UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT
Wednesday, February 22, 2012 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room


VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Bond, Bozikis, Echols, Foss, Heller, Houze, Hurt, Kreitzer, Latham, Lindvall, Quick, Rollman, Rosato, Rossi, Schoenbachler, Steadman, Vandecreek, Venaas, Vohra, Von Ende,

OTHERS PRESENT: Blakemore, Bryan, Cunningham, Griffin, Hansen, Hemphill, Kaplan, Williams

OTHERS ABSENT: Finley, Freeman, Freeman, Prawitz, Slotsve, Snow, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Peters: I call the February 22, 2012 meeting of the University Council to order.

Meeting called to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

J. Peters: We have two walk-in items to add to the agenda, item VI. A., the Faculty Advisory Committee report to the IBHE, and the second one is VI. K., the Operating Staff Council report. Those two walk-ins complete our agenda. Is there a motion to adopt today’s agenda?

N. Bender: So moved.

J. Peters: Okay, and did you second, Jeff?

J. Kowalski: Second.

J. Peters: Jeff seconded, all right. All those in favor of the agenda, please say, “aye.”

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed?

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2012 UC MEETING
J. Peters: The minutes of February 1 meeting were distributed electronically. Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

R. Lopez: So moved.

S. Farrell: Second.

J. Peters: Are there any additions or corrections? All those in favor of the minutes of February 1, say, “aye.”

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed?

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Peters: All right, welcome everyone. I have some reaction, preliminary reactions to the governor’s budget message. Remember, the last time we met, I think we had heard the State of the State Address, and I indicated that we really wouldn’t have a good feel for the direction that the governor wanted to take the state until today. So, I listened and had a preliminary look at the budget, although I think it’s fair to say that the specific details, we’re still analyzing because the budget book comes and it’s thick, so, you know, what analyze is what I hear and then the speech itself. But, the speech was titled, “Rendezvous with Reality.” That didn’t exactly catch my attention, but, “Rendezvous with Reality,” okay, here we go. I do think that the governor really did focus well on the fiscal problems facing the state and how those woes relate to some structural things that have been accumulated in the budget, and you know what those are, and pension, public pensions, the five public pension systems, are expected to be 15 percent of all general spending this year, that’s $5.2 billion, and he indicated how that has ratcheted up in the past several years, few years, and the reason for the ratcheting, to me, is pretty clear, and that is the state was not putting in their portion, that added to the liability, and that added to the percent of the budget that you had to put in to catch up. So, there you have it, $5.2 billion.

The governor made kind of an interesting distinction. He says three-quarters of the pension costs are non-state employees, and he referenced as non-state employees teachers in the districts, community college people, and university, state university people. So, you’re not state employees according to that analysis, which I guess I’m going to get my copy of the state constitution out for you and the statute that has chartered us. But there you are, you’re not state employees. I think that’s the, “rendezvous” part. We’ve been talking about that in the office, about the real derivation of, “rendezvous,” and what it means.

The state could face, in addition to that, the other problem, structural problem, which is bigger, the state could face $21 billion in unpaid Medicaid bills by 2017, and he went into that quite a bit. The way we do Medicaid in the State of Illinois is very different from the way everybody else does it. So, he said we really have to grapple with those two problems before the legislature gets out of town for the summer. But, he did talk a lot about balanced budget, and I think that’s
encouraging.

There wasn’t an awful lot in that budget, unrealistic program support, which governors like to do. They like to put money into those things that push the state forward that you believe in. There was little of that and more on balancing the budget. In order to work toward this balanced budget, what that really means is about $430 million in spending cuts, which translates, among other things, into about nine or ten percent cuts to the code agencies. Since we’re not state employees, we’re obviously not, we’re not a code agency anyway.

Governor Quinn laid out three priorities involving changing the way the state operates in the 2013 budget and I mentioned one before and one is pension stability. This is on our minds all the time, and we want to reform the system and share the burden. That was his concept. You know, I’ll talk about it a little bit later, but we feel that the Illinois Government and Public Affairs Institute proposal has a lot of merit based on a discussion of that issue, and I’ll talk about that in a minute. And I know Steve Cunningham is here, so let’s set pensions aside, but the pension issue has to be addressed.

Medicaid is maybe even bigger, and that requires restructuring, adjusting eligibility, reduce fraud, efficiencies, and the governor did not indicate how one would do that nor did he indicate how you would exactly do pension reform except shared responsibility. In both instances, he’s impaneled task forces to look at those two issues, Medicaid and pensions. But, he challenged the general assembly to find a solution to those two issues.

For those things that he’d like to invest in on the margins and in order to meet the balanced budget, he did hint at what he called, “tax reforms,” or, “eliminating loopholes,” and he wasn’t very specific on this. But, he talked about offshore oil enterprises that are not taxed, it’s a tax loophole, and some other things. So, business tax loopholes, that’s what I read into that, and that would help pay for the investments in some of the things he wanted to invest in, and that would be education and jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs growth, those two things. He said that strengthening the graduation pipeline is important to produce students that are qualified to attend college and so, in that regard, K-12 is important. He did make some rather strong statements about his commitment to education and how brainpower is the most important thing the state can do to lead to jobs. Brainpower leads to jobs, he said something like that. I’m pleased to report within all of this that the proposed NIU budget, state university budgets, are about the same. We’re grateful that our basic budget is flat. In other words, our general revenue for this year is put in about the same level as it was last year, about $100 million. Remember, our total budget is about $436 million from all sources. Again, $100 million comes from general revenue from the state. I think that’s a vote of confidence in us and the importance of education and higher education from the point of view of the governor.

He did put some money into two education programs. He is very much committed to preschool education, early childhood, and he has earmarked $20 million. And I believe that money would have to come from these closing of the tax loopholes if I read it correctly, for early childhood education. And $50 million to add to the Monetary Award Program fund. So, the Monetary Award Program fund over which we have about 5000 students on campus, which equals about $20 million in MAP funding that the student is awarded, and it comes to us to pay for tuition and other things. There are $440 million in that and about 144,000 students across the state, both
universities, community colleges, private, and for-profit students. You can take that voucher – I don’t want to call it a voucher – that award, and apply it to one of those educational experiences. So, $440 million, and it’s estimated that there are double the number of students. There’s another 140,000 students who are qualified who would like to get it, but it’s a first-come-first-served sort of algorithm. So, he is proposing $50 million more to add to that $442 million I think I is, add $50 million to that, so, that’s what, a little more than ten percent. So, I’m in favor of that. I wish our base budget was increased, but it’s aid to students and a lot of students just can’t afford an education any longer, so I think this is a good thing.

There were other things the governor said that I’m less certain will get funded, but nonetheless, he talked about $1 billion investment in safety and technology for state buildings, and we have at least, it depends on how you estimate it, a $250 million to $500 million in deferred maintenance issues on this campus. So, I think that’s important, that’s part of our Vision 2020. Whether we’ll see any of that, I don’t know.

One thing that the governor didn’t talk about but I’m concerned about is that you know, we have an $8.5 billion backlog in state payments from this fiscal year and maybe even some from the last fiscal year, although we’re paid up. But, I think our last payment was December 6. Our last payment from the state was December 6, so our unfunded liability has grown over, approaching $60 million at this point. So, in the past, what the governor has promoted with little success, was bonding, pass a bonding bill to pay it off and then, based upon increased revenues, it’s like a mortgage or a credit card, and the legislature won’t bite on that. He mentioned tax loopholes, but what I’m reading in that is he has no fiscal plan to accommodate that $8.5 billion in this fiscal year, and that is something that is of great concern to us because of the precarious nature of our cash flow. So, we watched that. See, of all the things, the pensions are crucial, but of all the things that is frustrating to us, it’s this cash flow. It’s the one thing I wish they would fix.

Anyway, I’ll get off the soapbox on that.

Let’s turn to pensions for a moment because that is, among these other things, that is front and center. And, Steve, raise your hand. Steve Cunningham has been working for the public universities, you haven’t seen him around, and he’s doing a great job to help get our views known about pensions and find out what’s going on. A week or so ago, the media people made me use that new Ving technology, I don’t know what Ving is. They walked into my office on a Friday afternoon and I was reading this report and I said, “You know, this is really a good piece of work and our folks need to hear about it.” They said, “We can get you up on Ving right away.” So, they brought a camera in, and I email blasted to everybody and it’s kind of interesting because you can do video clips and you can attach stuff to it and even have a, what do they call it, a monkey survey? So, it’s kind of an interesting communication media. I’m going to try it again when I have some better news.

So, anyway, I asked everybody to really take a look at this because I think there are ideas in here that come from the very prestigious Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs. I say that because I had a research assistantship there for a semester in 1969. Some of the best work that was ever done was done in 1969. It’s built on the idea of shared responsibility, and I hope you can all take a look at that. We’re going to have a forum. Steve, when are we going to do that? You’d better grab a microphone. I don’t have that in front of me. We’re going to have an open forum on this before spring break where we invite everybody, and I imagine we will have a
lot of you and a lot of annuitants will come, and we’re going to go through this and answer questions. Steve, go ahead.

S. Cunningham: I think it’s on Wednesday, the 7th. Am I correct about that?

J. Peters: Oh, here, I have it. There will be a town hall meeting Wednesday, March 7, 1:30 in the Sandburg.

S. Cunningham: So we’ll be prepared there, I think, as the president indicated, to discuss the IGPA report, the sort of the ongoing developments in Springfield of which there are many, and what some of the options and alternatives are. We’ve been reporting on this to different groups for the last 18-24 months, and President Peters has been talking to the campus about this in advance of this time period, but the general consensus is that this general assembly will be the general assembly where there are probably some very long, long-term changes made to the structure and the funding of the pension system. So, it’s very serious and we’re at that point in time that we’ve been doing our best to prepare for. So, that will be our discussion, and I think John indicated that there will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussions in that meeting as well on the 7th.

J. Peters: Our read of what’s going on right now is that the governor has a taskforce on pensions, for which the legislative leaders have joined in partnership, as a bill has to come through the legislature. There are talks that are going on with the complicated set of players involved in the five state pension systems. As I’ve said many times, we have five systems, five different ways of funding and, from the point of view of the governor and the legislature, they have to have one solution. They can’t have five solutions. So, they’re working their way through that, and I can guarantee you that we know an awful lot about pension systems now, and that’s largely thanks to Steve. Do you want to add anything, Steve, about anything that’s going on?

S. Cunningham: Well, there have been just this year, starting last fall, or into the winter and fall, the House Personnel and Pensions Committee passed Senate Bill 512 and most recently, Amendment 2 of Senate Bill 512, and we reported to campus on that. Senate Bill 512 largely is representative of sort of the major variables in pension reform; funding plan; employee contributions; new contributions from whatever source, employee, employer; new defined contribution options versus defined benefit. We discussed and provided testimony on Senate Bill 512 and then went into a number of working group meetings with the House Personnel and Pensions Committee throughout the fall timeframe. Those were really good, productive, open discussions of pension systems, labor, university representatives, other employee representatives all participated in those. This sort of led into the current general assembly where now. There are, I think, currently at least 25 or 30 new pension bills that have been introduced, a wide range of topics, and so we’re fielding those. Eventually, those will all be most likely combined into some sort of omnibus proposal as the president indicated, that will be effective for all of the five major public retirement systems, but probably different ways. There will be some variations because the SURS is similar, yet different, from the TRS. The TRS is the big system, by far the largest, and, of course, the community college sector also participates in the SURS. We’re about half of the SURS compared to the community colleges. So, the options and alternatives, trying to recognize the constitutional guarantee for current participants, that’s been very important to us all along, and President Peters has discussed that also at the legislative level and to annuitants.
statewide, and we’re holding very firm on that. But, all of this relates to the state’s ability to enter into a stable funding plan for unfunded liabilities, and that is what’s driving all of this. Had there not been the unfunded liabilities, we would not be having these discussions right now, because the normal cost of the plan is modest compared to both public and private sector pensions plans. So, this is all about the unfunded liabilities and looking for ways to offset state costs so that the state can stabilize those unfunded liabilities, which is critically really to all of our long-term welfare.

**J. Peters:** Good, so once again, that’s March 7 at 1:30, town hall meeting in Sandburg. And that will be the first of, we may have others, as this develops, but I encourage you to read this document because I think it has the elements of a potential solution, and we can have a good discussion. You know, I never, assistant professor and working my way through university over the years, I never thought about things like this. I was concerned about my students and my research and those sorts of things and I didn’t have even one eye on my future benefits and all that. Even those of you who are in the beginning part of your career, it behooves you to understand this and make your views known and make the right choices because these things add up over the years and we’re going to put a panel in front of you that really, although they may not know the answer, they’ve thought through a lot of the questions and so it’s, I ask you once again to make sure that you read the document and come if you have questions.

All right, now, let me see, there are, this is an election year and in the past week or so, literally hundreds, thousands of bills have been dumped into the hopper, and you know many of which never see the light of day and we are tracking, as we always do, all of these bills as they may relate to NIU. And we research them and, if we need to take a position, we don’t take a position on many bills, but there are some bills we will take a position on, I will, this university, every university, community college, publics and privates, will take a strong view on exemptions on any conceal and carry legislation that would keep us, our ability to keep our campus safe and to keep guns off our campus. So, I don’t know exactly what forum that will all take, but there are a lot of bills out there that are, I think, not in line with that philosophy, and so we will keep you informed of that. There are also many bills that are introduced every year about waivers for dependents for those who work at universities, and we think that’s an important benefit and a good, a public good for the community, and so we will continue to track those. There are many others; they pop up every day, but we have a team of people who evaluate and take positions. So, we’ll keep you informed of those as they move forward in the process. Some of them, the bill goes in and that’s the end of it and they don’t get assigned. It’s a little early right now.

All right, now I want to turn it over to Alan who has a result of a vote.

**A. Rosenbaum:** The, many of you may recall, a while back, we considered the nondiscrimination policy of the university. The Board of Trustees passed a revised nondiscrimination policy and then the University Council voted to change the constitution, itself, to reflect the nondiscrimination policy that had been approved by the Board of Trustees. So, that would have been Article 9.2 of the constitution. This changing the constitution is a three-step process. The first part of it was the vote of the University Council. It then went to a faculty referendum. The full faculty was given the opportunity to vote. We needed a majority of the faculty voting. The final vote from that referendum was 412 voted Yes, 21 voted No. So it passed overwhelmingly at the faculty level. This was sent onto President Peters to be transmitted
to the Board of Trustees. The third, and final step, of this process is the Board of Trustees must approve it, and our expectation is that it will be considered at the March meeting. And I imagine the Board of Trustees will be okay with it since it’s their language that we are putting into the constitution. So, hopefully they will like it as much now as they did when they passed it. That’s it.

**J. Peters:** Oh, okay, I hope you’re right. I think you will be. All right, good work. That’s closing the loop and I’m moving that to the board.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report – walk-in

**J. Peters:** All right, reports from councils, boards, and standing committees. We do have that walk-in report from Earl on Faculty Advisory Committee to the IBHE. Earl.

**E. Hansen:** Thank you, John. A lot of the things that are in this report are things that John was talking about and other issues that have popped up. I’m going to do this real quick with you. The first two paragraphs on page 1 deal with the City Colleges of Chicago and what they’re trying to do to improve their stead with getting graduates. Paragraph three, and I don’t have a copy of these two pieces of legislation, but Ocheng Jany, who is a graduate of Northern Illinois University, passed out some pieces of legislature, one involving accepting transfer credit from community colleges and the other would create a college completion report card act, which kind of makes me wonder what that’s going to entail. Have you looked at that at all?

**J. Peters:** Again, that’s one of those, yes we’re tracking that one. Actually, that one is getting serious consideration. Anything that has to do with articulation, mandated course transferring, which is a national movement, that’s not just in Illinois, is something we look at carefully because it’s a threat to our accreditation and to quality control.

**E. Hansen:** The fourth paragraph, they were addressing the performance-based funding issue, and we were trying to determine how we could, as faculty, let the people that are doing this, understand what we’re trying to do in higher education. And we’re still working on that one as a faculty advisory council.

On page two, first paragraph talks about the role of assessing student learning was a concern. It was mentioned that and we, as a body, feel that should be faculty based and not from some outside source. The second paragraph, a representative by the name of Ken Duncan, he is chair of the house Higher Education Appropriations Committee and he served in the house for ten years, spoke with the group. His committee used a line-by-line budget MAP funding, and its distribution is an issue this spring, he says to us. We go on and he talked about P-20 and the public agenda and so on and so forth. Going onto paragraph three, a concern regarding pensions came up on obligations and that particular one. Pension costs were out of control. Many of our state universities are flushed and looking to student tuition, and that may not be appropriate. The
fact that 90 percent of the City Colleges of Chicago’s students need remediation, it was noted there is a huge cost factor in that, and that’s not the only one that’s got that issue.

If you skip down to the next paragraph, it was mentioned that the grant that Kankakee Community College has to work with area high schools found that many high school students are passed almost regardless of their level of performance, and 94 percent of the KCC freshmen are not college ready. And there is a high failure rate of those who are prepared as a result of what they’re not getting in high school. It was also added that 90 percent of Prairie State College students were similarly not ready. Mr. Duncan found these numbers surprising and I’m amazed at that. He’s chairing a higher education committee, and I would think that he would be aware of this. Of course, I can speak out, I’m a tenured faculty member, I’m not an administrator, but this was the whole issue here. These people are clueless, and this is the best meeting I’ve ever been to because they actually asked us to make a contribution to them, actually come forward and say, “What can we do? What do we need to do?” I’ve been going to these things forever. It’s like pushing a chain down the road with these people. Frustration builds up and God knows, I don’t envy you at all.

Moving onto the next one, Duncan suggested that he would like the FAC to come up with some proposals and testify before his committee. That’s the first time I’ve ever heard anybody ask us to do anything to come forward. We’ve pushed our way forward, but this is the first time someone’s asked us to do it. So, maybe there is hope down the road. Carrie Hightman, paragraph six, chair of the IBHE, was asked of possible shift responsible of covering pension costs, and it’s been going on. It’s asked all the time.

I’m going to skip the first two paragraphs on page 3. The caucuses met. I represent us in the public universities and we picked on several topics that were brought up earlier. One was student loan debt. We could loop up an update on an earlier FAC paper on this. Two, out-of-state institutions of low quality coming in and offering degrees online, off-line, however, is an issue. The history of our accomplishments at the FAC, we’re wondering if we have any or not at times. Outreach to the business sector. I know that in our college, we’ve been doing it for years. I’m sure the College of Business has been doing it for years here, but we need to do that more across the board and we talked to the people at the _≤_ institutions are saying the same thing. Proven interaction with Student Advisory Council. I pursued a statement about the ratio of tenure and tenure tract to non-tenure tract and part-time adjunct faculty and concern with the references of business models from today’s speakers that we were hearing at that presentation and the rest of the stuff was going on. I found in paragraph five, I threw something in there because I wasn’t speaking out there, I was just a fly on the wall. But anyway, a committee of two will investigate what other caucus chairs and possibly a position paper on subjects. The question was asked, “Was Duncan’s statement about MAP for real?” It’s getting to the point where we’re beginning to come out of the woodwork at this Faculty Advisory Council and say, “Do something. Fish or cut bait with us because we’re not getting anywhere.” That’s my opinion of what I’m seeing there, and I don’t think you’ll find that in the minutes.

J. Peters: Keep going.

E. Hansen: I’m done. Put a fork in me.
J. Peters: No, I meant keep going to those meetings. Wow, that was more interesting than the governor’s address today. Good job. Any questions? I appreciate your sense of frustration. A lot of people feel that way. Okay, any other comments? I should have mentioned it, and this is germane, that all the presidents of the public universities and the community colleges attended a luncheon at the governor’s request on education, higher education, a few weeks ago, where he talked about MAP funding, and that’s what he wanted to do. In my memory, that’s the first time, I think maybe Governor Ryan did it in 2000, that a governor has brought the presidents together, and it was, I have to say, that’s a positive thing, and we got a chance to voice our own views about what was happening.

A. Rosenbaum: I have a question. Earl, it seems like this business about the IBHE not paying much attention to the FAC has been sort of an internal problem. Based on other conversations, I’m sort of wondering who the IBHE does listen to, if anyone, and if you have any ideas how we might be able to make our voices heard a little bit more emphatically, whose attention do we have to get in order to get the IBHE to pay some attention to input from the faculties at the universities in this state?

E. Hansen: I think one of the answers to that question is in a survey that may be put out among different institutions within the state as to what the faculty sees as needs and how they may be addressed. That comes with a body count to it because the issue we’ve got is the same issue every state university has got and many of the privates. I mean, we may be Northern Illinois University but they’ve got the same problem at Wheaton College and Elmhurst and other schools, same type of issues. But, they march to a little bit different drumbeat than we do. Then, the community colleges are just a whole other issue.

J. Peters: Okay, did that help you?

A. Rosenbaum: Well, what you’re saying is that the FAC is divided amongst itself, is that the problem?

E. Hansen: No, I didn’t say that we’re divided among ourselves. The issue becomes where division would come in a group like that would be in legislation action that would deal with the for-profit institutions, that some do an excellent job and some don’t. That’s a fact of life. The FAC is not divided among themselves. There are three separate groups, three separate caucus groups that come up with the things that they feel are important and need to be addressed, the privates, the state institutions and then the profit institutions. The issues are so much the same. The big issue right now is that MAP money is going to the for-profits and that’s an issue with both the privates and the state institutions as well as with community colleges. But, as I said, this is the first time in the years that I’ve been doing it that I’ve actually came away from a meeting where they actually asked us to come up with something and present it to one of their bodies that’s making a decision on funding and higher education. In fact, we just actually got people on one of the IBHE committees for the first time, should have been on there years ago. We took years to get that position filled.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay.
J. Peters: Okay? Thank you, Earl. He does a great job. I see him at all the meetings and we kind of exchange looks and like, “Oh my god, why are we here?”

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – report – Pages 3-5

J. Peters: Okay, Andy Small, I think you’re giving the report from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, BOT, is that correct?

A. Small: That’s correct. Good afternoon everyone. I had the privilege of attending the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee meeting with the Board of Trustees. Thank you to the people in the food service; it was a very nice breakfast that we had there before the event started and then there was a swearing in ceremony for Wheeler Coleman, our new Board of Trustees member, I believe he’s taking the place of Manny Sanchez. I believe Manny was an inaugural member of our Board of Trustees years ago, so Manny served with pride and distinction for a long time. One interesting note, Wheeler Coleman stood up and gave a very fine introductory speech and then the judge swore him in and then she kissed him. I’m thinking maybe the Board of Trustees ought to look into this a little more, kissing more of the judges, maybe that will help us in some aspect down the road. I’ll maybe suggest that next time.

J. Peters: They are married, for the record.

A. Small: Oh, is that it?

A. Rosenbaum: For the record and the Northern Star.

A. Small: Well, it was a very warm and touching moment regardless of marriage or whatever.

J. Peters: I can see the headline.

A. Small: We proceeded on then with the third annual report of the outcome of sabbatical leaves. It looks like in the 2008-2009 academic year, 47 faculty were awarded faculty leaves, brought in 25 applications for external grants and projects and produced funding of excess of $5.5 million. It also benefitted 500 students. Two particular faculty leaves were highlighted. The one thing that you saw was the pride and the enthusiasm of these two faculty people when they stood up there and talked about their faculty sabbatical. It was inspiring quite frankly, and if that’s what all these sabbatical leaves are about, unfortunately us staff people, we don’t get sabbatical leaves, so we appreciate pictures and postcards from those guys who do go out for sabbatical leaves. But, these two individuals, one steel band member went down to Costa Rica and one young lady went to Africa for educational purposes, very inspiring and enthusiastic. So, very nice. Next, the committee voted to pass onto the full board to eliminate two emphases and one specialization program. You can read them there. If you are in those particular divisions, departments, specialization programs, you may want to look for another job at this point because it looks like they are phasing those out. They also voted on one complaint that was received for oral communication and that was found to be unjustified. The back page, pages 11 and 12 as you flip over there, those are going to be the sabbatical leaves that are going to be put forward to the full board to be approved for the 2012-2013 academic year. Congratulations to any of you who
are on that list and that completes my report.

**J. Peters:** All right, any questions for Andy on the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs subcommittee? You are absolutely right, those reports are extremely important to the board. I mean, it just reinforces their commitment to support our sabbatical program which really, that’s a misnomer, it’s a meritorious professional development competitive program. It just reinforces their commitment to that kind of program in a time when they disappeared from the American higher education landscape. So, you’re right, it was very fascinating.

**A. Small:** Those people were

**J. Peters:** Just great.

**A. Small:** They were beaming they were so proud.

**C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – report – Page 6**

**J. Peters:** Okay, Alan Rosenbaum has the BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee report.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Okay, I’m going to keep this brief. You have the numbers in front of you. I just want to point out that the headlines were that the FFO subcommittee approved the student fee recommendations for the upcoming year as well as the room and board rates. Under President Peter’s direction, the fee increases are kept to an absolute minimum. Dr. Williams does a great job of keeping the fees as low as possible. These are done in conjunction with the consultation with the students. The student fee recommendations is the students will see an increase of 2.52 percent for the students who pay health insurance. Those who opt out, the percentage is a little bit higher. Room and board rates will increase only about 1.5 percent and this means that there is no increase. This includes no increase in the board rates, so the kids are going to have to eat less next year so that we can keep those fees the same. The committee also approved the mass transit contract for the upcoming year and also the student accident and sickness insurance contract, and this apparently counts for a great deal of the increase that we see in the student fees. Apparently health insurance rates have gone up dramatically and the team from I guess Dr. Williams’ office did a great job of renegotiating.

**J. Peters:** And Student Affairs.

**A. Rosenbaum:** And Student Affairs, sorry, did a great job of getting a very good health insurance policy for our students. It’s a 12-month policy even though the students are only, I think, paying for the two semesters. They are covered during the summer and it’s a, I think, an unusually good contract according to what everyone has said about it. So, these are pretty good increases given what could have happened. Any questions about that?

**D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee –Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – report – Page 7**
J. Peters: Okay, Rosita Lopez has the Legislative, Audit, and External Affairs report I believe.

R. Lopez: Yes, thank you, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Strauss as a trustee and committee chair and so could not be present. Basically, the meeting was opened with sharing important highlights of Governor Quinn’s State of the State speech and urged us to read the details of the address, we just had it put up today by President Peters.

Then, General Assembly and Congressional report, Lori Clark, director of state and federal relations, personally shared an update on Medicaid and pension reform and also on the revocation of general assembly scholarships and revocation of state employee dependent tuition waivers. President Peters thankfully stated his vehement opposition and told them it may be this employee privilege. We all agreed with that. Lori will continue to keep us informed and will keep us updated on what’s going on.

And then University Communications Council report by Bradley Hoey. Basically, he shared the importance of sharing our stories and resources and initiatives as a marketing, continuing for the university and really, the goal is to continue to develop, refine, and share communication initiatives and strategies that will enhance the messaging efforts of communication and marketing throughout the university. He shared a story of a student from South Korea with great talent who faced hardship that probably would have stopped her from completing her time at NIU and her degree. Because her story was shared and highlighted on Northern Today, she was able to get the help she needed and complete her studies. She has great talent and will be performing at the NIU Red and Black event and so we thanked him as well for all his information and that is it for my report. Any questions?

J. Peters: Thank you, very good.

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – Karen Brandt, Chair – no report

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Laurie Elish-Piper, Chair – report – Page 8

J. Peters: All right, now moving on to our standing committees, I think Laurie Elish-Piper has the Resource, Space, and Budgets Committee report, page 8.

L. Elish-Piper: Yes, thank you. Much of the report was already included in President Peter’s opening remarks, so I’ll just draw your attention to a couple of points that weren’t specifically mentioned.

Item 1.c., at our last meeting we found out that the MAP funding for fall 2011 has been received. That was approximately $10 million, but we’re still waiting on a similar amount for the spring term. So, in addition to what the state owes us, there is also that MAP funding that gets rolled into the total.

In addition, item 1.e., we had an update on some of the capital projects that are either ongoing or planned. As you know, Cole Hall is open, and hopefully you’ve had a chance to visit it or to
participate in the grand opening event. We’re told that the first-year residence halls are still on track to open in the fall for our incoming freshman students. We also got an update regarding the use of performance contracts to deal with some of the repairs such as roofs and electrical projects and possibly the steam lines.

Our group is going to be addressing the budget priorities task that we’ve been charged with at our next meeting where we’re going to formulate a statement encapsulating what our thoughts are regarding where the budget priorities should be for the coming year and we will be doing that early enough that we’ll be able to bring it back both to Faculty Senate and to this body for input before we then officially present it and vote on it at hopefully the last meeting of the year.

**J. Peters:** Really good, good. Okay, comments or questions?

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Suzanne Willis, Chair – no report

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Greene, Chair – report

**J. Peters:** Moving along, we have Professor Greene, chair, University Affairs Committee.

1. 2021-2022 academic calendar – Page 9

**R. Greene:** Yes, let’s see. I’d like to call your attention to the academic year 2022 academic calendar on page 9. I’d like to move on behalf of the University Affairs Committee that the academic calendar for 2022 be approved.

**J. Peters:** All right, there is a motion on the floor to approve 2022. We need a second.

D. Haliczer: Second.

**J. Peters:** Deb Haliczer seconds. All right, discussion, 2022. Okay. All in favor.

**A. Rosenbaum:** 1-Yes, 2-No, 3-Abstention.

**J. Peters:** 1 is yes, 2 is no, 3 is abstention.

**A. Rosenbaum:** We’re voting on the calendar. Are we ready? We’re ready. All right, voting is closed.

**A. Rosenbaum:** 37-YES, 2-ABSTAIN. This passes.

2. Revisions to Guidelines and Principles for Establishment of Academic Calendar – Page 10

**J. Peters:** He has one more item I think.

**A. Rosenbaum:** All right, you have one more, Richard.
R. Greene: Okay, then moving on, on the back page of the academic calendar, guidelines and principles. You see some edits, some additions to the document, basically indicates specific days of the week for particular events. So, again on behalf of the University Affairs Committee, I’d like to make a motion that these changes be approved.

J. Peters: Is there a second?

A. Rosenbaum: Wait a minute, we’re having technical difficulties.

J. Peters: We can raise hands. We can do it the old fashioned way.

A. Rosenbaum: We could. We’re going to put these on ebay, try to recoup our investment.

J. Peters: We can just blame ITS.

A. Rosenbaum: Are we good to go? No? All right, let’s do a voice vote. This is simple.

J. Peters: Okay we’re going to use a voice vote, so all in favor of these changes, say, “Yes.”

Members: Aye/yes.


The motion passed by voice vote.

J. Student Association – Austin Quick, Speaker – report – Pages 11-12

J. Peters: Okay, I don’t see Austin Quick here, but there is a Student Association report. We have someone who will give that report?

M. Theodore: Yes, I’ll be filling in on that. As everyone can see, we have a lot of our main points here. I’ll just be giving an update on two of them. The student satisfaction projection, which is a student survey about all department services, gaining student opinions and input is being led by our director of student life. It’s operating on schedule, and the executive branch will be processing results by the end of the semester, so we will be reporting those back. The other point of importance is the last meeting we mentioned that we were auditing the top 15 S.A.-funded organizations, and an update on that is all 15 organizations, including the Student Association, have turned in their full ledgers on time and the S.A. will be reviewing them via the Rules and Procedures Committee. So, those are just the top two updates from the Student Association that I know of.

J. Peters: Okay, questions on Student Affairs report?

K. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – report – walk-in

J. Peters: Okay, and Andy Small had that walk-in Operating Staff Council report.
A. Small: Thank you President Peters. A few highlights. Workplace Issues Committee is working on the employee evaluation form. We encourage everyone to evaluate their employees on an annual basis. Outstanding Service Award, you have until February 24 to submit the application for the Outstanding Service Awards to any of the deserving operating staff people in your area. The Public Relations Committee, we received four applications for our Civil Service Dependent Scholarship. For those of you who may not know what that is, the operating staff raised $25,000 to endow dependent scholarships. We give those to dependents of operating staff people here at NIU. We’re proud to give those to two deserving students every year for $500, and we’re approaching the $1000 per year mark, and we’ll give that shortly. I included the civil service positions audit again, encouraging everybody to make sure they follow the state statutes when filling civil service positions. A couple of things that we’re supporting the Student Association and the supportive professional staff on is collaborative efforts there, and you can read those. That concludes my report, in case there are any questions.

J. Peters: Questions for Andy Small?

L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – report – Page 13

J. Peters: Okay, now we move to Unfinished Business. We have second readings and a vote. What did I forget? Donna, how could I forget Donna? The supportive professional staff.

D. Smith: Thank you. You have your report in front of you. I just wanted to touch on highlights. We did have representatives of the Presidential Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities give us a report on universal design and student accessibility. The SPS Council has been inviting our representatives from the various committees of the university to speak. In the last meeting, we had two representatives from the Campus Parking Committee speak to us on various things that they’ve been working on in increasing safety on campus and those kind of things. The council did approve the SPS Outstanding Service Award recipients, and we’ll have the names to you at the next meeting; not everybody has been informed of whether or not they got that. So, the reception for those folks will be April 17 in the afternoon. The council decided to participate in this year’s wellness fair, which will be on March 28. That concludes our report.

J. Peters: All right, questions for Donna?

M. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. Peters: Now Unfinished Business; we have two items. Second readings, vote on both. One deals with those changes in the sabbatical policy, and the other is a kind of a fix up on operating procedures for us, for the University Council. I’m going to ask Alan to bring both of those forward.

A. Proposed changes to NIU Bylaws, Article 8, Sabbatical Leave Policy – SECOND READING – ACTION ITEM – Pages 14-19

A. Rosenbaum: We can try these again. I understand that our voting system has been rebooted
and is ready to go. Keep in mind that for this, this is a bylaw change and to make a bylaw change, we have to have a vote of two-thirds of the full membership of the University Council. That would be 42 positive votes. So, we’re probably a little close. Do you think we have enough people? 41, excuse me, we need 41. So, we’re going to try the system again and see what happens. So, I would be Yes, 2 would be no, 3 would be the abstention. The first one we’re going to vote on is the Article 8, the revision to the sabbatical leave policy. So, all in favor, press 1, opposed 2, and abstention 3. Please, every voting member of the council, please cast the vote.

**J. Peters:** All right so we’re voting, correct?

**A. Rosenbaum:** Yeah.

**J. Peters:** Vote.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Press them now. Okay, we’ll give you one more, just a few more seconds. Everyone hopefully has voted and you don’t want to change your minds. Okay, we’ll close the voting. Do we have a vote?

41-YES, 2-ABSTAIN – motion passed.

**A. Rosenbaum:** All right, it’s good we don’t have to go after the two who abstained. All right, perfect.

**J. Peters:** Okay.

B. Proposed changes to NIU Bylaws, Article 3, Operating Procedures of University Council – SECOND READING – ACTION ITEM – Pages 20-21

**A. Rosenbaum:** The second item is the proposed changes to the Bylaw Article 3. This just is, if you remember, it gets at the item, the agenda items, so this is a relatively straightforward housekeeping item. Once again, are we cleared? Okay, 1 Yes, 2 No, 3 Abstention. Please vote now. We still need the 41 votes, so don’t change your mind, those 41 people.

**J. Peters:** Oh, I want unanimity. I want those two people.

**A. Rosenbaum:** All right we’ll give you a few more seconds. Everyone hopefully has voted. We’ll close the voting. What do we got?

43-YES, 1-ABSTAIN – motion passed.

**A. Rosenbaum:** All right, someone came in while we weren’t looking. Very good. Both of the motions passed.

**J. Peters:** Thank you.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
J. Peters: New business; Alan Rosenbaum came to me recently and indicated that he had a communication from someone who had been with the University and served us well for many, many years and has indicated his intention to retire, and that is our ombudsman, Tim Griffin. Tim, you have served us with distinction for a long time, decades, and he has indicated that he will be leaving us sometime. I don't know when that exactly is, and that’s for Tim to say, but it’s his intention, and we will have opportunity to honor him and to roast him and to, I thought maybe some kind of a mock meeting in his office with a series of, like a reality show of complaints that you have received. I know, how about the top ten complaints you have received in your office? How about a Letterman kind of thing. But, we really appreciate your service, and we’re going to get to honor you.

This does trigger, in our constitution a process, and we do have a process for everything. What is called for is that every eight years, or at the time of a vacancy in the office, so we’re at the time of a vacancy in the office, the University Affairs Committee of the University Council shall review the question of continuing the need for the office of ombudsman. The University Council shall give strong consideration to the recommendations of the Student Association, Faculty Senate, Operating Staff Council, and Supportive Professional Staff Council. So, we will be, the University Affairs will be launching that, we’ll write up a charge and then based on the outcome of that, there’s a procedure for a search process. So, there’s not vote required on that; that happens automatically, but once again, we’ll be able to thank Tim for all of his great service.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Peters: I might also say that we did have a tremendous loss in the university this week. Tim Emmons from public radio, after a long, difficult bout with cancer, succumbed to that dreaded disease and he worked up until the end and provided great leadership for us. Services are Saturday, and I just wanted to bring that to your attention. The other thing is we do have this week, Thursday, we do have Board of Trustees meeting and hopefully, we’ll be bringing an item on a salary increment to vote for the Board of Trustees. So, hopefully, we’ll have some good news for you on Thursday. All right, are there any comments or questions from the floor?

R. Alden: BOT is next week.

J. Peters: Next week, did I say this week? Next week. I wish it were this week so we could hear about that increment. It’s next week. Time flies when you’re having fun. All right, questions, nothing?

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee
C. Minutes, Athletic Board
D. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
E. Minutes, Committee on Advanced Professional Certification in Education
F. Minutes, Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education
G. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
H. Minutes, Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Experience
I. Minutes, Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum  
J. Minutes, General Education Committee  
K. Minutes, Honors Committee  
L. Minutes, Operating Staff Council  
M. Minutes, Supportive Professional Staff Council  
N. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council  
O. Minutes, University Assessment Panel  
P. Minutes, University Benefits Committee  
Q. 2011-2012 Meeting Schedule

XI. ADJOURNMENT

J. Peters: Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.