
G. Burns attended for C. McCord; M. Hankla attended for R. Soucy.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: I’m pleased to call the December 3 meeting of the University Council to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Is there a motion to adopt today’s agenda? There is one walk-in which is a written report under VI, D – the BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee. There is a written report. So with that addition, is there a motion to adopt today’s agenda? We have a motion. Is there a second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? We have an agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended.

Baker made the motion; Tollerud made the second.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8 AND NOVEMBER 5, 2008 MEETING

President Peters: Approval of the minutes of October 8 and November 5. You remember I don’t think we distributed last time the October 8 – those are now distributed electronically? Also the November 5. I know like you, I read them thoroughly this morning. I’ll call for additions or corrections. Motion to approve the minutes? Is there a second? All in favor say ye. Opposed? Any abstentions?
President Peters: I have some announcements and some comments in no particular order.

First of all, the weather. We have worked real hard to get ready this year to approve upon what was already a pretty good system of notification and NIU is complex in many ways but it's particularly complex in that we have any number of individuals in our community, students, staff, faculty, visitors who not all reside locally or within walking distance so at any given time during the day both here in DeKalb and then our sites in Naperville and Hoffman Estates and Rockford and Loredo Taft and wherever else, we have people on the road driving and therefore we have to be extra sensitive and cautious about giving them the best information. Over that kind of geographical area, you know that the area can be very different so we work on that very hard. This weekend we got a chance to get in a practice and by noon on Sunday, yesterday, we put on the website, which is the place to go for information, go to the website and there'll be a weather status alert button and you can check it and it will be the most up to date that we have and we have certain standard messages and there are links to more information than you could possibly use with advisories and if you go on the link right now, as of this morning – anytime there’s a National Weather Service advisory that will be up there with as specific information as we have and then we update that routinely. Now of course you know we have the best meteorological group/person who’s used locally and regionally. I think he ought to be on the media’s payroll, Gilbert, and he’s a legend and he’s real accurate and so we try to update that as needed. We knew that we were going to have, beginning this afternoon, snow, sleet, into a cold front and there’s information up so we’re open. We’re open all over but exercise caution and check that out. We’re working real hard also in the communication about who’s responsibility it is to communicate. Again, it’s complex; it’s not simple. You know, it’s not like a single school district because we’re pretty complex. There’s a series of decisions that have to be made.

Here’s what we try to do. We usually try to make, in a normal situation – an abnormal situation – around 4:00 a.m. the real decision process on any given day starts and that’s when I get awakened by Steve Cunningham which is not a good thing to do to me because I’m usually in bed at 3:00 and then I get up at 4:00. As far as policies and procedures, I mean, we check many things. The National Weather Service, the highway patrol, we check a lot of things out. Locally what we’re concerned about because remember, we have several thousands of students and residents and no matter what happens those students have to be taken care of no matter what happens and so we have emergency crews that have to be here. We need to know that the parking lots get cleared, that the walkways are safe and salted and that the Huskie Bus Line will be running and remember the Huskie Bus Line is a contract service. So, it’s got to be pretty bad weather if they don’t run. So those are some ingredients. We do check with the local schools but that doesn’t drive our model because we’re obviously more complex than that. So we try, as best as we can, the normal bad weather situation, to make that call by 6:00 a.m. and sometimes we’re not quite ready because it is not simple to cancel university. This is not a simple thing and how much do you cancel and where do you cancel and what services are you going to maintain? It’s not simple; it’s not like throwing a switch and a lot of good people are involved. So I thought I would just renew that because no matter, you know, weather is something that scares the heck out of all of us if there are bad conditions. Of course we never
want anybody to put themselves at risk. All right, I just thought I wanted to say that. Eddie do you want to add anything to that? Did I cover it pretty much? Again, we try to make that decision and we usually do make the 6:00 a.m. media but check the website. When in doubt on anything, check the website. Okay? So that’s one thing.

Second let me talk about the budget a little bit. As we speak here and maybe for the last twenty minutes ago, I distributed one of my e-mails to the campus and I’m just going to read it to you. It’s only four paragraphs and it speaks to the budget situation in the state. Here it goes.

Dear Colleagues,

Throughout the eight years of my presidency, I have periodically used this vehicle to share information on issues that affect our entire university. Today I want to convey news and provide context bring you up to date on the status of NIU’s FY09 our current budget and our near-term financial outlook in these difficult economic times.

Over the past several months, I have been working with our vice presidents (and they’ve been working with deans and division heads and department heads on all parts of the university) to prepare for the approaching budgetary storm. Faced with declining revenues on nearly every front, the State of Illinois is entering the second half of this budget year with an estimated $2 billion deficit. (And you know, as you go on in a fiscal year to have that large a deficit, every day may double it – that’s how difficult it is.) Governor Blagojevich recently asked the state legislature for emergency authority to require up to 8% reserves from all appropriated funds (and we are not a code agency. We stand outside that because we have our own independent authority vested in our Board of Trustees and yet, we have always followed the requests of the state and the Governor when it comes to budgetary things, normally. And whether or not the legislature gives the Governor that emergency authority, I don’t know whether they do or they don’t. I think it does demonstrate the extent of the state’s budgetary crisis.) (and while such authority is unlikely to be granted, it does illustrate the extent of the state’s budget crisis).

Late last week, we received our first definitive information on preliminary indication of how the state’s financial crisis will play out at public universities: We have been asked to 'hold back' or reserve (hold back or reserve meaning don’t spend) 2.5% of our general revenue budget (that’s the money that’s appropriated to us by the state) for the current fiscal year (we’re talking about ’09. In other words the budget that was set this year that’s in our checkbook, our balance, we’ve been asked to hold 2.5% of that general revenue). However, (and here this is me) given the size of Illinois’ budget deficit in the context of an increasingly unfavorable economic outlook, (for the world, state, local areas) we need to be prudent and prepared for the possibility of further reductions this year and (and then certainly into the next fiscal year) FY2010going into next. (That budget will be debated in the spring. All right?)

(So) Meeting the FY09 reserve request from the Governor’s Office of Management & Budget requires stringent attention to spending at all levels. We have been working
diligently on this since September on financial contingency plans aimed at maintaining you know, what we value in everything we do. We’re trying to maintain educational quality and educational programs and we want to protect student and faculty and staff employment. That’s always been driving our decisions. First is our education quality and programs and then we want to protect employment and of course embedded in that are things like safety and those things. So, freezing hiring, except for critical areas which we’ve done and the vice presidents have the responsibility for that. We’re in our annual holiday freeze. We usually do that for ??? reasons but we started that a week or two early and it’s indefinite until we manage this situation. But the vice presidents at this time have the responsibilities to monitor what positions we fill. And then reducing and managing all expenditures of any sort including the usual ones – travel, one time equipment purchases, general operations, saving money, cutting back – that’s just some of the ways we prepared for this mid-year budget reduction and I would say at this point, because of – this is a university, in my experience and my experience at others, is the most prudently managed fiscally institution that I’ve been at. We don’t have a lot of resources but what we have we’re really careful with. So I would say right now, we’re managing this and we’ll continue to manage it so I wouldn’t say today we’re at crisis mode but we have to be smart and we have been and we have to look to the future and be prudent. Hope for the best but prepare for what might be some pretty deep cuts. So therefore, our work is not yet done and it’s probably far from over. State revenue projections going forward show little improvement for at least the next 12 months from whatever source and recovery is not expected to begin before mid-2010. Okay. So as we anticipate the Governor’s budget message in February, signs are pointing to a very austere 2010 budget so now more than ever, we need to reaffirm our priorities as a university community. Commitment to our students, engagement with our region pursuit of our knowledge and tireless support of each other and so I say in the letter, the work at this university will go on as it has for a hundred years. We’ve been tested. We have good people. We know our jobs; we’re doing them and we’re going to look for new resources and ways to economize because we will be here in a hundred years, doing what we do best. So as always I thank everyone for what we’ve done so far and we’re going to need your counsel and advice and we’re going to need shared governance as we go forward trying to apply our principles. The worse thing in the world is not knowing what you face and we have been doing a lot of guessing at what we face and all the guessing and the models would lead to not a happy outcome so we have to prepare for that and hope for the best. So that e-mail went out and I usually don’t like to write these e-mails until I have something that’s hard evidence and we haven’t had any hard evidence until really last week – I wouldn’t call it definitive – I’d say it was the opening indication that the state budget is in bad shape. You read the papers the way I do and look at the same models and projections. We monitor it daily and we have people in place to monitor it and really think it’s going to be February before we get the next feel for what’s going to happen because then we’re going to be moving into the – we’ll hear what the Governor’s budget is for 2010 and remember a rescission is difficult because it’s taking money back that was given and one always hopes that a rescission is a one-time pull back of a set of dollars but that in the next budget cycle those dollars come back in your base so it’s a one-time expenditure. Permanent reductions in a budget are much more difficult to handle because you can find ways of finding dollars to pay for the rescission but if we
have a net permanent reduction in our base for 2010, that’s when things get tough and I can only – I have no idea. I’m hoping that we get none. I hope. I would say right now the best case scenario is a flat budget but a stable budget. That’s what I’m hoping for. So that consumes a lot of my time. It consumes at least part of every day thinking about this and I’m sure it does the vice presidents. I’m sure the deans, the department heads. So it’s not draconian at this point but it ain’t pretty.

All right, a couple of things I want to mention. You’ll read in the paper and one of our Council members asked me to comment on this and I don’t have the information but Steve Cunningham is here. He might have a little more information. There was a report yesterday, the Treasurer of the state of Illinois has a proposal pending that would consolidate the five state – is there five – whatever, five or so state pension plans and you know ours is SURS, the State University Retirement something or other for university employees and it’s well managed. The investments are solid and it’s served us well. There’s an attempt to consider bringing them all together for economy of scale and other things I don’t know. My understanding is it’s a detailed proposal; that it is being analyzed. SURS has taken no position at this time. We have taken no position because we don’t know exactly what it’s all about but that’s something that we’re monitoring. Steve Cunningham, do you want to add anything to that? You’ll need a microphone.

S. Cunningham: No, I think you covered it well John. It would propose – you can go to the Treasurer Giannoulias’ website and there’s a detailed description of it there. It’s on the State Government website and it would establish the Illinois Public Employee Pension System (ILPERS) and it would propose to take the three funds, the Illinois State Board of Investment which is the judges and the General Assembly fund and the State Employees Retirement System Fund and then the Teacher’s Retirement System Fund, that’s the second independently managed fund and the SURS, the third, and combine those under one investment fund management system.

J. Peters: Okay, that’s the proposal but that’s a very quick description of it. The devil’s in the details. Whether it has any legislative legs we don’t know. There is a problem that the legislature and others must deal with and that is next year the payment that is due to the retirement systems to make them, whatever the word is, to make them the right per cent, the payment is probably more than the net expected revenue for the entire state budget, 1.4 billion – 1.4?

S. Cunningham: That’s correct. That’s for all the systems combined. That’s the increase.

J. Peters: So there is – everyone recognizes – public officials recognize they’ve got an issue here that they’re going to have to deal with. All right. Thank you for asking that question by the way.

Tomorrow is Board of Trustees full meeting and this is usually our lightest schedule of the year. Commencement is coming up and I’ve asked Gip Seaver, the Master of Commencement, to talk a little bit about the changes that you know about if you participated in these committees, some things we’re doing a little bit differently.
G. Seaver: Thank you Mr. President. I think all of you know because you needed to approve the schedule that we now are going for – we’ll have two days of commencement both in December and May. On the evening or late afternoon depending on whether we’re in December or in May we’ll have the graduate commencement ceremony which will be for all the graduate degrees that will be awarded. Then the following day, well Sunday the 14th, there’ll be two ceremonies for the undergraduates. The first one will be at 9:00 which will be Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts and then there will be a second ceremony at 1:30 which will be for the College of Business, College of Ed, and College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. We went to the two days of commencement after a discussion with representatives from all of the colleges following the May commencement. Those of you who were in May present will not let me forget that I was not there in May. The commencements have gotten to be very long; well over two hours and the feeling was we needed to do something to still celebrate our students, value the parts of commencement that our students and faculty value and that’s the individual recognition of each one of our students as they come across the stage and so we looked at ways in which we could make the commencements in a reasonable time. The suggestion was made that we pull out the graduate commencement into a separate one. You also will see, those of you who attend the first ceremony, you’ll see that there will be some other changes that we’ll be doing. On the Sunday morning ceremony we’re going to use two readers. As you know in the past, we’ve used a single reader which when we have well over a thousand students for those ceremonies takes a long, long period of time to get everybody across the stage so those of you in the morning one, you’ll see that we use two readers. This will be an experiment and we’re going to try to – this has been done before. Those of you who have been around a well remember the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences did do that in fact for a long period of time so we do have expertise in doing that. Those of you who will be at the 1:30, that will be – because it’s a much smaller commencement – will be the traditional one. So all of this is an attempt to try to make the times a reasonable amount of time particularly the ones in the later part of the day when they get to be over two hours what we’re starting to experience a large number of students just leaving and particularly those at the graduate level that were introduced first and then probably a good third or more of the students on the floor had left by the time we got through the undergraduates at the late afternoon in May commencement. So this is how we’ll be moving forward and then obviously when we get into May, the first ceremony, the graduate ceremony, will be in the evening. We’ve not established the final time for that but we want to make sure that we have enough time that people can, those who are working and finishing graduate degrees, so that they’ll have the opportunity to come out. We’ll probably be looking at something like about 7:00 more than likely and then the Saturday commencements, there’ll be three of those, and we’re looking that we can kind of compress some of the time and stay away from some of the mealtimes for those but a lot of that is going to depend upon how well some of these new things that we’re going to be doing. I don’t know if there are any questions or anything specific that ---?

J. Peters: Any questions? I just want to say that a commencement, anywhere – but here, is a very special time. I find it quite fulfilling when you see those students get that degree and they have their folks with them after all that hard work and we do some things here that have an impact. One is we don’t limit the number of tickets, is that correct? We limit them but it’s not like 2 per ---
G. Seaver: No, it’s very generous and part of going to smaller commencements is the fact that we can continue to accommodate more of those. I laughed at this but it was proved to me, we literally almost have students who bring a full bus load of people out and it’s kind of the nature of a lot of first generations students. It’s a very important thing. If you read the Northern Star today you saw they were talking to a senior who thinks it’s the most important thing in that family and he was talking about bringing 30 to 40 people. We don’t give out 30 or 40 tickets, particularly in Liberal Arts and Sciences, I mean we’ll have over a thousand graduates that go through, just undergraduates, but it is a very special time for us. And I should say I really want to invite all of you to participate. A lot of you I do see there. I know there have been long days for many of you but our students really, really appreciate seeing the faculty sitting there as they come across the stage and they can see you. So I appreciate it. I would simply say that some of the things that we’ve seen are not unlike situations at other universities. In May I was at a commencement at another university. I sat for three hours; unfortunately my daughter decided to sit near the end of the section and I can say that what started out with probably 7,000 people in the audience was barely 3,500 by the time we got to the end. So walking out, the students didn’t leave so much, but it was a very nice day. So the people leaving and milling around, it’s not uncharacteristic of what we see at other universities as well.

President Peters: All right. I would our Vice President of Student Affairs, Brian Hemphill, to give us a little report on the planning that is taking place for our day of remembrance of February 14. It’s hard to believe but an anniversary is coming upon us and we’ve been about planning for that and I thought it would be appropriate just to give – although the planning isn’t complete – a little snapshot as to what we’re planning. Brian?

B. Hemphill: Thank you President Peters. President Peters asked myself as well as Kathy Buettner to pull two groups together to begin planning on this and it was actually during the summer. Both committees have been working since September in terms of making our preparations and plans for 2/14. Just a few things that will go on that day, we will have two major programs that day. We will have the major – there will be two major programs that day – the first program will be the memorial or remembrance program that will be in the Convocation Center and we’re slating it right now for about 10:30 on that Saturday morning and that will be a program that will involve the families, dignitaries, the administration, faculty, staff, community members and we anticipate that being a pretty large program. The other major program, if you can think about two bookends, will be a candlelight vigil as well as a moment of silence on the MLK Commons and we’re slating that for 6:30 that evening. Now throughout the day, there will be a range of different events that will be going on. There will be a constant video montage that will in – and all of the events will be in the Holmes Student Center beyond that major even in the Convocation Center – but there will be a video montage of a lot of different images and things to remember from that particular day going on throughout the day. We will also have a art exhibit if you will of the gifts that really came from around the world to this institution and so they will be set up in our art gallery downstairs for people to really be able to go through and see many of things that some of you haven’t seen that are achieved on campus within the library and other units who have done a great job of cataloging all of that information for us. There will also be a “Forward Together Forward” scholarship luncheon and that will be for the first five recipients of that award and the families of our five deceased students will be participating in that luncheon and be a part of that and President Peters will have comments at that particular luncheon. I think
in talking to Kathy, they will acknowledge those students at the morning program as well. The only other thing I’ll mention, there will be other things going on because some of the colleges having gotten involved, our Student Association have gotten actively involved so there will be some other programs going on throughout that day but we also are going to have an emergency responder reception if you will and that will be with individuals from Kishwaukee Hospital, our university, our police department, the city of DeKalb, the first department and those 22+ students who were injured and in the classroom, they will be a part of that reception with these first responders and this will be the first time that group have come together. So I think that we have a program throughout that day that will allow us to remember and reflect and look at his this institution continues to move forward.

President Peters: Very good. Question?

P. Henry: Is there any particular provision being made for, not the students who were injured, but just the students who were in that class?

B. Hemphill: In terms of for that day?

P. Henry: Yes.

B. Hemphill: Yes, they’re very much a part of our plans for that day as well in terms of some of the special seating as well as some of the other things. We have a couple of other reception type events going on that day so we will be connecting with those students as well.

President Peters: I would just say in general to that, there is virtually nothing that we do with regard to that event that we don’t seek input from or run by those who were directly involved. All right. If you have any questions, we can pick up on them at the end of our program but we’d better move forward. I have down here bowl game. For those of you who are optimists, I want to just thank the football team. They really gave us a lot of thrills this year. It’s possible we’ll still go to a bowl game; we’ll know Sunday. Then Friday, we’re going to have our annual community open house in Altgeld Hall from 5:30 to 8:00 I think and this is for community people and our folks and it’s pitched at families and kids, a place to go to celebrate the holiday season. The university wants to be a welcoming place for the community and a place where families can bring their kids and it’s free. It’s hard to find things that are free anymore and wholesome and this year we’re going to have bell ringing and, I’m not participating, but I will listen to the bell ringing. So if you have families or relatives in town or neighbors, send them on down. It’s free and it’s a lot of fun. We always have a thousand or so people come through. Okay. Now, let’s go back to the agenda and do some work.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Bylaw change to Article 9.24 – refer to University Affairs Committee (Page 2)

President Peters: Is there a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, V? Is there a second? There’s a second. All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right, we have a Consent Agenda.
Stephen made the motion; Tollerud was second.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report (Page 3)

President Peters: Now, Reports from Councils, Boards, and Standing Committees, Earl you have a report from the FAC to IBHE? He has a written report. All right?

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – no report

President Peters: Let’s move to VI, B. Joe you’ve got a report? 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 – report

President Peters: Moving on down, we have D. We have the Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs. Jay and Bobbie and there is a written report attached as a walk-in. Do you want to say anything in real time? Jay?

Jay Monteiro: I’m not going to say a whole lot. It was hard to condense three hours of meeting down on paper but – I’m going to run through a couple of things here I think. During the appropriations update, I just want to mention that NIU has received a total of 8 million dollars in Federal Department of Defense Grants to continue funding to develop the Proton Treatment and Research Center, the NIU Institution for Neutron Therapy at Fermilab and also to fund the College of Engineering’s Rapid Optimization of Commercial Knowledge or the ROCK program. A lot of this you can read yourself. The one other thing that would affect quite a few people in here is under section 5. I believe that was the one about textbooks. Effective July 1, 2010 institutions will be required to disclose in course schedules (and they say to the maximum extent practicable) the International Standard Book number of every required and recommended textbook and supplemental materials and retail price information. Publishers will be required to provide price, copy write dates of the three previous additions, any substantial revisions, and the different formats that are available. I think other than that, I’ll let you read those yourselves. It’s quite a lengthy report.

President Peters: Right, it was a very intense filled meeting, not intense in a negative sense, but a lot of information. We are working our way through the new Higher Education Reauthorization Act. There are many regulatory items to it that we have to comply with and I think one thing that will be true in the future is that you can expect more regularization out of Congress and, you know, there’s a big focus on costs and excess. Text books get a lot of attention and I’m really, from what I understand and I know Gip you’ve been involved with faculty groups, I feel we’re acting as responsibly as we can within the context of a publishing
industry we don’t particularly control. But it is an issue out there. Okay. Thanks Jay. That’s it. Any other questions for Jay? Yeah?

**??? Gupta:** Just curious. When I provide the syllabus as a faculty, do I need to get all this information and provide that or bookstore will get that? Who will get that information about the price of previous additions and all the formats?

**President Peters:** Good question.

**G. Seaver:** That information the publishers have to provide to you as a faculty member who’s looking at potentially a new text. What the faculty member is going to have to provide, much earlier potentially than you have in the past, is the information about the text that you’re going to use because at the time the student enters into the system to register, which is April for summer and fall and November 1 for spring is when the student goes in to register, there has to be the ISBN number. There has to be a link that takes them to that type of information. So the information about those things, the publisher needs to provide to you. We don’t know how any of this is going to play out from the publishers’ standpoint.

**President Peters:** Yeah, it’s a good question because you know the complexity of who’s going to teach what section and what text is available and when you make that decision, it may come late. Unfortunately, that kind of rationality doesn’t penetrate the halls of Congress. You know, but what else is new. But we have to do our best and I know we’re working on it. We must comply. All right. Where are we now?

E. **BOT – Paul Stoddard** – no report

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

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Linda Dersheid, Chair – [report](Page 4)

**President Peters:** Linda, Resources, Space, Budgets?

**L. Dersheid:** Hi we met with Dr. Williams. Of course that was back in October so a lot has changed since then. He was looking pretty optimistic about our budget at that time and hopefully will stay ???. We discussed various kinds of issue concerning the budget with the state only supplying 24 or 25 – between 24 and 25 percent of our total budget so really NIU’s majority of the budget comes from other resources than directly from the state. We also talked about the permanent cuts and the permanent improvement line for minor repairs, street repairs, etc., that we’ve all been hearing about this semester. We talked about capital projects that haven’t funded for what, five or six years now or something. We still kept Stevens Hall, Wirtz Hall, Cole Hall at the top of the list. We also talked about the issue of Kishwaukee Hall and how the studios will be lost for that and that’s now been considered an academic expense to ?? to try to remodel and get those studios put back in to other buildings. We talked about the demolition money which doesn’t exist. The Art Building and Montgomery Hall are also in need of some repairs. That’s sort of news to all of us so our capital improvements are constantly increasing. Then there was discussion about the central chiller that’s under construction by the Campus Life Building and
that this was funded about three or four years ago through a Department of Commerce fund and Capital Development Board. Finally, we talked about the issue of parking a little bit by Anderson Hall and the need for a parking garage.

**President Peters:** All right. You triggered in my memory something I forgot to mention when I talked about the budgets and that’s the capital budgets. You’re correct in that the state has not found a way to fund an almost eight year backlog of state capital projects; schools, universities, bridges, municipalities. A couple of things have happened that I don’t, you know, that may be encouraging or may not. The Governor sent to Washington as part of the requests to develop a federal stimulus package – the second stimulus package – not the first one, but a second one that would focus on internal improvements and capital projects in the state. You know, rebuilding roads and bridges and infrastructure and President Elect Obama is in favor of such a thing. Speaker Pelosi and, I’m not sure about the timing of this, but the Governor sent forward a number of projects including several of ours and other universities as well. Stevens, you know the list, Cole Hall, the new Technology Building (Computer Sciences Building, call it what you will) some other things and I have written letters to many in the Illinois Congressional Delegation pointing this out so that if there is a federal stimulus bill, the higher education community at large, that’s all of us working through out states and representatives, feel there should be a component in there for rebuilding and building the infrastructure of higher education. That would be a good thing and I think most economists now agree that kind of stimulus package is needed right now so that’s one thing. The other thing is I think that the new leaders in the state, Senator Cullerton who took over for Emil Jones, Senator Radogno who took over for (I forget his name) the Senate Republican Minority leader. No, Rusenberger retired a long time ago. Anyway, I think there will be a push to have a capital bill even in this tough time at the state level because of the obvious stimulus it has to the economy, to put people to work to build roads and bridges. So I think that’s maybe a ray of hope but only a ray on the capital bill. Obviously, in our situation, our scarce dollars are even going to be more dear for these sorts of things if we have rescission, if we have to rescind dollars things don’t get fixed because we have to give that money back or not spend it, however you want to look at it. But I think it would be a very good thing if there was a major stimulus package at the federal and state level that included such things. Including transportation, including rail, including other things that would lead to a more sustainable situation. So, we’ll see on that. But I forgot to mention that. All right. Year?

**B. Jaffee:** Barbara Jaffee, School of Art. You know I’m interested to hear you talk about this possibility because I was surprised, I think it was on Monday, to see in the *Northern Star* that there was a discussion of the sort of lumping together of the money for potentially renovating Cole Hall with this capital bill that has been stuck in this limbo. I thought these were separate. Is that true? Is the money for Cole Hall part of this capital bill that ---

**President Peters:** Eddie will give the financial; I may give you the political.

**E. Williams:** There’s several answers to that. They are separate. There is a capital bill that has been carried over as the ??? mentioned for several years that’s never been funded. It hasn’t been modified very much over the years. I think that in the larger context of capital bills or capital work in the state of Illinois, they started looking at everything that said capital and I think that’s
where that sort of lumping effect came about but in actual reality, there is a separation there. It is still there.

**President Peters:** The Legislature decided in the spring that they would rather deal with Cole Hall as part of a larger capital bill with all kinds of things in it than as an emergency appropriation.

**B. Jaffee:** Thank you.

**President Peters:** All right.

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**

**President Peters:** Unfinished Business?

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**President Peters:** New Business?

**IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

**President Peters:** Anyone have any comments or questions?

**X. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**President Peters:** We’re adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 P.M.