UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


L. Jennings attended for S. Clayton; Michael Morris attended for P. Henry.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Boughton, Doerderlein, Elish-Piper, Feurer, Freedman, Garcia, Hankla, Hemphill, Johnson, Kaplan, Prawitz, Richmond, Schneider, Sido, E. Smith, M. Smith, Soucy, Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

R. Alden: Let us please come to order. I'll say at the beginning that the President is out of town so I’m going to be substituting as chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

R. Alden: Can I have a motion for the adoption of the agenda? Do I have a second? Okay, any changes or comments that anyone cares to make? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye. Any opposed? Any abstained? Thank you.

Baker made the motion, Tollerud was second. The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 MEETING

R. Alden: Can I have a motion for the adoption of the minutes for the last meeting. Okay. A second? Does anybody have any changes? Bill?

W. Baker: ???

R. Alden: Okay, so a typo on page 2 of the minutes under F, third line it would be March of 2009. Any other changes or comments? Okay, with the changed minutes, all those in favor say aye. Any opposed? Any abstained? Okay, thank you.

The minutes were approved as corrected.
IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

R. Alden: Since John didn’t provide me with a list of anything he would have said, I think I’ll just make a comment or two about Strategic Planning. Upon the presentation of the State of the University address, was the same time we received what the budget will be over the next several years so I’m working with the deans now for a phased in program to try and accommodate as many of the initiatives that were approved as we possibly can and I believe that process will be approved over the next week or so and so you’ll be hearing about the various programs you may be involved in and I know there are certain initiatives that everybody is involved in that hopefully will advance the entire university. So I’m hoping that we will be able to reach that conclusion and give the deans or the task for leaders as the case may be, the budgets that we expect over the next several years so they can start to implement the plan. Of course it’s all contingent on budget and if you have been following the state budget, we’re now $2 billion dollars in the hole and a budget balanced state so we can plan for the worst, hope for the best, but we still need to move forward on the Strategic Planning effort until we hear otherwise. Any comments or questions that we can entertain now? I know we’ll have time at the end so if you want to save questions for the end. Okay?

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES


E. Hansen: We met at Lakeland Community College in Mattoon on the 19th of September. The meeting began at 9:00. They passed out, as they do at all these meetings at the different schools; they passed out information about the institution. One that I thought was interesting about Lakeland is that they out a brochure that highlighted their green initiative that they had going on at Lakeland Community College. It’s interesting that they’re switching to geothermal heating, installing wind turbots next spring to cover 50% of their peak demand on electricity ??? and it’s something that other schools are starting to look at as well. In a nutshell, they finally decided they are going to house the web page for this group at the University of Illinois at Springfield. That has been established. Discussions were related to the funding of higher education or the lack of funding for higher education was the term that we used down there and the same was true of the need to be more funding for course development and course delivery systems throughout the state, especially to the non-traditional student population. There also was discussion about the demographics of the student population as a whole at the community colleges, private institutions as well as state universities within the state of Illinois. They discussed the job market and throughout the state, there are any two areas that seem to be growing and that is the general health care industry and nursing. That pretty much sums up the jest of what was going on at that particular meeting. We’re in Cicero this Friday.

R. Alden: Okay, thank you, appreciate it. Okay, we have no reports for the various Board of Trustee committee meetings. Those were given at the last UC meeting but we did have a Board of Trustees meeting and Paul you have a report on that.
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 Clerisida Garcia – 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: Right, that should be on page 3 of the packet. The Board met on September 18. There was a reception for George Moser, a long time original Board member, Board of Trustees member, so they had a nice little breakfast in commemoration of his efforts for the university. We then had a presentation from the Illinois Campus Security Task Force. This was a group that the Governor put together in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, over a year ago – a year and a half ago – and they were looking at campus safety in Illinois in the wake of that and at the time of our shooting here so they then postponed their final report so they could incorporate the events from here. They made that report to us at the Board of Trustees meeting. Basically, they made a lot of recommendations about security and monitoring mental health situations and so forth. Many of these were issues that we had already been discussing. We had been working on our own response to the Virginia Tech report. Virginia Tech did their own report on response and we looked at that and looked at how recommendations they were making might be implemented here so we had already been considering many of the things that they’d been talking about. They then also talked specifically about what we had done in response to the shooting event here and said that we were quick, efficient, and effective in their preliminary findings so they gave us a good mark on our response.

There was a public statement to the Board from representatives from Health Services who expressed their concern over loss of nursing positions I believe it was due to salary issues. The Board received that statement and didn’t really commit to anything in response to it.

We then got reports from the various sub-communities, as the Provost just mentioned, were talked about last time. They didn’t change any of the findings of those. Some of the things worth mentioning briefly – the salary increment that the President put forward was approved. Trustee Siegel said he wished that it could have been larger but he seemed ??? that it could only be as big as it was. They approved a new campus improve Fee to replace a funding line that the Governor had vetoed as part of the negotiation, back and forth, that they’re doing down state. We don’t envision that line ever being put back so this fee is probably with us for the long term. It’s up to $75/semester which is in keeping with what other state institutions are doing. I think 11 of the 12 state institutions have a fee like this. $75/semester is the bottom end of what those institutions are charging.

The Board acknowledged the various excellence awards for faculty and staff. They acknowledged the retiring faculty and faculty emeriti. They did receive a report following up on a request from Trustee Murer regarding enrollment trends in the Ph.D. in economics.
didn’t have much to say about it but it was noted that all the programs get reviewed on a regular basis. There was the FY 2008 University Performance report, also without much comment.

That’s what they did. I’ll be happy to answer any questions if there are any.

**R. Alden:** Any questions on this report? Okay, thank you.


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

H. Rules and Governance Committee – David Wade, Chair – no report.

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

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

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**R. Alden:** I guess we don’t have any unfinished business but we do have two items of new business.

A. University Holiday Calendar (Page 4)

**R. Alden:** First, the University Holiday Calendar. I understand that Steve Cunningham, who was going to present this, is on his way back from Chicago. He had a meeting there and so won’t be available to do it but from what I understand from my couple of years of experience here, this is not an unusual holiday schedule. I guess the only thing that was in debate was whether the day after the 2nd would be closed or not and, because we didn’t want to mandate that the staff would have to take mandated holidays if we closed, we left that open for individual decisions. Other than that, I think it’s a fairly standard schedule. So I guess I’ll need a motion to approve this holiday schedule. Okay. Second? Any discussion? Okay, hearing none, all those in favor say aye. Any opposed? Any abstained?

Morris made the motion; Thu seconded.

B. Proposed changes to the Academic Calendar (Pages 5-6)

**R. Alden:** The next item was brought forward by the Graduate School and I believe Dr. Bond is here to give a brief presentation on it. Would you care to just introduce this as an item? You have to get to a microphone. Words are very important when ????.
**B. Bond:** Drawing your attention to the fifth page of your packet, there’s a memo from me asking your blessing to change the graduate schedule so that graduate students have a separate ceremony the day preceding undergraduate ceremonies.

**R. Alden:** Okay, thank you. If you will remember last May’s ceremony, here we had luckily 180 more graduates during that ceremony than the previous year, went on extraordinarily long. I think we were in to the 13th hour by the time we finished the third ceremony and I would guess that about 20% of the students and audience remained at the time of the final name being read so I think the President and a number of groups considered all the options to try and shorten the ceremony and thought this was the most appropriate way to honor both graduates and undergraduates but it will help with the length of the ceremonies and hopefully also allow people to stay until the end as well as honor our undergraduate student population. I think that’s why the decision was made to go this way rather than some of the other options that were made available. So, I would like to ask for a motion to adopt this. Okay, do we have a second? Any comments or discussion? Yes?

Baker made the motion; Tollerud made the second.

**J. Holt:** Why an evening ceremony? Why not a day ceremony?

**R. Alden:** I think the issue is not necessarily in the winter ceremony, but in the spring simply to try and – when parents fly in and faculty and staff make arrangements to try to get the commencement done in as short a time as possible – that’s just my guess. I was not part of the discussion about when the graduate ceremony would be but – Brad, were you part of that discussion at all?

**G. Seaver:** If you notice in the fall, our finals run from the 8th through the 13th so if we did it during the day on Saturday, we’d have finals and I think a lot of us especially those of us who will be attending both ceremonies and then also Friday, the other option would be to take the day after in the spring but the day after is Mother’s Day in the spring. While some institutions do have commencement on Mother’s Day we’ve stayed away from that so the evening is to accommodate the activity during the day and the finals.

**R. Alden:** Thank you. Any other comments or discussion?

**Terry ???:** For total clarity, will that be a single ceremony across all colleges?

**R. Alden:** Yes.

**Terry ???:** I assumed that but I just wanted to make sure.

**R. Alden:** I believe this is the way it was done in the past where last year’s doctoral students from all colleges would be at the same ceremony. Any other discussion, questions, comments? Okay, hearing none, all those in favor say aye. All those opposed? All those abstained? Okay, thank you.
IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

R. Alden: I guess we’re at the point in the meeting for comments and questions from the floor. Do we have any comments, questions, discussion items – anything anybody wants to bring up? Yes?

L. Sons: Just out of curiosity, how did Chicago State manage to get enough money to get a new building?

R. Alden: I can’t comment because I don’t have direct knowledge but I suspect that’s the way the political process words sometimes. I don’t know how they did it, I really don’t. It may have been a bond issue; it may something they raised. I just honestly don’t know.

P. Stoddard: You might consider asking the state Senator from that district. He might know.

R. Alden: Any other questions, comments, discussion items?

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Alternate List (Page 7)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

R. Alden: Okay, well thank you very much and I appreciate your attention and ???.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.