case, especially for some of the smaller colleges, where the alternate pool is short to begin with and we sometimes have trouble filling slots so this is to look into a way to help that out.

**President Peters:** So, any other questions about the Consent Agenda. All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right.

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

The Consent Agenda was approved.

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)

President Peters: All right. Reports from Councils, Boards, and Standing Committees. It looks like our first report is from Paul Stoddard.

P. Stoddard: Yeah, okay we have a report on page 5 from the Board of Trustees. This is essentially the same type of information I gave you last time regarding – that you got from various sources last time regarding the activities of the subcommittees. The full Board accepted reports and approved recommendations made by those subcommittees so I won’t go into all that again. I will point out a couple of things though. Item 3), under informational items, we did receive a report on the performance of the university from Associate Vice Provost Cassidy. She noted 21 were reviewed last year and all were in very good standing. Also, we got a report from Vice Provost Seaver and Vice President Hemphill regarding NIU’s efforts to improve retention by better serving our first year students and this includes undecided and at-risk students and so they went into a lot of the things they’re trying to do to reach out to those students earlier and make them feel more part of the community and do everything we can to keep them here on campus.

President Peters: Paul, if I may, I just want to say that under our new Chair, Barbara Vella, we’ve done a couple of things. She requested that we streamline our Board meetings so that there is more time to hear reports such as the one that Paul referred to and, as a matter of fact, Barb Vella wants us this year to focus our reports at Board meetings on this issue that is of special concern to her. So I think Gip and Brian and others will be reporting on our efforts in this area throughout – for the next couple of meetings so I thought you should know that. All right. Any questions for Paul?

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

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Amy Rose, Chair – report (Page 6)
President Peters: I think the next report is Amy Rose, Resources, Space, and Budget Committee. I think there’s a written report.

P. Stoddard: Natalie Churyk will give that.

N. Churyk: Natalie Churyk for Amy Rose. Yes, our report is really – we talked access to Zulauf, the wheelchair access. We were concerned about raising prices of natural gas and our first order of business was really to determine what the current issues are and in order to do that, we decided we need representatives from the university to visit us. For instance, we had Eddie Williams come last week to our meeting and we’re going to be having different representatives come to each of our meetings to determine what issues, what resources we have to work with and then to provide a report.

President Peters: Okay, very good. Yeah, there’s a lot; a big learning curve there because it’s such a complex place physically. One good thing I know, Dr. Williams and I are very pleased about this, is that we finally got released the money for our chiller on the west campus which will solve a lot of our cooling and water issues.

E. Williams: Efficiency cost.

President Peters: Efficiency cost. That was really a good thing. All right. Comments? Questions? Yeah?

J. Stephen: I teach in Cole Hall a lot and that’s a building that serves hundreds and hundreds of students and I hadn’t noticed this before but, although the building is wheelchair accessible and it has desks for students in wheelchairs, there are no automatic doors into the building or into the lecture halls and that might be something to put on the list but that sounds like about $10,000 dollars worth of work.

President Peters: Cole Hall?

J. Stephen: Cole Hall, yes.

President Peters: All right. Excellent.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair

President Peters: John Wolfskill, Rules and Governance Committee – our favorite committee.

   FIRST READING (Page 7 and walk-in)

J. Wolfskill: So I’ve learned. Well, we have a couple of items for your consideration. The items being presented here are first readings only. They are proposed changes in the bylaws and will require a first reading and then potentially a formal vote at next month’s Council meeting.
So let’s consider the Academic Planning Council first and I must apologize first of all to the members of my committee whom I told at our meeting three weeks ago that this would not be a Bylaw change and it turns out that it is so it’s a bigger deal than I lead us to believe. Also, the proposed changes are in two places so I direct your attention first of all to page 7 in your packet where you’ll see a page beginning with Article 14.33 Duties of the APC and, in addition, I need to refer you to page 6 of the walk-in following the minutes of last month’s meeting, we have material just a big further up in that Bylaw section from 14.313 and also 14.33. So if you can get your various papers organized to those two pages, those are the two with proposed changes in the Academic Planning Council. Taking them in numerical order, 14.313, the changes to be proposed here are of an editorial nature, simply changing the titles to current titles rather than the out-of-date titles that were present some years ago. Beginning with 14.33, there are two changes to be proposed. One is stating that the duties of the APC are to work with colleges and departments and reporting to the University Council. This is to conform to many years’ practice of what the Academic Planning Council actually does. As you scan further down there, you’ll see bold added proposed text in 14.333 with “achievement of student learning outcomes” and in 14.335, we have language similar to what will be in the heading, 14.33 the point that the recommendations from the APC go to colleges and departments rather than to curriculum committees of the college and the UCC. So, I’d like to ask now if there are questions about the proposed changes relating to the Academic Planning Council? This is a first reading only. Hearing no questions there, I’ll assume that that item is non-controversial and you can expect that to come up for formal vote next month.

President Peters: Do we vote on first reading? No. Is there any need for a rationale for any of these changes? Is everybody comfortable with that? I know under the Higher Learning Commission under 14.333, we are going to have a site visit on how we’re doing on learning outcomes. Almost every university that is being reviewed now has a return visits because they’re hitting learning outcomes very, very hard and Virginia Cassidy is going to make sure we’re okay on that but that makes sense that this then be included under these responsibilities. All right.

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

J. Wolfskill: If you turn to page 8 in your packet, then you come to the second item we present to you. Again, this is for preliminary consideration. This is a first reading which we intend to bring for a formal vote at next month’s Council meeting. This is in relation to the sabbatical leave policy, in particular to what happens at the level of the University Council Personnel Committee and you’ll see the bold data proposed text at the end of that simply 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. Questions about that?

President Peters: All right. That’s also first reading. There’s a question?

L. Kamenitsa: I’m just curious, will the departments have any chance to respond to the dean’s change of rankings or should they? I don’t know.
I. Legg: The answer is no.

President Peters: See what happens when you announce your retirement?

I. Legg: Next question.

President Peters: I guess the answer there is at some point, the process has to stop.

J. Wolfskill: If I may, by coincidence, I happened to have served on the UC/PC the last couple of years. This comes up maybe once a year, once every other year and when a departmental rankings are reversed, if questions are raised on the UC/PC, it may or may not be a significant issue. It’s just that people wonder and we want the issue addressed in the dean’s cover letter. It’s probably only a sentence or two. Any other questions there?

President Peters: So this is first reading.

J. Wolfskill: Correct.

President Peters: It’s coming back if issues still remain on that?

J. Wolfskill: Buck?

J. Stephen: At the UC/PC level, you’re not bound by the dean’s rankings are you?

J. Wolfskill: Correct.

President Peters: All right. Very good.

J. Wolfskill: Then if I may take this opportunity, my committee will meet one week from today in a room to be announced. I’ll get an e-mail out to you. We have the items from the Consent Agenda so it looks like we’ll have a continuing volume of business through the year. Thank you.

President Peters: All right, anything else for Rules and Governance? Thank you, John.

I. University Affairs Committee – Xueshu Song, Chair

President Peters: Xueshu Song, University Affairs Committee.

X. Song: I don’t have any report.

President Peters: Okay, thank you.

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

President Peters: Sally Webber, Elections and Legislative Oversight. No report.
VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Peters: Unfinished Business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

President Peters: New Business, we have change in title, Associate Vice Provost to Vice Provost. Paul Stoddard?

P. Stoddard: Yeah, this is – basically, there’s one remaining associate vice provost. Everybody else at this level has the title of vice provost. The thought was to get everybody on the same level here. We can handle this one of three ways. We can refer it to Rules and Governance; we can consider this a first reading of the proposed change, or we can vote to – by three-quarter majority – to do away with the first reading and approve this today. I was thinking this is probably without controversy and therefore maybe one or two would be the way to go but obviously we don’t want to railroad this through anyone so I will entertain a motion or suggestion.

B. Tolhurst: Is this the change we already discussed at Rules and Governance at the first meeting?

P. Stoddard: Yes.

B. Tolhurst: Okay, so the Rules and Governance Committee is aware of this and has discussed it.

P. Stoddard: Yes. John?

J. Wolfskill: I’m sorry, refresh my memory. Which provost are we talking about here?

P. Stoddard: This would be Virginia Cassidy’s position.

I. Legg: It was simply an oversight on my part when I did it and requested the other ones. This is just bringing it up even.

President Peters: All right so the motion is to what?

P. Stoddard: We don’t have a motion yet. I’ve suggested three courses of action and I would -- -

L. Gregory: I move we approve it without a first reading.

President Peters: All right, there’s a motion and a second to approve without first reading. Is there any discussion?
**P. Stoddard:** I think to be in compliance with the Bylaws, we first must move to waive the first reading. That has to be done by three-quarters of the voting members, or members voting and then we can go ahead and approve the motion.

**President Peters:** All right, Larry is that the sense of your first motion?

**L. Gregory:** To waive the first reading. All right, we need three-quarters. All those in favor say aye. We accepted – that was his motion and I changed it. At least I asked permission. What we’re voting on now, it’s a motion and it’s on the floor, is to waive first reading on this change. It requires three-quarters affirmative vote. Any discussion?

**I. Legg:** There’s not much to read.

**President Peters:** All those in favor say aye. Opposed? I think that’s at least three-quarters. So that passes.

The motion passed.

**President Peters:** Now, we need the main motion. We need to make the motion.

**L. Gregory:** I move we approve.

**President Peters:** Discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? We could have put the associate back on the other two, maybe – we could have done that as well.

The motion passed.

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

**President Peters:** We need to approve the walk-in, that was what was confusing me, on Gip Seaver’s request to empanel the search committee for Executive Director of Enrollment Services. Is there a motion to approve this? Second? Discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right, you have a search committee.

The motion passed.

C. Receipt of Annual Reports

1. University Benefits Committee

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

**President Peters:** I guess we’re done, right. Except for comments. Yeah, I have some comments.
**P. Henry:** I wasn’t sure where to bring this and this may be something that can get referred to the Resources and Budget Committee but, since I ride my bicycle around campus, I’m really noticing a lot more people riding bicycles and I think it’s probably to some extent a function of the nice weather but also the high price of gas and I’d really like to see a little more attention sort of made to making this a more bicycle friendly campus. I mean this could include such things as more bike racks, possibly additional bike lanes if such were possible or marking bike lanes on the existing pathways that we have now so just so that we are a little clearly on who goes where because I think there is a lot more usage and there’s more potential for safety problems plus I think we really want to encourage people use bicycles because it makes the parking so much easier for one thing so I’m not sure exactly how to direct this but this is a concern of mine.

**President Peters:** It’s something we’ve discussed continually. It’s always a matter of, you know, you put bike paths in, that’s a pretty expensive proposition but some of the things you mentioned aren’t that expensive and I’m interested – and we’ve talked about it an awfully lot – and Eddie and his people are on it. I would be interested in documenting how many new riders we’ve had. We’ve had discussions in our city/university meetings – down the road as things develop – on linking campus bike paths with the city because, you know, I’m not a bike rider myself anymore but I understand you can take some wonderful rides out towards Chicago if we were nicely connected. It’s part of the sustainable university thing. I really think – and it’s healthy, it’s healthy too but you will not see me riding my old Road Master. Yeah? Yeah, Bill?

**B. Tolhurst:** I concur with this and I think it’s important to keep track also of how many, if any, injuries there are because we have to worry about the safety of the pedestrians as well as the needs of the cyclers.

**President Peters:** Ken Davidson is here now and I can see where he’s going because this is a risk management issue for us and I’m sure that means we’ll have to renegotiate our insurance contracts, but you’re right on that.

**L. Kamenitsa:** This is vaguely related because of energy concerns, but about a year ago you mentioned something in here about the train that may eventually come to Elburn and I’m wondering if we have any follow-up on that and whether the university is making any plans to have any kind of shuttle service there, again, in the name of energy conservation, that wouldn’t conserve energy for the university but it would for people who are driving from somewhere to the east.

**President Peters:** Yes and yes. I think Elburn is coming in December. I think the Elburn train arrives in December on the south side of Elburn. I rode around there the other week trying to find out where that would be. I know Huskie Bus Line is going to shuttle out there. I don’t know exactly how many times. You know, I think we go – did we go to Geneva or do we still go to Geneva?

**L. Kamenitsa:** Once a week.

**E. Williams:** I believe so.
**President Peters:** We still go to Geneva, not every hour on the hour, and then there’s a lot of talk about when is the train going to come out to DeKalb and that will happen but probably not in my lifetime. It may, you never know. I doubt if people here will vote for the RTA tax. It will have to be a subsidy issue where people will be willing to pay the freight here and then that will be very interesting. We were thinking about what if the train did come here, what is the impact of that on the university? How would we take advantage of that and thinking about that but that’s a ten year phenomena. Yeah?

**J. Wolfskill:** I had a question on a different topic if I may. Dr. Williams is probably in the best position to answer this. My question is about the new athletic facilities for the football team which I understand which will be put north of the stadium in the relatively near future. Once the old, beat up track is given a decent burial there, I’d like to know will there be an outdoor running track anywhere on campus?

**E. Williams:** The immediate response is no and the extended response is yes because we have been discussing an outdoor track for the past two and a half years especially since we reinstituted track as an intercollegiate sport on campus on the women’s side so that is definitely one of the things that we have as a goal and objective. In fact, we’ve looked at the old track and I believe for years you may have been involved in looking at that and running around that. We discovered that the cost of rehabbing that track and bringing it back up to reasonable standards far even exceeded what it would cost to put in a new track and so in locating the building, there wasn’t an issue about the track; we weren’t sacrificing anything there. But yes, we do have in our long-term – I want to say in our near-term plan, the concept of putting in a track.

**J. Wolfskill:** Where would it be?

**E. Williams:** That’s part of the issue. I’ll put it this way, the university because of the foresight of the President and the Board, we do not lack land. That’s the least of our worries so we have plenty of opportunity, plenty of locations to do it and I think that it’s just a question of, just like everything else, it’s a question of resources – where the monies going to come from that would support it.

**President Peters:** And we have several options. You know, we always like to solve more than one problem when we have a large problem like that and we’re thinking about how that can be used as a multi-purpose kind of situation in a place that can be convenient but it isn’t cheap. You would think all you have to do is level and put down some asphalt and cover – this is expensive – I don’t know exactly but it’s not – maybe a couple million, three million dollar project. Yeah?

**J. Stephen:** I have a question for Eddie. Recently some of the alternative gas, natural gas suppliers around DeKalb other than NICOR which had made promises for keeping their gas prices steady, have sent around letters saying they’re not going to stick to that agreement. How solid is your agreement about our natural gas supply over the next year.

**E. Williams:** That’s a good question because we’re wrestling with that whole matter right now. We have received information that gives us the opinion that gas rates may even go as high as doubling for the coming winter season and that’s very troubling for us. What we do in order to
protect us in our utilities, we try to the extent possible to pre-purchase bulk purchase at the wellhead a certain percentage of our usage requirements and so those are hard and fast contracts. I doubt very seriously if we’ll have a problem with that portion of it and given the fact that we have such a strong legal team, I don’t worry about that part of it because we have a pretty good contract. What I am concerned about to a great extent is that portion of our usage that we did not get into a contract and there are reasons for that too because of price fluctuations and so forth, we don’t want to lock in --

**J. Stephen:** 100%, yes.

**E. Williams:** 100% and so that exposure is there. We’re working on it in terms of trying to see what will happen. I think the campus should be aware and that’s why I appreciate the question, the campus should be very much aware that we have a problem here. We have a situation where we have to be very diligent and we have to conserve and we need everybody’s help and that means not opening windows in the middle of the winter and it may be that we may have to take some other measures too to try to conserve our heat and our energy and thereby reduce our costs but as we analyze this, you’ll hear more because it is a serious issue.

**J. Stephen:** Can you estimate the exposure to – of the percentage of gas usage that is not pre-purchased. I really can’t.

**E. Williams:** I really can’t.

**J. Stephen:** It depends on the season?

**E. Williams:** It really does, you know, if we have a very warm winter, that’s one thing. If we have a very harsh winter and our demand curve goes way up, there’s an issue there and so I can’t predict it. All we can do is to try to make some provision to address as many of the possible outcomes that we can see coming. We have tried to sort of cushion ourselves. As many of you know, NIU has its own weatherman. He’s pretty good. He’s better than most of the news services, but this is long-range weather predicting. This gives us sort of an idea of what’s going to happen over the next couple of months and that’s part of our strategy we use in terms of what percentage and how much of our usage we prepay and we pre-purchase and that kind of thing. So, it really is a series of considerations, a series of perimeters that sort of determine how much we do it up front and what our exposures are.

**J. Stephen:** Thank you.

**President Peters:** It’s a very sophisticated – in all of the processes – it’s a sophisticated model of hedging with weather forecasting and negotiating and it’s continual. The other issue is, you know, we have the power of being a big user and so we do have that and the other thing we’re talking about is buying our electricity from ComEd. When the deregulation occurs and you know there’s this big battle going on now whether they auction off the – buy their electricity at an auction then redistributing it and that one we’re watching very, very carefully. I think we’re about a ten million dollar user.
E. Williams: Yes sir.

President Peters: And that’s something that will go up, there’s no doubt about that, but we pre-purchase and hedge on fuel for our fleet, our diesel for our trucks and our motor pool and we’re locked in pretty much on that. But you know, they get you on the back end don’t they because if you got a good deal this year, then you go to renegotiate next year, but we work at that. Eddie’s people work on that very, very hard. Any more questions?

E. Williams: You mentioned transportation, just to give you an idea of what these differentials are approximately, I think we’re somewhere around $1.80 to $1.90 a gallon right now. That’s substantial when you consider what the marketplace is, but that won’t last forever. That’s what the President is indicating. There’s only so many of those gallons we were able to pre-purchase. We only have a certain amount of capacity, but we’ve also been trying to share some ideas with our Student Transportation Committee who had a couple of questions about that to help with the Huskie Bus Line in the same regard.

President Peters: And you know we’re going to be 25% hybrids on the motor pool fleet by the end of the year and for the average consumer, buying a hybrid may not be the best thing economically, it’s the best thing environmentally and for saving fossil fuels, but you know the premium on those, you’ve got to drive a lot of miles before you recoup the several thousand dollar differential. With us, because we put so many miles on them, we recoup that price differential in a hurry on our fleet so, again, I’m always awed at what a complex place the university is. Some more questions? You have an announcement to make?

P. Stoddard: Yeah, fortunately we did finally get a volunteer and I’ll think she’ll be good for the Faculty Advisory Committee, or Council I guess it is. That’s Sharon Holmes from CAHE and she’s excited to do it. She thinks the higher ed component of it will fit in well with what she’s doing anyway so I’m looking forward to working with her in the upcoming year on IBHE issues.

President Peters: I guess the last thing I want to mention, Paul and I want to mention, and that’s the provost search committee. I’ve spent a good amount of time now since Ivan told us of his intent to retire at the end of this academic year, on gearing up for the search and I mentioned it in the State of the University address and following our procedures and bylaws, we’re about to empanel the committee and, you know, there’s a process we have to go through and we’re getting those requests out and I’ve, even though it’s not in the Bylaws, I did this with Dan Griffith, I’ve asked Paul to co-chair it with me. I think that works a lot better. We are in the process of picking an executive search firm to help us. It’s very important that you use an executive search firm at this level of search to get the best possible pool. We are running a national search and to make sure the pool is deep and diverse and that’s what an executive search firm can do for you. They’re very important. By the time it’s done and everyone is appointed who needs to be appointed, that’s about eighteen people. I’ve had the benefit of being through this. It’s a year-long process. We have a good template to follow. We will work on the job description and I think the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate approves that. We’ll be collecting resumes and getting to interviews in February, you know the rhythm. Hopefully, we’ll have – I looked through the file Ivan and you were signed up on March 19 so boy, we were right
on it. We’re almost a little bit late. There aren’t very many provost jobs at land grants so we should attract a quality pool of people. I talked to Paul and what we’re probably going to do for a short period of time, a couple of weeks once we get organized and there’s a press release on an announcement, Paul and I will probably take e-mail input from the community as to what people think they’re looking for in our next provost so that the committee is informed as we move forward in this important search. We look forward to it. It will be hard to replace Ivan and his experience but I think we have an outstanding opportunity for someone out there and we will be visiting with trustees about what their vision is for a provost. I certainly have my ideas, the cabinet has their ideas. You know, we certainly are looking for someone with academic depth and vision and so it’s an important search and it’s important too because of the research component and the student affairs component reports to the provost so we’re really looking forward to it and it’s a lot of work for the people who will be on the committee. It takes, as you know when you sit on committees, they take a chunk out of your work life.

P. Henry: I’m sorry, I’m going to ask you to repeat something, but how is the search other, other than the executive search firm, how is the search committee being drawn up or ---

President Peters: Well, shared governance, read the bible. It’s pretty straight forward. I chair it, which I thought when I came here – I’ve said this to you – I thought it was most peculiar. Usually, the person who does the appointing never chairs the search committee. That’s kind of standard human resource. That’s not in our shared governance and I learned that was important because I was new and I kind of bonded with the committee and we kind of came together on what we were looking for but there are – each college and their councils nominate an individual. The SA president appoints two students based on nominations from the student governing structures within the college, the deans have a representative, department chairs have a representative, Operating Staff Council names a representative. I think SPS has two representatives and then Paul and I have to balance this out for diversity and that gets to be a little tricky and so I was thinking about asking all these individuals to give us some alternates with diversity in mind so that we can get that done. The Bylaws do permit if we don’t have a diverse committee, they permit me to seek, you know, support to add people to make sure we have the correct distribution. That was slightly an issue the last time I had to do that. I looked through my files so it’s pretty route. I mean, you just follow, like we do in our committees, you just follow the guidelines. All right. Anything else? Motion to adjourn?

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.