UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


E. Wilkins attended for J. Holt.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Blaustein, Bond, Butler, Kavid, Doerderlein, Elish-Piper, Hamphill, Holly, Johnson, Prawitz, Ridnour, Schneider, Schoenbachler, Seaver, Sido, E. Smith, M. Smith, Soucy, Stephen, Thu, Watson

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters called the November 5, 2008 University Council to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Hansen made the motion; Wade was second. The agenda was adopted as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2008 MEETING

Approval of the minutes was tabled.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters talked briefly about the past election. He then noted that the fiscal situation is foremost in the minds of university administrators nationally, albeit with some variations, depending on specific situations. The Higher Education Reauthorization Act has been passed and is now called the Higher Education Opportunity Act and has imbedded in it accountability and regulatory measures of which we will need to be aware.

There’s a lot of concern about access for students. We saw a small dip in our undergraduate enrollment, specifically in the number of first time freshmen. The concern is that affordability is the reason. On the plus side, though, many of our Strategic Plan initiatives are designed specifically to address barriers to student success.

The president also talked about the uncertainties in our budgetary future.
V. CONSENT AGENDA

Tollerud made the motion; second was Keller. The Consent Agenda was approved as amended (item 2 was moved to New Business).

1. Sabbatical Leave Policy, Article 8.32 – refer to Rules and Governance Committee.

3. Faculty/Student Relationships – refer to University Affairs Committee.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report (Pages 6 – 7)

E. Hansen: A key issue discussed was underfunding, with the community colleges saying that they have three funding sources; tuition, property tax and state appropriation and they feel they are grossly underfunded because of 64% of higher education students do attend community colleges and they get 14% of the higher education funding. That’s going to be a battle. A statistic was given concerning the educational payment of current generations of African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians as being less than their parents and that is not the case with Asians and Whites. The other item that came up was the impact of proprietary institutions in the state of Illinois (more is available on the Illinois Board of Higher Education website).

The University Council then held a general discussion on how Illinois community colleges are currently being funded, the prospects of some community colleges offering four-year degrees, and the roles of faculty who teach at 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 – 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 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

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

R. Alden, on behalf of the UCPC, brought to UC two suggestions regarding student evaluations as we move toward on-line evaluation surveys. One was to see if there is some common set of questions that could be added to every student survey across campus, which would make UCPC evaluation of faculty teaching possible at tenure/promotion time. The second item has to do with developing appropriate student evaluation survey for on-line courses.

P. Henry moved to refer both issues to Academic Policies Committee. Keller was second.

The motion passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.