UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT
Wednesday, January 30, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room


VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Carpenter, Gupta, Hofer, Houze, Kowalski (on fellowship), Lee (on sabbatical), Lenczewski, Lin, Munroe, Neal, Prock, Rollman, Rosato, Schoenbachler, Smith, Von Ende, Walker, Ward, Zahay-Blatz

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Blakemore, Bryan, Cunningham, Klaper, Michael, Stone (for Freeman), Sunderlin, Williams

OTHERS ABSENT: Freedman, Freeman, Kaplan, Prawitz, Slotsve, Snow, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Peters: Please call to order the University Council for Wednesday, January 30, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

J. Peters: Our first item is adoption of today’s agenda. You’ll notice at your seat, the table in front of you, is a walk-in item titled Student Conduct Board. That is an item that will be under VIII. B. New Business. I will call then for a motion to adopt today’s agenda with the walk-in. Is there such a motion?

R. Lopez: So moved.

J. Peters: Okay Rosita Lopez.

Z. Bohn: Second.

J. Peters: All those in favor say aye.

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed? Abstain? We have an agenda.
III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2012 UC MEETING
(distributed electronically)

J. Peters: I direct your attention, approval of minutes from December 5, 2012, those were distributed electronically. I’ll call for additions or corrections? Hearing none, is there a motion to approve?

A. Small: So moved.

J. Peters: Second?

D. Cho: Second.

J. Peters: We have a second. All those in favor say aye.

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed? Abstain? We have minutes from December 5.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Peters: Well welcome everyone. We’re in the third week of our semester already. I bet you students know that. This is kind of special for me because this is after 50 years; this is my last semester. I’m finally graduating. Think of that for a while, 50 years. I know sometimes you want to get out of here, can you imagine that? It’s a special semester for me as they all are. There are a lot of things that are going to happen this semester and I’m focusing on getting the university ready for a new president, new leadership. So there’s a lot to do. It seems there’s always more to add to the list.

I do want to just stop and bask in the glow of the Orange Bowl. It was a tremendous experience for us. We are so proud of our team and I’m so proud of the way they played. I’m very proud of the way Huskie fans turned out. Everywhere I turned in Miami there was more red. We had a lot of fans down there. I got a wonderful proclamation from the student affairs folks thanking the administration, the university, for supporting students going. That was one of the, for me, it was one of the most gratifying things outside of academics to be able to, you know we thought, let’s send as many of our students as we could to Miami. What’s that going to cost and what does that involve? There’s Dr. Williams looking at me! I in a moment of weakness, I said I want any student who wants to, to go to Miami for $150. That’s a bus ride there and back, two nights, three or four meals, I don’t know, a ticket to the game and prayers. I thought we’d send a couple, 300 kids. We opened up, we had 500 spaces, because this is not straight forward, because you have to have a bus for about every 50. You have to have hotel rooms in Miami, in the Miami area; you have to get this all contracted; there’s legalities involved. And so we opened up, on the website we opened up reservations and we sold 500 in nine minutes. We got to work and were able to secure enough hotels and enough extra busses so that when we finally closed out we sent
something like over 1,300, about 1,350 students. The Orange Bowl folks who I had known over the years, they had never seen anything like that. They were just so impressed and I don’t have it in front of me, I wanted to bring it, but the overnight TV ratings for the Orange Bowl game were spectacular so I was very, very proud. But this was not done, and I think the students understood this, without the work through vacation of a lot of dedicated people in every aspect of, you know student affairs, academic affairs, finance and facilities, our legal office; because we sent with the group, a caravan of 26 busses and four different flights or movements, 26 busses out of DeKalb, that must have been something. I was already in Miami. I couldn’t go on the bus. But we had 56 trip advisors. That’s a euphemism, but people who went to help out. We had eight officers from our P.D. go. We had a couple of lawyers to make sure everything was done right. By and large no incidents and everybody I think had a good time. A lot students came running up to me. I didn’t get a chance to talk to them too much, but they seemed to be having a good time. I want to thank the Student Association for recognizing that, the hard work of the administration. I want to thank this group up here, Kelly and Ray and Eddie, and there were others involved. I don’t know if Jerry Blakemore is here, but out chief general counsel. It was just great and it’s an experience that I think our students will remember for the rest of their life, that they went to Miami in the Orange Bowl. I’m sure there are stories floating around about what happened. They won’t tell me what happened, I want to know. Thank you for that. Everywhere I go, I’ve been around the country doing NCAA business recently and every room I walk into, I’ve got my Orange Bowl pin on and people congratulate us. It was great.

Now turning to some other things, I’m obligated to tell you about the status of our budget. I know it’s on our minds. This is going to be a very difficult legislative session. This is going to be a very difficult budget building process. So I wanted to give you just a little update of where we are and I’m looking for, I don’t know if I have it here, yes, I have a sheet that I’m going to need. First of all, let me just talk about the status of the fiscal year budget of ’12, that’s the one we passed through for which we were owed money as we moved into this year’s fiscal ‘13. We are all paid up. We were owed in the neighborhood of $99 million, let’s say $100 million, and by December 31 they finally paid us the last payment and it was good to get that last payment.

In addition to that, we were paid for the fall disbursement of MAP money that supports student grants. The way that normally works, the students get the grants directly and then that’s used to pay for their expenses. But they get the grant and they enroll in school and there’s no payment, so we upfront the money. Would that be a fair way of saying it? We upfront the money in the hopes that the state will give the check to the students so they can pay their bills to the university and we finally got that. We have not received, and that’s about a $10 million payment, and we have not received yet for this semester an equal payment, but that usually comes in March. No panic on that yet. I suppose that’s good news in a sense that we’re all paid up.

The budget year we’re in, that started in ’13, where we were owed in our general revenue account. Remember our total budget approaches a half a billion dollars and, of that, the general appropriation from the state is about $100 million. Now it’s less than $100 million. So, you can see, it’s 26 percent of our total budget. When I talk to you about budget, I usually am only talking about the state portion. So for this year, our budget going into this year was cut by six percent
and so the fiscal year ’12 budget was $99.5 million. This year, it was $93.5 million because it was cut six percent and of that $93.5 million, we have received to date in this fiscal year, $6 million, Eddie is that what…about $6 million and we’re in the six month, the third quarter. But that’s pretty much the way we were last year too. And we’re hoping to get payments from the state but we have not heard anything about that.

What we have to do is we have to use what we call local funds to make our payroll. We can’t use state funds for disbursements for payroll and most of us have a good portion of our pay comes out of that general revenue, not all of ours, but a good portion of it. What we have to do is use our local funds which is tuition, fees, revenue that we raise in other ways, cash to make payroll and that’s what we’ve been doing and we know how to do that and we’re okay. But the longer you wait and not get paid from the state, your local funds run out and you worry when the lines cross. We’ve been very adept at managing our case flow.

All right, so that’s where we stand this year and I will just give you because I go into building the budget for ’14, which we are doing right now. I’ll give you the status of our capital projects and the state funded projects. The planning for Stevens Hall, that’s well underway. That’s a very good project and we’ve even been able to augment it. Eddie, we’re in the planning stages? Architectural planning that’s where we are moving and I know some of you are involved in that planning. That’s moving along, that’s good. We’re moving along on schedule with Grant D renovations for the fall. We will be opening that tower and Gilbert. I don’t know if you’ve been by that side of campus, but that building is looking spectacular with the new windows and the new roof and that’s going to be a great addition, about 300 students and we’re on track Kelly for fall opening. So those are all very, very good things.

In addition to that, a private building, you can see it from here, is that steel is going up for the Chessick practice center, that’s huge isn’t it? The steel should all be up shortly depending on the weather. They put sheathing on, big 65-foot panels to get it all enclosed and we really have to have that up and running by next early November because we’re having the Illinois high school football playoffs here. We rotate, now every year by contract with Urbana. So this will be our first year so we’ve got to do that. Things are looking good on that.

They are also, you can look out the window here, I think you can see it; we’re moving along nicely on the several million dollar intramural fields which is something students wanted. The lights are up, I saw them on the other day, I think they are operative. That’s going to be a welcome addition to campus. And then we have the several other roofs and projects going on. On the capital side, that’s a positive.

Now, as we move into building the new budget, this is the time of year where the state begins to put the budget together for ’14, for the fiscal year beginning this upcoming July, our attention now turns to building that budget. We have already in August given our priorities both in terms of salaries and programmatic things, we do it every year. It was approved by the board and sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. We had a hearing with them and then they have just given us what’s called a discussion budget which is a reaction and then once the IBHE gets all their budgets together, they submit their budgets to the governor and then the governor will put a
budget together and that will be presented in March sometime, early March, to the legislature and the state.

There was kind of a new wrinkle in that process that I’ll tell you about. It’s interesting to note, that last year, for this year’s budget, the governor recommended a flat budget for universities. So in fiscal ’12 our budget was $99.6 million, that’s what he recommended last year. But the legislature cut us 6.15 percent or 6.1 percent so the legislature reduced the governor’s recommendation by 6 percent. That took us down to $93.5 million. Okay, so just keep that in mind for a while.

Now you’ve probably been reading in the paper, but the state, going into the budget year, is facing some real, real obstacles. For instance, there’s a $9 billion, that’s not million, billion dollar backlog in unpaid bills of which we have about $80 million dollars of unpaid bills for this fiscal year. Medical bills, you name it, there’s a $9 billion backlog and the pension obligations this year for the five pension systems, right off the top, before you spend any money on any programs, is $1 billion dollars. Of course, you know all about the pension issues. Even though revenue is up in the state because of the economy, there’s some green shoots in the economy and it’s looking a little bit better, and the corporate tax and personal income tax increases in the state have now fully kicked in. But that additional revenue from last year can’t begin to plug the $9 billion dollar backlog in bills which they’re probably going to have to bond for to pay off. The billion dollar payment for the pensions add-on, just about gobbles that up.

So what that does, from the point of view of the state when they’re putting a budget together, it puts tremendous pressure on education funding and funding for needed social programs. Because they are going to take the pension $1 billion off the top and cut to help make that and we find ourselves impacted by that.

To add some more complexity to that, although it’s not a direct state issue, it’s going to be impacted directly, and that is federal budget rules that sequester funds. There’s automatic cuts coming in federal programs if the congress does not act. They raised the debt ceiling, they pushed that can down the road, kicked that can down the road, but there will be automatic cuts in many, many discretionary federal programs. The one that’s getting the most ink right now is the military. There’s automatic cuts in the military but there will be automatic cuts in federal programs and we’re affected in a couple of ways; some direct and some indirect. The direct way is on our federal research programs which Lisa Freeman, I don’t know if Lisa is here, told me that the direct impact will be about $2.5 million dollars on our federal side of our budget that we get in grants and contracts. The other side is scheduled reductions in Pell grants and other student aid programs which trickle their way to us because many of our students are on Pell grants that then you stack MAP grants or they can’t go to school. They can’t go to the university.

I wanted to kind of give you an idea of the big picture and what the state is going through. It’s clear that it’s going to be a struggle, number one, for them and it’s also clear they must do something with pensions to get their arms around that and, of course, that’s another topic. I see Steve Cunningham is here and he’s one of the point persons for all of higher education and doing a great job in keeping us involved in that, we’ll call it negotiation, but input and strategizing and
that’s a topic for another day.

So all of those, those are the things that we have to contend with as we develop our response to that. We are waiting on the governor’s mention of the budget which will be March and appropriation hearings before the House, Higher Ed Appropriation Committee; and then the Senate Higher Ed Appropriation committee; they are usually in the March, April period of time.

But this year there is a new wrinkle and that is usually the governor takes the IBHE budget recommendations and then puts the budget together. Remember last year, he spared us from cuts, it was flat and we got a six percent cut anyway. This year, we’ve got a directive, a couple of weeks ago from the Office of Management and Budget which is the governor’s office. The IBHE hasn’t filed their budget yet, but we got a direct communiqué from the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a scenario cut of 4.6 percent. That’s an opening condition. Remember last year it was flat, the governor’s request, and we got cut six percent by the legislature. This year the governor, at least as an opening request, has asked us to submit a budget with 4.6 reduction, which you don’t have to demonstrate where that’s coming from, you just have to reduce your lines and then figure it out later if you are going to sustain that cut. That takes us down to $89.1 million. We were $118 million in our base in 2000, somewhere around 2000. Now we’re 89. Folks it’s going down.

So we are watching, we’re involved, we’re waiting on the governors message. This is a long process. I thank sine die for the legislature is at the May this year, so it’s going to be late in the game before we know what our final budget is and then the governor has to take action. I would say right now, if we got out of this with a flat budget, that would be pretty close to a miracle, but right now I can’t see anything but to be prudent and so we’re not giving out any directives yet, but we’re telling all the vice presidents and they will be telling their division people and deans to be prudent, to be careful.

What we have to do is be careful how we spend money. There’s only a couple ways of moving forward and that is to scrub our expense side and to be as efficient as we can. I’m not a fan of saying we have to be more productive, I don’t know how we could be more productive. But we have to be more efficient. And the other thing is we cannot, we’ve hit pretty much the limit on what we can charge students. We cannot, I anticipate no significant increases in tuition and fees. We can’t raise them enough to do this and it’s beginning to have an impact anyway because students are running out of money and they can’t continue so that growth is not an option.

Vision 2020 is still operative. We have to do two things: We have to pay attention and grow our enrollment. And people in all parts of the university, I’m very proud, they are working day and night to make sure that we attract qualified students who could benefit from NIU education. It’s all hands on deck, I see a lot of cooperation. People are working at it every day. We’re very sophisticated at it but it’s a very competitive market and, quite frankly, we’re facing a situation where students are having trouble getting money together to come to university or to community college. It’s beginning to turn a little bit. There’s a report today out about debt. Student debt is up significantly, about 30 percent over the last survey. And the default rate of student loans is up. The default rates historically on student loans have been very low because students pay them
back. They get a job and they’ve been very faithful. But now you have a situation where if you have a student loan but you have other responsibilities. You have to prioritize, don’t you. If you have a job and you have a car payment, you’re going to make the car payment so you can keep the job and get to work. I’m very concerned about that. That’s the context. We’re watching it. We’ll definitely keep you informed going forward and it won’t be too long before we get very, very serious about this.

I just don’t see, therefore, going forward a lot of investment in salaries or anything else until we know more. It’s going to be probably the hardest legislative year I’ve ever faced. There are some other issues out there that I could talk about but we are going to be focusing on a couple issues and one is the budget, the other is pensions we’re involved in that.

I’ll say a little about performance funding. That’s in the mix a little bit and there’s discussion about performance funding and we’re watching that and you’re watching that because I want to make sure what they measure is measurable and is the right things and that we are all treated fairly. This year they’ll be talking about it but the amount of the budget that will, in my estimation, that will be covered by performance funding will be small. So, a lot of talk about a small portion of the budget this year. But it’s something to pay attention to because I think there are those in the legislature who really want more, a bigger share of this state appropriation to be under performance funding and we’ve got a lot of people involved and watching it.

I’m going to shift off that now and just say that there are two or three things that I am very pleased about and watching, that are activities that are going on that are important to me. First is, we’ve got consultants on campus now and then for the next few weeks and next couple months. We have a consultant looking at our IT operations, writ large, taking a look at how we operate, taking a look at our software, taking a look at how we use personnel, benchmarking us against other universities. And at the end of that we’re going to have a report, probably in May. And then we’ll make recommendations about how do we stand. In our environment now, if you do not have sophisticated IT, you have to be cutting edge, we’re out of business. We have to be there. We decided with the encouragement of our trustees, our trustees really encouraged this and insisted that we take a look at this and I think it’s appropriate. The new president will have on her desk or his desk a report with some recommendations to consider where we are in terms of IT. That’s one thing.

Another thing, this is kind of related to it, we have been in at least a couple year-long analysis of our distributive learning. If you read any of your professional journals or the popular journals or newspapers, online learning has just taken off. The massive open online courses that are coming out of Stanford and other places and it seems like there’s a new university getting involved every day and figuring a way to do two things: give credit for those and to monetize them. Some smart person is going to figure out how to monetize mooks and somebody is going to figure out to give credit and there have been editorializing in the places like New York Times about how this is the beginning of a revolution in higher education. They are not telling us anything we didn’t know. We are in the process now, we’ve really taken a good look at our distributive learning and we may be entering into partnerships with some third parties to help our faculty develop courses and programs that could reach adult learners and others online. Ray Alden is leading that with the
help of people like Anne Kaplan and we’ve had deans and others involved so you’re probably going to be hearing more about that.

The third thing that I think is overdue, not overdue but I think implementation overdue, and that’s a real very careful look at our general education, its flexibility, and whether it meets the needs of a modern learner and a modern citizen. And there’s been a lot of good work done over the years. I see that and I hear I know that our provost has appointed a task force to take a look at that and a lot of people are involved. This is an important thing. Quite frankly, I was very disappointed that some of the recommendations of our Baccalaureate Review Committee were not implemented particularly in general education. It’s been done in so many places, in other place over the years. We just need to take a look at it. I think that’s a good healthy academic thing that faculty have to take a look at.

I’m going to turn the program over to my colleague, Alan, who has an announcement and he’s also going to give you an update on the comings and goings of the Presidential Search Committee.

A. Rosenbaum: Well, the search committee has met several times, most recently on January 11. We are now in the stage of soliciting applications. The search firm is taking applications. They have asked us to make it known to faculty and others that if you know somebody you think would be a good candidate and might be interested, that you should let the search firm know. You can let either myself or Bob Boey know and we will pass that along to the search firm. Anybody who knows of people who would be interested and who would be a good candidate, then it would certainly be worthwhile to let us know. A number of applications, we have a website that’s set up by Parker Executive Search firm and if you look at that website, which I don’t know if any of you can do but we can, and you can see that a lot of people that are on that list were nominated by faculty members, by administrators and others. So if you know of people, then please pass that along to us. The next meeting of the search committee is Friday. At Friday’s meeting we are going to get updated from the search firm and we will also begin crafting some of the questions that we will be using for the airport interviews. The airport interviews will probably take place the beginning of March. We have not selected candidates for that yet, but that will happen on March 1 and then we will begin that process. Over the next two meetings we are going to be developing the questions that we want to ask of the candidates who have applied for the position. Probably one of the good questions, where are you going to get all this money that we’re gonna need given that the state is cutting back as President Peter’s just described. I’ll take questions on that, does anyone have any questions? That’s about all that’s going on now we’re sort of in a waiting stage and we’re again thinking about questions. Yea?

Z. Bohn: Is there any way to be updated on the search committee aside from reports heard here?

A. Rosenbaum: Yes, there is a website that’s accessible off of the NIU homepage that is the presidential search website and, if you click on that icon, it will give you lots of information about the search including the position description, a lot of stuff that’s been made available also to potential candidates, so people who might be interested in applying for the position want to find out about NIU, they can go to that website and there’s a lot of information there. So that
would be a good starting place and it also talks about the meetings. Remember search committee meetings, when we’re not talking directly about candidates, are open meetings. We’re a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees. We’re governed by the Open Meetings Act and so, unless we go into executive session, which we will do once we start talking about specific candidates, but until that time anyone can come to a search committee meeting. And we’re covered by the Northern Star covers us and so there’s a lot of information available except for the identities of anybody that has applied or might be interested. That information is kept confidential.

**K. Thu:** So, Alan, for the airport interviews, is the decision about who those folks are going to be, does that come from the search committee itself or is that also the trustees making that cut?

**A. Rosenbaum:** No, my understanding is that’s the search committee decision. There are two members of the Board of Trustees on the search committee, but the search committee will select those individuals, will interview that group and then will make a selection and provide that short list to the Board of Trustees.

**J. Peters:** Okay, I see our general counsel came in, he knows the procedures about that. It’s all surreal to me.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Yes?

**D. Cho:** I am looking at the website right now but I cannot find any information [the rest is inaudible].

**A. Rosenbaum:** Yes, I thought the meetings were going to be, you know, I don’t have access to it right at this moment. But it’s a great deal of information and the meetings are not secret. They have to be announced because, as I said, subject to the Open Meetings Act. If they are not on the website, I thought they were. Jerry do you know?

**J. Blakemore:** That should be on the website. They are public meetings and only go into closed session from a public meeting. As the schedule was put on at the very first meeting, the one change that was made was a change in a meeting date for, it wasn’t the last meeting, but the meeting before that. They’re public, the schedule is here. I’ll double check that but I know that it was publicized at the very first meeting because the committee had to vote on that schedule.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Okay, any other comments? The other item I wanted to mention is that we have been trying and many are you are aware of this, to cut down on the amount of paper that we use in sending out the agendas every month. It uses a lot of paper. So we have been working on trying to eliminate that. President Peters has authorized us to buy a projector so that we can put the agenda up on the screen here. We’re going to be using that for a number of things. We also want to encourage people to bring iPads, laptops and this room is wired so you should be able to get on the Internet. Even if you don’t have an iPad, you could bring a laptop and you could also download the entire agenda with all of its attachments which Pat posts in PDF form. You get that in your e-mail. When you get that notice of the meeting there’s an attachment and in there you
have access so you have a link to the PDF and so it would be a good idea for people to start getting in the habit of downloading the agenda so we don’t have to keep printing it out. Sometime in the next couple of months we are going to stop sending you hard copy. We’ll see how that works. If people are not happy with that we’ll revert but we’re going to at least try to reduce the amount of wasted paper and we’re going to try and move forward and maybe that person who is evaluating the IT stuff will like that we’re doing stuff using technology instead using paper. We’re going to try and do that. There’s also a web link to the agenda in the packet so if you’re here with your iPad you’ll be able to sort of hook up to the agenda and all of the attachments will be in there except for the walk-ins. So you should be able to get everything. We’d like people to start thinking about that.

**J. Peters:** Okay, now, so any questions? So we can move on to the consent agenda?

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. 2022-2023 academic calendar – refer to University Affairs Committee – Page 4

B. Review and update Guidelines and Principles for Establishment of Academic Calendar – refer to University Affairs committee – Pages 5-6

C. Annual evaluation of the university ombudsperson, NIU Bylaws, Article 19.4 – refer to University Affairs Committee – Page 7

**J. Peters:** Okay, there are three items. I’ve been informed that they are noncontroversial at least the person who told me that said they were noncontroversial. So we are going to need a motion to approve today’s consent agenda. Is there such a motion out there?

**M. Theodore:** So moved.

**J. Peters:** All right we have a motion. Is there a second?

**T. Latham:** Second.

**J. Peters:** There are three items. All those in favor say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**J. Peters:** Opposed? Abstain?

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

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report

November 16, 2012 (carryover from December 5, 2012 meeting)
December 7, 2012 – Pages 8-12
J. Peters: Now reports. We have Sonya Armstrong who is going to report from the Faculty Advisory committee to the IBHE and there are three meetings. We’ll kind of blend them all together I guess.

S. Armstrong: Yes, if it’s okay I can just summarize, I think in five topics, all three meetings. First, in case everyone has not heard, the IBHE has been given permission to find a search committee to replace the executive director. But in the interim, Harry Berman is taking that spot.

Second, you kind of already touched on this, but for performance-based funding the recommendation is one half of one percent for the next fiscal.

Third, the MAP task force, that task force has now completed its work. There is a report available online and I think I linked that in the report. I hope that you will go and read that. It’s actually really important to our students and it’s really important to us. I’ll tell you that one of the most striking points in that report is that ten years ago MAP funding was sufficient to cover all applicants. At this point, it’s about 50 percent and the 50 percent who do get funded, the amount is about 37 percent of their annual cost. I think that report is something everybody needs to look at.

The next is on pension reform. The public caucus has been trying to put together a set of reform items that we would then get approved through the FAC IBHE and then send on to the IBHE. If anyone has any contributions to make that I can take back to the public caucus about specific reform suggestions, please send them to me.

And the other thing that we’re working on still is a report or rather more of a paper on the value of higher education that we aim to distribute to the public. So if you have any resources or suggestions on what should go into that report, please e-mail those to me as well. I think I covered all the fine points. Does anybody have questions? Yes?

D. Haliczer: I would like to acknowledge the excellent work Sonya is doing. She is a former member of the University Benefits Committee and all employees from all categories cared so deeply about pension issues that we so appreciate advocacy from that direction, so thank you. We can’t be better represented than you. I’d like to, on behalf of the University Benefits Committee, acknowledge President Peters for continued efforts. The letter from the presidents and chancellors really is meaningful, and the benefits committee really appreciates that, as well Steve Cunningham’s endless efforts on our behalf. We have to keep this issue alive. Join the Annuitants Association, answer their survey and really keep involved because things are changing very quickly. End of editorial.

S. Armstrong: Thanks and I should mention that letter is in the packet. The public caucus did endorse that letter that Deb just mentioned.

J. Peters: More questions for Sonya? I think there’s a meeting coming up.
S. Armstrong: There is.

J. Peters: This coming Tuesday in Chicago.

S. Armstrong: An IBHE meeting is this coming Tuesday, yes that’s correct.

J. Peters: That’s right. So who knows what that will be about? Questions?

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – report (carryover from December 5, 2012 meeting)

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – report (carryover from December 5, 2012 meeting)

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – report (carryover from December 5, 2012 meeting)

J. Peters: Now, here’s a suggestion. Remember at our last meeting of the year in December of the first semester, we didn’t get to reports because we had a full agenda? What I’m going to suggest is that we bundle B., C. and D. and just take questions on those previous reports. But if Andy or Alan or Todd want to overrule me, it’s happened before. No, we’re okay? Any questions on those?

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – report
   November 8, 2012 (carryover from December 5, 2012 meeting)
   December 6, 2012 – Page 14

J. Peters: I think Alan will be able to cover a little bit of that because he is going to give a report focusing on December 6, but ask questions about November 8 board meeting.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, the board met on Thursday, December 6. The Board of Trustees started out by celebrating the Orange Bowl invitation and they also introduced Jeff Compher who spoke about the football team and introduced several of the football players so that was very nice.

And then they approved the mass transit contract which is what pays for the busses.

They also did some appointments with rank and tenure and they did this because when we have hires of more senior people coming in from the outside they don’t want them to have to wait until the June meeting which is when they typically handle tenure and promotion issues.

They approved the creation of the new School of Public and Global Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This apparently is composed of people who are already in place and so it does not involve the allotment or the appropriation of additional money. They also approved the deletion of the master of physical therapy program because, apparently, nobody wants to be a
master of physical therapy anymore and so now we just offer a doctor of physical therapy and so again no additional costs were involved in doing this. All of our master students have already graduated so nobody is being disadvantaged by this.

They approved an emergency action item with authorized President Peters to make whatever expenditures were necessary in order to pay for the Orange Bowl trips and the expenses incurred by the athletic department. They approved the meeting dates for 2013 and they also noted that January 1 was NIU Huskie day in Illinois declared by the governor who also I think rode down with us, was he on one of the busses to the?

J. Peters: Well the governor flew back with us on our charter. He was with us the whole time.

A. Rosenbaum: So, the governor showed a great deal of interest in the Orange Bowl so that was very nice. The other thing that happened was that after the Board of Trustees meeting, the board met with the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for purposes of ironing out the position description for the next president. The position description, as I said, is posted unless that’s another thing that I thought was there that isn’t. I think that’s there. That’s on the website so you can read the position description. I would like to report that the relationship between the Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee is a very cordial one. This is was not a contentious event. There was general agreement on the items that are in that position description. So far the search has been very smooth in terms of the relationship between the board and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. So everything so far has gone well.

Unless anyone has questions, that’s all I have.

J. Peters: Okay, questions for – I think our next board meeting is March 21 or earlier than that? 21st, first day of spring. Committee meetings are coming up on the 28th.

F. Academic Policy Committee – Sean Farrell, Chair – no report

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Paul Carpenter, Chair – report – Page 15

J. Peters: All right, there is a written report from Resources, Space and Budgets, G, and that’s written only because Paul has taken ill. He can’t be here today, Paul Carpenter. I was there if you have questions.

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Melissa Lenczewski, Chair – no report

I. University Affairs Committee – Kathleen Coles, Chair – no report

J. Student Association – Delonte LeFlore, President, and James Zanayed, Speaker – report

J. Peters: All right then, let’s move to the Student Association and James are you going to give the report? Delonte will? You always confuse me.
D. LeFlore: Good afternoon everyone. First I want to thank everyone who again who helped in making sure that the Orange Bowl happened and allowed so many students to take advantage of the opportunity. The feedback, students really had a great time and we just want to say we really appreciate all efforts, even from the alumni base, faculty, staff, especially the staff, who came out and chaperoned all of the students going out there for 26 hours.

J. Peters: We had trip advisors, we didn’t have chaperones.

D. LeFlore: Trip advisors, I’m sorry. I know it took a lot of patience to deal with so many students, but it was really a successful trip and I am honored to be able to play a part of that. When I graduate and when all of us students graduate we will definitely keep that in mind when you guys call us for money.

J. Peters: And we will after you pay your loans.

D. LeFlore: Also time has definitely come and gone; right now we’re about to be coming up on our Student Association executive election so we will be turning over our hats to the next group of students. That will March 27 and 28, I’m sorry 26 and 27. We have appointed our election commissioner and our election board and with the task to really increase voter turnout.

We also appointed one supreme court justice and some of the bigger projects we are working with in collaboration with Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, NIU Police, Student Conduct and the DeKalb Chief is coming up with a way to create an amnesty policy where we are in the process of meeting to talk about that; working with the Department of Affirmative Action about the student grievance policy; and we are also working on creating our own campus job fair geared towards departments to do hiring on-campus not off-campus jobs, but doing a student on-campus hiring day; and also to be able to, for students to understand that the university is doing all they can to keep the university afloat and make sure that the students are, that all the money is getting used right.

We also are feeling the cuts and the budget constraints and we are also making strides to spend money more intentionally and be more fiscally responsible with our funds. We had to reduce a lot of spending in certain areas but we’re back to the level where we need to be and we’re moving forward. I just want to let everyone know that we are understanding the same, we’re in the same shoes as everyone else. As students, we’re taking up our part to be fiscally responsible and making sure that this university will continue on. Are there any questions? I yield.

J. Peters: Okay, first of all, that’s wonderful. As we’ve said many times, when I came to the university I was quite surprised, shocked, stunned, that we invest so much responsibility, fiscal responsibility, in the hands of students. It’s a wonderful thing because it teaches you how to manage these rather large projects and I wish our legislators were as fiscally responsible as our Student Association.

The other thing is the wonderful thing about the Orange Bowl. It was right after I think our meeting, the next day I went up to Chicago, we always put on a big alumni event for alumni in
Chicago, a holiday thing and I got up and I mentioned this, mentioned that for $150 and I said wouldn’t this make a great Christmas gift. Well we must have 500 people there, Ray, I think you were there. People start giving me money and checks and without a lot of, we didn’t promote it or anything, but the Alumni Association raised upwards of $50,000 to help this event sending the students there, so you may want to consider a little thank you to the Alumni Association.

K. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – report

J. Peters: All right, Andy Small Operating Staff Council report.

A. Small: Thank you President Peters. I do not have a written report today but a couple of oral things I would like to mention. One is I hope that everybody received an Outstanding Service Award nomination letter in your mailboxes. If you did, I encourage you to fill that out and use that. If you did not, I do have extra copies here with me today. Outstanding Service Award, of course, nomination of operating staff people to be selected to receive this prestigious award. I will mention sort of a good and bad thing. Last year, the nominations were at an all time low, bad. Good, if you nominate someone this year, they have a better chance of winning, right. So if you’ve got somebody in your office that’s been doing a fantastic job and you’ve been thinking about nominating them, this would be the year. I have the forms right with me here, so no reason not to do it and I encourage you to do that. March 1 is the deadline, by the way, to nominate folks. The second thing, our next meeting is February 7, a week from tomorrow. We have an outstanding guest joining us at that particular meeting. A gentleman by the name of John Peters will be joining us. Is that news to you?

J. Peters: They just tell me where to show up and I show up.

A. Small: We’re billing that as the first stop of the John G. Peters farewell tour and hope you are able to attend and we would certainly like to acknowledge you at that point for all the great things that you’ve done for the operating staff during you tenure here so we want to congratulate you on that. With that, I yield.

J. Peters: Okay, questions for Andy?

L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – report – Page 16

J. Peters: Then we will move to Todd Latham and the Supportive Professional Staff Council.

T. Latham: Thank you President Peters. The council took action to establish a committee. Recently we established the Supportive Professional Staff Scholarship Fund and we needed a committee to oversee this. So we amended our constitution and we amended it a second time at our meeting to require all representatives and alternates to serve on a committee. That’s based upon some turnover and the expansion of our committee needs. Our awards committee is forwarded to President Peters for SPS for him to consider and approve for the 2013 Presidential Award for Excellence. We’re also going to review outstanding service by SPS to our council. And those of you that have SPS that work for you or that you associate with and you think they
are doing an outstanding job, we’re also accepting nominations for certificates of recognition. Please go to our website, fill out a nomination form and we’ll review those.

Our communications committee is preparing our spring 2013 newsletter. We continue to monitor pensions through our legislative committee.

Our workplace issues have brought several new concerns before council. Some of those are ten-plus-two appointments and volunteers that may be serving in faculty and SPS positions. They continue to push the need for cross training, requirement of updating job descriptions and continuing to review our compliance. That’s where we have to report how we utilize our 15 minutes of time here as employees.

Council has also had some similar concerns about some of the communication policies of the university and how it might have affected some or our nomination processes and we understand that Human Resource Services and Media Services have an agreement now that if one entity sends something out, the other does not.

We’ve also had some low returns this year on our nominations and feel that might not be to our benefit so we’ll have some ongoing conversations about that and the appropriate representatives in each area.

I’ve also been required by my council to acquire more information for human resources to help us in our decision-making process and there are some ongoing discussions that we have in the areas mentioned under our workplace issues committee.

The last area, as those of you that don’t know, and this information was brought to us by Ian Johnson to our council, that there is a new support group forming on campus that deals with mental health issues. I’ll start bringing some more information back as that’s available. That completes my report.

J. Peters: Okay, any questions for Todd?

M. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SPS Grievance Procedure – revisions to APPM – Pages 17-29

J. Peters: Hearing none, let’s move on to Unfinished Business and this item you remember we talked about it. We have to bring the changes that were made in the SPS grievance procedure in line with what’s printed in the APPM and I believe, Todd, you’re going to respond to questions on this. This is going to require a vote, it’s an action item and it will be a simple majority vote. Todd you want to say something about it?

T. Latham: I will just walk us through this quickly. The rationale and the preamble was
basically to take the document, make it more clear and more concise, remove the language that’s covered under Article 11 and then put it in the format of links that makes it user friendly for administrators, faculty and staff and it may need to look up policies and procedures on support of professional staff at the university.

So in the preamble everything is pretty much the same with the insertion of the link. We’ve corrected title vice president of administration. That’s the title of Dr. Cunningham to make sure it reflects his current title.

Under 2, Definitions, we basically by some other clarity and updates of words some word-smithing as well as some agreement with the preamble about some of the statements of the role of staff specifically SPS.

Under 3, Appointments, again we placed a link.

Under 4, this information was previously covered so it was removed with a link to the updated area.

Under 5, we added some other areas of conditions and we also had some agreements between Human Resources and SPS Council. We actually met to discuss these. That kind of cleans this area up and makes the document more useable.

Item 6 was removed as covered under the business manual that business managers use.

Item 7 was removed. Item 6 was added. This is new language and language that was agreed upon between Human Resources and SPS. We also added the table and we basically delineated it so individuals could see specific time tables of service and notification. Below that we also removed several areas of language to make it clear and concise. And then basically under Type A, Type B that was all Article 11 information that was removed based upon a previous vote here at University Council.

And that takes us to the last page, under 7, Grievances. This is new language which was added by Human Resources specifically by Affirmative Action & Diversity Resources as well as a link was added.

And then under 8 where it talks about the charges and appeals, that information was removed and the information in bold was a new updated link we just identified all the areas of status.

Then the last part was a link to the Affirmative Action & Diversity Resources website and then appointing under amendments adding or changes from board or regular policies to make sure that any change at the university will then be absorbed and corrected. This is all through an agreement.

J. Peters: Okay, any questions? So is it fair to assume that SPS Council is comfortable with these changes?
T. Latham: Yes sir.

J. Peters: And that HR is comfortable and that legal has given it a look, so we’re all okay and so now it’s just a matter of getting that in the APPM. Okay. I hear no questions so we move to a vote. One would be yes that you support these. I thought we had a motion.

D. Haliczer: Moved.

J. Peters: We have a motion. Is there a second?

Unidentified: Second.

J. Peters: Todd launched right into his analysis. Now is there any discussion? No, we’re ready to vote. A 1 is yes, a 2 is no, 3 is abstain. Ready, vote. Voting is closed.

1 – YES – 38
2 – NO – 0
3 – ABSTAIN - 0

J. Peters: Democracy at work. All right, those policies will now go in the APPM.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed revisions to NIU Bylaws, Article 14.6.4 Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum – FIRST READING – Pages 30-31

J. Peters: All right, new business we have a proposed revision to the NIU Bylaws. This is a first reading. It comes from the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum. I think Melissa is going to talk a little bit about this. This is a first reading and I understand we are not in a hurry to waive so we could go through our normal procedures and do a first reading and then vote next time. Where’s Melissa? Okay, have you looked at the boxed item on page 30 and 31? Fix grammar errors and to better align with APPM guidelines for development.

A. Rosenbaum: My understanding of this is that is the committee has been following these procedures so they are not instituting new procedures. They just want the bylaw to be consistent with what they’ve already been doing. So that’s the nature of this change. So it’s basically the inner workings of the committee and this represents more closely what the procedures are that they have been following.

J. Peters: So this is a first reading and you’ll have a chance at it at the next meeting.

A. Rosenbaum: Right if anything comes up.

J. Peters: In the meantime if you have a question, I guess you can contact Melissa.
A. Rosenbaum: We’ll make sure that we have Melissa here for the second reading or Anne or somebody from that office. We will have a person here.

B. Student Conduct Board – approve two committee member replacements – walk-in
   • Richard Tom, Senior Assistant Director, Office of Admissions (SPS) and
   • Dain Gotto, Assistant Director, Student Involvement & Leadership Development (SPS)

J. Peters: All right, let’s move to the walk-in item B, which is replacements for the Student Conduct Board and this is pretty straight forward. The guidelines call for five SPS staff and operating staff members recommended by the vice president for student affairs and approved by the University Council. Well, recently two of the five board members, Scott Peska who took a job at Waubonsee as dean of student affairs, and Adam Neal who went somewhere, resigned from NIU and, therefore, we have to replace them. So Kelly, who is here, has recommended the following replacements: Richard Tom, senior assistant director of the Office of Admissions and Dean Gotto, assistant director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development. We need a motion to approve.

D. LeFlore: So moved.

J. Peters: Is there a second?

D. Haliczer: Second

J. Peters: All right, discussion? Kelly is here. All right, all those in favor say aye.

Members: Aye

J. Peters: Opposed? Abstain? All right you have new members of your Student Conduct Board.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

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
J. Peters: Now let’s see. Information items, I want to draw your attention and ask Alan to talk a little bit about it, its letter R – A Guide to University Resources for Students Wishing to Resolve Various Complaints.

A. Rosenbaum: This was actually on the agenda of the December meeting and the contents of this are in that agenda as well. What this amounts to is that you know that the students have asked for, and we are in the process of working on developing, a grievance procedure for students so that they can grieve against faculty and staff. The impression was created that the students do not have any recourse if they are mistreated in some way. That is actually not correct. They do have many different avenues depending on what the nature of the offense is. For example, they can certainly bring complaints about discrimination to AADR, they can bring complaints about sexual harassment. So there are a number of procedures and it was felt that the students should be aware of what those are so, while we are working on the grievance procedure, this item was put together and it is simply a list of the places that students can go if they have complaints in certain areas. If they have complaints about parking tickets, Title IX, ethics and professional behavior, there are things that they can do. This is more or less a guide. The students have agreed to put this on their website. My understanding was that they are waiting for their new webmaster to take office so that they can get that up there. This is a temporary, this is not replacing the grievance process which we are still working on, but it is to let students know that there are things that they can do even now before we have a formal grievance procedure in place. So that’s basically what this is and it’s just being called to your attention, there’s no need for a vote or anything.

J. Peters: Okay, any questions?

A. Rosenbaum: And you have the full text of this in the agenda from the December meeting.

J. Peters: All right, any comments or questions from the floor?

XI. ADJOURNMENT

J. Peters: Let’s stand adjourned until our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.