UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


B. Minor attended for J. Grush; A. Johnson attended for A. Langguth; M. Morris attended for L. Pernell.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Baker, Bose, Cesarek, Dowen, Hemphill, Johns, Kamenitsa, Kaplan, King, Kolb, Marcus, Oreseanin, Pappanduros, Parisot, B. Peters, J. Peters, Purnell, Richmond, Sido, Stravers, Thu, Walton

I. CALL TO ORDER

Provost Alden, sitting in for President Peters, called the meeting to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as amended (addition of a report from RSB)

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2007 MEETING  
(Pages 3-5)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provost Alden reported that the President was representing NIU at a 2-day board meeting of the consortium overseeing Fermi Lab.

The Strategic Planning Task Force is concentrating on four general areas: 1) to preserve and strength the university’s distinctive learning environment; 2) to achieve international distinction and leadership in five to seven key clusters of scholarly and research activity; 3) to extend and enhance the university’s commitment to community engagement and public purpose; and 4) to substantially improve the nature and quality of university life for students, faculty and staff.

The Dean of Libraries search committee narrowed down the group of potential candidates down to three; however, one dropped out early in the process before they were invited to campus. The
search for Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been narrowed to four candidates with one alternate.

The state budget process is underway. An increase of about 1.5% to NIU’s base revenue does not seem unlikely.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Recommendations** concerning Personnel Advisor from the Faculty Senate – refer to Rules and Governance. (Pages 6-7)

The recommendation passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Jody Newman-Ryan - report (Pages 8-9)

**J. Newman-Ryan** reported that the FAC met in Peoria and had a nice meeting. Two representatives from the IBHE were in attendance. The President of University Professionals of Illinois is trying to compile a consortium to work together towards our common budget goals. She said that we need a unified message; her idea was “Put a Face on Higher Ed.” If you have a better idea, send it to Jody. Lobby day is April 25. If you choose to contact the Governor or legislators about budgets or any other issues, remember to use your own stationery and not NIU stationery.

Information regarding the proposed gross receipts tax can be found at a website listed on page 9 of the packet.

There was a response from CITC to the FAC to IBHE Teacher Preparation document. Further discussion may follow at a subsequent meeting.

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 – Sara Clayton and Bobbie Cesarek – report

**S. Clayton** reported that at the Legislative, Audit, and External Affairs Committee meeting yesterday Ken Zehnder gave a report on the Northern Illinois Technology Triangle Intergovernmental Agreement (the high capacity fiber-optic cable running along I39). The proposed Illinois Higher Education FY08 budget includes an increase of $19.8 million (about 1.5%) over FY07. In the FY08 capital budget, the Stevens Building is listed as number nine on planning and number nineteen for remodeling.
Kathy Buettner spoke on the No Child Left Behind Act which will expire in 2007 and she expects this to be extended. The College Student Act of 2007 was passed. This will cut interest rates in half for new undergraduates’ subsidized student loans. The PAL Grants were increased for the first in three to four years.

Sharon Dowen, our Internal Auditor, gave a report on the auditing standard 112. This standard will give the external auditors more latitude when doing their audits.

Finally, there was a discussion on the Recording Industry Association regarding students downloading music and other materials from the web illegally. ITS has been contacted about 28 NIU students who were involved.

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

L. Derscheid reported that the committee met with Mallory Simpson, President of the NIU Foundation, who spoke to them about the Capital Campaign. The “quiet” portion of the campaign is ending, and roll-out of the full campaign is slated for May 5, 2007.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – William Tolhurst, Chair – report (Pages 10-11)

W. Tolhurst reported that the committee met on February 14 to finalize and approve a response to the Provost’s request for an interpretation of the Bylaws concerning university level appeals.

I. University Affairs Committee – Jody Newman-Ryan, Chair – no report

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Brigid Lusk, Chair – report

B. Lusk announced the winners of the recent University Council elections. They are, from

College of Business, Rick Ridnour (Marketing)
College of Education, Toni Tollerud* (Counseling Adult in Higher Education)
College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Clifford Mirman (Technology)
College of Health and Human Sciences, Jody Newman-Ryan* (Communicative Disorders)
College of Law, Dan Schneider
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, William Baker* (English), Jeffrey Chown (Communication), Heide Fehrenbach (History), Linda Sons (Math), Carol Thompson (Physics), Rich Greene (Geography); and
College of Visual and Performing Arts, Douglas Boughton (Art)
* (re-elected)

Congratulations, and thank you for your willingness to serve.
VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

**J. Stephen** complimented the *Northern Star* for their recent efforts in bringing attention to the plight of the university’s financial situation. **J. Meyer**, while, applauding the legislature’s attempt to increase our funding 1.5%, lamented on the decreasing affordability of NIU. **P. Stoddard** agreed, and said it was important for the Northern Star, the students, and their families to take the lead on making this argument to the legislature.

**C. Sorenson** pointed out that we should pay a lot of attention to the No Child Left Behind reauthorization and gave examples of several proposals that would affect higher education most directly.

**B. Lusk** asked about the Spellings Report. **Provost Alden** responded with his impressions of the various levels of the Commission report, dealing with accountability on the part of universities.

**E. Williams** addressed a question regarding the costs of new buildings in light of the capital campaign.

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 a reasonable hour.