I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2005 MEETING
(Pages 3-6)

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Review of Faculty Grievance Procedures – Refer to Rules and Governance

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sharon Holmes – 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 – Rachel Turner and Shey Lowman – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

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

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Amy Rose, Chair – no report

H. Rules and Governance Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – report

1. Proposed changes in responsibilities of the Academic Planning Council. ACTION ITEM (Page 7)

2. Article 8: Sabbatical Leave Policy ACTION ITEM (Page 8)
3. Proposed changes to election procedures for University Council elections FIRST READING (Page 9)

I. University Affairs Committee – Xueshu Song, Chair

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

P. Henry: I somehow understood from the Faculty Senate Meeting last week that we would at least discuss or bring to the attention of the University Council the report on the formation of the Academic Advising Center. Is that going to happen or---

P. Stoddard: We’re going to sneak that in under New Business.

P. Henry: Okay, New Business it is.

I. Legg: All right, there is no unfinished business. Let’s move on to New Business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

I. Legg: John?

J. Wolfskill: Well, I’d like to take the ball from Pat Henry there. At last week’s meeting of the Faculty Senate, there was some discussion of the formation of the Academic Advising Center and just how that was done and the duties and responsibilities of this body. My understanding at this point is that things have been sorted out in a reasonably satisfactory manner and we don’t have the kind of conflict that may have been feared some weeks ago. Nevertheless, there was concern expressed by the faculty last week at the process that was carried out and that perhaps things could have been done in a better way so specifically a resolution was approved at the Faculty Senate and what I wish to do is read the text of that resolution here and then propose a slightly modified version of it that I would move that the University Council endorse. So this is the text that was approved in the Faculty Senate last week. The title is Affirmation of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities and the text follows.

As a result of recent procedural improprieties concerning the development and formation of the Academic Advising Center, the faculty wishes to reaffirm its confidence in the shared governance system in order to protect the Constitutional rights of the faculty and to ensure that the best interests of the students and the university community are served. The faculty of the Northern Illinois University adjures that no officer of the university, the various colleges or departments shall alter, create, or transfer responsibilities nor shall they alter policies which are reserved or assigned to the faculty without or before completing the requirements necessary for such changes through the shared governance process.
The motion I wish to make now is simply for the University Council to endorse this same resolution with two editing changes. Rather than saying the faculty wishes or the faculty adjures as in the original text last week, I propose that the University Council wishes to reaffirm its confidence in the shared governance system and, in the same way, the University Council of Northern Illinois University adjures that no officer of the university and so on shall alter policies which are reserved or assigned to the faculty. I do make that as a motion.

I. Legg: To reaffirm – okay. Open for discussion. There’s a motion; I need a second. Okay. It’s on the floor. Questions or comments?

J. Meyer: Must this come to us in written format and is it subject to a first reading?

P. Stoddard: This is not a bylaw change; this is merely a motion so no it need not be presented in written format nor need to be presented for a first reading.

J. Meyer: Thank you.

I. Legg: It’s essentially reaffirming what’s already in our Bylaws and Constitution.

J. Wolfskill: Correct.

I. Legg: Is there any further discussion?

Michael ???: If it’s already in the Bylaws and Constitution, is there really any need to reaffirm?

I. Legg: John?

J. Wolfskill: If I may try to speak with a sense of the faculty body at the Senate last week, there was a consensus that faculty input in developing the Academic Advising Center was not sought in a timely fashion. In the end, things are working out correctly but the beginning and the middle were not as nice as they could have been. The point to this affirmation of faculty rights and responsibilities – again, this is my own take on the discussion last week – others may correct me, is the faculty speaking to the university as a whole saying while we acknowledge this matter is being resolved in a satisfactory way, we don’t want to see it happen again.

I. Legg: Further comments?

P. Henry: This doesn’t maybe directly impinge on the affirmation here, but one of the concerns was raised that there is still the question of the mechanism for faculty oversight of the AAC and I just wondered if there is any prospect of addressing that issue specifically?

P. Stoddard: My understanding is that APASC (Admissions, Planning, and Academic Standards Committee), they’re really the responsible faculty body over this. They are considering faculty oversight and our wish to accomplish that. My understanding at the moment is they are planning some sort of faculty committee that will have that responsibility.
I. Legg: Other comments? Yes, in the back of the room

S. Richmond: If this is just a reaffirmation of what’s in the Bylaws, then where is this action going to be recorded or where does it go from this point and also, my second question is if it’s from the Faculty Senate, has there been an opportunity for it to come back to the colleges to be presented to the faculty. You know, I may be missing this but I don’t think we have discussed any of this in our college as to what the actions were from the Faculty Senate on this so that would be my two questions.

Bill ???: Perhaps our parliamentarian could clarify this if necessary, but it seems to me a resolution is recorded only in the minutes of the meeting at which it was passed and nothing else happens beyond that.

I. Legg: That would be my interpretation. Yes?

P. Henry: The Faculty Senate has representatives from each department so I think in that respect, you know, there was departmental input through the faculty representatives at the Senate.

I. Legg: John?

J. Wolfskill: Finally, if I remember correctly from the Faculty Senate last week, it was specifically requested at the Senate that this be brought to the Council this week.

I. Legg: Any other questions or observations? Yes?

A. Novotney: Could we maybe have Dr. Wolfskill read that because I have a reluctance to vote on something I’ve never seen before.

J. Wolfskill: I’ll read the text in the form in which I’m making the motion. The title is Affirmation of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities and there are two paragraphs.

As a result of recent improprieties concerning the development and formation of the Academic Advising Center, the University Council wishes to reaffirm its confidence in the shared governance system in order to protect the Constitutional rights of the faculty and to ensure that the best interests of the students and the university community are served.

The University Council of Northern Illinois University adjures that no officer of the university, the various colleges or departments, shall alter, create, or transfer responsibilities nor shall they alter policies which are reserved or assigned to the faculty without or before completing the requirements necessary for such changes through the shared governance process.

I. Legg: That’s how the motion will turn out to be recorded in the minutes.
J. Wolfskill: Correct, if approved.

I. Legg: Any other questions? All right, all those in favor ---

Michael ???: There’s nothing in the discussion that suggests to me that this is a matter that this body needs to consider. I wish to move at this time that we postpone consideration indefinitely on this motion.

I. Legg: Can that be done on top of the motion that we already have?

P. Stoddard: It’s a motion to table essentially.

I. Legg: All right. I need a second for that and can it be discussed? No. All those in favor of this motion to table indefinitely? Opposed? All those in favor please raise your hands. Give me a count. Those opposed? Opposition hands. We’re back to the original motion. Any discussion? If not, I would ask for a vote on the original motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed? The motion passes.

The motion to approve the resolution passed.

I. Legg: Any other new business that you wish to bring to the table at this time? Yes, Buck?

J. Stephen: In today’s Northern Star, on the Opinions and Editorial page, in the right hand column is a copy of a column which originally appeared in the University of Nebraska, Lincoln’s newspaper concerning NCAA Division I schools and mascots and NCAA has in some sense, said if you have a mascot that is considered offensive to some group but does not have the support of that group, for instance, the Seminoles have the support of the Seminole tribe and the Chippewa’s of Michigan State have the support of that tribe and there was another example. A school that doesn’t fit the category would be the University of Illinois’ Illini who’s mascot is not approved by whatever group it’s supposed to be offending – I’m not sure who it is. Does anybody know who it is? Is that the name of a tribe?

K. Gallagher: Supposedly the Illini Indians but there aren’t any of them left I understand.

J. Stephen: But the more disturbing thing is the NCAA seems to be writing letters to Division I schools which have mascots which are not considered to be offense, like the Huskies – I don’t see where we could find those offensive other than we don’t have sled dog teams in Illinois- and asking them to refuse to play schools who have mascots on the offensive list. Now, if the NCAA is going to send out this letter to various institutions asking us not to play intercollegiate sports against teams that they have put on some sort of a “we don’t like your names” list, is the decision to play against that team or not the decision of the university body or is that the decision of the athletic advisor?

I. Legg: I’m not the position to answer that question because the Athletic Program reports to John Peters directly through a channel.
J. Stephen: Okay, could you communicate that question to him?

I. Legg: Yes, I will.

J. Stephen: I don’t know what our answer should be, I’m just curious as to when we have to answer that, who should make the action.

I. Legg: My guess is that there’s already been some thought put into it.

J. Stephen: Okay.

I. Legg: But I’m not aware of it.

J. Stephen: Thank you Provost Legg.

I. Legg: Any comments on this or any other issue?

K. Gallagher: The way I read it, it wasn’t that you couldn’t play against other teams, it was that you would be barred from playing in some kind of playoff sorts of things if you had an offensive mascot, you know, like a Huskie without a curl in its tail.

I. Legg: That sounds like we’re getting ready to change subjects. Is there any other new business?

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There not being any new business, comments and questions from the floor? We’ve had one actually already. Any other?

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
C. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality
D. Minutes, Committee on Advanced Programs for Certification in Education
E. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
F. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
G. Minutes, Graduate Council
H. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
I. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
J. Minutes, University Benefits Committee minutes
K. Relay for Life (Pages 10-11)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

I. Legg: The meeting is adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.