UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


M. Tahernezhade attended for P. Vohra.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Baker, Grush, Hamlet, Johns, Kaplan, Marcus, Meyer, Pernell, Schoenbachler, S. Song, X. Song, Walton

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the addition of two items to the consent agenda and a report.

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

The minutes were approved with an editorial correction.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters opened by offering a belated “Welcome back” and recapping campus events from the summer. He then discussed the Spellings Commission Report (available at http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hiedfuture/reports/pre-pub-report.pdf), and suggested affordability would be a key concern of the commission. The President felt, based on information currently available, that NIU would fare well in any assessment based on the report’s concerns.

President Peters then introduced the new Provost, Dr. Raymond Alden III.

R. Alden talked about his immediate charge – developing a strategic plan for the University. He described the rational for this project, as well as the process and timeline.

V. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of University Council Standing Committees for 2006-2007 (Page 7)
B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – 2006-2009 (Page 8)
C. Creation of Provost Task Force on Multicultural Curriculum Transformation – see memo from I. Legg – refer to Rules and Governance (Pages 9-11)
D. A motion from UCPC that tenure and promotion to associate professor be combined – see memo from I Legg – refer to Rules and Governance (Page 12)
E. Request from President Peters to change “subject to concurrence by the president” to “subject to concurrence by the provost” on several committees – refer to Rules and Governance
F. Smoking policy change – refer to Rules and Governance (Page 13)
G. Academic dishonesty policy proposal – refer to Rules and Governance – walk-in
H. Observance of religious holidays guidelines proposal – refer to University Affairs – walk-in

The Consent Agenda was approved as written.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – no report


F. Bryant reported on the May 25, 2006 meeting, at which personnel items, including new appointments and tenure and promotion items were all approved by the committee. Also, the committee welcomed our new Provost.

J. Stephen reported on the September 7, 2006 meeting and noted all action items still need to be approved by the full Board. The committee unanimously endorsed a new MS program in the Family and Consumer Sciences that included two emphases, Provost Alden recognized twenty new emeritus faculty, the Professional Excellence Awards for teaching and staff, and the Presidential Teaching Professors and the Presidential Research Professors. Dean Bose made a presentation regarding the External Funding for Research, Public Service and Instruction Project. Also, President Peters congratulated the faculty and recognized our efforts in research and artistry for which we’ve been upgraded in the Carnegie ratings to research high activity which is the mid-level range for a research categorized university. President Peters noted a change in the Carnegie ratings, in which those universities that don’t have medical schools are no longer compared to those that do.

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

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Rachel Turner and Bobbie Cesarek – no report
BOT – Paul Stoddard – report (Pages 16-17)

F. Bryant gave the report. Fifty-eight faculty were granted promotion and tenure. There was a tribute to Provost Legg. There were new appointments of administrators, the new Ph.D. program in Art Education, Specialization in Sport and Exercise Psychology, new specializations with the M.S. degree in Nursing, and, a presentation from representatives from project REAL.

President Peters added that Barbara Vella was re-elected as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

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, 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

J. Stephen expressed concern about the reclassification of people in administrative and supervisory positions. He noted that Provost Alden is looking into the matter. P Stoddard pointed out that the Faculty Senate has taken this up and the matter was referred to that body’s Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Stephen asked if the Spellings Commission report mentioned the declining national and state funding of public institutions as a mitigating factor for affordability? President Peters responded that this trend was recognized that but the report called for a massive restructuring of student aid at the federal level. He then gave some historical and political context, and again encouraged people to read the report. L. Kamenitsa asked about the report’s stance on standardized testing.

President Peters said that the implication is that the higher education community has to come up with learning outcomes-based assessment that would be posted for comparison with other schools. He felt this was neither desirable, nor possible.
X. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 P.M.