UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2006, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


M. Morris attended for L. Pernell; M. Tahernezhade attended for P. Vohra

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


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 a walk-in item.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 MEETING

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters provided a brief update on the Strategic Planning Task Force, which is just beginning its task, and the evaluation of the feasibility of a mid-year salary increment. He is optimistic. He also mentioned the possibility of a capital bill from Springfield, but probably not until spring. At the federal level, the recent election shook things up. His guess is that there will be a focus on student aid, accountability, and cost. Finally, he noted that Samie Chaudhry, a Political Science and Geography double-major, was chosen by the state Lincoln Laureate Committee to be the spokesperson for all the Lincoln Laureates statewide.

V. CONSENT AGENDA
VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Paul Stoddard – report and P-20 Teaching Standards (Pages 6-9)

P. Stoddard, filling in for Jody Newman-Ryan reported on the FAC to the IBHE. The major order of business was the approval of a proposed FAC position paper regarding teacher preparation. While NIU has already implemented most, if not all, of the paper’s recommendations for middle and upper level teachers, the proposal that Elementary Education teachers be required to have a content major, thus increasing time to degree by a year, was problematic. Despite reservations about this particular proposal, the position paper was approved unanimously by the FAC. P. Stoddard explained that he voted for the paper to ensure that debate on this important topic get underway. He explained that this paper would still have to be presented to the IBHE, who could deal with it, or ignore it entirely, as they saw fit. In addition, the ISBE, responsible for teacher certification requirements, would no doubt have something to say about these proposals, should they get that far.

The FAC received a report from Rebecca Wojcik (Governor’s State) on an IBHE working group that concerned with “physical presence”- both student/teacher interactions, and institutions operating in Illinois maintaining some sort of in-state presence. Finally, Eastern Illinois University Trustee Leo Welch met with the FAC, and said his fear is that we focus too much on economic paybacks not enough about the other good things that university provides, such as cultural opportunities.

C. Sorensen asked what percentage of the FAC members are actually from college of education. P. Stoddard responded that he didn’t know. C. Sorensen then raised several concerns about the proposed elementary education requirements and noted several examples of states where such requirements did not work out as expected. G. Seaver noted that Northern already does many of the things proposed and suggested that our FAC representative would consult with the UCC and particularly CITC to develop a response. President Peters asked for some context. P. Stoddard responded that he felt the FAC is trying to establish an agenda with the IBHE rather than just responding to IBHE proposals. W. Tolhurst asked about the possibility of amending the document’s proposals. P. Stoddard responded that it had been voted on already, but suggested that an appendix might be added.

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 – Rachel Turner and Bobbie Cesarek – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – no report
L. Derscheid reported that the committee met on September 27 with Dr. Williams. He said that NIU has entered the fund development age and reported on two new projects which are being funded through the development office: the housing for students with dependents, and the Academic Athletic Performance Center. Also covered were performance contracting, the fiscal budget request for maintenance, and how the Spellings Commission might impact resources, space, and budgets. The committee also met on October 18 to discuss possible future agendas.

W. Tolhurst, on behalf of the committee, and responding to a request by the Provost’s Office proposed that the Multicultural Curricular Transformation Task Force be renamed and established as a permanent Category III committee of the university.

This is a first reading.

B. Hemphill asked why the Asian-American Resource Center was not included. W. Tolhurst that the personnel listed were listed for the Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Task Force. L. Kamenitsa asked about resource centers. W. Tolhurst pointed out the committee’s function is curricular. J. Meyer questioned the lack of student representation. W. Tolhurst noted that he participants in the annual workshops are only faculty because the idea is to get faculty to diversify and multiculturalize their work with students. J. Meyer stated his concern that a permanent standing committee should have student representation.

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. Receipt of Annual Reports

P. Stoddard encouraged members to peruse the annual reports.

1. Academic Planning Council
2. Athletic board
3. Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
4. Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
5. Faculty Personnel Advisor
6. Graduate Council
7. Undergraduate Coordinating Council  
8. University Assessment Panel  
9. University Council Personnel Committee  
10. University Ombudsman

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

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 3:48 P.M.