Present: Alden, Anderson, Bose, Cesarek, Derscheid, Docking, Elish-Piper, Gallagher, Hemphill, Kafer, Kamenitsa, Latham, Lusk, Mogren, Munroe, Newman, Novotney, Pappanduros, Pernell, Pierce, Richmond, Ridnour, Seaver, Sims, S. Song, X. Song, Stephen, Stoddard, Tolhurst, Turner, Williams, Wolfskill

B. Jaffee attended for J. Kowalski; M. Tahernezhade attended for P. Vohra.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2006 MEETING

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters opened by discussing the conditions leading to the cancellation of classes due to the recent snow storm.

Provost Alden then updated the council on the progress and timeline of the Strategic Planning Task Force. President Peters expressed confidence in the process and the external consultant (The Learning Alliance) assistance.

President Peters noted that the Board of Trustees was expected to approve the mid-year salary increment at its next meeting. The increment is 1% across-the-board, and an additional 1.33% for the top 60%.

The FY ’08 budget process is getting underway. While the State’s income stream is not up to expectations, there is still hope for the first capital budget in years.
President Peters talked about the budgetary consequences to NIU of the so-called 6% rule (passing the State’s obligation on pensions of those who get increments greater than 6% in their last four years on to the university) and the minimum wage hike. The President discussed the widespread misconception that higher educations costs are “skyrocketing.” This perception is at least in part due to decreased State support, forcing higher tuition costs. Finally, the President talked about NIU’s participation in the Poinsettia Bowl.

V.  CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda.

VI.  REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Paul Stoddard – report (pages 7-12)

P. Stoddard reported that the FAC met on November 17th at Illinois State. ISU’s legislative liaison discussed his feelings on how the election in Illinois portends for higher education in Illinois, specifically that a capital bill might finally be passed. In general, he said that universities play defense: they don’t propose legislation, but try to deflect the more onerous legislation and reshape other proposals. Rick Pearce, IBHE staff member, indicated that due to a new structuring at the IBHE, now might be a good time for faculty to get their foot in the door on various issues of interest.

Regarding the Teacher Preparation document from last time - one of the three major drafters is from the College of Ed, that’s Marie Donovan from DePaul University. There was a lot of concern raised about that document not just here but at other institutions as well. As a result, the FAC is going to try to meet with the deans of the Colleges of Ed and address some of the concerns that have been raised.

Another position paper that’s going to come up for discussion is on student debt.

President Peters added that the report on teacher preparation was presented and accepted by the Board. J. Pierce asked if accepting the report means the recommendations will be carried out. President Peters responded in the negative – that the future of the recommendations are unknown.


F. Bryan reported that the main action item was a $3.3 million federal funding proposal to begin the formal planning of the Proton Therapy Treatment Center. They’re looking at the formal release of the request for proposal next month, with groundbreaking taking place in 2008, and treatments beginning in 2011.
C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – report (page 15)

P. Stoddard reported the FFO committee approved a performance contract where a contractor comes provides new and more efficient windows or doors and so forth and NIU pays for the improvements out of the energy savings that these improvements create. Dr. Williams has completed several of these in recent years and should be commended for getting these types of contracts whenever he can.

The Housing for Students with Dependents has been officially named “Northern View Community.” Money was approved to remodel the Office of Financial Aid to provide privacy for students who are discussing their financial needs, and to improve Parking Lot W.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Rachel Turner and Bobbie Cesarek – report (pages 16-17)

President Peters: I left out Bobbie and Rachel. I didn’t mean to leave you out. Who’s giving that report? Bobbie? All right, go right ahead.

B. Cesarek reported that the only action item that was a presentation by Sharon Dowen, Director of our Internal Audit, which was voted on positively by the Board. The only major change was the addition of language concerning consulting services.

Information items dealt with university efforts to assimilate all of the various forms and policies of the university in one location such that that can be presented more readily, and a legislative summary from Springfield.

Lori Clark is the new Coordinator for Agency Relations and Research Park Initiatives.

President Peters added that due to a snag in the sale of the ISAC student assistance portfolio which was to provide MAP funding, no university in the state is making MAP Plus awards.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – John Wolfskill, Chair – report

J. Wolfskill reported on the progress of the NIU Connect program. Two issues have arisen: First, the new system is not designed to handle our current scheme of 400 star courses which are available for both undergraduate and graduate credit. After extensive discussion, the Graduate Council approved splitting current 400 star courses into one course at the 400 level for undergraduates and one at the 500 level for graduates. Courses now number in the 500’s will be moved to 600’s and similarly 600’s up to 700’s.

Second, the new system is not designed to treat repeated courses on a student’s transcript in as highly nuanced a manner as our current policy allows. This matter was recently debated and
resolved in APASC, the result being a choice of policy which, in my opinion, is as close as possible to our existing one, consistent with the limitations of the new software.

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

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

1. The Committee on Multicultural Curricular Transformation – ACTION ITEM (pages 18-19)

W. Tolhurst, on behalf of the committee, moved the recommendation regarding the Advisory Committee on the Multicultural Curricular Transformation; i.e., to formalize the committee and specify its membership. The committee’s sole function is to advise the Provost with regard to the Multicultural Curricular Transformation Institute that’s offered every year for faculty.

The motion was seconded.

V. Cassidy, in response to a question regarding membership, noted that membership was restricted to those faculty who had curricular development duties.

The motion passed.


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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters announced that the end zone facility is now named after Jeff and Kimberly Yordon who made a $2.5 million commitment. This brings the private funding total for the facility to $9.5 million.

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
XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

A complete transcript of this meeting can be found at: