UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


B. Minor attended for J. Grush; B. Anderson attended for M. Munroe; M. Pritchard attended for S. Richmond

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Baker, Castle, Dowen, Hemphill, Johns, Kamenitsa, Kaplan, King, Langguth, Marcus, Oreseanin, Pappanduros, Parisot, B. Peters, Purnell, Schoenbachler, Sido, X. Song, Sorensen, Stephen, Thu, Tollerud, Walton

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters called the meeting to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda passed with addition of walk-ins.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2007 MEETING (Pages 3-6)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters gave an update on the state budgetary process, and at the moment it looks like NIU could be in for a 1.9% increase to its base general revenue. The President also talked about the upcoming State Higher Education Lobby Day in Springfield on April 25.

Provost Alden reported on the upcoming schedule of the Strategic Planning Task Force, and noted that the searches for LA&S Dean and Libraries Dean were nearing what look to be successful conclusions.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES
A. FAC to IBHE – Jody Newman- Ryan – report – walk-in

J. Newman-Ryan reported that the FAC met with the IBHE and several state legislators. One in particular stated that higher ed has been able to absorb and thrive under the budget cuts from the last few years. Also, despite work by the Student Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Council on the textbook issue and apparent IBHE support, there are two bills pending on this issue.

President Peters commented that the University monitors bills that may affect higher education.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – report (Pages 7-8)

F. Bryan presented the report from the March 8 meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee. The committee heard sabbatical leave report from Professor Carolinda Douglass and Professor David Kyvig. All the recommendations for faculty and SPS sabbatical leaves were approved. New minors and degree changes in Math, Engineering and Music were also approved.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song report

P. Stoddard combined this report with that on the full board.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Sara Clayton and Bobbie Cesarek – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

P. Stoddard reported that the full Board approved the proposed increases in student fees and room and board rates. The full Board also approved all the sabbatical leaves. Trustee Boey expressed his strong support for the sabbatical program. Wally Czerniak gave a presentation regarding NIU’s compliance with the recording industry’s concerns about illegal download of music and other media.

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

G. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Linda Derscheid, Chair – no report

H. Rules and Governance Committee – William Tolhurst, Chair – report – walk-in

1. FPA – proposed Bylaw updates

W. Tolhurst presented, for a first reading, a bylaw amendment regarding the evaluation of the Faculty Personnel Advisor. What you see on this report is exactly what you saw in last
meeting’s packet. We are presenting it for the purpose of a first reading so that it can be voted upon at the next.

I. University Affairs Committee – Jody Newman-Ryan, Chair – report – walk-in

1. Religious Observances Policy


J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Brigid Lusk, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sabbatical Leave – proposed Bylaw updates – walk-in

R. Alden, on behalf of the UCPC, presented for first reading, a bylaw change regarding sabbatical reports.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

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 4:30 p.m.