UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2007, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM

PRESENT: Alden, Bose, Butler, Cesarek, Derscheid, Dick, Docking, Elish-Piper, Gallagher, Giles, Grall, Hemphill, Kafer, Kolb, Kowalski, Latham, Lusk, Marcus, Meyer, Mogren, Munroe, Newman-Ryan, Novotney, Pierce, Richmond, Ridnour, Seaver, Sido, Smith, S. Song, Stephen, Tolhurst, Tollerud, Vohra, Wade

M. Morris attended for L. Pernell; L. Jennings attended for S. Clayton.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Dowen, Grush, Hamlet, Johns, Kaplan, King, Langguth, Newman, Oreseanin, Pappanduros, Parisot, B. Peters, Purnell, Schoenbachler, Sims, X. Song, Sorensen, Stravers, Thu, Walton, Williams, Wolfskill

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2006 MEETING (Pages 3-6)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters gave the Council his assessment of the recent changes in the state’s political, financial, and bureaucratic structures and their possible implications for NIU in the upcoming budget discussions. He expressed tempered optimism that NIU would receive at least a minor boost to our base General Revenue funding and that there would be a capital budget, so that maybe we could finally address some long-standing needs, such as the Stevens Hall renovation. He cautioned, however, that the process would likely be a long one, with no final decisions until late spring or even early summer.

Provost Alden described the progress being made in the Strategic Planning process. He noted that there had been a round of “roundtable” discussions, which had excellent participation, and that these will lead into a series of discussions by groupings of task force members.
In response to a question by J. Stephen, Provost Alden and President Peters gave their thoughts on the potential role of advertising by the University.

Provost Alden also updated the Council on the Dean searches for LA&S and the Libraries. He expects on-campus interviews in March for both.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Change in Bylaw 7.2 – see memo from Raymond Alden, III – Refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 7-12)

The consent agenda passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Paul Stoddard – no report

J. Newman-Ryan reported on the 19 January FAC meeting at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. Northeastern President, Dr. Salme Harju Steinberg addressed the group regarding the Illinois Higher Board of Education’s emphasis on tying funding to time-to-graduation rates. The group also heard about the State Ethics Act, specifically penalties for those who finished the exam too quickly, and about a recommendation to the Governor regarding some very substantive changes in funding of higher education in Illinois. The FAC was also addressed by a group concerned with the quality of K12 education. They want to increase revenues and strengthen teacher preparation and professional development for teachers.

The ethics issue sparked a discussion with J. Stephen, President Peters, D. Haliczer and B. Lusk participating.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – no report


D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Rachel Turner and Bobbie Cesarek – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – no report

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Linda Derscheid, Chair – report (Page 13)
L. Derscheid reported on a meeting the committee had with Dean Bose about the graduate school, which is now debt-free. Dean Bose also indicated in that meeting his desire to raise the summer Research and Artistry stipend to $4500.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – William Tolhurst, Chair – no report
I. University Affairs Committee – Jody Newman-Ryan, Chair – no report
J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Brigid Lusk, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Computer usage in campus labs – Raymond Alden, III

Provost Alden asked that the Council consider the issue of computer usage policy in the University’s computer labs.

The matter was referred to the Computer Facilities Advisory Committee (through CFAC member Paul Stoddard).

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Giles initiated a brief discussion on the ethics of retirement.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 P.M.