UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


B. Minor attended for C. McCord

Parlimentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Bradley, Brenes, Gerken, Grall, Hemphill, Johnson, Kafer, Kaplan, Leake, Looney, Mirman, Nuzzo, Orrego, Pierce, Polovina, Prawitz, Purnell, Pyatt, Schneider, Schoenbachler, Sido, Smith, Stephen, Stravers, Thu, Watson,

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2007 MEETING  
(Pages 2-4)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

After some comments about the New York football Giants, President Peters thanked the physical plant for their efforts in keeping us warm, and Gilbert Sebenste for keeping us informed about the weather. He also pointed out that the university home page has a link to current weather advisories for campus.

The update on the budget is that there is still no capital bill, and the budget process for the upcoming year has not yet begun. The President did mention that the economic picture, locally and regionally, does not look as rosy as it has in the past.

The President commented on last year’s “bookend” emergencies – the flood in August, and the graffiti incident in December. He felt that both were handled well, and that our emergency
preparedness process had been very helpful. He also talked about the new office of Emergency Planning and Management, saying that people are continuing to work towards its improvement.

Finally, the President talked some about the current election cycle, at the national, state, and local levels.

**R. Alden** gave an update at the Strategic Planning process. Over 300 concept papers have been received, of which maybe 10% will be supported. Three groups are evaluating these papers – the Council of Deans (multidisciplinary), and the task forces on Curricular Innovation and Student Success. RFPs are going out for academic, service, and research cluster proposals. The proposals will be due in early April.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

There was no consent agenda.

**VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – no report

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 Nancy Castle – no report

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – no report

E. BOT – Bobbie Cesarek – report

**B. Cesarek** reported that the Board of Trustees approved a number of resolutions pertaining to the NIU Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center. Joe Novak was thanked for his years of service to the institution. He will be at a celebration that will take place around the weekend of the spring game at the end of April. Also approved were the Board of Trustees professorships. Executive Session minutes from January of 1996 to 2007 will be released. The office of legal affairs will house them.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the PhD program in Art Education. We are well on our way to our $150 million goal through the NIU Foundation. There was one public comment: V., Nancy Beisel, on behalf of the health service workers, talked about increments.

F. Academic Policy Committee – William Baker, Chair – no report

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Linda Derscheid, Chair – no report
H. Rules and Governance – William Tolhurst, Chair – no report

I. University Affairs Committee – David Wade, Chair – no report

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Toni Tollerud, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Climate Surveys

R. Alden introduced the climate surveys, stressing their importance, talking about how they were designed, and how they will be used. He said it is important to get a large sample of faculty and students to complete the surveys. They will be released shortly.

President Peters pointed out that there will be three components: the student component (first), the faculty reaction to the student environment, and a larger employee based component.

B. Retention of Grading Materials – see memo from E. Seaver (Page 7)

G. Seaver asked that the policy regarding retention of grading materials be re-evaluated. The Deans’ Council asked that we forward their suggested policy to the University Council for discussion and approval. A number of issues were brought up, such as what material should be retained, where should they be retained, how are we going to deal with a faculty member who finishes a semester and leaves, what do we do about those materials.

R. Ridinger moved that the matter be referred to the Academic Policy Committee.

The motion was seconded and passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

P. Stoddard pointed out that due to the special election (to fill the remainder of Representative Hastert’s term) in the 14th District, there will be two separate ballots on election day, and that voters may have to ask to receive the additional ballot.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Peters: All right, we stand adjourned.