UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


B. Minor attended for C. McCord; D. Walker attended for L. Watson.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Anderson, Boughton, Brenes, Cesarek, Elish-Piper, Gerken, Grall, Greene, Looney, Lusk, Millhorn, Pernell, Polovina, Prawitz, Purnell, Schneider, Schoenbachler, Sido, Song, Stephen, Stravers, Thu, Wade

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2007 MEETING (Pages 2-4)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters updated the Council on items of interest from Springfield and from Washington, D.C. From the former, the legislature is still debating a capital budget bill, and the IBHE has approved NIU’s Ph.D. in Art Education. From the latter, the President talked about the Dept. of Defense budget, which includes items pertaining to our Proton Therapy project and NIU College of Engineering projects; as well as the Higher Education Reauthorization Bill and the Spellings Commission. He also announced that the Dean of the Law School, LeRoy Pernell, will be leaving NIU. Two honorary degrees will be conferred at Fall Commencement, to Robert Rosner (Director of Argonne National Laboratory) and Dr. Abraham Verghese (Professor of Medicine at Stanford University). Altgeld Hall will be hosting its annual Holiday Family Celebration.

At the President’s request, R. Alden reviewed the status of the Strategic Planning and of the searches for Deans of Law and Libraries. For the former, the Council of Deans is reviewing over
200 concept papers on multi-disciplinary initiatives. There will also be work done in the other major areas of the Plan, in student success, curricular innovation, and sustainability of campus environment. For the latter, candidates are being looked at for both positions, with a timeline that points towards late February/early March for the beginning of the interview phases.

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 – report (Page 5)

P. Stoddard reported that Finance and Facilities met on November 15. Recommendations made include approving the next phase of our conservation infrastructure improvements, the new student contract for their bus system, construction of a new regulation track for the women’s team, and that NIU grant an easement to DeKalb Township so they can build a road going down the west edge of our far west campus. That will be an extension of Bethany Road and that will help us by giving us access to the land out there.

P. Stoddard also informed the UC that this summer there will be some construction that’s going to tear up part of the parking lot by the Campus Life Building and part of Normal Road for the east campus chilled water plant and associated piping.

President Peters answered a question regarding the policy on naming of University facilities.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – report (Pages 6-7)

J. Montero reported on information presented to the Legislative, Audit and External Affairs Committee, which met on November 15: the General Assembly and the Governor are still working on the capital budget; and the maximum for the Pell Grant awards will be raised and an income-based loan repayment program will be established. The committee discussed the peer-to-peer file sharing legislation. There was a report from Deborah Pierce from the Study Abroad Program and Steven Cunningham gave a report on the compliance audit and he gave four different areas where they had findings. It was also noted that NIU was complimented on the comprehensive nature of their HR administration.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no 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 – 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. Northern Illinois University’s Smoking Policy – ACTION ITEM. (Page 8)

R. Albanese, on behalf of the Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee, brought to the UC a new smoking policy designed to keep NIU in compliance with the new state law that goes into effect Jan 1, 2008. By the new state law, there will be no smoking in any University buildings or vehicles, nor may there be any smoking within 15 feet of any doors, operable windows, or air vents.

There was some discussion of possible accommodations for smokers, such as benches or shelters.

P. Vohra moved acceptance of the new policy; T. Tollerud seconded. The motion passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

L. Sons asked for clarification of the official name of the Computer Science/Psychology Building, since it is referred to as “PM” (for Psych/Math) on student schedules. Now, you know, something ought to change here. President Peters pointed out that there are no longer any Math people in there. No clarification was forthcoming, and L Sons suggested that the matter be resolved in some fashion.

J. Kowalski, changing the subject, noted that there are many good folks who are smokers.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.