UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Blaustein, Bond, Boughton, Doerderlein, Freedman, Holt, Johnson, Kaplan, Krol, Lusk, Mock, Mogren, Prawitz, Raji, Schneider, Schoenbachler, Sido, E. Smith, Thu, Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters called the January 28 University Council to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Stephen made the motion; Derscheid made the second. The agenda was approved with three additions.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2008 MEETING

The motion to approve was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters began by relating his experiences and impressions of the inauguration of President Obama. He then talked about budget issues, including state revenues, the capital budget, and the proposed federal stimulus package. Included in this discussion were the prospects for funding of the renovation of Cole Hall, and the effects of the economy on NIU’s endowment portfolio.

With regards to the stimulus package, J. Stephen encouraged students to make their voices heard regarding its educational aspects.

R. Alden updated the Council about the Equity Study, the Strategic Plan and the dean searches.

There was also a discussion of the upcoming Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of Feb 14.

V. CONSENT AGENDA
A. MyNIU attendance reporting requirement – refer to Academic Policy Committee


C. Clarifying college role in approving sabbatical leaves – refer to Rules and Governance

D. Adjustments to the Academic Calendar – memo from Earl Seaver – refer to University Affairs – walk-in

Stephen made the motion to approve the consent agenda; Ridnour was second. The motion passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report – walk-in

E. Hansen reported that the FAC discussed the state budget, but there were few facts. Dianne Bazell is the new Deputy Director of Academic Affairs and Student Success on the Board. He also discussed issues facing community colleges.

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 Xueshu Song – no report

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

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report (Page 3)

P. Stoddard reported that the Board met on December 4. The only report they heard was from the Legislative Committee as the other two committees had not met. The Higher Education Act Reauthorization has come through and there are some things in there that may have some impact on faculty. It cover costs, accreditation, financial aid, disclosure and compliance issues, future development, and international education. Also of interest to faculty especially will be the textbook cost containment requirements that are part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

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

W. Baker gave an update on the committee’s discussion of student evaluations for on-line courses.
R. Alden gave some background on the issue, and added that also of interest would be on-line evaluations for all courses and the possibility of including a few campus-wide questions on each evaluation, for comparison’s sake at the UCPC level.

President Peters said this is a practice he has seen at universities he’s been involved with.

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

H. Rules and Governance Committee – David Wade, Chair – report – First Reading

D. Wade, on behalf of the committee, presented for first reading bylaw language (in the packet) addressing the situation where multiple qualified sabbatical are presented by a department without ensuring that there is sufficient funding to support all such leaves. The language includes consultation with the college dean in such situations.

I. University Affairs Committee – Linda Sons, Chair – no report

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Rebecca Butler, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Executive Secretary of University Council and President of Faculty Senate – Eligibility List (Page 4)

P. Stoddard reminded the Council that this was his last year in the post of Executive Secretary, and urged members to consider possible nominations for a successor.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

L. Sons asked about numbers of applications for admission and scholarships.

G. Seaver responded that applications for freshman are up, and that the effort is to ensure as many accepts enroll as possible. The Huskie Advantage is a new program that we are using that addresses the issue of financial need.

J. Stephen initiated a brief discussion of issues regarding MyNIU and Facebook interaction with students.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.