I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: I’m pleased to call the September 9, 2009 meeting of the University Council to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: Our first item of business is to adopt the agenda. At your seat should be two walk-in items which go under VI, B and C. They’re Board of Trustee committee reports. Other than that, I call for a motion to approve today’s agenda. Is there a second? All in favor say aye. Okay, we have an agenda.

Thu made the motion; Tollerud was second. The agenda was approved as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2009 AND APRIL 29, 2009 MEETINGS MEETING (pages 3-8)

President Peters: On pages 3-8 we have the minutes of April 8 and the 29th. Can anybody remember that? I’ll call for additions or corrections? Yes, we have – oh my, this is a ---

K. Thu: Kendall Thu from Anthropology. I’m listed as being absent for the April 29th meeting. I distinctly remember being there in body.

President Peters: Well, let’s get it done. Just like that. All right. Let’s make that correction as noted. Okay. Any other additions or corrections? Motion to approve? Second? All those in favor say aye. We have approved our minutes. Don’t we usually have those electronically?

D. Jarman: We did that last year.

President Peters: All right, so we’re going back to paper?

D. Jarman: ???
President Peters: What?

D. Jarman: We need to figure out if people want to do that.

President Peters: Well, other words, it’s your business and – is it going to be covered? Or did I blunder into something here. I didn’t want to get in to an electronic versus paper controversy.

A. Rosenbaum: We figured that people are going to print them up anyway and so rather than have people print them up, which they don’t like to do, we would hand out the prints. It’s the same amount of paper.

President Peters: I’ll tell you want, under New Business, let’s discuss it. All right? Let’s put that under New Business. All right.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: Roman numeral IV, President’s Announcements. Welcome back, you probably feel like you’ve been here a couple of months already. I know I do but welcome back for the fall semester. Tomorrow is my State of the University address which is really about two or three weeks early this year. I decided to move it up and therefore I won’t be saying too much about the normal kinds of things I would say in the first meeting. I’ll reserve that until tomorrow but just to remark that we’ve gotten off to a really smooth start at the start of the semester. No floods, no major disasters and we have everybody enrolled and there’ll be an enrollment report coming out. We met our targets and we’re finding the numbers but a lot of hard work went into making that class, both at the undergraduate and the graduate level. Graduate level is up considerably and you’ll be hearing about more of that tomorrow and then there’ll be a press release on that and I know that that’s not necessarily the case all over. Much of this has to do with the economy and that is of great concern to me. You know I’ve been crusading on MAP and you’ll hear more about that tomorrow. I will say that the community college enrollments are unprecedented and you know the reason. Again, it’s price point and stay close to home, stay in home, get your first year or two but, you know, what happens, they back into that. In twelve months to twenty-four months we can expect a bubble of juniors that come in. We need to plan for that right now and those are upper-level courses in our majors so, you know, your Provost is planning for that right now and I know the deans are concerned about that. You know, it all kind of comes out. You know the whole thing in Illinois however is to get more high school students in post-secondary education with a degree. That to me is the matter of utmost in public policy and we have to play and we are playing our role in that. Okay, so you’ll hear more about that tomorrow.

I want to commend – therefore, I want to commend Ray Alden and his people in enrollment management, Brian Hemphill and Gip Seaver and others – there’s so many involved in recruiting a class and it’s a year-long effort and we’re stepping up those efforts this year because as I’ll make the case tomorrow, enrollment has become critical to our future because of the disproportionate share of our budget that now is paid for by tuition and fees. This is a national phenomena that is regrettable in a sense but yet there it is so we have to attend to that and I’m very pleased that this year, and I hope – I know talking to Alan – this year we’re going to be involved under Brian and Gip and under the leadership of Ray, we’re going to be involved in strategic enrollment planning that will be deep and fundamental and go in almost every direction. The flip side of enrollment of enrollment management, which you usually think is the front end, it’s much more than that and Gip Seaver is responsible for retention. If there’s a weak spot in
what I see across the country, and I see here, is the fact that we’re losing too many students who matriculate and who spend a semester here or a year and then they leave and they go quietly and we don’t know – well, we think we know why – we think a good bit of it has to do with finances but it isn’t necessarily academic. It’s complex. This requires our best thinking and as I read in the various higher education outlets, the issue of retention and graduation on time looms as a significant issue out there and just about everybody is impacted by it. So we need to do the NIU thing. We need to chew on it and study it and talk about it and talk about it and talk about it but we have to act at some point and usually, you know, we’re creative and pragmatic. We’ll come up with some answers to that. We shouldn’t just let a student walk away without knowing why. I mean, we wouldn’t let our own children – well, maybe we would – take the keys and the car and the credit card and leave – just don’t cause me anymore problems. All right. So you’ll be hearing more about that. It’s very hard to write these State of the University addresses in time when I’m not sure whether we have a budget or not or whether we have trustees or not. It is a fun time.

All right, with that in mind, I’m going to give over my time today to a very important matter that needs discussion amongst our campus community which has been discussed and that is swine flu; what is it, what is it not? Are we prepared? I guess my major message to the campus community is we are prepared and this just didn’t happen overnight. Let me give you context for that. Well over three years ago, as part of our approach to incident management, crisis management, we wanted certification for – NIMS certification – National Incident Management System certification and there are a whole set of criteria that you have to meet to get that certification and it’s not just about security and information security. It’s also about hazards and it’s about pandemic and there’s a panel in our NIMS documents that deal with avian flu and pandemic three years ago. So when, if you will remember, at the end of the spring semester, the weekend before finals, swine flu or H1N1, it’s more appropriate to call it that, a couple of cases developed in DeKalb County. We were informed, I think it was on a Friday, Friday night, that one of them was a student and this is when they actually testing. Now there’s not a lot of testing that goes on for swine flu verification. Well, all right, so think back then we had one reported case and the county of – DeKalb County – is the responsible public health agency for setting the guidelines and the alerts and then the distribution of any therapy that goes out. We don’t control that; we work with them closely. Anyway, we were alerted and that triggered our crisis management team for the flu and so we spent, I think we spent most of that weekend, going over where we were and preparing because we had finals coming up. A lot of people were involved. Hundreds of hours of work went into that episode. At that time we were advised by our medical doctor, Dr. Hermann, Dr. Linda Herrmann who’s here today, that the CDC said this thing is probably going to go dormant in the summer but come back in the fall. So this was back in May so our planning never stopped. It continued and escalated throughout summer and, you know, that’s exactly what happened. It has come back. We’re not sure exactly where it’s going. It hasn’t mutated at this point. You know, every year the seasonal flu takes a toll of about 36,000 lives in this country and that’s a pretty significant health problem and people get vaccinated and that’s a good thing, you know, if you’re in a class of individuals that are at risk. But this was different; this was the swine flu. So I thought what we would do today is I wanted Brian Hemphill and Linda Herrmann to talk a little bit about our plans and how they – how we’ve developed those plans and we also have the Provost here to talk about the academic side of that because this goes everywhere. I mean everybody has to understand what their responsibilities are and what they need to know to help or to deal with it if they think they’ve got it. We also have Steve Cunningham here; you didn’t know this Steve, who will answer any questions on the employee side of this. I’m sorry about that. So with that, I want to introduce Brian – or Dr. Herrmann, our MD who I knew in Nebraska and now she came back to her home town and we’re glad to have you.
L. Herrmann: Thank you President Peters. I’m going to start off this afternoon by giving a brief update providing you with some highlights about influenza activity based on information provided by the CDC and the World Health Organization. All this information is available on their respective websites so that you can have a chance to read it when you get a little bit of time. At this time, the 2009 H1N1 is the predominant influenza A virus circulating world-wide. One bit of good news is that the illness caused by the H1N1 virus remains at about the same level of severity as observed last April which means, as President Peters mentioned, that the activity in the southern hemisphere during the winter time down there has not transformed this virus so far into an agent that’s going to cause a lot more severe illness, at least as of this point. It is important to note though that the 2009 H1N1 viruses in circulation do remain similar to the viruses that were selected for the production of the H1N1 vaccine which means that the new H1N1 vaccine, when it’s available, is likely to be effective against the H1N1 viruses that are expected to be circulating during the upcoming flu season. In other words, there’s a good match; there should be good protection. We should all remember though that influenza activity in the US is variable. At this time, most states are reporting sporadic or regional influenza activity. Illinois was reported at the regional level for the week ending September 5 which is the latest week reported. At the same time though, Alaska, Puerto Rico and six states in the southeast of this country are all currently reporting wide-spread influenza activity so it would not be surprising to hear reports of high numbers of influenza in those states and particularly on campuses in those states. Most of the reported cases of H1N1 are likely to be suspected cases, not lab confirmed cases. You may recall that last spring Illinois decided to stop during routine outpatient H1N1 testing, reserving the testing for people who were seriously ill and hospitalized. So in our state only hospitalizations and deaths are being reported. It is also important to remember that most cases of true H1N1 influenza have been about as severe as the seasoning flu so far and that most healthy people who come down with influenza or who are suspected to come down with influenza this fall will recover without complications and without the need for antiviral medications. So it is important to keep all this in mind and to not over-react when hearing about large cases of H1N1 flu on campuses. These are suspected cases and the illness so far has been relatively mild. Preventative measures continue to be extremely important in reducing the spread of both H1N1 and seasonal flu to ourselves and to others around us. We need to clean our hands, cover our coughs, contain our illnesses by staying home until 24 hours after fever has resolved without the use of fever reducing medication. We need to stay away from people who are ill preferably by 6 feet if possible and we should consider being vaccinated for both seasonal and the H1N1 influenza this fall. The H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and is being manufactured with the same procedures being used to produce the annual seasonal flu vaccine. So no new major safety concerns are really anticipated at this time. However, CDC – the vaccine is undergoing safety testing and the CDC will have more information about this as the information becomes available. H1N1 vaccination criteria have been established by the CDC primarily to protect the groups that are at greatest risk of contracting influenza illness. These target groups include pregnant women, people who live with or provide care for infants age less than 6 months, health care and emergency medical services personnel, children and young adults age 6 months to 24 years, which would cover a lot of our student population, and persons age 25 to 64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza related complications. If vaccine supplies and H1N1 vaccine supplies turn out to be more limited than are expected at this time, more restrictive vaccination recommendations will be implemented by the CDC. The seasonal flu vaccine is starting to become available now. You can check the NIU H1N1 website for details about dates and times for receiving the vaccination and the H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available in mid to late October. Distribution will be similar to the process used to distribute seasonal flu vaccine and the number of doses that go to any particular area will depend on the population of that area.
So, all in all, the H1N1 flu is still reported to be about the same as it was last spring. At this time most cases are expected to recover without complication and NIU is working very closely with the DeKalb County Health Department to keep apprised of influenza activity in this region and in our area. Preventive measures can’t be stressed enough. These steps can be very effective in reducing the spread of influenza illness. They are easy to do and everyone can do them. And last, the CDC is recommending vaccination for both seasonal and H1N1 flu. These vaccines should be available soon and again, this information will be on the NIU H1N1 website.

So Dr. Hemphill will now talk about some operational plans that have been put into place at NIU.

President Peters: Okay, do you want to take some medical type questions?

J. Stephen: It’s a very short one.

President Peters: Sure.

J. Stephen: It appears this isn’t as lethal as they first thought but what’s the primary mechanism, you know, the cause of death for someone who dies from this? Is it pneumonia or a different cause?

L. Herrmann: It would be a complication of the influenza infection itself. Pneumonia is one of the most common ones.

J. Stephen: So for those of us who are older and at risk for pneumonia, the pneumonia vaccine might be a good idea too.

L. Herrmann: The pneumonia vaccine is a good idea regardless of influenza after a certain age.

J. Stephen: Okay, thank you.

President Peters: Good. Any other medical type question? We’ll have an open questioning when we’re done with the presentation. All right, Brian.

B. Hemphill: I’ve been asked to talk a little bit about --- there’s a question.

President Peters: Jeff?

J. Kowalski: Jeff Kowalski. There was a question at the Faculty Senate about whether or not a person could get this H1N1 flu virus twice in relatively quick succession. Can you clarify that?

L. Herrmann: I don’t have a solid answer on that but if a person is infected with a H1N1 strain and develops immunity to that strain; they are unlikely to come down with an infection with the same strain subsequently.

B. Hemphill: Okay, one of the things that President Peters began with is that he feels that we are prepared and we’re ready and I’d have to echo that same thing. As I’ve looked at the work that has been going on over the process of this last year, there are a lot of great things and I want to share a little bit with you as it relates to a few operational items.

One is beyond the Emergency Management Committee that we have for the University, we also established an H1N1 work group and Dr. Herrmann actually chairs that work group but we have
individuals as part of that from the DeKalb County Health Department, the actual director is on that committee and works closely with that group. We have individual from Environmental Health and Safety. We have individuals from Human Resources, Public Affairs and so on and so I think that we have a group that works very hard to make sure that they are providing us the type of information we need at the Emergency Management Council level so we can make decisions that are going to be in the best interest of the institution.

A couple of things that I want to touch base on really briefly is communication. One is that we already have the NIU H1N1 website that went live on August 24 and know that we will continue to update that as we received information from the CDC and there have been several updates on that site since it’s been up. Also, everyone should have received an all-campus e-mail. Know that we will have additional e-mails come out if we have a situation that we need to communicate to the entire campus, we will definitely be doing that via e-mail. Another item that you should be seeing in all of your buildings right now. You should be seeing information as relates to the three C’s flyer that’s up in all of the academic buildings. You should see it in the computer labs and so on and know that we also are looking – that’s actually going up as a screensaver because we want students thinking about that because one of the things that Dr. Herrmann mentioned is some of the preventative measures which is very, very important.

Another thing that has – a lot of discussion that we’ve had with the committee also has been with Human Resources and they’ve gone through and reviewed our policies as well as our procedures on working with employees and as Steve and I have had conversation about this, we feel that we are really prepared and have some good things in place and I know that he’d be happy to respond to if you have questions on that.

Also, from an academic standpoint, I know that Provost Alden sent out information to all of our faculty and staff today regarding H1N1 and I think that was a very helpful communiqué but beyond that I know that our Faculty Senate has been having a discussion over this and I know that really some good information has already been put there from the Faculty Senate and I know they’re looking at this very carefully also.

A couple of other preventive measures or some things that we’re having discussions over that I think is important for you to know. You realize that in Housing and Dining we have approximately 5,400 students that live with us in close proximity and knowing that we have to be very intentional as it relates to our facilities, the cleaning of those facilities and I know that he building service workers have done a great job in being very intentional about how we’re approaching our work within the halls. Also we have procedures that we actually tested last year during this last situation that the President spoke of in which we really went to a situation in which students were not allowed to make their own salads or even to serve their own food. We totally changed our operating procedure with safety being in mind. So at any point where we are concerned that we have something developing within the residential community, we are prepared to go back to all of those procedures that we really have in place and are just waiting for someone to tell them to go.

Another thing that I think is important, I want you to know Environmental Health and Safety has done an excellent job of being very intentional in working with building service workers, within Finance and Facilities and know that they’ve been going through looking at cleaning doorknobs, handles, telephones. Even when you’re not there, they’re going in your office and cleaning those phones, being very intentional about the cleaning of the campus and making sure that we have a place that’s going to be safe.
Now just two more final items I want to mention - a couple of items. One I need you to know from a supply standpoint, we have already begun the process and we feel like we’re in pretty good shape of stockpiling hand sanitizer as well as our own cleaning supplies within Health Services and the University as well as we’ve purchased surgical masks. If we were to need those, we have those on hand and a pretty healthy supply. From an isolation standpoint, someone has asked the question regarding isolation of students. Within Housing and Dining we have set aside some spaces for isolation if we need that. If we have a student that says I’m sick but I’m an international student so therefore I can’t go home, we have a place that will be able to work with that student. If we have a student who really just wants safe space from their roommate, know that we’ll be able to work with those individual cases in preparation and planning.

In terms of from vaccination standpoint or vaccines, NIU and the DeKalb County Health Department will have for faculty and staff – they will have that particular service in terms of you being able to get the vaccination on 9 – actually, September 22 as well as on October 14. There are two dates and both time frames will be from 11:00 to 1:00. Understand, that will only be for seasonal flu. At this point we do not have the vaccine for the H1N1 and the time table right now is October as Dr. Herrmann mentioned, we will need to see where we fall on that list of actually being able to get that medication. Also for students, just for your information, the process for flu vaccination for students began on September 8 and we’re moving forward with those and they will be ongoing.

So I will conclude with the – I think the most important thing with this as we move forward, that if for any reason that we have a situation in which we begin to see cases on our campus and things begin to look a little bit worse, know that we will be communicating with you. We feel very prepared to respond to any issues that develop and know that the emergency – the University Emergency Management group have already come together. We’ve met this week which is chaired by Dr. Williams and know that we will continue to monitor this very, very closely.

If you have any questions at all as we leave this meeting, after this meeting or tomorrow, I would encourage you to go to the website. There’s a great deal of information on the website about just general questions that you may ask. I think the committee has done an excellent job of putting that information out there and if that answer is not there, I want you to feel free to call our office directly in terms of my office and know that we will be serving as that place to refer to Human Resources, to the Provost’s Office or any other area that we think would be appropriate to respond to a question that you might have. So if we don’t have an answer, we’ll find somebody who can provide that.

**President Peters:** Okay, a couple of points of clarification that I think might be appropriate. Would you drill down a little deeper on the process by which we will be allocated vaccine when it does arrive? Because that, to me – I thought we had more control over this than we do but we don’t.

**L. Herrmann:** According to the latest information that I have, the vaccine is going to be ordered through the CDC and distributed out through a contract central distributor and it could go to doctors’ offices, to health departments, to hospitals, to offices that are designated as being able to receive and store the vaccine and use it.

**President Peters:** So in our case for instance, would Health Services receive it directly or would it go through the county health department and then allocated to us?
L. Herrmann: My interpretation of the information is that it would come straight to Health Services.

President Peters: Would come straight to Health Services.

L. Herrmann: Health Services is registered to receive it and it should come straight to us.

President Peters: Not perfect information but ---

B. Hemphill: Could I mention one other thing? Just really quickly. One of the things that Dr. Herrmann also mentioned is that with some of the cases that we’re seeing, we saw an institution out on the west coast that had announced they had 2,000 cases of H1N1 and one of the things that we need to be clear about is that those are probably – they could be probable cases. Those are not confirmed cases because unless you go to the hospital, that is the only way they’re sending that over to a state lab to get confirmation and so I want to go the record as saying that I think there’s a bit of over-reaction out there at this point and I think it’s very, very early to have that type of over-reaction.

President Peters: Dr. Herrmann told me as we walked in because I ask this question every time I see her, at this point in the semester, NIU Health Services is not seeing a level of flu-type symptoms that would be outside anything you would expect normally for this time of year. Is that a correct statement?

L. Herrmann: That’s correct at this time.

President Peters: I mean we’re well within the normal bounds for any year. Okay. All right. Buck?

J. Stephens: I had one question for Brian and then one for Dr. Herrmann. Brian on our end, I haven’t seen this in universities but I saw it in the military, where you get hot zones where you get a barracks or you get a class where somebody is especially good at spreading it or especially uncareful or, you know, however you want to reword it. Say if I have a class of 90 and I’m getting 2 or 3 e-mails saying I don’t feel that good today, I’m not going to worry about it too much but if I get 18, you know, oh, my body’s really killing me and that’s my understanding about H1N1, it’s more of a body flu than a GI flu, at what level do you want us to get back to you and see hey, I think maybe I’ve got an outbreak in my class?

B. Hemphill: I think it’s important - I’ll actually have Dr. Herrmann respond to that because I think that’s more of a medical question - but one of the things that I think is important if you have a concern, whatever that concern may be, if it’s 2, if it’s 3, if it’s 5, we want you to definitely give us a call, give Dr. Herrmann a call because that’s how things – because we may find that there’s other information that we may have that may be helpful.

J. Stephen: Which route is preferred? Your office or Dr. Herrmann’s office?

B. Hemphill: I’d have you call Dr. Herrmann’s office on that.

J. Stephens: Than am I correct in understanding that the seasonal flu that we’re going through is a GI flu and the H1N1 is a body flu; aches, fevers, pains? In general, I know it’s not going to be the same for everyone.
L. Herrmann: In general, the symptoms are similar for influenza. Okay. Now people apply the name flu to a lot of different viral processes and it may not be influenza.

J. Stephens: That aren’t influenza – yes. If we have a hot spot, definitely let you. That’s unusual to us.

L. Herrmann: Right. You can refer the student over to Health Services as well or ask them to call.

J. Stephens: Okay.

L. Herrmann: Sometimes it’s better to have them call and talk with a nurse rather than coming into a waiting room where other people may be asymptomatic. But certainly Health Services is certainly there for students who are on campus.

J. Stephens: This is so much more relaxing talking about a student who is coughing rather than mentally disturbed for this month.

President Peters: These questions appropriately have morphed into those that have some academic import and of course so much work has been done on that and, you know, don’t be afraid to ask those questions. Dean McCord?

C. McCord: In follow up to Buck’s question about notification. We got an e-mail this afternoon, the deans, from the Provost’s Office which have been asked to distribute through department chairs to the faculty indicating that in exactly the scenario you’re discussing where you think you have an incident, you think you have an unusually elevated number of absences, to notify the Provost’s Office and they’ll act as the clearing house to forward on to Health Services so we’ll be forwarding that information out as soon as I get back to my e-mail.

President Peters: Ray did you want to talk about that communiqué?

R. Alden: Yes. We have, and I’d like to acknowledge first all the work that Brian and Linda and all their staff have done on this all summer long. This is something we were waiting for, the federal, the CDC guidance. They gave the guidance for K-12 several weeks before they gave the guidance for higher education and so as soon as we got that we incorporated it into our existing plans and we have asked and I’d like to also acknowledge Alan and the Faculty Senate, to review some of the issues we had because we’d been advised by the CDC number one that we don’t necessarily consider closure as a major option. Obviously, that would be a much more serious situation that would require our Emergency Management team to make that decision so we would hope that faculty don’t make that decision on their own, to close down the class or anything of that sort because that isn’t exactly – that isn’t what the CDC is indicating. We also are sensitive to the fact that the CDC is not recommending testing for H1N1. It’s too much of a burden. It causes too much exposure of people in both facilities to people with potential flu-like symptoms and so that creates of we tell our students, we tell our faculty and staff to stay home if they have those kinds of symptoms. So Alan and the Faculty Senate have reviewed what some of my staff came up with as suggested guidelines and basically I would consider those common sense guidelines, is to have individuals – those students, faculty or staff – stay home, stay aware from others until at least 24 hours after the fever has broken without fever reducing medicines and that we, because we’re suggesting that students stay home, that the faculty use whatever accommodations they can to make sure that we’re not penalizing the students for following our advice and, quite frankly, the CDC’s advice and then the fact that that doesn’t necessarily mean
that they would have to do any less work. We would try to accommodate them and make them responsible for completing the course work and of course instructional staff is always responsible for determining rather they have satisfactorily completed the course material. So that is, if you haven’t seen that particular communication yet, you should it in your mailboxes within the next day or so and that’s what was basically agreed upon by my office and the Faculty Senate so you’ll see that as well. It’s basically use common sense. Try and accommodate students. Try and help them keep up with their class work, whatever that means in the particular course.

**President Peters:** Okay, let’s take – Jeff we’ll get back to you next.

**A. Gupta:** My question is to Dr. Herrmann. It’s a medical question. Is there a difference between type A influenza and H1N1?

**L. Herrmann:** The question is is there a difference between influenza A and H1N1?

**A. Gupta:** Yes.

**L. Herrmann:** H1N1 is a type of influenza A. The influenza A title covers a lot of different viruses and H1N1 is a type A influenza.

**President Peters:** Jeff and then Promod.

**J. Kowalski:** Jeff Kowalski. I just wanted to put it on today’s record because I felt I was somewhat represented by the Northern Star after the Faculty Senate that I fully agree with Provost Alden’s statements that we need to make accommodations for students. We don’t want them in class if they have flu-like symptoms but that I am in favor of the idea that faculty need to find ways to accommodate them while making sure that they complete the requirements in a manner that the faculty thinks is appropriate.

**President Peters:** Okay. I’ve got to go read that now. Promod and then ---

**P. Vohra:** I just wanted a make a statement for the record. In the past also NIU has come out very resilient and strong in testing times and once again, I think that the preparations that Brian and his team have made have not only given us everything that we need to be prepared but also provided us with information that we can answer the basic questions for staff, faculty and students so I do want to commend the team for doing an outstanding job yet again. Thank you Brian.

**President Peters:** That’s the way I feel too.

**P. Henry:** Just on the question of sort of common sense and accommodation, many of us have classes that have attendance requirements and I’m one of those and I’m coming up with what I hope is a compromise that will be workable which is in the past I’ve required students who’ve missed more than 5 classes to provide some sort of written documentation and specifically, the guidelines say please don’t send floods of people to Health Services but I think I will make it required after more than 5 for them to at least provide some of written, not necessarily from a doctor, even themselves making – writing a statement saying for health reasons, they couldn’t attend class. I don’t, you know, it’s not my business exactly why but at least it provides some sort of guidance for them to really be careful about how much they miss class.
R. Alden: And it is truly a honor system so I think that’s perfectly acceptable and, you know, it makes sense when you are taking attendance as part of the requirements for the course. Obviously, in certain of these situations others will be aware of it as well but I’m not sure we can necessarily distinguish between the students who live in an apartment versus somebody who lives in the residence halls where we might actually have them in a quarantine condition. So I think having the idea of just – students taking responsibility for doing the paperwork to show that they were ill with influenza symptoms is probably sufficient.

President Peters: Brigid?

B. Lusk: I have a question for Linda. About the operationalizing of giving the H1N1 vaccine if and when it comes in, I don’t know if you’ve got plans – I’m thinking of 25,000 students lining up to get the vaccine. I’m sure you do have plans but I’d like to put it on record that there are about 350 nursing students who’d love to give an injection.

President Peters: I’m sorry, Dr. Herrmann’s giving me mine. Okay, you’re a representative body and it’s important that we went into some detail on this and the take-a-way for your constituents is we are prepared and we spent a lot of time on it but it’s a continual process of updating as new information and guidelines come in. So we’re prepared. The other thing is that when in doubt, go to the website because I think this is the kind of situation where there can be a lot of misinformation and interpretation and if you have, you know, several thousand people speaking differently about it, you have confusion. That’s why go to the website; direct people to the website. I think the dialogue has to continue about these externalities as they pop up that we can’t, you know, that we haven’t thought of but we have lines of communication and structures to get those issues on the table. Then the final thing, I fully expect we’ll see cases – yeah, we’re going to see cases but we’re ready.

J. Stephens: Dr. Peters. I think I’d suggest once we have all our information in place and the inoculation date that we have one of the parties send out an overview thing saying what you should do about – and how to get vaccines. What you should do if you see a student because we’ve gotten 3 or 4 e-mails already and a website link and I’m afraid that for many people – oh, it’s the flu again and they’re clicking on to the next one and they’re not reading the content and getting the clicks and all of these so I think that once – like, you know, when the inoculations will be – if you send out that brief one with additional information if you have sick students can be found here for people who don’t read all three pages of these things.

President Peters: That will be – barring a lot of cases popping up – before that time the next probably critical thing is information on who should get it, where they should it, when they should get it, how they should get it.

J. Stephens: Yeah, and how you can get other information.

President Peters: By segment.

J. Stephens: Correct.

President Peters: Yeah.

B. Hemphill: Some of the information that we actually covered today between Dr. Herrmann and myself is going to be in a handout which you’ll be able to get when you leave but pretty
much a lot of things we talked about today, I want you to be able to leave with something especially if you are having conversations with your colleagues.

**J. Stephens:** Okay. Is that going to be distributed later or should I put it on the bulletin board in our coffee room?

**B. Hemphill:** No, we have copies for you to be able to take with you.

**J. Stephens:** Oh, you have lots of copies?

**B. Hemphill:** Yes, we have copies.

**President Peters:** They’re treating you the way I used to treat my students in class. I never gave the handout until after the lecture so you didn’t just read ---

**J. Stephens:** And the homework is due at the beginning of the lecture.

**President Peters:** That’s right. Well once again, I’m very proud of our NIU people. We’re ready. We’ll see where this goes. Okay, back to the ---

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of University Council Committees for 2009-2010. (Page 9)
B. University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees – 2009-2012 – appointment of Greg Waas for a three-year-term (Page 10)
C. Policy on Nepotism – refer to University Affairs.
D. Resolution from Faculty Senate – refer to Rules and Governance (Page 11)

**President Peters:** Is there a motion to approve the Consent Agenda? Second? All right. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. All right, we have ---

Vohra made the motion; Gupta was second. The motion passed.

**VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

**President Peters:** Let’s move to reports. Our first report is from Earl on the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report. (Pages 12 -13)

**E. Hansen:** Well, we met at DePaul University on a caucus meeting of the Faculty Advisory Committee. It was a normal scheduled meeting but we felt because of the status of the legislation and the things that were going on that were negative that we needed to be there. We did sit in on part of the IBHE meeting and at the last meeting in here, I made a statement that our President did receive a couple of hands of applause – made some comments, and well they hit home in regards to economic issues and the things that are faced by universities and as I stated earlier last week, the IBHE is very sympathetic and very supportive of what you and I and everybody else in this room is trying to do academically. The – I’m not going to read this
THE TAPE TURNED OVER

---along behind it. We’ve got to make some movements as individuals to our own legislators and I realize that our legislators are very positive about higher education because we have an institution in their district but it is an issue and the other issue that was on there was that a publication from Today’s Inside Higher Ed, Education Sector graded 50 states, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia on a three-grade scale. The highest grade, ‘best practice’ was given to 10 states with well developed reporting mechanisms. The second ranking, ‘in progress’ was given to 27 states and the third ranking, the ones that weren’t doing too swift, we, the state of Illinois, was sitting in that group. I know that we’re doing to do things on campus here but we can only do so much with what we’ve got and we’re not the only ones. John can certainly answer a lot of this if you have questions much better than I can. So I’ll bail out. If you have questions for me ---

President Peters: Okay. All right. I can tell you Earl is there and active. All right. Any questions?


(Please refer to the reports for detailed information.)

President Peters: All right, let’s move to Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Personnel Committee. Buck? I think you had a walk-in.

J. Stephens: Actually we have two. Ferald? Or have you already read that one.

F. Bryan: That information is old news. I’d be happy to answer any questions about this or the later report but you have the update.

J. Stephens: I have a walk-in. If you look at Ferald’s on page 14, it’s basically the end of the year stuff where they talk about promotion, tenure and that type of thing. If you have specific questions about that material, please Ferald. I wasn’t at that meeting. I was awaiting a friend in surgery. I was at the August 27, 2009 meeting. It’s called AASAPC, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs Personnel Committee, so it’s part of UAC, University Advisory Committee. They met at – their meetings have moved up to a delightful early time of 8:30 in the morning. We went through the standard opening procedure, approval of the minutes and it might of interest to some of you to know that the chair of that subcommittee is a person named John Butler who some of you may be familiar with and some of you may know what that means. Okay. Provost Alden then discussed basically the uncertainty of student aid and how it’s screwing up our lives. There’s plenty of that in the newspaper and the data just gets so out-of-date so fast that there’s nothing really I can add to what they did other than the Board of Trustees is really working on it.

President Peters: I think you’re trying everything they can, repackaging, stuff like this. You can read what happened with Pat Quinn yesterday. Basically we can’t do anything until they do anything. Okay. So the majority of the meeting was devoted to the reception of seven information items. For those of you not familiar, these committees receive two types of items; information items and action items. Action items are things like new programs, deletions. There weren’t any of those. Four of the reports were routine. There was the FY09 program review findings and if you notice it says “8 in CEET, 9 in CLAS, and three of the research centers”. Some of you may not know this
but we’ve sort of distributed our program review findings across different departments and colleges instead of trying to do them all at once. There was a recognition of the 2008/2009 Faculty Emeritus rewards for faculty and staff. That’s the teaching awards and the outstanding service awards. Excuse, that’s Professional Excellence awards. The Emeritus is our 20 faculty who have retired, including my good friend and colleague Linda Sons who has retired.

**President Peters:** She’s retired.

**J. Stephens:** It just won’t be the same without her except she’s here each day as usual.

Okay, the next thing we learned about was the external funding report which revealed that our research from the public and private sector has increased by $0.7 million dollars to $53.9 million dollars in this fiscal year. That’s only an increase of 1.25%. We were hoping for better I believe but it didn’t go down.

Finally, here we go, status of the MAP Grant. This is a slightly different comment. A lively engagement touching on subjects ranging from new approaches to recruitment; the effect of instability of the grant program on retention and recruitment were discussed and positive responses by the university such as the repackaging of loans and things. Now, this is the important part. It’s undeniable that the accessibility to higher education is in severe danger but all-in-all it was felt if we want our legislators to do something about this, this information can’t come from us. It has to come from students; it has to come from parents; it has to come from constituents. It just looks self-serving coming from us and, speaking of self-serving, if you want to express your opinion, Provost Alden would like to remind you it is not appropriate to use university resources such as stationery, envelopes, titles – any of that. You do not represent yourself as a representative of the university community when expressing your political opinion and you do not do it on our postage. Okay. But it’s perfectly fine to encourage others, your students and their parents, to get involved in the political process. They’ll know what to say. Some of them may not agree with us. Okay.

We also received a follow-up report on the Ph.D. in Economics. This was really quite interesting. About a year and a half ago, one of the trustees brought up a report – this actually proves that they’re engaged – they read a report and they looked at a very low production rate in Economic Ph.D.’s and when they first brought it up, the feeling of your representatives, Ferald Bryan and myself was “they’re putting this program on the chopping table” and as far as I could see after reading a longer review of the program, is that the program is more of a victim of its own success than it is a failure and I’m very interested in preserving it because it’s getting involved in interdisciplinary things such as our Actuarial Science Program in Mathematics and it seems like it’s a real growth opportunity and they’re looking at cutting it back. So I spoke very strongly about rushing to conclusions on that program and they ended up bringing in an external review and the external review came back with what I said. They have a very high qualitative program without a high quantitative output of Ph.D.’s and the trustees seemed satisfied with that with the proviso that they’d like to see an increase in the Ph.D.’s and the external review actually came back with three suggestions which should facilitate that. So I think that we can – I think that the Economics program, they’re safe for a while and I think we have an illustration that we have a Board of Trustees that actually listens to the faculty, pays attention to us and learns from us and decides “hey, maybe we ???”.
Can’t think of anything else. The Carnegie Classification on engagement which we talked about at length last spring in this body was announced to the BOT. Can’t think of anything else. Any questions?

**President Peters:** Any questions?

**J. Stephens:** Yes, Provost Alden?

**R. Alden:** I didn’t have a question; just a point of information. Anne Kaplan was asked to give more information on what’s involved in that Engagement classification as well as our plans and status but plans for the future in engagement issues and she agreed to do that at the next meeting. It was scheduled at this meeting but it just went too long so that will be covered again next time in more detail just for the Board’s information.

**J. Stephens:** Okay, so you’ll see me in three months on that. I don’t have to come every month like you guys anymore.

**President Peters:** Okay, good report. I think the take-a-way I have on the program reviews – and, you know, trustees in one year can raise an issue and then by the time we do all the fact finding, perhaps the issues shift a little bit. I think you hit it right with the addition that the trustees wanted to see external reviewers on our programs and of course we do that. We’ve moved toward that in part. It’s a resource issue but they’re right, the quality of the program reviews are infinitely better when you have external validation with an appropriate set of peers. Then, you know, my pet peeve when you got all the work to do a program review, if it’s not a white wash, is to actually do something. Improve something or change something or reward something but don’t just let it sit on a shelf. So I think that’s where the trustees are and that’s a good thing and it wasn’t about to “get” a program.

**J. Stephens:** No, I think there was a fear in the Economics Department that that was what was up.

**President Peters:** Okay, real good.


**President Peters:** BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations – Alan, I think you’re going to do that one?

**A. Rosenbaum:** We actually have two reports. There have been two meetings since the last University Council meeting so in your agenda packet you have the meeting from June 4 and you have a walk-in item from the meeting from August 27. Ferald, do you want to make any comments about the June 4 meeting.

**F. Bryan:** I think most of it is old news at this point but I certainly can answer questions if you have any. I think you have the updates from the most recent meeting.

**A. Rosenbaum:** You have that report anyway so if you want to look at that you can certainly ask questions about that.
I’m not going to say much about the August 27 meeting. You have the summary of it in front of you. Dr. Williams presented the action items. There are nine of them. The one I think that might be the most interesting, or one of the ones that’s most interesting, is the appropriated capital budget request for FY2011. These are the items that the university is sending forward that will hopefully be approved and so you can see what is being proposed in Action Item A. The other item that I think is of interest is the Action Item H which is that the Cole Hall renovation has been approved. We have also gotten approval for the renovation of the Steven’s Building. These have – well, the Steven’s Building I believe has been on the request for about ten years.

President Peters: At least twelve years.

A. Rosenbaum: And that has finally been approved I guess thanks to some of the stimulus money and so we are waiting for that money to be released but I think the expectation is that we will be getting the money for both the Steven’s Building renovation and the Cole Hall renovation so that’s really a positive step. The rest of it I think you can read for yourselves. The meeting concluded with a review of the Professional Excellence Awards for faculty and staff which are always nice to hear. Are there any questions? Yeah?

J. Stephens: I have a question maybe for Eddie. NIU Hoffman Estates Education Center is a relatively new facility. How come it’s so highly listed on our appropriated capital budget request?

E. Williams: Actually, the university received – it was really the Foundation – received a grant of land back in the, I think it’s the late ‘90s into 2000 and at that point in time, the idea was to look at expanded services in that region and to also look at partnerships that could be developed with other academic communities as well as with the private sector. That was the concept and at that point in time, we did fashion out a capital request that was then put forward to the state. Given the state’s track record, it was probably put on the list maybe three years ago so it has another eight or nine years to go before it will be funded.

J. Stephens: Okay, so this is part of our ten-year expansion program. Okay. And you’re just hoping by the time 2020 rolls around they’ll actually throw in some money. Okay. Thank you.

President Peters: All right.

K. Thu: Is there any new information about the time table for Cole or Stevens being a happy denison of Stevens myself?

President Peters: Yeah, let me, not correct, but let me amplify and re-center what the Executive Secretary said about funding. There are no federal stimulus dollars in this. What the state did, the legislature passed and the Governor approved an authorization to spend on for capital. Within the context of that, across a couple of different bills, was the projects that you heard about plus a few other things. We had planning money for the Computer Science and Technology
Building. That’s a good thing because that’s tantamount to getting the grant the next time our ship comes in. The funding mechanism, you know, the dollars for these projects were hitched to a series of revenue raising potentials like video poker, like state bonding, selling state bonds. There’s very little in the coffers to pay for any of this right now so they have to come up with a funding mechanism and the latest I have heard is that the state was about to ??? $300 million bond. So, it’s Illinois which means we’re back in the process. Now, having one authorization, now we have to win appropriation in a particular order. When this all passed I remember reading commentary in the press that this was going to be a three-year rollout plan, so three years before you start the projects. We make the case that our projects are ready. You know, Cole Hall is a project that can be – it’s beyond shovel ready. We can do that and Stevens is a little more complex but, you know, the answer to your question. I have no idea. But every day we are involved in it to get our spoon in that stew. Okay.

J. Stephens: Eddie, didn’t Illinois’s bond rating tumble last spring?

E. Williams: It certainly did and the University’s rating is far ahead of the state.

President Peters: Yeah.

E. Williams: Whatever that’s worth.

President Peters: Now, saying all that, getting authorization for these projects is a major victory and a plus. They will be build. Yeah?

B. Lusk: I think there’s a typo here on the walk-in. On the second line it says June 4, so I think it means August 27.

A. Rosenbaum: Yeah, we already noticed that. It’s more a suggestion that if we had the August meeting in June, there would be more people around.

President Peters: Okay.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – report. (Pages 17 – 21)

President Peters: Where are we now? Bobbie, because I see Jay slipped out before he can ---

B. Cesarek: Unfortunately, my walk-in was forgotten so sorry; I did submitted it, so unfortunately what you have in front of you is just the June 4 meeting notes for the Legislative Affairs, External Affairs and Audit Sub-Committee which is pretty extensive as you can see. There was a lot that was going on relative to all the bills at that particular time. We weren’t sure where the budget was going and the members that are noted in bold all had the opportunity to speak on various State bills and House bills that were presented. Certainly general budget comments from Kathy Buettner as well as what was going on from Washington. So all of that information again is a tad bit old but it is there
for your review if you would like. How can we assimilate my August 27 review? Will that be sent out or ---

D. Jarman: I can send it by e-mail if you want.

B. Cesarek: Okay. Just so everybody can have it in a timely manner, that would be great.

President Peters: So Bobbie’s written report will be transmitted to you electronically.

B. Cesarek: Yeah.

President Peters: If there are questions you can get with Bobbie.

B. Cesarek: Yes please and I apologize. I have a lot going on my plate right now and I’ve actually, since the time of writing that, can’t remember what’s on the report but I know there was quite a bit of discussion about the MAP grants which I’m sure you’ll go into at a future time.

E. BOT – Jay Monteiro – report. (Pages 22)

President Peters: I see Jay isn’t here but Jay’s report from the full Board of Trustees’ meeting of June 25 is on page 22. All right?

B. Cesarek: Yes and I think you’ll see it’s really a reiteration of the various sub-committees in a very condensed form.

President Peters: Okay, are there any questions on any of those reports? I don’t see any other reports on committees.

F. Academic Policy Committee – Kendall Thu, Chair – no report.

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Barbara Jaffee, Chair – no report.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Rebecca Butler, Chair – no report.

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

J. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abijit Gupta, Chair – no report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Clinical Faculty Appointments – referred to Rules and Governance at 04/29/09 University Council Meeting. (Pages 23 – 24)

President Peters: We have Unfinished Business. Clinical Faculty Appointments. It was referred to Rules and Governance last April and – what are we, is this for a first reading? Or is there action?
D. Jarman: We mainly put that in the agenda packet because we have a whole different Rules and Governance Committee and I don’t think that they are aware that it was passed at the last UC meeting, so now you’re informed.

President Peters: So who’s Rules and Governance?

D. Jarman: Rebecca Butler.

President Peters: So you know what to do with this Rebecca?

R. Butler: No, but I’ll find out.

President Peters: That’s the idea right?

D. Jarman: Yeah.

President Peters: Okay. Anybody want to comment on that for Rebecca? All right; very good. Unfinished Business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

President Peters: Now New Business I said we, not me, but you would decide how you want your minutes. Alan, do you want to?

A. Rosenbaum: Well, I guess the issue is whether we want to continue to distribute the minutes the way we’ve been doing it or do we want to send them out electronically. I guess the concern is that a lot of time when people get electronic attachments they ignore them, they don’t print them up whereas when they get them in hard copy, they ignore them but it’s harder to ignore. So it seems as though the amount of paper is the same whether we print them and send them or whether you print them off your e-mail. So we can do it either way. I don’t know if there’s any preference. We can entertain questions or suggestions from the floor.

P. Henry: To me it makes more sense to have them in paper because if we have corrections it’s kind of hard to do it if not everybody knows what they’re looking at. So as long there are a couple of pages and the full transcript is available electronically, I think that works for me.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay.

President Peters: One vote for paper. All right, yeah.

W. Baker: Why not both?

President Peters: Why not both?

W. Baker: Yes.

A. Rosenbaum: Well, we certainly could send them both. It’s easy enough to send electronically.

W. Baker: So what’s the problem?
President Peters: Could you declare which way you want it?

W. Baker: Well, why ???.

President Peters: Yeah, either one. You can have – you want it both ways?

W. Baker: Yes sir.

President Peters: That’s a third alternative.

P. Vohra: ???

A. Rosenbaum: Does anyone have a positive reason for doing one or the other other than preference because preferences we could just take a vote. Yes?

B. Lusk: I sometimes don’t get mine in time when they’re paper because I have the problem with having two offices. So they go to one and I’m not at that one for a couple of days so electronically would be very nice because then I’d always have them.

A. Rosenbaum: You’d get them faster as well. Okay. Any other reasons why one might be preferable to the other?

B. Cesarek: Just a demonstration that we’re trying to go green.

???:

A. Rosenbaum: So some people might not print them up and that would save some paper.

P. Henry: If we did go electronically for the minutes, actually it would make sense electronic for the agenda as well and that would be something again, I didn’t get this until this morning so it would helpful for me to get everything electronically not just the minutes.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, any comments on that? The agenda should also come electronically.

???:

A. Rosenbaum: Support it. Yes?

C. Thompson: I do appreciate it coming electronically because it gets to me sooner but I print it out so it’s whether the department is baring the cost or whether me personally if I’m printing them out at home.

A. Rosenbaum: So that would support Professor Baker’s suggestion that we do it both ways, that way you could have a hard copy and you would also get them more quickly. So should we take just a vote on this? A straw poll? So why don’t we separate them out and we’ll see what the vote is. All in favor of having the agenda sent out – well, how should we frame this. We’ll vote for electronic, then paper, then both. So vote for one. If you want them both then vote for both. Okay. Electronic. This is the agenda. Well, we’re do them separately. This is agenda only. Okay. Agenda, paper. Agenda, both ways.

President Peters: They got it by one or two.
A. Rosenbaum: What have we got?

D. Jarman: 14/0/15

A. Rosenbaum: So by the narrowest of margins we will send out the agenda both ways; electronically and paper. Minutes, same format. Who wants to vote for minutes electronically? Keep your hands way up. This is an important vote. You got it? Paper minutes? No. Both ways; minutes both ways.

D. Jarman: 14/0/13

A. Rosenbaum: The minutes will come electronically only. So you will get both for the agenda and only electronic minutes, again by the narrowest of margins. Yes? Are you changing your vote?

J. Brubaker: I guess it’s a little late but the reason that I said both is that it comes back to back. I can’t print out back to back so it actually saves paper if you print it out.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, but unfortunately we already had the election so unless we have to have a motion to reconsider? I’m kidding. So, thank you.

President Peters: All right.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters: Are there any comments or questions from the floor?

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2009 – 2010 Meeting Schedule (Page 25)

President Peters: Information Item. We have the schedule on page 25 for meetings this year.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Peters: Well then as you go home tonight, I want you to do three things for me. I want you to cover your cough, wash your hands and pray I finish my State of the University speech tonight. We’re adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.