
Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Akinyemi, Baldwin, Banks, Cassidy, Erman, Feurer, Guinta, Hall, Holly, Johnson, Kaplan, Kostic, Lash, Liu, Morris, Nuzzo, Parks, Robertson, Rosato, Schneider, Schoenbachler, Schols, Seaver, Tonks, Valentiner,

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: Let me call the January, oh god, we have an echo in here? How is this? Is this okay? Can you hear me? All right. January 27, 2010 meeting of the University Council to order; let me call you to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Let’s move to adopt the agenda. There are two, I don’t know if they’re walk-ins, but they’re items that came in. One is Earl Hansen’s report to – on VI, A, the Faculty Advisory Committee to the IBHE. That’s a walk-in and under VII, A, unfinished business, there is a walk-in at the back of the packet. Okay? So, with those additions, is there a motion to adopt today’s agenda? Second? All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right, we have an agenda. Hansen made the motion; student senator made the second. The agenda was adopted as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2 MEETING (will be sent electronically)

President Peters: The December 2 meeting minutes were sent electronically. I’ll call for additions or corrections. All right. Is there a motion to approve the December 2 minutes? Second? We have a second? Okay. All those in favor say aye. Opposed? All right. Henry made the motion; a council member was second. The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: Well, it’s late January. It’s cold isn’t it? Well, it is a good day for NIU and our environment in this environment. Anytime we have good news, we have to celebrate that and bask in the moment because there is certainly enough negative news and difficulty out there to throttle one.
As I said – I’ve been spending almost all of my time on issues of the budget and by that I mean not just NIU, but the state budget and trying to make the case and it – my focus is of two varieties. One is the short-term serious cash flow issues and I talked to you a lot about that and have been quoted on that and, you know, we put in place mechanisms to help us and we have received some payments from the state to help with the cash flow but we’re still, you know, everyday we’re more and more in arrears. It’s, you know, Eddie it’s at about – is it still 60 million? We’re still owed 60 million and we’re halfway through the way and, you know, that base is 107 million so that’s still not too good but we’re working. Focusing on that and also the longer term issue and working with the other presidents, we met yesterday – I think it was yesterday – yeah, yesterday at Chicago State, public university presidents and chancellors meet as we always do before the IHBE meeting and we are – it was reported today so it’s not news – that we’re working on a collective letter that we will be sending to constitutional officers, governors and state legislative leaders about the implications of this cash flow problem making the case that, you know, - you know, when you think about it, we don’t have a budget problem because they gave us a budget; that’s not the issue. The issue is paying us; giving us a check. So it’s not a budget issue, it’s really more of a financial cash crunch issue. This kind of morphs into what I consider the longer term issue to us, you know, we’re making payroll but what happens July 1 if the state hasn’t caught up, what does the new budget look like? Does this debt roll? This concerns us greatly and at what point does it become a calamity? Now, if you take – if you look at the state as a whole, the financial situation is even much worse and so I’ve come to the belief and most of the – all of the other presidents have come to the belief that ultimately you have to solve this financial problem and it’s serious. Some say that depending on revenue income for the next few months and we’re going into the months where the income revenue is usually down, that the state will start the next fiscal year with a 13 billion dollar deficit. You know, they vary a billion or two off of that. To put it in perspective, California with three times the population and I don’t know what the escalator is on their economic activity, but they have a 14 billion dollar debt and everybody knows that California gets all the ink about a state being in a deep situation. Well, when you think about it, we have a 13 billion dollar debt with much less population and we’re still a big state with a lot of economic vitality but that should scare anyone and there are issues that have to be solved whether we like it or not and it’s going to take sacrifice and it appears that we’re in a situation where it’s difficult to see the end of it in terms of public policy. Whether that means budget cuts; whether it means tax increases or pension reform or some combination thereof and so I’m concerned about that because ultimately, that’s the key for us. Our particular situation cannot be solved unless the total state problem is solved so I’m going to be spending a lot of time trying to make that case and I think it’s incumbent upon us – you and our students – to do what we do best and that is analyze the problem and come to some understanding. So anyway, that’s sort of – I guess that’s the bad news but, you know, the good news is we are working. I said no furloughs because I don’t think they raise the money that you need to solve a 60 million
dollar problem but we’ve done other things. We’ve had a hiring freeze except in some areas, in some jobs, at the vice-president level and I know the Provost working with the deans came to an accommodation on how they handle that because we have to hire faculty. We have to continue with that and so — but the reason that works is you save the salary and then if the budget gets worse, you can decide whether you’re going to let that position go or not. That’s the quickest way at universities or really any other enterprise to reduce your balance sheet and reduce costs. We don’t like to see it that way but that’s where we are. So you’ll be hearing much more about that in the next weeks to come. Then we’re all waiting on the Governor’s budget message and I think I — I want to be paid by the Northern Star staff. I was given such great headlines but I think we have to wait on the Governor’s budget message. It should give us a good indication of how we plan for 2010. Remember, because the state took recovery funds; federal stimulus funds and plugged our operating budget with that money, the state agreed to keep levels of funding for education, higher education, at 2006 levels and so in the recent budget that was passed by the IBHE, the level – the lowest level that they put forward – was our base FY, last year’s budget, minus the federal stimulus dollars which for us is about 4.2 million, which then reduces us to the base level in FY06. If that is all that – if that is what is passed by the legislature and approved by the Governor, we’ll be okay. That will be; I think I’d take that today. The Board then went on to pass their investment levels. Basically, this year’s budget with the federal stimulus money put back and then a 2% level beyond that and then a 4% level beyond that. I’m not sure how optimistic I am about those levels so anyway, that’s where we are right now. But it will be very important for us to see what the budget message is. The state can petition, by the way, the federal government for a waiver on the commitment to keep education funding at the 2006 level and I understand that about nine states have made such a petition. Illinois has not at this point and I don’t have any idea what they’re planning to do on that but that’s something we’re watching.

So that’s kind of a report on what I’ve been doing and then the other thing, of course, I want to report to you on is the Governor’s message today. The Governor came, Governor Quinn came, and he came with gifts which we greatly appreciate. He came with a release of funds to begin the projects that had already been authorized by the legislature, signed by the Governor and the money had been appropriated but there was no money to release because they had to raise the money through bonds. They raised a limited amount of money in bonds and out of that limited amount of funds that is available right now, the Governor came and released to us, which is really quite a positive thing, release something over 10 – I think 10.2 or 10.3 million dollars to us to commence Cole Hall and Stevens and the beautiful boards that Media Services developed for us and Eddie’s people are behind me and I want to kind of go through that for a moment because I just – I’m very excited about this. I think it’s a great solution to some of our problems.

First of all, let me just do Cole Hall because that gets a lot of attention, recognizing that for over 10 years, the top priority, capital priority in terms of the capital bill at the state for this university, has been Stevens and we’ve been consistent with that and then, of course, Cole Hall came as kind of an emergency measure. In terms of Cole Hall, the plans are – and that project is a little over 8 million and the Trustees established a budget for that and I think we passed that in the fall if I’m not mistaken so we’re ready to go. We have authority to expend the money when we get it; when we get the check so we’re ready to go. In anticipation of this, you know, we had an awful lot of campus dialogue about what to do with Cole Hall and a lot of good dialogue from the campus, from the students, from alums, from the community and we came up with the idea that we were not going to raze it but we were going to repurpose it and refurbish it and that’s certainly what we’re going to do and in – first of all, Auditorium A, 100 which was the non-
shooting room, that’s going to continue to be used as a large lecture hall and it’s really been a logistical challenge for all of you and for the Provost to re-circulate all those courses so that we could teach. Because, you know, you have two 500 seat work horse lecture halls and we just took those out of circulation. It created some real issues. But anyway we’re going to have – it’s going to be substantially updated from the current facility and we’re going to install modern seating of course and many of you have probably either taught in there or been in there and we’re going to replace the slopping floor, which is just a concrete slab with staggered decking, designing and installing a new stage. It’s going to be a new stage and a new projection system, upgrade the control booth and install a really state-of-the-art classroom technologies so that is a key part of that renovation. As far as 101, Auditorium B, where the shooting took place, that’s going to be repurposed and remodeled for non-classroom or non-formal instructional usage and we’ve got a lot of options and the Provost is heading that up and we’re going to do the best we can to make the best use of it for an awful lot of needs. We’re going to probably use decking to level the floor and then sub-divide the space into multiple rooms for new needs so it will look different. General improvements, you know, the ?? systems will be updated, electrical, plumbing. If there’s any asbestos, remove it. We’re going to remodel the lobbies so they’ll look a little different and the entrance way and then we’re going to kind of reface the exterior of the building. So it will kind of look the same but it will look different. So that’s aspects of Cole Hall and then in conceptualizing this and listening to all the needs and the requests that came in, we still we still were deficient a lecture hall and so part of the Cole Hall money, the 8 million, had money for a free-standing lecture hall to be determined and then as we began to look at and analyze the problem and the issues and the needs that we have, it was very, very clear to us that’s a central part of campus flow where a lot of students pass and take courses and that we had to renovate and rehab Stevens and – which really needs it; it’s pretty dilapidated and so we said okay, is there a way to marry these two projects together in a way that we save money and take advantage of this and so you can see up here on this – right behind me if I’m not blocking it of that, I don’t know, what do you call it, projection that goes out. You can see that at the end of that Stevens – I call it the double wide – that runs out toward Cole Hall, you know there’s that little block building there, that might be a really good spot for a major lecture hall for general purpose for everybody and the advantage is you have infrastructure in. You’ve got all the, you know, supply lines, you’re got everything already and you can save a lot of money rather than, you know, putting it in the, I don’t know, the Provost’s parking spot and I really like that idea. A lot of people like that idea. It also permits us to expand the future black box theatre and the scene and associated space in Stevens and that new auditorium then will be 200-400 seat capacity, tiered seating, state-of-the-art technology and that will then replace the capacity we had in the old Cole Hall. As far as Stevens is concerned, a lot of the money – and that project is set at 22 million – so the way this works by the way is we’re getting 10.3 million this year to start those two projects and then, because just the money is dispersed and the length of these projects, we’ll get the second amount in the next fiscal year or however that works out but, you know, we started the project so that’s good. Right, Eddie? If you start the project, you get to finish the project. I’m really pleased about that. Anyway, a lot of Steven’s is infrastructure. Replace the roof, replace the heating/cooling, ventilating systems, modernize plumbing, the electrical system, the scene shop is 18,000 square foot, expanding black boxes. We’ll expand that by about 10,000 square foot and then we’re going to reconfigure, remodel and modernize all classroom spaces and laboratories. So, you know, a lot of it is infrastructure so I’m very pleased about that. It’s a good day for NIU. We’re calling the whole thing, by the way, the Cole/Stevens Complex and, of course, the third piece of that is the Forward Together Memorial Garden which is up and, of course, we will hold our 3:00 memorial ceremony on Sunday, February 14 there and it’s all paid
for and all private dollars and it’s beautiful. So many people e-mailed me, you know, alums and people just on campus about how beautiful that is.

Eddie Williams is here. The Provost is here if you have any questions about this we will – if the money starts flowing and we want to give ourselves a little room here – we think we’ll be able to see dirt fly in late summer and then on the Cole Hall side and have that for occupancy fall of 2011 and then simultaneously the preparation and – the engineering really has to start now on Stevens and so a lot of the money will be toward engineering and diagrams.

Eddie, do you want to say anything or Ray about – I’m just the person who begs governors.

R. Alden: I just wanted to reiterate that 101 in Cole will be used for academic support services but not for traditional lecture classrooms and the kinds of – we have five options and I’ll be working with the deans to figure out which is the option that creates the best impact for everybody but things such as museums, computer labs, studios, offices – but, they would not be the traditional classroom and I think that goes with the wishes of the group that came together, the 8,000+ responses when we asked what to do with Cole Hall and so that’s – and we’re going to try to make sure that most of anything that would go in that space would benefit the colleges that are participating in the Stevens project as well as the good of the university. So it’s not going to be a free for all. Like I say, we had five options on the table. We didn’t want to get down to narrowing down because we knew that this money may not have come this year and other things may have arisen and we didn’t want to go down a path that we couldn’t come back from so now the time has come and we will start talking to the deans.

President Peters: Yes?

P. Henry: I was just wondered if there’s anything that will be going on in the basement of Cole Hall. I know we have a lot of collections there and I just wondered if that’s going to be something that is done something with too.

President Peters: All right, everybody hear that? She wanted to know about things going on in the basement of Cole Hall.

R. Alden: I think we’re looking at Cole Hall holistically. Now I can’t say structurally what the changes will be but part of the discussion is a real domino series of things that depending on which option is picked where it may affect other things but it’s not necessarily going to move anybody out of the game or bring new players into the game so hopefully we can keep this streamlined and come to decisions very quickly but it shouldn’t effect dramatically the construction plans of Cole. It may eventually have domino effects on Stevens but that’s part of the planning too.

President Peters: I don’t think there’s – Eddie, help me out. There’s no major renovations in the basement of Cole. Freshen up, clean up---

E. Williams: HVAC.

President Peters: And HVAC. That will take some space. Yeah, Buck?
J. Stephen: That extension on Stevens, is that going to incorporate part of what you call the double-wide or is that a completely new extension? If it’s a new extension, it looks like it’s going to block that walkway off and almost connect to Cole Hall.

President Peters: That’s new.

J. Stephen: Will there still be walking space between Stevens and Cole or will be they be near adjacent?

E. Williams: Yeah, we’re planning it so there’s full circulation. The concept is that this is a major area where students have lecture classes and other classes so that we will have full access going back and forth between ---

J. Stephen: Good, it would bottleneck without it.

President Peters: And you know what happens like, I’ve never done it, but I have a lot of foolish friends who have built their own homes and there’s a lot of change orders as you – so as you get into something, you might be able to take advantage of something or not but – all good questions. They’re wonderful questions. You know why? We have the money now.

J. Stephen: You are so optimistic. We have part of the money. There’s this real pessimistic part of my brain that sees rusting cranes.

President Peters: Oh, you’d better have better faith in me than that.

J. Stephen: It’s not you sir, it’s the state.

President Peters: There could be a new governor.

K. Thu: Kendall Thu, Anthropology Department. I can’t underscore how excited our department is about getting this started. We’ve been probably among the biggest cynics or skeptics around. My only questions are, are the blueprints for the Stephen’s renovation, are they in place yet or is that still being developed?

President Peters: My guess is it’s a concept statement.

E. Williams: It’s a concept statement, yes, and what will happen is we will be immediately starting on construction drawings.

K. Thu: I see. Thank you.

President Peters: And I don’t know, I’d have to ask Eddie and Ray, whether or not there is an updating you go through on the program statement before you get to engineering and – that would be a Provost question.

R. Alden: I believe that was what I was trying to imply that there are some options, academic programming options, that we’ll have to decide on in the very near future but they won’t completely change the construction plans. They’re the dominos that I was speaking of.
President Peters: Again, on the Stevens side so much of it goes into infrastructure. All right, more? Okay. This is what higher education is supposed to be about and you’re absolutely right professor, there’s nothing that gets – you know, it’s exciting to think about new instructional space, new offices, new research space to move forward and I just hope we see a lot more of it in the years to come. Right now, let’s take what we’ve got. Okay. All right.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

President Peters: Consent Agenda. Is there a motion to approve the Consent Agenda? I heard a motion. Second? All right. All those in favor?

A. Nature Preserves and Research Committee Review – Rules and Governance (page 3).

B. Academic Calendar 2019-2020 – University Affairs (page 4).

C. Student Evaluation of Instruction – Academic Policy (pages 5-6)

Hansen made the motion; Thu was second. The Consent Agenda was approved as written.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

President Peters: Now we have a report – moving to reports – Earl you have a report from the Faculty Advisory Committee.


E. Hansen: That I do. Before I begin the report, I want to say that President Peters articulated the needs very well on how to address the issue financially in the state. We’ve been kicking this around in the Faculty Advisory Committee for about three months and if you read the report here, it’s pretty concise. I think I summarized it fairly well for you in the lead-in paragraph right underneath the date. Discussions centered on the financially problems in higher education in Illinois – we (we being the faculty) and higher education as such, administrators must take the case for the importance of higher education and the consequences of the current budget situation, make that case to the legislature. It has to be made. We’ve kicked this around and we’ve kicked it around and we’ve waited and waited until the IBHE moved to where you people have moved before we jumped on it. The members of the Faculty Advisory Committee are asking each other what their representative’s stand will be in regards to taxing and so I will be talking to our legislators whatever their call is it's their call but the reality of it is I will report back to the Advisory Committee on that because they do their inner-workings with the state legislature in Springfield too as does the IBHE. In summarization here, one of the first comments that was made was that a – you have to understand the makeup of IBHE and the Advisory Committee – are the state institutions, private institutions and that’s DeVry or anybody else that gives a degree plus all the community colleges and the community colleges outnumber everybody and a survey went out to the community college presidents who were asked when they would have to close their doors if they received no more or partial funding from the state that they were owed. The response back from six of those community colleges and I don’t know which the six were because it wasn’t said, they would close their doors immediately so for those of you who think someone’s blowing smoke on finances in this state and higher education, you’re sadly mistaken. It is in dire straits and I think John knows it better than anyone in this room. He and Eddie and
the President’s office and it really is a major issue. There are different groups working on things. There’s the Responsible Budget Coalition that is trying to do something within the state legislature. We know that we can’t appeal to our, when I say we, the Faculty Advisory Committee as a whole, cannot appeal to the politicians moral obligation to fund higher education. They want to know what you want and where you want it, how you’re going to use it and we owe them that. If we’re going to ask them to fund us, we need to be able to do that and each one of us in this room needs to take it upon ourselves to talk to our own representatives and tell them how we feel and anybody that’s been around higher education pretty well knows that higher education provides research, provides funding and industry grows from that. That’s just a reality. The third and last bullet – the first bullet point on the back page – is just the opinion of some people on the Advisory Committee regarding the politics that involved in this. One group says the other one did it; the other group its not going to help them out. It’s a political issue at times and we try to stay out of it as a committee but we’re aware of it. We broke in to groups; worked on the public agenda. Public agenda goal 1 is increase educational attainment throughout the state. There are handouts on that and – do you have those John? Have you seen the brochures on the growth of attaining these goals in the state of Illinois? If not, I have an extra copy and I’ll bring it by the office.

President Peters: If I have it it’s in a pile of stuff but send me another copy.

E. Hansen: All right. I’m loaded down with this stuff.

President Peters: I only look at the stuff that has dollar signs on it.

E. Hansen: Yeah. They spent a lot of money in putting it together; it’s quite colorful. It has dollar signs in it that way. I’m on the affordability issue and we just kind of looked at each other in the room there; the people from Southern and Illinois State and U of I and others and just said what are we going to do and U of I said we’re going to raise tuition. Eastern came in and was making the same insinuations and personally, I don’t think that should be done individually. I think it should be done as a group but that’s just my opinion. I’ll answer any questions you’ve got but it’s a pretty bleak state.

President Peters: Questions for Earl? Yeah?

P. Henry: This is more a comment but Oregon just recently passed a tax increase through a public – well, they didn’t pass it – but they had a public referendum saying they would be willing to have such a thing. Does anybody know? Is that anything we could do in Illinois? I mean, that’s sort of basically in terms of giving the politicians cover that basically did it.

President Peters: Well, if I were a political consultant I would not advise that in the state of Illinois and you know, Oregon has a different political culture. I want to comment a little bit on something I said before and something that the presidents at lunch and chancellors talked about. We were talking about MAP and our students and how engaged our students got, particularly students who have MAP money, and what a wonderful experience, you know, learning experience that was for them to see how when you analyzed the problem and made a case and could go to government and have a result that that’s how democracy works. That’s the way it should work and we were all resolved no matter what happens that the key to the long-term solution for higher education in the state of Illinois, obviously we’ve got some issues, but we need to get our students engaged and when I said, you know, students really have to get up to
speed on the issue, faculty have to help when appropriate in their classrooms in doing this and also students have a really important responsibility to get our students involved in the political process and that means getting them registered to vote, giving them the opportunity to get educated on the issues and then help on how the political process works and I happen to think that we’re going to need them in this upcoming fight and, after all, it’s only their degree and their career and what they pay for an education. So, and staff and faculty as well, but in my experience there’s nothing like students talking to representatives because – and they’re voters, right – and I’m from your district and where on you on higher education or where are you on --- But, getting back to your point, even if we passed Governor Quinn’s what they call the 50% tax increase, and even if we had cutbacks and even if we had some sort of acceptable pension reform, we’re not out of this for maybe four or five years. Okay? So those are the kinds of, you know, macro observations that we have to begin to analyze and understand and help communicate that. We are near a financial calamity in the state of Illinois. They borrowed money for Cole and Stevens and that’s good because it puts people to work and it’s the right thing to do and they bonded on that. They bond again with 13 million dollars in the deficit. The bond ratings go down and pretty soon the state can’t bond. Their bonds are junk bonds and you near insolvency. I mean, you know, you don’t need, you know, to be a professor over in Economics to be able to understand this. So for our young people, I think it’s a critical moment. I mean we all went through that. For me it was the Viet Nam period where I really had to grapple with those issues. For our young people now it’s the economic issue. I want to get off the soap box but you have to keep your eye on the bigger picture and certainly we’re going to make the case for higher education but the bigger picture is this financial calamity situation the state has gotten itself in and you can’t cut your way out of it and you probably can’t tax your way out of it. It has to be a combination of a whole set of things. So our students should educate themselves and look for those candidates who have a plan that gets it there. Are there any other questions for Earl?

**E. Hansen:** I hope not.

**President Peters:** All right. Who’s next? Alan?

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

C. **BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee** – Alan Rosenbaum and Gregory Waas – no report.

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

E. **BOT – Alan Rosenbaum** – [report](#) (pages 7-8)

**A. Rosenbaum:** The Board of Trustees met on December 3. I’ll just go through some of the high points. You have the report. Many of you have heard most of the details of this report already.

The first thing they did was approve the dismissal of Michael Reddick who’s a police officer. I suppose it wasn’t a high point for him. They also discussed the fact that there has been some circulation of a rule regarding furloughs and asking for feedback. There was no mention of
furloughs at NIU as President Peters mentioned. They went through the description of the successful True North Campaign and the fact that True North has exceeded expectations and also the fact that the NIU Foundation is working on trying to improve the ways that they help students who have financial needs and thus far they’ve distributed 13,700 scholarships. The next part of the report was the financial report on the state’s finances as they affect NIU and President Peters has already articulated that so there would be no point in my repeating them. You have some of the – a summary in my report.

The next thing the Board did was to go through 13 items. Four of them were action items; 9 were informational items. The action items primarily involved pass-throughs of money that had been secured through outside extramural grants and the Board was just approving the expenditure of those funds as they are required to do. One of the action items involved what are called energy infrastructure improvements and apparently we have taken a very creative approach to this that involves having contractors paid out of the money that is saved by the improvements that they make and so they approved some of these performance contracts as they’re called.

The Board also approved the appointments of Barrie Bode as Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and James Collins as the Director of Southeast Asian Studies. The final item was the approval of the name change of Faraway West to John E. LaTourette Hall in honor of the 10th president of NIU.

That’s the report if anyone has any questions.

President Peters: I think we’ve set the date by the way for the, I don’t know what you call it, what do you do when you name a building after someone – the naming – dedication, or rededication or renaming. I think it’s around April 12 or 13 and they’re planning an afternoon sort of reception and something else and President LaTourette will be back with Lilly so that will be great for them to see our campus and see what’s happened.

F. Academic Policy Committee – Kendall Thu, Chair – no report.
G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Barbara Jaffe, Chair – no report.
H. Rules and Governance Committee – Rebecca Butler, Chair – no report.
I. University Affairs Committee – Carol Thompson, Chair – no report.
J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abjijit Gupta, Chair – no report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Peters: All right, we’re now on to unfinished business. Yeah, we have a question. All right, now we’re moving on to unfinished business, Bylaw 16, Athletic Board Changes. It’s a second reading and a vote and the last page has the proposed changes.

A. Rosenbaum: Becky Butler. This comes out of Rules and Governance.

President Peters: There she is.
A. Rosenbaum: Becky, do you want to sort of present the second reading?

A. Bylaw 16 – Athletic Board changes. SECOND READING and VOTE – report – walk-in.

R. Butler: Okay, as I understand it today we will have the second reading and this is obviously one of your walk-ins and am I right to say what I do is I move for a vote and then we discuss it afterwards. Is that correct?

A. Rosenbaum: Yes.

R. Butler: Okay. So then I move that the changes as discussed and we have had two readings for the University Constitution Bylaws regarding the Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletics Board I move that we accept these revisions.

President Peters: All right. There’s a motion on the floor. We have a second. Now discussion.

A. Rosenbaum: Just to add one more item here. This is essentially the same motion we had at the first meeting with the exception of the part that says that the one male and one female athlete nominated and elected by the Student Athlete Advisory Council as needed and so it’s really the “as needed” that’s been added. That’s the only change that we have from the first reading.

President Peters: All right. Okay, Buck?

J. Stephen: Point of order ??? (not on mike)

F. Bryant: ??? not on mike)

President Peters: All right, so we considered it a minor change and therefore, it’s still a second reading. That was your question? Okay. Bobbie Cesarek?

B. Cesarek: Regarding change #2, the change from Huskie Club to Huskie Athletic Scholarship Fund. It’s my understanding that the name has changed yet again to Huskie Athletics Support Fund which was mandated through the Development Office.

President Peters: Are you speaking officially now or is that something you read in the Northern Star that might be ---

B. Cesarek: No, I believe that’s correct.

President Peters: All right. So what is it now?

B. Cesarek: Huskie Athletics Support Fund. It was deemed to be changed through the Development Office.

A. Rosenbaum: We’ll get to that on the third reading at the next Council Meeting.
President Peters: All right. Editorial? All right, we’ll get that as an editorial change. Give it to us again.

B. Cesarek: Huskie Athletics Support Fund. The reason the name was – not the name change but they wanted to keep the HASF so they had to change scholarship. They were required to change scholarship so the other word they came up with to supplant that was support.

President Peters: Yes.

K. Freedman: Okay, a man should be saying this – are you sure you want to call this Athletics Support?

President Peters: You mean like as in --- good to see we all have a sense of humor.

B. Cesarek: I think the intent is to now gloss over exactly the meaning of each of the words and call it HASF which is what it’s been known as for the last number of years.

President Peters: Listen, if they want to call themselves supporters --- Okay, vote. All in favor of this bylaw change say aye. Opposed? Abstain. The motion passed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

President Peters: Is there any new business to come before the house. Yes?

P. Henry: I’m actually not sure if this is new business. It sort of relates back to the consent agenda in item C but in our departmental meeting it was mentioned that ---

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and I wasn’t sure exactly where that stood. People have some problems with it and if that maybe is something that – I was looking through what the consent agenda item was and it didn’t mention anything about that.

President Peters: Alan, can you help with that?

A. Rosenbaum: The consent agenda item is there because we are required to review this policy every five years. So what will happen under the review is that the committee will update putting into the wording the changes that were passed by the University Council since the last wording change. They will also consider whether they want to recommend other changes to this policy. So that will be an opportunity – this committee will have an opportunity to solicit input and to decide what they want to do about the online evaluations and whether comments that are solicited from students should be available to chairs and to personnel committees and the like so they’re going to have the freedom to go through this and decide whether or not we need to make additional changes. They’ll make recommendations to the Council. We’ll have discussion and vote on it.

President Peters: All right? Buck?

J. Stephen: The last time the online question came up because we use them for both matters of personnel, there was a lot of objection to that so you may not want to put it in as a 16th point, whatever.
A. Rosenbaum: Okay, well Kendall’s committee I think is going to have this one so.

K. Thu: Yeah, the Academic Policy Committee has been given this charge so you’re welcome to siphon your comments and questions to us and we also have a copy of the complete transcripts from the debate or discussion that took place the last time we discussed it so I’d be happy to pass that on to you as well.

J. Stephen: No, I remember it just fine.

K. Thu: Okay.

A. Rosenbaum: I think the important point is that this is going to take some consideration. It’s not just going to be yeah, this is a good policy and let’s renew it for another 5 years. So now with this online evaluation, there’s going to be a lot more need to get opinions from faculty as to what the implications are of the various aspects of the policy and we may want to recommend more changes in it than you might initially have thought so.

President Peters: All right. Same topic or new topic?

B. Lusk: Same topic.

President Peters: Okay, go ahead.

B. Lusk: I sense that there’s some unawareness on campus that two colleges are already doing online evaluations so it seems like we’re sort of caught – that’s the College of Education and now the College of Health and Human Sciences as well as the College of Education – so it seems that we’re investigating or looking at this kind of midway through. It’s already going on and I worry as a faculty representative that we’re talking about it after the fact for two of our colleges. It seems like this discussion should have happened prior to it.

P. Henry: Just to add on to this. I believe Foreign Languages is going to be a trial balloon on this next semester too so it does seem to be going on.

President Peters: So you’ve got a technological innovation that’s defusing quickly. I had a policy or behind policy or --- yeah?

T. Bishop: My understanding of the discussion that’s already taken place on this issue is that there is nothing in the current policy which prohibits the use and so, you know, I don’t know if it’s premature for us to recognize evolution of technology and to begin collecting evaluative data online. By the same token, it is certainly appropriate at this time to begin to consider in this mandated five year review cycle to think about the language of the evaluation procedures or policies and perhaps incorporate that so that, you know, that language isn’t mute but includes that. But I think for us to perhaps slow down that evolutionary adoption of technology and the reality that some of these classes are taught at least as hybrid or blended courses and sometimes entirely as offline or online delivery, it’s probably appropriate to not stand in the way of their online evaluation.
A. Rosenbaum: The last time this was handled by the University Council, there was lively discussion and the Academic Policy Committee has been provided with a transcript of that discussion.

President Peters: Professor Baker.

W. Baker: May I remind Council that we did discuss this at some length for at least a year if not two years in the Academic Policy Committee and we could not reach a consensus.

President Peters: I remember that. All right.

K. Thu: As a reminder, we did pass a resolution last March on this issue and we passed a provision that the electronic evaluation of courses is allowable but it’s voluntary; it’s not required.

President Peters: I remember that. All right. Yes?

K. Freedman: I’m one of the members of the committee that Kendall was chairing, the Academic Policy Committee, and through our e-mail discussions it has arisen that we’re actually going to be looking at the entire assessment group of policies. This is just one of those policies that we’re going to be looking at so it’s not a question of changing the practice of the colleges; it’s a question of reviewing the entire process and figuring out how that strategy fits in with the policies that we have now to make it consistent. There also may be some recommendations for changes and in terms of doing assessment online, it’s a good time to look at where those changes might fit with the practices that have already begun. For example, there may be some security issues that we need to develop policies around. So there are some peculiar aspects of the online issues but most of our discussion is going to focus on a general review of the practice as a whole.

President Peters: Okay. As always, these evaluations stimulate debate and we have to do it every five years whether we want to or not. All right.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters: Comments from the floor?

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

President Peters: I have a limited number of press packages that have diagrams of Cole Hall and a press release. For those, you know, in the department may have an interest. I have about twelve of them. All right?

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Peters: Are we adjourned?

Henry made the motion; Stephen was second. The meeting adjourned at ???. 