UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM

Disclaimer: These minutes should not be taken as a verbatim transcript but rather as a shortened summary that is intended to reflect the essence of statements made at the meeting. Many comments have been omitted and, in some cases, factual and grammatical errors corrected. The full verbatim transcript is available online at the University Council website under University Council under Agendas, Meetings & Transcripts.


R. Martin attended for J. Brubaker.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

ABSENT: Akinyemi, Banks, Boughton, Castle, Freedman, Gupta, Jaffee, Johnson, Mogren, Morris, Richmond, Robertson, Schneider, Schols, Seaver, Stephen, Tollerud, Venaas, Vohra, Watson,

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:07PM

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thu made the motion; Henry was second. The Agenda was approved as amended by the addition of a report from B. Jaffee (Resource, Space, & Budget) and a report from J. Erman/R. Alden to New Business.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9 (sent electronically)

Henry made the motion; Lusk was second. The minutes were approved as amended by the addition of B. Lusk’s statement that nursing students could be utilized to administer flu shots.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: There has been a concerted effort on the part of a spontaneous coalition of students, faculty, and representatives of community colleges, public universities, even the Chicago public schools to try to make the case to the Legislature and the Governor to restore the MAP funding which was cut by 50%. He acknowledged the letter of support from the NIU
Faculty Senate and reported that it was delivered to the IBHE. He introduced R. Alden to update the UC on the October 15th rally of students in Springfield.

**R. Alden:** Reiterated the importance of getting the MAP funds restored and asked that faculty be made aware of the rally. He stated that faculty would not be required to excuse absences for purposes of attending the rally but suggested that they make whatever accommodations they felt were reasonable and that they make arrangements with any affected students in their classes.

**President Peters:** Announced that he would be attending the rally and along with presidents from other campuses would be speaking to legislators. He gave the UC a snapshot view of the state budgetary problems including the fact that the state is four months and 2 billion dollars behind in its payments and its disbursements to various vendors. Collectively the general revenue budgets for state colleges and universities showed an increase of about 34.8 million dollars but that included federal stimulus money. For public universities from FY 2002 to FY 2010, 109 million has come out of the base budgets. The NIU budget includes about 4 million dollars in stimulus money that disappears in FY 2011, unless the state restores it. NIU has budgeted prudently, and has cut back temporarily on expending for major equipment. The current focus is on the 5,029 students currently receiving MAP support. This brings in a base of about 11 million per semester. Since most MAP students bring in a Pell grant and a Stafford Loan as well as pay room and board, the economic impact on NIU will be substantial if MAP funds are not restored. He also suggested that although the capital budget has been approved, the money has yet to be released by the state. The state’s bond rating is not good, however, and they will have to float bonds to finance these projects. He also noted that the pension plan is underfunded, although SURS is the healthiest pension plan in the state.

**President Peters:** introduced Provost Alden, to talk about the baccalaureate review process.

**R. Alden:** The task force produced a very good draft document on baccalaureate goals and they are asking for everybody’s input now. You’ve probably seen the request for surveys so please take a little time to look at the surveys and complete them. We also have the First Year Experience group working on the nine different areas of the university and exploring ways to improve our first year experience. These two items are clearly part of the student success and curricular transformation components of our Strategic Plan.

**J. Kowalski:** speaking as a member of the Undergrad Baccalaureate Experience Steering Committee, supported the provost’s statement and encouraged faculty and staff to provide their input. He directed them to the NIU homepage link to the reports.

**President Peters:** Called the Council’s attention to the Forward Together Forward Memorial. It was quietly introduced. Walk by and what a beautiful and serene memorial it is. He also noted that the College of Liberal Arts had its 50th anniversary party where it honored fifty outstanding graduates from the decades.

V. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   A. Proposed changes to Bylaw 16 – see attached from Terry Bishop – refer to Rules and Governance. (Pages 3 - 4)

   Thu made the motion; Kowalski was second. The motion passed.

VI. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES**
A. FAC to IBHE - Earl Hansen - report. (Pages 5 – 7)

E. Hansen: The points that were discussed were: the problems at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, the fact that some members of the FAC were concerned that some members of the IBHE might not be advocates for higher education, and that there is a position available on the Illinois Board of Higher Education for one faculty member from one of the two or four year institutions within the state. They’re discussing how we would get somebody from one of these institutions on the IBHE. The MAP issue took up most of the meeting time. There was also some discussion of the issue regarding reducing textbook costs. The next meeting of the FAC will be held at NIU on October 16th.

A. Rosenbaum: stated that of the things that came up after Earl’s report at the Faculty Senate meeting was this item that talks about there being a statute that requires a faculty member to be on the IBHE and questioned why, if there is such a law, is it not being followed?

E. Hansen: Reported that the FAC is working on trying to answer that question.

J. Kowalski: supported the importance of getting an answer to this question.

President Peters: noted that at least two of the current members are emeriti from public universities and wondered if this fulfils the requirement. He supported the idea that the FAC look into the matter further.


E. BOT - Alan Rosenbaum - report. (Pages 8)

A. Rosenbaum: Noted that the full report was attached to the agenda. Much of the information has already been discussed by President Peters. Some of the high points of the meeting were that the Board acknowledged our readiness to deal with the H1N1 anticipated epidemic. John Castle, one of the co-chairs of True North, spoke about the success of that program. He spoke about the faculty/staff initiative which is the next phase. Trustees were informed about the new Student Advising Center and invited to tour the facility. The internal budget for the university was approved. The capital budget request for FY 2011 was approved, and the request included funds for the new Computer Science and Technology building.

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

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee - Barbara Jaffee, Chair – report – walk-in

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 – Abijit Gupta, Chair – no report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed University Holidays for 2010 (Page 9)

The 2010 holiday schedule was voted on and passed without dissent.

B. NSF Requirements for Ethical Training (Walk-In Item)

R. Alden: Called on Jim Erman to give the background about what he would like to propose as a process to deal with a Federally mandated policy on the ethical conduct of research.

J. Erman: Last week NSF posted revised versions of their proposal and award policies and procedures guides and one of the changes states: “An institution must have a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students and post-doctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research.” Institutions must certify to this and it’s required for each proposal. This policy will go into effect on January 4, 2010. This means that for each faculty member that submits a research proposal to the National Science Foundation, the university will have to certify that there has been training in the ethical conduct of research and also maintain oversight. NIU is in a good position to comply with that mandate. We have a research integrity policy, and an intellectual property policy. We have policies on the use of human subjects in research, animals in research, and bio-safety concerns. The Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee met on September 28 to consider this mandate and they are recommending that each faculty member that applies for NSF funding must certify that students who will be supported by the grant will receive the appropriate training. We’ll actually have on-line modules that the P.I. can access for student training and this will also allow us to maintain oversight so we do have a solution for the NSF mandate.

The second piece of information is that NIH will probably announce similar guidelines in February of next year but they will be more heavily weighted toward conflict of interest policies. Our current conflict of interest policy is undergoing revision based on NIH guidelines, is not complete, and it’s anticipated that we’ll have to be in compliance by the end of the academic year, say May or June of 2010, in order for our faculty to continue to apply for NIH funded grants.

R. Alden: proposed that the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the Office of the General Counsel get together, take the current draft policy for the larger university-level conflict of interest, extract those sections that have to do with research and create a draft document, working with his office, and then bring that document to the Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee. All the training modules that have been developed have been largely produced by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center based on the input from RCS and so they would review the draft policy and bring it for vetting to the Graduate Council and then to the
University Council. This process will have to be expedited in order to meet the deadlines. He proposed that we apply a policy for responsible conduct of research or scholarship to any project that requires funding, whether it’s internal, whether it’s state, whether it’s private sector, or whether it’s from an agency.

C. McCord: inquired whether the requirement for the training modules would only apply where an agency required the training modules.

R. Alden: agreed that the policies for the responsible conduct of scholarship as well as the training should apply to all funded research.

P. Henry: asked about the mechanism for including faculty input.

R. Alden: suggested that if faculty have any concerns they can contact their Graduate Council representative who can serve a liaison function. He also reiterated that any policy changes would have to be vetted and approved by the University Council, where faculty would again have input.

Baker made the motion that the procedure articulated by R. Alden be implemented; Thu was second. The motion passed.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Alternate Policy (Page 10)

A. Rosenbaum: reported that the list contains the names of alternates who are available to substitute for Council members who are not able to attend a meeting. It is the duty of the Council member to contact the appropriate alternate and make arrangements for them to cover.

President Peters: reported that last week, we had our site visit for our ten year re-accreditation by the NCAA. He thanked everyone who was involved in that review and stated that we probably won’t know finally until April.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.