UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Boughton, Bradley, Brenes, Davis, Gerken, Grall, Hemphill, Johnson, Polovina, Prawitz, Purnell, Pyatt, Richmond, Roman, Schneider, Schoenbachler, Sido, Smith, Song, Stephen, Tollerud, Watson

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 amendments.

III. APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2008 MEETING (Pages 2-5)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters devoted most of his comments to Feb 14 and its aftermath. He noted we had received many offerings of support, including letters from the principal of Columbine High School, the President of Virginia Tech and the Amish community of Pennsylvania, and the 9-11 “comfort” quilt. He noted that a commemorative issue of Northern Today is in the offing, and that NIU will be sending a small official contingent to Virginia Tech when they hold a memorial ceremony on the first anniversary of their tragedy.

Moving on, the President said that there will be three campus groups following up on issues raised by Feb 14 – the loss of classroom space, both short and long term, a memorial, and the future of Cole Hall. Whatever decisions are reached on these issues will be those that are best for NIU.

In other matters, the President reported on state budget concerns. Revenues this year look “soft” so next year’s budget may suffer. In addition, the university will be responsible for its own
workman’s compensation, a new cost of at least $1 million, and there has still been no resolution of the capital budget debate.

**R. Alden** reported on the Strategic Planning process, saying that deadlines have been pushed back a bit, but that the process is moving forward. He also reported on the two dean searches. Patrick Dawson, currently the Associate University Librarian for University of California, Santa Barbra, will be the new Dean of Libraries. The Provost thanked V.P. Anne Kaplan for her help with this effort. The second search, for the Dean of Law, just finished the second of two campus interviews.

The Provost extended his congratulations and thanks to Vice President and Dean Rathindra Bose who will be moving on in July.

### V. 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 – [report](#) (Pages 5-6)

**F. Bryan** reported that the committee heard sabbatical reports from Laurel Jeris and Donald Richgels, both from the College of Education. The committee then recommended approval all fifty faculty and SPS sabbatical leaves. Also recommended for approval were requests for a new minor in Mechanical Engineering, a new emphasis in Mechatronics, and a new specialization in Nanoscience (within the Ph.D. in Chemistry).

**C.** BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Nancy Castle – [report](#) – walk-in

**P. Stoddard** reported that the committee’s first order of business was to swear in new Trustee John Butler. The committee voted to recommend the student fee structure. Again, as in past years, the primary source of increase in student fees is in the health insurance. A higher than usual increase in room and board reflects the cost of putting sprinklers in the residence halls.

Reconstruction of parking lot #24 (in front of the HR building) is going to start moving forward. The Proton Therapy Treatment Center received crucial Illinois Health Facility Planning Board approval. In order to maintain our accountancy program’s national prominent rankings, a Master of Accounting Science program fee of $175/credit hour (rising to $275/credit hour by Fall, 2012) was recommended.

In response to a question from a student member, **E. Williams** noted that the overall cost of the improvements that have to be made to the residence housing is in the neighborhood of $15 million, necessitating a multi-year look at room and board rate.
D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – report – walk-in

**J. Monteiro** reported that despite a lack of a quorum, the informational items were covered. On the 9th House Bill 1434, allowing community colleges to offer 4 year degrees, passed through the House and has gone to the Senate Rules Committee. House Bill 4621 would require universities to admit students from approved high schools if their grade point average is in the top 10% of the student’s high school graduating class. House Bill 4625 would require reimbursement for 50% of the cost of textbooks that veterans have to purchase for universities and community colleges. The Governor has suggested a 4% across the board reduction in budgets for FY09 but that did not include higher education. The Higher Education Act which has passed both Houses of Congress and is now in Conference Committee. A proposed increase of $69 million in the federal budget would bring the PELL Grants back up to FY07.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – William Baker, Chair – report

**P. Stoddard** reported on behalf of the APC. The committee is recommending that all materials used in grading that was not returned to the students be retained for a minimum of 13 months and that during that time must be accessible to the department chair or appropriate supervisor. This material would include (but not be limited to) exams, papers, assignments, grade spreadsheets, and syllabi describing the grading procedure for the class.

The motion was made and seconded to incorporate this recommendation into the APPM. The motion passed.

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

H. Rules and Governance Committee – William Tolhurst, Chair – no report

I. University Affairs Committee – David Wade, Chair – report FIRST READING (Pages 7 -9)

In order to provide more uniform support to several university-wide faculty and staff positions, and to relieve individual colleges of the financial burden of those positions, **D. Wade** introduced a motion that the Executive Secretary of the University Council/President of the Faculty Senate, the Ombudsman, the Faculty Personnel Advisor, and Faculty Representative to the FAC of the IBHE be funded through the office of the University Council.

Faculty Representative to the IBHE is currently an unfunded position. The motion calls for one-month salary support for this position. Since the Ombudsman’s Office assists all members of the university community the committee is recommending that that office be funded as a line item in the University Council budget and that the Ombudsman be an active participant in that budgeting process. Currently, it’s funded through the Office of Administration and University Outreach.
Currently the Faculty Personnel Advisor (FPA) has been compensated in the bylaws is by a one half time reduction in academic assignments, but in practice this is highly variable. Not only has this been inconsistent, but reduction in teaching may hurt the students. The Provost’s Office has supported the FPA position with a one-month stipend in the summertime paid over a two-month period.
The committee’s recommendation is that there should be a one-month stipend for the fall semester, one month-stipend for the spring semester and one-month stipend for the summer semester.

L. Sons noted that the bylaws currently call for support for the editor of the Faculty Bulletin, even though that position no longer exists, and suggested this would be a good time to remove that provision.

F. Bryan offered that it would be best to vote on each section of the bylaws that we change since each heading or subheading seems to deal with a particular office. D. Wade agreed.

President Peters pointed out the need to determine where the funds are coming from.

R. Alden suggested that since services provided by these positions are not dependent on someone’s discipline, that we offer a set stipend rather than make it based on salary. J. Kowalski echoed the sentiment.

President Peters noted that at other institutions, compensation (time and/or money) for these positions needs to be calibrated in terms of teaching an undergraduate course and lecture discussion format of size 30. He added that the stipend is geared toward the actual work and probably would best be, if we went this way, an administrative overload stipend that was paid on a monthly basis that was equal to the task. He also noted that annual evaluations and salary setting need to be tied together.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Form an Ad Hoc group to set policy for finals week disruption

P. Stoddard announced that an Ad Hoc group to set policy for disruptions to finals week was being formed. He reported that the Steering Committee suggested group consist of the following: an advising dean, a representative from Student Affairs, a student representative, faculty representing each college, and at least one representative from a course with mass exams (who might also be a college rep).

A. Kaplan suggested adding somebody with some experience in off-campus environments. President Peters agreed that would be a good addition, and supported the proposal in general.
G. Seaver offered to supply the group with background information.

P. Stoddard asked that the appropriate bodies name representatives to the group.

The motion to create this group was made, seconded, and passed.

B. 2007 – 2008 Academic Calendar (Page 10) updated version – walk-in

President Peters: VIII. B – We have a new version walk-in of the Academic Calendar.

P. Stoddard, in recognition of time lost to the tragedy of Feb 14, moved that the UC approve a modified academic calendar which moves the end of classes and finals back one week, so that commencement falls on May 17 rather than May 10, and that reading day not be honored this semester. The motion was seconded.

After a long debate on the merits of not honoring reading day, the motion passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned.