UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, December 7, 2005, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


C. Montgomery attended for J. Grush; N. Churyk attended for S. Webber.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Acardo, Balamurilkshina, Bose, Castle, Deoderlein, Hamlet, Kaplan, Legg, Marcus, Meyer, Nelson, B. Peters, Schoenbachler, D. Smith, S. Song, X. Song, Stoddard, Tollerud, Walton, Williams, Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:13 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2005 MEETING  
(walk-in)

J. Wolfskill made a correction to the Rules and Governance report, and the minutes were then approved as amended.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters commented on the upcoming graduation and end-of-year activities.

The university will follow through on the additional 1% pay increment, effective Jan 1, 2006.

The university presented its budget priorities (salaries are high on the list) the state budget overview meeting. The next major event in the budget process will be when the Governor presents his budget to the legislature in January or early February.
There is an attempt in the State Legislature to fix up unintended consequences of the new pension law.

We’re also trying to fix up some of the unintended consequences of the Ethics Legislation.

The chair (the President) and the co-chair (P. Stoddard) of the Provost Search Committee will add a member or two to better reflect the diversity of this campus. The committee has developed the search criteria.

The IBHE annual report on the progress on the Illinois Commitment included four presentations from universities. One presentation was from Joe Grush, the Interim Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The IBHE has a new Executive Director, Judy Erwin, a former legislator.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness – review of script – Refer to Academic Policy Committee (Page 3)

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sharon Holmes – October 18, 2005 report (Pages 4-6) and Jody Newman-Ryan – November 18, 2005 report (Pages 7-21)

S. Homes reported on the joint meeting of the IBHE and the FAC on October 18 in Urbana-Champaign. Stanley Ikenberry talked about “Higher Education and America’s Future.” Comments from the Board included that they believe that faculty and administrators need to make significant changes in how we think about higher education and our methods of delivery. There was a presentation by Gary Alexander on faculty salaries and fringe benefits in Illinois colleges and universities. Judy Erwin was introduced as the new Executive Director of IBHE.

B. Tolhurst and S. Holmes discussed the IBHE’s impression of faculty workloads, and President Peters offered that the legislature knows and accepts that we on average, work 54.5 hours a week, but he issue is not that we work hard; the issue is how we spend our time.

J. Newman-Ryan reported on the following FAC meeting, at St. Augustine College.

There are some rather substantial changes in the works for the Illinois Articulation Initiative. V. Cassidy explained that the IAI panels will set the standards, the learning outcomes, identify the content, etc., and that campuses ensure that submitted courses fact meet these criteria. Courses would then be reviewed IBHE staff and concerns would be forwarded to the appropriate panel.

Our IAI contact person is Suzanne Warber, the Associate Director of Registration and Records.
J. Newman-Ryan further reported that faculty are currently exempt from accounting for our time in 15 minute increments. A possible byproduct of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (SOEEA) would be the elimination of that exemption. President Peters explained that an understanding regarding this reporting had been reached between the universities and now former Inspector General Zee Scott, is now in jeopardy with the arrival of a new Inspector General.

President Peters attended a higher education summit of about 60 community college and public university presidents talking to a smattering of legislators, and listening to national experts on higher education. There was a large focus on the under-preparedness of students.

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

President Peters: Shey Lowman is going to give Paul Stoddard’s report because he’s in San Francisco. I want to get that into the record for the BOT.

S. Lowman: In the committee report on the IBHE, it was noted that there is a common theme from the legislators that they didn’t realize how much the budget cuts had hurt us.

University Civil Service Board meeting, the testing program now includes 34 tests that are primarily for food service and library positions.

The university recommendations for upgrading and expanding the student parking lots north of Grant Towers and the redesign and reconstruction of the Evan’s Field House lot were approved.

Kathy Buettner was promoted to Vice President for External Affairs.

Felicia Bohannon-Williams, the Director of Educational Services and Programs, gave a presentation on programming for under-prepared students.

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

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Amy Rose, Chair – report (Page 22)

S. Lowman: Resource, Space, and Budgets met with Mallory Simpson, President of the NIU Foundation, who discussed what faculty could do to help with fundraising.
H. Rules and Governance Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – report (Page 23)

I. University Affairs Committee – Xueshu Song, Chair – no report

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Sally Webber, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

No comments or questions from the floor.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.