I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: I call the December 2, 2009 meeting of the University Council to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:12pm.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Peters: II is adoption of today’s agenda. I do not believe we have any walk-ins. Are there any changes to the agenda? Is there a motion to adopt the agenda? I have a motion and a second. All those in favor say aye. All right.

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4 (sent electronically)

President Peters: I know all of you have viewed the electronic minutes of November 4. Are there any additions or corrections? Yes, Bobbie Cesarek.

B. Cesarek: I’ve got some thoughts on just corrections grammatically with capitals, etc. but I noticed in a number of instances there was the use of an I or a me and I thought it was supposed to be more third person so I’ve got those to share throughout the – you don’t want me to point them out necessarily?

President Peters: What we will do is we will accept your editorial correct and grammatical corrections.

B. Cesarek: That would be great.

President Peters: And then you’ll pass them on to – is that okay? Unless there’s something sneaky you’re trying to do.
B. Cesarek: No, not at all.

President Peters: It’s like the royal “we”. All right, any other additions or corrections? All right. Motion to approve the minutes? Is there a second? All those in favor say aye. Okay, we have minutes.

Kowalski made the motion; ??? was second. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

???: This is what happens when people read the minutes.

President Peters: Yes.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving break. I think it’s increasing evident in the life of universities that when we get back from Thanksgiving break, we slip right into commencement. It is probably one of the busiest times for all of us as we catch up on those things we should have done a long time ago and as others – we need decisions that we could have made a long time ago but nonetheless, I know how busy everyone is this time of year. There are a few things – events – I just want to talk about and thank a lot of people. For the past ten years that I’ve been president, Barbara and I have held a luncheon for staff and everybody at the Center here and, you know, those of you who’ve been around as long as I have know the kind of history of that. Barb and I decided to do that our first year here in 2000 because we wanted to meet people. You know there are a lot of folks at NIU and, you know, I know a lot of names and you know a lot of faces but very seldom can you put the two together and shake hands and – so we decided to have this little holiday luncheon, you know, cookies and punch and that kind of thing, soup and sandwich and the first year we planned it and budgeted for about 300 people. Well, I think that year we had 1500 show up; that may have been on the low side and what happened was – loaves and fishes – our wonderful food service people went into the larder and the freezers and pulled out every darned thing that didn’t move and put it out on the tables. I’m sure the Department of Political Science had ordered three dozen cookies for their reception; that was gone. Everything that was – it was kind of a strange bill of fare but everybody got fed. Well, since then we’ve done it every year and I think this past, yesterday, I think we broke our attendance record although we don’t keep attendance and it’s just so great to always see everybody and it’s just sort of a small way of appreciating particularly staff, who don’t always – are able to get out for lunches and so forth and retirees come back and students stumble in and even people from the community kind of come and visit so that’s great and Barbara and I were just kind of overwhelmed by it and I’m not offended by those people who didn’t want to shake hands with me which was probably a very sensible thing to do.

Okay, the other thing I want to talk about is this time of year we have so many activities that go on and another activity that we started well maybe four or five years ago when we opened Altgeld Hall was to do a – we were looking for a venue to showcase the renovated Altgeld Hall to the community; the larger community. Not just the academic community but the DeKalb/Sycamore community because this Altgeld Hall, the castle, was so much a part of their history, you know, the first electrically lit building in the county and that was the university and it was such a beautiful building that we decided to open it up for kind of a holiday open house and we’ve kind of changed the motif every year and two or three years ago I decided to focus on families and children in the community for a couple of reasons. You know, I know how difficult it is for some families with children to find anything to do that is reasonable, like free, and that is safe and is a bit uplifting and not video or digital or, you know, too much sweets – although we did mess that
up one year when we had a cupcake tree. But we focus on families and it’s gotten to be a great tradition. This year again, it’s this Friday from 5:00 to 8:00 and this year we’ve kind of broadened it out and many of the colleges and units are participating and I want to thank you. Just so you know, the theme this year is – we’re really trying to introduce young people to potential careers and my thought is for so many of our young people and maybe those whose economic backgrounds were not as privileged as some of ours, to their first experience at the university ought to be uplifting and it ought to raise their aspiration level and so we’re going to be focusing on, you know, career dreams and we’re going to have the College of Health and Human Services. We’ll have nurses there, musicians, scientists, we’ll have police officers. We’re going to have an Italian restaurant with our hospitality management folks running that and the kids actually serving their parents and having to take reservations. That ought to be interesting and then, you know, they will go through all of these stations and learn what it takes to be in one of these professions. I’m not sure we’re doing lawyers, Jennifer, I’m not sure but then they get to come up and see me in my office and we’re going to produce a diploma for them that will have their name on it and some catchy stuff and they’ll come in and I’ll sign it and I don’t know how the two and the three year olds will react to this, you know. They’re going to want something more substantial like I usually give Huskie dogs but now they’re going to get a diploma. I’m a little bit worried about my reputation now. So anyway, if you know families in the community who are looking for something to do, a lot of university people come by and it’s just a great event. The reason I’m mentioning it today is this year so many other people, other than my office, have participated and put a lot of work and time into this and it’s the kind of thing you don’t need a lot of publicity about but I think it’s the kind of thing universities should do so I want to just bring that to your attention.

Also, just a – we do have a Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow and I will talk about that but commencement is rolling around and Gip Seaver is here and he is sort of the grand master of commencement. Would you just give us a quick commencement report? It’s hard to believe that we’re ready again.

E. Seaver: Sure. I just want to remind everybody that commencement will be on 12th and 13th. On the 12th at 4:00 will be the graduate commencement. On the 13th we’ll have two commencements; one at 9:30 in the morning which is Engineering/Engineering Technology, Arts and Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts and then another ceremony at 2:00 which will be the Business, Education and HHS. We’ll have between 1600 to 1700 students go through commencement. That number is contingent on how many diplomas the president gives out on Friday, however – come through his office. I do – we do really encourage faculty to attend. It’s always nice to have a large number of faculty sitting in front of the students. I know the students greatly appreciate seeing the faculty and staff there and I really would encourage you to attend. I think we have it now where it’s not an all-day event. They go through fairly quickly but I think the one thing we keep being asked is will we shake hands and the plan is for the December commencement is that the President, the deans the Board of Trustee members, etc. will shake the hands of the graduates. As you remember in May we did not do that as recommendation from a number of different individuals but in consulting with a number of individuals, the decision has been made that we will shake the hands. That seems to be a major concern to more people than what time will commencement start but I really would encourage you if you can to please come.

President Peters: And maybe – well, we have a little slip of paper or something for the graduate if they don’t want to shake hands.

E. Seaver: Yeah.
President Peters: They will make some gesture to me or something.

E. Seaver: We might word it in a slightly different way. We will be working with the Convocation staff so that we can instruct students down that day that certainly if they pull their hand away from the President, they still will receive their diploma in the mail.

President Peters: All right and of course the day before, we have graduate – we’ve separated – we have graduate ceremonies on Saturday. So in this regard, let me call upon Vice President Hemphill to give us an update on H1N1, where we are and what you think might happen.

B. Hemphill: Okay. Good afternoon. The President has asked me to share a little bit of information about what we’re seeing about some of things that are going on here at NIU. The good news is that the high level of concern for H1N1 across the country has reduced significantly. Nationally we are beginning to see a decline in overall number of confirmed cases which is something that’s very positive. We are seeing a decline here within the state of Illinois which is also a very, very important piece and we’re seeing that similar trend as I mentioned nationally. Here at NIU we set up a system to be able to begin to track influenza-like symptoms and in doing that we worked directly with the Provost’s Office and we are asking faculty to reach out if they were to begin to witness I think it was 20% Ray – a 20% absent rate in terms of classes. We also worked directly with our residence halls and a lot of the departments across campus that work most closely with students and we worked with Human Resources in terms of reporting faculty absences and so we developed a system to be able to sort of track how we were doing on a week-to-week basis through our health center on campus and three weeks ago we had a reported number of 141 cases of influenza-like illness and two weeks after that, especially last week, we were down to about 65 reported cases of influenza-like symptoms. Now that doesn’t mean H1N1 in terms of someone leaving because they’re ill with flu-like symptoms and so at this point we’ve been receiving our medication in terms of the vaccine. We’ve been working very closely in terms of with our students in making sure that we are providing them the vaccine. All of our police officers as well our staff with the health center, they already – they were the first to actually receive the vaccine which was very, very helpful and we’ve continued to receive shipments pretty regularly now and so we’re pretty pleased with that. At this point we feel that we’re prepared and we’ll going to continue to follow all of the safety procedures that have been put in place by the university.

President Peters: Good. Any questions on that? Yeah?

P. Henry: --- providing flu shots for faculty as there was for the regular flu?

B. Hemphill: At this point we are encouraging faculty and staff to work with whatever your local health department would be. We just simply, the first three weeks – just to give you some indication – we’ve only received to date since they started releasing it about 1500 doses of the vaccine so we just aren’t receiving enough to be able to address the needs of faculty and staff and so we are encouraging individuals to work with their local health department.

President Peters: But it is true that even though we received 1500, that’s a pretty good allocation. You know, there are some places that aren’t getting anywhere near that. We worked pretty hard and in close cooperation with DeKalb County Health that really runs this. They’re in charge. Remember I told you the Coroner is in charge and so, you know, I’ve talked to some Presidents across the country in rural areas that – they’ve gotten very little of this so – and I don’t know how ubiquitous the distribution is throughout our region. A lot of our staff do not live in DeKalb, you know, they live in outlying areas. Any – okay, yeah?
A. Gupta: I guess ?? that I live in DuPage county so I can’t speak for DeKalb county or Kane county but in DuPage county, anybody wants to get H1N1 shot they can get it. All I had to do is call the health department, they make an appointment and you go in and don’t even have to stand in line. It’s just amazingly organized.

President Peters: That’s because they have more gubernatorial candidates per square mile than any – no, that’s good to know. All right, any other – okay. Provost Alden is going to give us just a brief update on the searches that we have out there.

R. Alden: As you all know, we have two searches going on now for executive administrative positions. The first candidate for Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies came in Monday and Tuesday. The next final two candidates come in next week on Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday/Thursday I believe and we hope to get your input so please plan on attending one or more of the forums and turn in your evaluations as soon as possible so that we can have the search committee make their final recommendations. We can do all the HR checking and get some sort of negotiation done in the next few weeks. So please keep an eye out for that. I know that it’s tough to do it on exam week but in some ways at least you know what your blocks of time look like.

The other search – we just met with the search firm about the Dean of Education search. Witt/Kieffer is our search firm for that particular search and they had a good meeting with the search committee yesterday and we’ve come up with a time line where after the first of the year when the Chronicle starts up on the second week in January, we will be placing ads in the Chronicle and other appropriate journals and publications and we plan on having a meeting in March. The search firm will of course and do active recruiting for the people who are not on the job market who don’t look for ads and then early March, the first week in March, we will have a first screening to determine who to invite to the airport interview. Later in March, the third week in March, we will have the airport interviews and then the first week in April we will have campus interviews so keep an eye out for that and participate in that as well. Hopefully, by mid-April we will have – negotiate with a successful candidate.

President Peters: Okay, questions? Alan?

A. Rosenbaum: I attended one of the forums on Monday and there were only two other people there and it struck me that the questions that we were asking were important questions, especially to faculty members and I don’t know how many people came to the others so there have been a better turnout at other forums, but at this one it was pretty weak so I would encourage people to try to attend these. It’s an important decision and it affects faculty greatly so I would encourage people to try to get to at least one of those presentations.

President Peters: Okay, good point. Any other questions on that? So we’re moving on. Anything else Ray you want to bring to our attention? Let me see, I got – you probably got a message out of Human Resources from Steve Cunningham. It’s the annual winter advisory information letter. Take a look at that. If you haven’t found your window scraper it is that time of year to do it because we’re expecting some weather. It can happen any time. You know we have one of the best meteorological prediction outfits in the business here. We pay very, very close attention to it. For those of you who are new, it’s very elaborate and we’re geared up and ready to go. I see Steve Cunningham is here if you have any questions about that process. It does involve – well Steve, why don’t you just take two minutes since we have a pretty thin agenda and
once more let people know how we go about making these decisions, what we do and what we don’t do. I put him on the spot here by the way.

**S. Cunningham:** You really did. Well, season’s greetings then. The – well, the weather conditions are always interesting around here. As President Peters said it will often arise rather quickly and we did send the memo out mainly to tell employees, faculty and staff, that they should use their own judgment when severe weather arises and travel conditions are difficult, unless employees are what we call essential services positions where they already know they’re required to attend and to show up regardless of the weather conditions, then we ask our employees to use their own judgment. Not for us to make judgments for them because the university typically will not close. It’s a very unusual status in the weather conditions must be extremely severe to prompt a closure. That’s because of the residential nature of our students and our environment and it’s like shutting down a small city so that’s very rare and we want to make sure everyone understands that. Don’t rely on a closure to make a travel decision but when there is any kind of weather service weather advisory, we consult – involves our weather services area as President Peters mentioned – Gilbert Sebenste is involved in that. He’s very good. He’s a meteorologist and I often get woken up at 4:00am or earlier with Gilbert talking to me about the weather. He’s very excited about the weather. He really gets turned by weather events so we’ll talk and then the next thing I’ll consult with our police department, with other regional police departments and look at road conditions. Then we’ll talk to our Physical Plant people about the status of snow removal and I’ll consult with the Provost Office, usually with Joe Grush, on behalf of Provost Alden about students because the first call is classes and the second call is the organization generally. So finally I’ll talk with Dr. Williams usually around 5:00am and President Peters as well so we all ---

**President Peters:** They wake me up.

**S. Cunningham:** We all are talking in the early hours of the morning to make a final decision. Again, the actual closure is rare and the circumstances would be unusual. Very severe weather conditions that would actually prompt a closure.

**President Peters:** And we – the last couple of years the best source of up to date information that’s official from us is the website and they’ll have a little status button right on the home page and we try to make the broadcast – 6:00am I think they have the local broadcast channels. We check with but we are not necessarily in concert with the schools. They have a different set of issues. They have a different set of issues. So that’s our process. It’s elaborate. It’s tested but there’s always – weather is unpredictable and we try to give as early information as we can, particularly during the day. If you have a mid-day snow storm and you got to get people on the road, off the road so it’s ongoing and the other issue that we have the complicates it a little bit is our educational sites in Naperville, Hoffmann Estate, Rockford whose weather patterns may be different and so it’s not straight forward but we work at it real hard. Ray?

**R. Alden:** One additional thing. If, as a faculty member, you live in a suburb that’s some distance and you decide because of blowing snow or whatever you just can’t make it in, please let your department know, if the university is still open, so that they can let your students know if they call in or if they come looking at the door to see if you’re having class or not just to let them know what’s going on.

**President Peters:** Okay. I hate to bring that up but it’s that time of you. Thank you Steve. Well done.
Just a couple other things. Don’t ask me about bowl games because I don’t know. I think we’re going but one possibility – we have three or four possibilities – one possibility is the International Bowl in Toronto which has presented us, and all schools in the Mid-American Conference and others that have a tie-in to that bowl which is a bigger and Sun Belt I believe, is that you have to have a passport. They changed that this year and so in anticipation of this our athletic – our football team – I think they were taken care of a long time ago but I recently heard a wonderful story and I don’t know all the details but in a period of about 90 minutes we got over 100 band members through the good work of the DeKalb County Clerk and I don’t know what that person’s name is but I’m going to find out and send her a Huskie dog and I thought that was pretty amazing because you know how long that takes. That doesn’t mean to say we’re going to the International Bowl by the way because I don’t know but at least we’re ready if we do go so there you have it.

Okay, enough of that and tomorrow is the Board of Trustees meeting and it’s an important meeting as always but at that point I am going to give a status report to the Board and the community about our budget situation but a broad perspective about the state budget situation, how we fit into it, our cash flow issues this year and then issues as we try to build a budget for FY11. So I’m not going to say too much about that today. I will say a little bit. But, if you can’t attend the Board meeting, our Division of University Relations is doing something new and they didn’t exactly ask me if I was willing to do this. They told me I would be doing this and that is from about 10:30 to 10:45 tomorrow I am going to address the Trustees on the budget and you can pick it up by live video streaming. I mean if you really are bored and then it will be available in a link and if you go to the home page, there will be a button for you to press and that way we’re going to try to get this message out in real time to a great number of people. In addition to that, before Thanksgiving I did about a 30 minute interview with a reporter from the Illinois Channel. I don’t know if you watch the Illinois Channel but it is a government public access/public information channel out of Springfield. At one time I think it was associated with the U of I and it’s picked up by many cable companies and is broadcast and rebroadcast and you can find it at 4:00 in the morning, you know, next to some of those channels have product information. At any rate, I gave a 30 minute interview with them on the budget and it is airing now in various places I believe and we happened to have secured a link to it. It was – the first half of the program was the first debate between Governor Quinn and Controller Dan Hynes and then that went for a half hour and then I’m on and basically I tried to set, you know without ranting and raving which I never thought gets you anywhere, I tried to set the context for the state budget and what’s been going on and so, you know, if you want to kind of hear my thoughts, that would be a place to go. And tomorrow I’m going to step that up and bring it down to a level of NIU and where we are, what we have done and what we need to do to get through this rather difficult and ambiguous situation that, you know, those of you who read the news and follow the news know that we probably are not going to know about the resolution of the budget until the spring. This does get tied up with the politics of the season and, you know, we have primaries coming up February 2 so right now there’s not a lot of policy discussion going on about that issue. It’s more campaign stuff that’s going on. Anyway, I did make some points – just a few points I want to raise as sort of a, you know, a lead in to tomorrow but you know that the big issue that we faced in the beginning of the year was the MAP funding and you know how that – the outcome of that. Our students have been authorized for their checks in the spring. The state hasn’t found the revenue source yet but, you know, I guess that’s progress. But the big issue that you’ve been reading about and people are talking about and some universities have been more than talking about it, they’ve been in some degree of trouble, is the fact that the state is in arrears in its payments to us; its reimbursements based on our general fund. The way I tried to explain this on the Illinois Channel and it’s a wide audience, you know, there are a lot of parents out there and students and tax payers, is to think about our situation like a two income family where the
major breadwinner, in this case or our case the state, provides us – is not getting a paycheck and has not gotten a paycheck for 6 months and it’s worse than that. They’re still working; they’re not on unemployment. They’ve got nothing. So we relied upon the minor income, the secondary household income, which is tuition and fees and everything else to make the university operate and I’ll go into it in a little more detail tomorrow but it’s pretty severe. You know, we need 18 million dollars a month for payroll. We need about 9 million dollars a two week pay period and the lion’s share of that is state money so we need about, if you break that into work days, we need to find about a million dollars a day so we can make payroll and we’ve done it and we’ve planned for it and I’m proud of everybody. We have been very conservative fiscally for three years; we’ve had to. And that’s why we’re in I would say marginally better shape than some because we’ve been very prudent in our budgeting. We haven’t spent wildly or made commitments that we couldn’t honor knowing that the state was in a budget situation, in arrears – out of balance – about a billion dollars a fiscal year and it has rolled and right now it’s about 12 billion dollars. The end result of that is the state hasn’t been timely in its reimbursements to lots of people and lots of agencies. Good news, a good Thanksgiving present for me, Dr. Williams called me up and said we got an 8 million dollar check last week. Our first payment. We get about 8 to 9 million dollars a month but we’re still in arrears 56 million. We’re still in arrears 56 million so the good news is we got a payment. The bad news is – you still owe me 56 million dollars. So I’m going to talk about this tomorrow. It’s pretty frustrating and it has taken up a lot of our time and it can’t continue. And anyway, I discussed this in this TV program and I went on to say how we’ve handled it. How our faculty and our staff have had to become extremely productive. How we’ve delayed purchases and how we’ve used every spare dime to take care of this issue. I then did talk about the related issues of the tardiness of the state in funding its obligations, particularly the backlog in the state reimbursing medical providers for medical services that are delivered to state employees that are covered by the various plans and, you know, we’ve got about 7,000 people covered by quality plans and I don’t know if you’re like me but I know that some of, you know, the people that patch up my falling apart body – that’s what happens when you get older; parts wear out – are waiting. They’re waiting and it makes me damn mad and I’m embarrassed about it. And, you know, now a state employee goes into a physician’s office and they want money up front or you’re a state employee and they know that the state’s backing you up and they, you know, I can’t blame them because how do they – you know, it takes a lot of money to operate, to cash-flow a clinic but anyway, there’s that issue too that we’re concerned about for our employees. Anyway, it kind of goes on and on. Anyway, I ended by saying we all need to – I talked about MAP and I talked about the need for higher education, post-secondary education community to come together and make the case and the case to be made is it’s just bad economic and social policy not to invest in post-secondary education because it leads to better outcomes and we’ve been pretty beat up over the past five years. We have been, you know, there’s been a disinvestment and therefore the state needs to recognize that and we need to rally behind that and, you know, I think all of us in the higher education community, public and those private agencies that get some state funding, are willing to support revenue raising instruments that policy makers can’t agree on first and have something in it for education that will help us out. But, if that doesn’t happen, the way I ended the TV program is to say we’re headed for a fiscal calamity if this is not addressed in the spring. So that’s where we are. I, you know, I have to be serious about this and we all have to be serious about this but let me, again, I’m going to give a little more focused and a little more data tomorrow to the Trustees and I’ll be announcing some actions that we’re taking that are prudent and things we’ve already been doing but I have great faith in this institution. We have very good dedicated workers who’ve picked up the slack, who’ve not let students suffer and we have very prudent managers who know how to make a dollar stretch and we have a supportive Board of Trustees and so I know this is one institution, we’re gonna get through this and, you know, the other thing you should know, there’s just such a tremendous amount of experience in the administration in terms of dealing with these issues. The hundreds of
years and I can’t tell you the number of budget cuts I’ve been through. One thing I know about budget cuts, I know what not to do. I don’t have very many ideas about what to do but I know what not to do and I know you have to take the long view and you have to be pretty calm about it because you know what happens when you’re in these situations? Look – cut somebody else’s budget; they’ve got fat over there or look at all the many people they have or gee, the Department of Political Science – I can use my, our department Barbara – doesn’t have as many majors as I do. Why don’t you cut – that’s not productive. This issue is bigger than that. You can’t cut your way out of this one. We’re gonna need help from the state and from of the state so we might as well make the case and I think we can effectively. Let’s take a page out of how we – why we were successful in getting MAP Awards replaced. Although that was difficult, much easier than the thing I’m talking about so. Anyway, I’ve gone on too long but now you actually don’t have to listen to me tomorrow because I’ve covered most of it. But I’m confident that we’re going to handle this. I’m confident we’re going to make the case. I’m confident that this thing will turn around for us. When it does turn around, I want to make sure there’s an investment and a reinvestment in higher education and this is true of the country as well. So – but you know, it’s going to be a rough couple of years. Not that it’s been easy the last couple of years. Anyway, with that I’m going to end my report. Anybody want to ask – god, after that who would want to ask a question. All right? Okay. So let’s move forward.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report. (Pages 13-14)

President Peters: We have reports. Earl you have a report?

E. Hansen: I have (off mike).

A. Rosenbaum: You need a microphone.

E. Hansen: Sorry. I do have a report and you pretty hit on the top general conversation that’s place at the IBHE much more clearer than our Faculty Advisory Committee, no the IBHE and one of the issues that has come up there and you didn’t mention it but retirees living out of state have already been feeling the pinch from the states where they were getting their medical benefits from prior to our getting hit in the state of Illinois and that was passed on to us about a month and a half or two months ago and it was not every state, it was just periodically in other states.

We met – I have to look at my notes here – we met on the campus of Dominican University on the 13th of November. There were 27 institutions present that have representation and 10 that were not and 1 member of the IBHE who is always there. In the notes that I have given you before, on page 3 where it says “a memo from” announcing IBHE meetings, we – our meetings are a little bit different than the IBHE meetings. We only meet with the IBHE one time a year. I found that to be an extremely informative meeting to watch the IBHE operate. I think that sometimes there’s a misconception that they’re the enemy and they are not. They’re very, very positive in what they’re trying to do for the institution. I just wanted to bring that point up. I also got a memo or an e-mail that went to all our Faculty Advisory Committee members on Monday from, and I don’t remember the institution, but it was one of the eastern Illinois district community colleges where they’ve already announced there’ll be no tuition
waivers next semester and their funding had not been released as of Monday for that person to travel down to Springfield for the meetings. So when you start talking about financial downfalls, it’s certainly there and we’re beginning to see it here. Especially, we seem to have a big representation when we get into the Chicago area because there are more schools up this way but when you look at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, they do an extremely good job in getting their representative up here all the time as does Edwardsville which, when you stop and look at the geographical location of those two in relation to where the rest of the institutions are in the state, that’s phenomenal. They’re doing a good job in getting him there and these people have a lot of input in it.

The – I think in essence everything that you touched on is where we’re at in trying to advise and I know I spoke with you too prior to the meeting and I’m going to convey that message with a broad approach back on and I would like to if possible, get a copy or at least a synopsis of your presentation tomorrow and take it with me and I’ll probably be going down around 4:00am or 5:00am on Friday so I could get it – just before I leave I’d come by the house and pick it up. No? Seriously, I would get it tonight if I could somehow.

President Peters: I make a heck of a French omelet.

E. Hansen: That’s good; I’d go with that. Other than that, everything else in here is pretty self-explanatory on what goes on at these meetings or what I do is take notes and interject concepts or thoughts that run through from different people without hanging it on someone but try to give you a feeling of this group. These are a very dedicated group of people. They really are. They give up a lot to go do this.

President Peters: Earl has been vigilant and really has been giving you good representation. This is the time to do that too.

A. Rosenbaum: Earl, I have a question. The picture you present of the IBHE is a little different from the picture we’ve really heard of the IBHE over the last couple of years and certainly the impression that representatives of other Faculty Senate have of the IBHE as pretty much disinterested and not very effective, is it your view that we’re misled or have they changed? I mean, is this a positive step? Or are we wrong, I mean what is the reality?

E. Hansen: Well, the impression that I’ve got and I’ve only made one IHBE meeting as a Faculty Advisory Committee member but I thought the openness of the meeting and the constructive criticism and the constructive comments were very positive in trying to find a way to get out of this dilemma that the state seems to be putting itself into and I think John is a lot better at addressing that because he attends these things but I know our consensus of our Faculty Advisory Committee is that we think the (TAPE TURNED OVER HERE).

---we have faculty on our Advisory Council move paperwork and so forth. Well, that was met with a “they really can’t do that because you would be infringing on some other possibilities” and was putting ourselves in their position. But they’re shorthanded too and that may or may not be a positive sign.

President Peters: I think that was very, very good. You’ve had some experience.
P. Henry: I just was putting this noting this comment about faculty fellowships for the IBHE and ---

E. Hansen: Where are you on that?

P. Henry: I’m on page 3 – 1, 2, 3, 4 paragraphs from the bottom. Four paragraphs from the bottom where some discussion followed about faculty fellowships at IBHE on the theory that faculty fellows could do work to take pressure off Board staff to free them up and I take it that’s something that’s going to be followed up on at some ---

E. Hansen: We’re trying to yes ---

P. Henry: Very interesting.

E. Hansen: But you never know how these things are going to be represented. The one thing that has confused me I put in there – it’s the third paragraph from the bottom about more discussion followed about possibly meeting with representatives of the Illinois Policy Institute. We all looked at each other and said who are they and so if anybody knows and would like to enlighten me I’d be glad to go down and tell the rest of them who this body is. I always have questions when you start going out and looking for constituencies to assist you that they may or may not have a different ax to grind.

R. Alden: I believe that is the name of that right wing group that is campaigning for reform to the old school way of doing gen ed, having 7 pre-defined courses that have to be taken. It’s a political, very conservative group that gives report cards to universities all over the country, generally coming back with “Fs”. I think they – I believe they call themselves the Illinois Policy Institute in this state but they’re also affiliated with this ATA group which is the Alumni and something – it’s Alumni and Trustee Association but has nothing to do with either group. It was actually formed by Lynn Chaney and a number of very conservative politicians to reclaim higher education for a kind of a political agenda. So if that’s the group, I’m not sure how much meeting you want to do with them.

E. Hansen: Well, since they gave the state of Illinois a grade of “F” in higher education which is my lead in paragraph here with their name in it, I had questions as to what we would be doing with these people to start with. I know in the courses that I’ve struggled in I looked to abandon those pretty quickly when I was an undergrad.

President Peters: Well, that’s an interesting topic. I thought the Provost was being quite temperate in his remarks. The don’t, for instance, like single author courses like Shakespeare I guess. They want ???. a U.S. history required and a whole big thing on Lincoln because ???. versus world history and multiculturalism is a no-no, you know, so you know where they’re going with that. That’s old stuff and so just, you know, we’ve got real problems here that are not going to be resolved by some report card that gives Illinois an “F” and we have to get busy and make the case how important a university education is to the future of this state and let’s get some reinvestment in. That’s where the focus has to be and you start, you know, you start debating with rascals and you won’t get beyond that. Take the high road and I think that’s where the IBHE in its current manifestation. In its current manifestation it’s a force of good and, you know, in some points in its history it has been a regulator and concerned about our graduate
programs. You know, they're in a pretty difficult position because if you think about their role for a moment, to us they're supposed to be advocates. To the state they're supposed to be regulators. You know, it's the typical kind of problem that this quasi bodies have but I would say right now, you're right, they're really good people and the public agenda which focuses on improving graduation rates in Illinois which fits right in with President Obama’s agenda of increasing our post-secondary graduation rate to 60% in 10 years or whatever, very ambitious – it fits right in and that's what we all – we should all be getting behind that. Anybody who wants to join us, it makes sense and I think right now the IBHE is there. Okay. Any other questions for Earl?

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – report

President Peters: All right. Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee. Okay. Ferald?

F. Bryan: Yes, thank you. My report of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting from November 12 is before you. There’ll be a few items I’d like to highlight. I’ll begin with some context. The chair of the committee this year is John Butler, former faculty member, and if you notice he’s starting the committee meetings a half hour earlier with his announced intention to help educate members of the Board so several of the reports scheduled were designed just to do that. A major action item as you can see was the appointment confirmation with rank and tenure for the new Chair of Biological Sciences, Professor Brode and Professor Collins was confirmed as the new Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

In information items, Vice-President Anne Kaplan, made a detailed report on our new classification by the Carnegie Foundation as a “Community Engagement” school and her context was also very interesting as we are now of the NASULGC group of colleges and universities. This group has been asked to rethink it former Land Grant role and community engagement is certainly a major part of that and I found that, and I think the Board found that, as particularly informative.

Next they heard a report from David Stone, Director of the Office of Sponsored Projects, who really just overviewed what most of us already know that what that office does is an excellent job of preparing grant proposals and at the end of that report, long-time Trustee Bob Boey made the comment that he was not only fascinated but he didn’t know such an office existed so I think in his case he was delighted to hear information about that office.

Finally we heard from Vice-President for Research, James Erman, who provided a very informative report on what the Office of Technology Transfer does and I didn’t know how many patents and inventions and licensing agreements we had and those sums listed there are modest but he pointed out that the, you know, the Gatorade patents and so forth are very rare and we should be very pleased with the modest royalties that we do get.

The fourth item, a Strategic Planning update from Provost Alden was postponed to a later date and they will meet again in March and that concludes my report.

President Peters: Questions? Ray?

R. Alden: Just a clarification. The next committee meetings I believe assuming the Board passes them tomorrow will be February 4.
F. Bryan: Actually February 4. Okay, thank you.

President Peters: We’re going to shift the spring meetings a little bit if they approve.

F. Bryan: Okay.


President Peters: Alan, Board of Trustees Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee report.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, the committee met on February, excuse me, November 12. The first several items represent pass throughs where the money has been provided by granting agencies and the Board of Trustees were just asked to approve the use of that money to do whatever the grants were supposed to be doing.

The next item has to do with the software that is used by the office of Research and Graduate Studies and they need to improve their both their hardware and their software. It sounds like all of these groups that need to improve software are doing a good job of trying to make long-term contracts before old contracts sometimes have expired so that they can get a better deal and save additional money.

Item E was an interesting one that was a requirement of the state and that is whenever we take a computer out of service we are supposed to follow a procedure for wiping the disk, the hard drives, clean of data. The university apparently has already been in compliance with this but it was necessary for the Board of Trustees to approve that anyway but it was not anything new. It doesn’t represent any new procedures.

One of the more interesting things is that we have a number of initiatives that involve working with contractors who make energy related improvements at the university and it doesn’t require any expenditure of money but rather these are paid for by the energy savings that the university realizes from the improvements and apparently if we don’t realize any energy savings, we don’t pay them so they’re taking the full risk and they’re laying out the money. These are long-term paybacks and when they’re done being paid back, apparently the university continues to benefit from whatever energy savings these improvements generate.

I think that was the most important. There was also an upgrade of the Oracle database system which we’ve all of course fallen in love with over the years that operates I believe the PeopleSoft system and so that has to be maintained and serviced and that’s what that money is for.

So these were the major items of interest in the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee meeting.

President Peters: Any questions. I read a report on an airplane recently that staggered me and it was kind of a retrospective of where enterprises, corporate and so forth, but also talked about educational enterprises and broke that down by K-12 – the investment curve and increase in technology and its projections for the future and it is – the one thing
that I know drives presidents crazy and that’s the ever, ever increasing need to invest in both the current technology and then the disruptive technologies when something comes – a gizmo comes along and knocks everything out of place. It is, you know, it keeps everybody awake at night. How do you keep feeding the beast because you have to have it. So if everybody is interested, I’ll see if I can find that article.


President Peters: Okay. Board of Trustees Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs, Jay and Bobbie.

J. Monteiro: I’m going to give the report.

President Peters: Jay, you’re on Jay.

J. Monteiro: All righty. The LAEA committee also met November 12. During the Veto Session Update and 96th General Assembly report, Ken Zehnder announced that the Illinois state had made Manny Sanchez’s appointment to the NIU Board of Trustees official and, if I heard right, that was after 3 years?

President Peters: Two years.

J. Monteiro: Two years. Okay.

President Peters: It’s bad Jay; it’s not that bad.

J. Monteiro: Okay. He reported also that the language for securing spring MAP Awards was finalized at $215 million dollars however, as you have mentioned earlier, that funding has not been secured yet. Ken also reported on a number of bills that were over-ridden during the week of the Veto Session and you can read through those yourself and President Peters you had requested that the funds be released for the Stevens Building, Cole Hall and the research money for the Technology Building and as I understand, those bonds have still not been issued. That’s correct?

President Peters: Right.

J. Monteiro: During the Congressional Report Lori Clark gave a brief report and she stated that health care reform legislation is going to be the main subject discussed by the U.S. Senate for the rest of the year.

Dr. David Stone then gave a report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The ARRA provides $21.5 billion dollars in additional funding for research and development and at the time the law was passed, NIU had 48 research proposals with a value of $16.7 million dollars eligible for reconsideration by the National Science Foundation and to date, NIU has been awarded 5 of the ARRA awards totaling $4 million dollars.
Then Dr. Paul Bauer gave a presentation on Internet2 Technology and he gave a lot of information regarding all the different uses the School of Music has used Internet2 for.

Then Jeffrey Compher gave an update on the Athletic certification and he reported that the NCAA had found 9 minor issues with the NIU reaccreditation report and that those issues are being addressed currently. He also talked about the mission and values of the Athletic Department and I wanted to point out one of the things that was very impressive that he talked about was that NIU has had eight straight semesters of all of athletes achieving a GPA of 3.0 or above and that concludes my report.

**President Peters:** Good. Very comprehensive. Any questions on that?

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – no report.

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 – report.

1. **Bylaw 16** – [Athletic Board changes](#). FIRST READING (Pages 9-10)

**President Peters:** Now, I think we have some action. Moving on down to Rules and Governance Committee, Rebecca, we have a first a first reading on Athletic Board changes.

**R. Butler:** Yes. This is the first reading for the Athletic Board changes that would be a revision of Bylaw 16 of the Constitution and that’s on pages 9 and 10 of your packet and what I’d like to do is turn this over to Terry Bishop who is the Chair of the Athletic Board to describe those changes in detail.

**T. Bishop:** Recognizing where this is on the agenda, I’ll try to be brief. There are four changes that the Athletic Board has asked University Council to approve to the Constitutional Bylaws and the background for these changes is during the NCAA review cycle that took place in the place in the last year and a half culminating in visitation this fall and led to our recertification but we recognized some discrepancies both in – just in language for one of the changes and the others were in operating procedures that need to be kind of clarified/rectified. So these four changes are illustrated or described on the attachment, the last attachment in the packet.

The first change is one which in terms of the composition of the Athletic Board, we have representatives of all the colleges, operating staff, etc. We also have student representation both from the Student Association as well as the athletic – student athletes as well and it was in the election of the student athletes. The Bylaws currently suggest that the Student Association conduct an election in the spring of all students to elect the student athletes. What we found first of all was that was not going on. Secondly, it wouldn’t attract much interest in terms of the general student body voting for the student
athlete reps. The student athletes do have a Student Athlete Advisory Council; otherwise
know as SAAC which represents their interests. There is only one Student Athlete
Advisory Council; there aren’t two groups as there were in the past. There used to be a
man’s group; there used to be a woman’s group. So what we’re – the old stipulation was
that again this selection be conducted in the spring by the Student Association and the
athletes would be nominated and elected by respective male and female groups. Well,
the change is that one male, one female athlete nominate and elected by the Student
Athlete Advisory Council and taking out the spring election because the truth is we
typically would have to ask for different representation from semester to semester
depending on class schedules and unanticipated, you know, demands on student athlete
time. So it gives us greater flexibility to make sure we have student athlete
representation.

The second item for change reflects a name change which from my understanding is not
something of substantial nature that we need to engage in significant discussion or debate
over. The Huskie Club was changed to Huskie Athletic Scholarship Fund.

The third item deals with scheduling and would collapse Bylaw 16.124 and 125 into a
renumbered 16.124 and both of these suggested the Board would approve all schedules
and all athletic competitions and given the nature of conference and NCAA scheduling,
given the nature of even last minute changes to schedules, to follow the stipulation in the
Bylaws as they currently are written, we literally would have to conduct ad hoc meetings
on a fairly regular basis to – a good example is the baseball team frequently in the spring
may play a double header or have a game scheduled Friday/Saturday but get rained out
on Friday and reschedule to Saturday. To stay in clear, you know, compliancy – thank
you – with the Bylaws we’d literally have to, you know, vote on the modified schedule so
that the team could double up on Saturday to play that second game. Instead of playing
Friday/Saturday playing two on Saturday. The conference schedules, all basketball
games and conference football games for us, we don’t approve those but what we can do
is review schedules, set policies. We have a final exams policy. We don’t allow athletic
events to be scheduled from the beginning of finals week through the end of finals week.
In fact, the day preceding finals week there are other things that we can do to look at
class time missed, things like that so we’ve suggested this modification which really
reflects the role of the Athletic Board as a policy board or oversight board, not a day-to-
day approve the schedules from moment-to-moment kind of a board.

In the fourth item, similar to that, again it’s just that we approve all awards, type of
awards, cost of awards. Those three things in particular are things which are regulated
directly by the NCAA. We really don’t have a say in stipulating what the price
limitations or the nature of awards or recognition that the athletes can be accorded. As
far as issues related to eligibility; same thing, NCAA.

So what we are suggesting is that again the Bylaws be modified to reflect that what we do
is we review our performance relative to the NCAA guideline in the case of
accommodations whether both state and federal laws regarding accommodations are
being addressed so it puts us again into more of an oversight role as opposed to
suggesting that we make the rules in some of these areas which we really don’t. I think it
reflects the more accurate picture of what the role of the Athletic Board is and has been
and so – we can handle either questions now or since this is the first reading, we won’t
actually bring this issue up to vote until next meeting, we can handle further questions at
that point.
President Peters: That’s right. This is on the floor. It’s been put forward. We could take any comments or suggestions to the Rules Committee in case something needs to be addressed or better explained and it will come back for second reading. Go ahead?

A. Rosenbaum: I just had one question. In the item where it previously said that the elections were in the spring, you’ve now taken that out. Even when you said it was in the spring, you said we didn’t have the elections anyway so what’s going to happen now? Are we going to have elections randomly? I mean, how will that be determined?

T. Bishop: Well again, the Student Athlete Advisory Council will be asked, when there is a vacancy, they will be asked to nominate and elect a representative. That vacancy is usually created either by the graduation of a student athlete representative or by a change in their schedule which would not allow them to attend our meetings which are normally scheduled on Wednesdays at 1:00 and with either practice schedules or academic schedules they are unable to attend. So the event which would precipitate the request to SAAC to nominate and elect another representative would be that that position is no longer filled so it’s pretty straight forward.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay.

T. Bishop: Again, having somebody just elected in the spring that normally; it just didn’t work. We couldn’t get student athletes elected in the spring and so we can go to SAAC at any time and say either a student athlete is not attending the meetings and representing the student groups that we like to have representation from and then they can do that and they meet on an ongoing basis and they have their own governance structure.

A. Rosenbaum: But you don’t want any of that language that you just mentioned put into the ---

T. Bishop: If we did then we’d be out of compliance every time we went to an alternative scheduling time. You understand what I’m saying? Since it so happens so often that we may have to have an ad hoc election, then we’re violating our Bylaws by specifying that those elections are always going to be held in the spring.

A. Rosenbaum: No, no I’m not saying you should hold them in the spring but you’re just saying on an as needed basis if there’s a vacancy or something like that, do you want that language “when there’s a vacancy” put into the Bylaw change.

T. Bishop: Well, we could do that. Yeah, that would be great. If you think that’s necessary.

P. Henry: I think that if we just put in as needed.

President Peters: Okay, that’s something to consider to bring back for second reading. That’s sensible. I think ?? in our Bylaws specify who’s on the Athletic Committee and who appoints. I appoint a couple. We do it kind of annually in the beginning of the year to see who’s around and whose terms have run out but with the students, it’s always sometimes semester by semester and it’s a little more fluid. This really takes care of that. All right? Good. Any other questions on that? I think the Athletic Board. They’ve done a lot of good work. Rules Committee and again the Recertification Committee which
we’re about ready to put in all of our changes now in our Recertification if we haven’t already and it looks like we’ll be okay.

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

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Peters: Okay, let’s see, any old business – unfinished business rather.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

President Peters: I’m going to call upon our Executive Secretary for an item of new business.

A. Rosenbaum: As many of you know, this is Donna Jarman’s last meeting as Administrative Assistant to University Council after ten years of service and she is retiring and we are all delighted for her although we are also anticipating that losing her will be a detriment to the office and we will try and get by. We are also introducing our, I don’t want to say replacement, but Donna’s successor, Robin Anderson, who is sitting next to Donna at the table. So if you get a chance, you can come and say hello to Robin who will hopefully be with us for a long time.

We also have a proclamation or I guess it’s framed as a resolution. I guess it’s more of a proclamation for Donna which I will read to you.

Whereas Donna Jarman is marking thirty years as a loyal and exemplary employee of Northern Illinois University and whereas Donna first served as an Administrative Assistant in the Personnel Office and to the Departments of Curriculum and Instruction, Undergraduate Business, Journalism, and History and whereas she has been the Administrative Assistant to the University Council and the Faculty Senate since 2000 and whereas (this is a long one) and whereas she is now trained and been the right hand to four presidents of those assemblies, populated their committees, nudged and prodded their leaders to file reports on time, maintained the website, edited meeting transcripts and produced minutes and whereas Donna is ready to begin her well-deserved retirement and move north to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she and her husband plan to open and operate a resort and whereas today, the second of December 2009 is Donna’s last meeting of the University Council and whereas she will conclude her NIU career Friday, December 18 and enjoy a farewell reception planned for a week from tomorrow, now be it resolved on behalf of this Council and the entire University that formal congratulations and thanks go to Donna for her long and faithful commitment to NIU along with wishes of good luck in her new adventures in business and during the rest of her retirement.

Presented this second day of December 2009.

President Peters: Is there a motion to approve this proclamation? Is there a second? By acclamation. Congratulations. Do they serve beer at that resort?
A. Rosenbaum: I would like some. Just so you have the details also. The formal reception will be on Thursday, December 10 from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon in Altgeld Hall, Room 315. That’s the Board of Trustees room so we hope that you will all join us there and we will invite previous presidents, those are still at the university, to come to that as well and so we hope to see you all at that reception.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters: Is there anything for the good of the order?

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Peters: We’re adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM