UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007, 3:00 P.M.
ALTGELD HALL 225


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Boughton, Butler, Cesarek, Grall, Mirman, Nuzzo, Pernell, Prawitz, Purnell, Richmond, Schneider, Schoenbachler, Stravers, Thu, Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters called the meeting of the University Council to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2007 MEETING (Pages 3-7)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters welcomed everyone back to campus and introduced our new deans – Chris McCord (LAS), Lemuel Watson (EDU), and Byron Anderson (LIB). He then recapped the impact the recent flood had on NIU, and how NIU responded. Most problems have been successfully dealt with. NIU has hit its enrollment targets this year, with about 3000 new freshmen and 2000 new transfer students. The president also updated the council on the state budget, which is still not entirely settled, but NIU looks to get about a 1.9% increase to its general revenue base. NIU is currently reviewing all of its emergency procedures, in the wake the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Provost Alden gave a brief update on the strategic plan, reporting on a summer meeting of the council of deans, and giving a feel for where we go from here in terms of implementation.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of University Council Committees for 2007-2008 (Page 8)

B. University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees – 2007-2010
C. Funding of the Ombudsman Office/Faculty Personnel Advisor/Executive Secretary/President support for the FAC representative – refer to University Affairs

D. Renaming of Faculty Personnel Advisor – review Bylaw 9 – refer to Rules and Governance

The Consent Agenda was approved as written.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

President Peters: All right, let’s go into reports.

A. FAC to IBHE – no report


J. Stephen reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Personnel Committee of the BOT did several of the traditional type of curricular bookkeeping things at their June meeting. The subcommittee endorsed every one of the sabbatical reports that were received and again, the BOT went out of their way to express their understanding of the need for sabbaticals, their importance, and their continued efforts to defend them.

F. Bryan reported on the September Board of Trustees’ Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee meeting, which focused on progress of teaching, research, and awards to faculty and staff. The main action item was the University’s approval for the Northern Illinois Center for Accelerated and Detector Development, known as NICADD.

Provost Alden formally recognized the twenty-seven individuals who received Faculty Emeritus designations and honored the recipients of the Professional Excellence Awards for faculty and staff, the Presidential Teaching Professors, Presidential Research Professors, Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Operation Staff Outstanding Service Awards, and Presidential Supportive Professional Staff Awards.

Then Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Bose, presented the FY2007 External Funding Progress Report.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Nancy Castle – report

P. Stoddard reported that the FFO was mainly concerned with budget matters. He gave updates on the capital budget, which contains both major and lesser projects, funded in different ways. He also discussed the budget as a whole and pointed out that Springfield’s contribution, expressed a percentage, continues to decrease. It is now just over 26%.
President Peters pointed out that Northern is still able to do great things, and that there are other states faring even worse.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – report (Pages 9-11)

J. Stephen asked if SB 313 – Board of Higher Education Act will affect our CHANCE Program negatively.

E. Seaver replied that it doesn’t affect any of our students.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

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

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE

P. Stoddard called for nominations/volunteers to serve as NIU representative to the FAC.

President Peters said it will be an interesting year or two as the IBHE is going to try to replace the Illinois Commitment statement.

B. Personnel Confidentiality Policy

P. Stoddard said he has found that while most individual units address the issue, there appears to be no university-wide policy regarding confidentiality of personnel discussions. He therefore recommended that a committee look into what’s being done and deciding whether there ought to be a university wide minimum confidentiality in terms of discussing personnel.

President Peters suggested that the committee ask Ken Davidson to appoint an attorney to track through the review.

The matter was referred to Rules and Governance.
IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

**B. Lusk** asked if the Faculty Advisory Committee representative can be someone outside of University Council and Faculty Senate. **P. Stoddard** responded in the affirmative.

**J. Stephen** asked about the status of the Northern View community. **B. Hemphill** said he had a real good meeting with the community last week and a lot of good conversation and will be going back to the community on the 17th to lay out all the responses to the community’s concerns, and that the project will be totally complete by early October.

**J. Stephen** noted that the Strategic Plan calls for more multidisciplinary activities, and asked if accountability and reward mechanisms would be in place for such activities. **President Peters** agreed on the need for such mechanisms. **R. Alden** responded that the Deans’ Council is going to have to tackle this issue, but that we have the collegial environment that provides a good starting point.

**W. Tolhurst** asked if Research and Artistry Grants might not be used as seeds for multidisciplinary projects. **R. Bose** answered that the amount of money for these grants is not really large enough for what the Strategic Plan envisions. **President Peters** said he is concerned about finding new resources to fund these great ideas.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2007-2008 Meeting **Schedule** (Page 12)
B. 2007-2008 Alternate **List**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 P.M.