UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


J. Millhorn attended for B. Anderson; W. Minor attended for J. Grush.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Baker, Dowen, Johns, Kamenitsa, King, Kolb, Langguth, Latham, Oreseanin, Pappanduros, Parisot, Pernell, Purnell, Schoenbachler, Sido, S. Song, X. Song, Stephen, Stravers, Thu, Wade, Walton

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2007 MEETING (Pages 4-6)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. Wolfskill moved to go into executive session for the purpose of receiving the report from the evaluation committee for the Secretary of the University Council; J. Stephen seconded. The motion passed.

V. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS


Those people who have been re-elected by their colleagues are Rick Ridnour from Marketing. Toni Tollerud from Counseling. Jody Newman-Ryan, Communicative Disorders and William Baker from English.
Newly elected are Cliff Mirman from Technology. Dan Schneider from the College of Law. Barbara Burrell from Political Science. Jeff Chown from Communication. Linda Sons from Mathematical Sciences. Carol Thompson from Physics. Richard Greene from Geography and Doug Boughton from the School of Art.

President Peters updated the council on Lobby Day, the unsettled state of Springfield, security issues in light of the recent Virginia Tech tragedy, commencement, the Strategic Plan, and the May 5 roll-out of the Capital Campaign.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

VII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Jody Newman-Ryan – report (Page 7)

J. Newman-Ryan reported that the FAC met on Friday, the 13th at Heartland Community College and met with Student Advisory Committee representative to discuss joint areas of concern, such as mental health on campus.

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 – 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 8)

L. Derscheid reported that RSB met with Anne Kaplan, Vice President of the Division of Administration and University Outreach. She discussed various departments in her unit, including the ITT Network, the NIU TV and Radio, Outreach and Governmental Studies, and the Proton Therapy Project.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – William Tolhurst, Chair – report (Pages 9-10)

1. Faculty Personnel Advisor Bylaw changes – ACTION ITEM
W. Tolhurst: moved two proposed bylaw changes regarding the process of evaluating the Faculty Personnel Advisor.

J. Stephen seconded. The motion passed.

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

1. Religious Observance Policy

J. Newman-Ryan introduced, for final action, revision to the University’s religious observation policy, with a rewording to clarify that the Ombudsman tract was a different tract then the regular grievance procedure.

President Peters indicated that now the policy reads “students who believe they’ve been unreasonably denied an educational benefit should contact the person identified by their department.”

J. Stephen made the motion to accept as edited; B. Lusk seconded.

P. Vohra suggested changing “denied an educational accommodation” to “denied an accommodation.” Mover and seconder agreed to accept the change as a friendly amendment.

R. Alden expressed concern, from an academic freedom standpoint, of having to enforce this policy on faculty when an appeal is made.

C. Sorensen suggested changing “students who believe they have been unreasonably denied a reasonable accommodation” to “students who believe they have been denied a reasonable accommodation.” J. Newman-Ryan accepted the change.

In the next sentence, it was suggested substituting “issue” for “grievance.” Again, J. Newman-Ryan accepted the change.


P. Stoddard read the revised policy as amended:

“Northern Illinois University, as a public institution of higher education in the State of Illinois, does not observe religious holidays. It is the university’s policy, however, to reasonably accommodate the religious observances of individual students in regards to admissions, class attendance, scheduling examinations and work requirements. Such policies shall be made known to faculty and students. Religious observance includes all aspects of religious observance and practice as well as belief. Absence from classes or examinations for religious observance does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. To request accommodation, students who expect to miss classes, examinations or other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance shall provide
instructors with reasonable notice of the date or dates they will be absent. Students who believe they have been denied a reasonable accommodation should contact the person identified by the department to hear such complaints, usually the department chair. If the issue is not resolved at the department level, students may proceed to the office of the dean of that college and if it is still unresolved, to the Office of the Provost. Additionally students may contact the ombudsman for advice.”

The policy passed as amended.

**J. Newman-Ryan** said that the committee has a lengthy report containing suggestions about how to prevent having people sent to the Provost’s office for this policy infraction, which she is sending to the Provost.

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

1. University Council confirmation of election of 2007-2008 Executive Secretary of the University Council

**W. Tolhurst** moved to accept the nomination of Paul Stoddard for Executive Secretary of the University Council, close nominations, and unanimously approve his election.

The motion passed.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Sabbatical Leaves Bylaw changes – **ACTION ITEM** (Page 11)

**R. Alden** introduced, for final action, a revision in the timing of submitting Sabbatical Leave Reports.

The motion to approve the revision was made by **J. Stephen**; seconded by **W. Tolhurst**. The motion passed.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Research Misconduct Policy (Pages 12-27)

**R. Bose** explained the rationale and procedure for revising the Research Misconduct Policy.

**J. Stephen** asked about details regarding when allegations of misconduct are reported to funding agencies. **R. Bose** provided some additional clarification.

**J. Stephen** moved to approve the policy. **W. Tolhurst** seconded.

The motion passed.

B. Intellectual Property Policy (Pages 28-35)
R. Bose introduced the proposed policy changes by indication that federal regulations post-dating our current policy have necessitated the changes, and described the process by which this was reviewed.

J. Stephen asked for, and received, clarification on “work for hire” as it regards copyrights.

A. Kaplan felt there were some technology-related issues that should be cleaned up over the summer.

R. Alden responded that this policy has to be considered a living document, i.e., the IP committee has among its responsibilities to regularly review and update it.

J. Stephen moved to accept the document. J. Kowalski seconded.

The motion passed.

X. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

P. Stoddard noted that Bobbie Cesarek has been re-elected as Chair of the SPS for three years.

P. Vohra acknowledged Dean Sorensen’s last University Council meeting and thanked her for a wonderful job and her good work in partnership with all the deans and everybody else here.

J. Stephen asked about the effect of privacy laws on identifying possible mental health concerns.

President Peters answered that it is under review.

J. Newman-Ryan asked Dr. Bose where the new two policies would be posted. R. Bose responded that they would be in the APPM, Section 1, Part I and Part 6. Section I, General Policies and Procedures, Item 2 and IP Policy would be Section I, Item 6.

XI. 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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.