UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT  
Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 3 p.m.  
Holmes Student Center Sky Room


VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Harris, Kolb, Kowalski (fellowship), Lee (sabbatical), Lenczewski, Lopez, Neil, Plonczynski, Porter, Prock, Rollman, Rosato, Schoenbachler, Walker, Ward

OTHERS PRESENT: Birberick, Bryan, Cunningham, Klaper, Polzin, Sunderlin, Wesener

OTHERS ABSENT: Armstrong, Blakemore, Freedman, Freeman, Kaplan, Prawitz, Slotsve, Snow, Waas, Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Peters: Let me call the last meeting of the academic year University Council May 1, 2013, to order.

Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

J. Peters: I will call for a motion to adopt today’s agenda as written. Is there a motion to adopt?

S. Farrell: So moved.

J. Peters: Okay, second.

ME Koren: Second.

J. Peters: Okay, all those in favor of adopting the agenda say aye.

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed, abstain? Okay we have an agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2013 UC MEETING
J. Peters: The minutes of April 3 were distributed electronically. I’ll first call for additions or corrections. Hearing none is there a motion to approve the April 3 meeting?

D. Haliczer: So moved.

J. Peters: Okay, we have a motion is there a second?

D. Munroe: Second.

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

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed?

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. Peters: All right now, we have to go into executive session for the purpose of evaluating the President of the Faculty Senate/Executive Secretary of the University Council and to receive a report of the ombudsperson A. and B. We will require a motion and a second, no discussion, to go into executive session. If we vote positively all non-voting members leave, but don’t go too far. And then, once we complete our business, we need a motion to go out of executive session. Is there a motion at this time to go into executive session for those purposes?

A. Gupta: So moved.

J. Peters: All right we have a motion. There is a second.

P. Vohra: Second.

J. Peters: All right we need a vote. All those in favor say aye.

Members: Aye.


V. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Peters: All right, we are back in session, the president’s announcements. Well, let me just say this is my last meeting with you. Thirteen years, how many times a year we meet, you can do the math. I’ve missed very few and I’ve come to enjoy it and I wish you well. I like the way shared governance works here. There’s always continuity and there’s new people and sometimes I’ve seen you all come back. You disappear from the committee then you get voted back on. I like the
fact that we have students and staff and faculty. I think that’s all very positive. I think we’ve
done some good work and tackled some tough issues. They’re always tough issues. What I also
like about it, I don’t think we ever sweat the little stuff; we always focus on big issues. That’s
very, very important.

As far as my report is concerned, last week, our new President Baker was on campus with an
intensive schedule of meetings with a lot of people. I know how he…it’s an impressive energy
level and I spent a lot of time with him with transition issues and I feel very good about President
Baker’s grasp of the important issues in American higher education and the role of shared
governance and the role of students. He’s a professional in that regard and I was impressed. We
talked about many issues. I did talk about the president’s role in the University Council and he
was pleased to hear that. Of course, he had been here and got a feel for it firsthand. He is
winding up his – he’s got another job you know, he’s got a day job – but he has been contacted
by people, he’s still provost at Idaho and will take over officially July 1, but he’s got a move to
go through. I’m very, very impressed with him.

We have completed the interview process on vice president for student affairs and enrollment
management. We’ve had good committee work. We’ve had three excellent candidates come in
and evaluations are being collected now. President Baker and I discussed this at great length and
we see things very, very similarly. And he will be making the ultimate choice even though I sign
the paperwork to make it official. When we get that evaluation and whether we determine an
offer will be made and whether that offer is accepted. So we’re moving into that end of the
whole process. I want to thank everybody who participated with that.

A lot of the decisions that now go forward I liaise with him. And I will be making decisions, but
I am not making any major decisions without his input or to gauge his comfort level unless there
are things that I would need to do that are best left for me because I know the territory and so
forth. I guess the bottom line is: I think the transition is going very, very well and I’m feeling
very, very good about that, that we have a president who understands the academy and is really
beginning to understand us and just after a week of intensive meetings, that’s a lot of people. I
think he met with every trustee and spent a lot of time with various groups of people. That
basically is my report.

A. **Recognition** of University Council members whose terms are completed, who have been
re-elected, and who are newly elected – Page 4

**J. Peters:** Now, let’s see, it’s also that time of year where we have recognition for University
Council members who completed their labors and who have been either re-elected so they have
more labors or they are newly elected. I believe we have some certificates to hand out and, given
our shared governance, Alan is going to read the names and I am going to hand them out and
shake hands unless anybody objects to that and would like it the other way.

**A. Rosenbaum:** And when you come up to receive your certificate, make sure you don’t trip
over one of the many wires that we planted here just to test your agility. The first group is faculty
who have completed their terms and the first is M Cecil Smith.
J. Peters: There you go Cecil; it’s a mighty nice certificate. Thank you.

A. Rosenbaum: One round of applause per person, either the beginning or the end but not both. Cliff Mirman.

J. Peters: Here you go Cliff, watch the wires.

A. Rosenbaum: Kathleen Coles.

J. Peters: I don’t want to pre-empt you not having the stage.

A. Rosenbaum: Art Ward.

J. Peters: Where is Ward? Okay we’ll set that aside.

A. Rosenbaum: Now remember, those people who aren’t here – did Art send a replacement, a substitute? Okay, we’ll make a note of that.

J. Peters: He’s in my department.

A. Rosenbaum: Carl Von Ende.

J. Peters: Carl? There you are. I knew I saw Carl.

A. Rosenbaum: Be careful of the wires up here.

J. Peters: You’re right about that.

A. Rosenbaum: You don’t want to test out Kishwaukee Hospital before you leave. Okay, C.T. Lin.


J. Peters: Alternate for Rebecca.

A. Rosenbaum: Alternate, no? Dunning letters will go out. Now we’re up to the students. Delonte LeFlore, our Student Association president.

J. Peters: And a gainfully employed graduate.

A. Rosenbaum: Now this next person is not here but I think we all want to give a big round of applause for Austin Quick. Hand that over to one of his compatriots here to hand that to him if you see him again. He’s headed for Washington, D.C. James Zanayed, Student Association Senate speaker. Nick Bender. Kyle Back. Susie Richard. We get rid of a lot of students because
they only one year terms, they don’t have three year terms. Daihee Cho.

**J. Peters:** Congratulations.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Gina Gregolunas.

**J. Peters:** Way to go Gina.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Chad Harris. I guess I spoke too soon. Mike Theodore, he’s here.

**J. Peters:** Michael, congratulations.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Matthew Hofer.

**J. Peters:** Matt, congratulations.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Petia Guerrero. She’s not even a student, right? Oh she’s here. Cara Prock. Wayne Duerkes. Dan Porter. Anyone know where Dan is? Melissa Entzminger.

**J. Peters:** Way to go, Melissa. Congratulations.

**A. Rosenbaum:** That’s the last of our students. And now we have a couple of Operating Staff SPS employees. Deb Haliczer.

**J. Peters:** Way to go, Deb. Thanks for everything you do.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Andy Small.

**J. Peters:** You’re the largest small guy I’ve ever met. Way to go. Appreciate what you’ve done.

**A. Rosenbaum:** And last, Zachery Bohn. We also have to remember faculty who have been re-elected. We don’t have certificates for them but we want to acknowledge them. I’ll read the names and at the end we can give a warm round of applause for the group as a whole. These are faculty who have been re-elected. Chih-Chen Lee from the Department of Accountancy; Brad Sagarin from the Department of Psychology; and Virginia Naples from the Department of Biological Sciences. And finally, the faculty who have been newly elected and will begin their terms in August. So, if they are here, would you stand up so we can introduce you to the University Council. Ibrahim Addel-Motaleb; Eric Mogren; Amy Newman; Robin Moremen and Billie Giesse. That’s it, so thank you.

**J. Peters:** Well thank you everyone for your service.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**VII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**
A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report – Pages 5-6

J. Peters: All right, let’s move to reports. We have a written report only from Sonya Armstrong, pages 5 through 6. I don’t think Sonya is here today. Questions?

A. Rosenbaum: We don’t have anyone to answer them.

J. Peters: Yea, we can’t answer them. That hasn’t stopped us in the past.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – no report

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – no report

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – no report

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – no report

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

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

1. Report on meeting with president and provost – Pages 7-10

J. Peters: We’ll move forward to Paul Carpenter and report from Resources, Space and Budgets and we have reports and an action item.

P. Carpenter: Thank you. There are three reports in front of you. The first is a report from our last meeting with the president and provost. Unfortunately, the president couldn’t be there but Provost Alden was in attendance and Steve Cunningham. I won’t go through it. It’s quite a lengthy report that documents a number of things that were reported. Many of those items have actually been reported to the committee before and shared with University Council. I would be happy to take any questions if people have them. Otherwise, I’ll move on to the second report.

J. Peters: No questions, okay.

2. Year End Summary – Page 11

P. Carpenter: After our final meeting with the president and provost, we sat down as a committee and did a year-end summary. In terms of the summary, you see four points that are highlighted there. The committee felt that, reflecting upon the year, there were a number of issues that had arisen for them that they felt made it very difficult for them to do their job in a timely and informed manner. It was felt that much of the information we got was a matter of report. We felt we didn’t get a lot of opportunity to actually be in on the front end of some of
these conversations and discussions. We also felt there was no effective feedback to determine whether the recommendations we made were actually being taken into consideration and the committee thought it would like be better informed as to how those recommendations were used.

3. Resolution concerning the shared governance role of Resources, Space and Budgets Committee in setting recommendations for budget priorities – Pages 12-13

P. Carpenter: This led the committee to put together a resolution which is the third thing that you see in the packet of information. Again, I would be happy to entertain any questions about the year-end summary before we move to the resolution if anyone has any.

J. Peters: I take that, Paul, that you are moving this resolution?

P. Carpenter: Correct.

J. Peters: So then we we’ll need a second.

G. Long: Second.

J. Peters: Long, second. Okay now questions for Paul on this resolution? Discussion? Yes?

K. Thu: I was just wondering what sort of feedback you might want in the loop?

P. Carpenter: At this moment in time we requested that we have a letter back or a formal notification back that the information that we provide in recommendations had actually moved to the President’s Council or whoever looks at this information and also to the Board of Trustees. That was one aspect of the feedback loop we felt would be useful to have.

J. Peters: Okay.

A. Rosenbaum: I would also like to point out that this resolution was passed by Faculty Senate. Not unanimously, but very close to unanimously and that remember that the Resources, Space and Budget committee is a joint committee of the Faculty Senate and the University Council. So it was passed by the senate and now it’s before the council.

J. Peters: The Resource, Space and Budgets Committee really didn’t operate at all up until the last two years? Three years? And so we are sort of feeling out way through what the committee wants and so forth, so I think this is just a reasonable attempt to codify the way we operate and what you would like. Okay so do we need our clickers? 1-yes, 2-no, 3-abstain. Vote. Voting is closed. What is the tally?

1 – YES – 44
2 – NO – 2
3 – ABSTAIN – 0
J. Peters: Okay. Paul, anything else?

P. Carpenter: That concludes my report. Thank you.

J. Peters: Thanks for your work this year.

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

I. University Affairs Committee – Kathleen Coles, Chair

1. Student grievance policy status report – Pages 14-23

J. Peters: Now we move on to University Affairs. Kathleen, has a report on the students grievance policy – that’s an update, that’s a report.

K. Coles: In November of 2011, the University Affairs Committee was assigned the task of reviewing whether NIU needed a formal grievance procedure to fill a hole perceived to me by the students as a gap in the existing procedures, the affirmative action procedures and grading procedures to cover instances of alleged unprofessional conduct by faculty and staff. We have been working on that project since the assignment, both last year’s committee and this year’s.

What I’ve submitted today is a status report. It is not a request for any kind of action because we’re not yet ready for that. But we did want to advise you about where we were, what tentative conclusions we’ve reached, and what has to be done yet. Do you want to actually go to Attachment C first? I want to emphasize that this has been a priority to students since at least 2003. In other words, this is ten years in adding up , although there have been differences in the amount of pressure from year to year.

In 2003, there was a Faculty Senate report that focused on instances of egregious, unprofessional behavior by faculty. Although it was conceded that it was just a small percentage of people that are causing these problems, but that nevertheless characterizes a very real problem at that point in time. There was an ad hoc committee to study it but then no action resulted.

In November 2011 there was again, it was raised by student leaders, and that’s led to our assignment here. One of the first steps we took, turning to Attachment B, was to identify the needs and concerns of all of those involved; the students and the faculty and staff. We held meetings within the committee, invited guests and also held meetings outside the committee to talk to the students in particular to find out what their concerns were. The result was the tentative findings here. The key student needs and concerns. I think most of them are self evident but they feel strongly that there is a gap.

The existing procedures: I want to emphasize there are procedures, people do complain. They are fielded by units and departments and colleges all the time, but they’re primarily dealt with informally. A few departments have written procedures but most of the procedures are informal. So the question here is a formal university-wide procedure. Students feel strongly that there’s a need for that. They want a voice in the grievance process. They’re concerned about meaningful
sanctions not being imposed informally and in the amount of time it’s taking for complaints to be resolved.

On the flip side, faculty and staff of course have their own concerns when grievances are brought against them. There is a need to protect their rights, particularly when serious actions are proposed. A need to encourage informal resolution, we took that very seriously when talking over this procedure, trying to give incentives to departments and units to resolve as many complaints as possible before reaching this procedure if it is implemented.

We wanted to make sure we didn’t overlap with existing procedures and wanted to have a screening mechanism for the fear of frivolous complaints or vindictive efforts by students or groups of students. So all of those were taken into account.

We studied other schools as well. I have not had time to write all that up, in fact I have a few schools yet to look at. But we looked at Illinois state universities and MAC schools and my tentative conclusions are that, although these kinds of university-wide grievance procedures are not universal, they are not unusual. At least half, it looks to me, of these schools have some sort of university-wide grievance procedure. As an aside, I didn’t really include this, but I think the Department of Education and, therefore the accrediting agencies, are also starting to focus on student complaints as well. Right now they’re just focusing on record keeping primarily but that could change in the future so I think this is an issue that will stay with us probably in the future.

Based on our research and the findings about the needs and so forth, we have a tentative committee consensus this year that we do need a procedure. We’ve worked on drafting a proposed outline of what a procedure might look like. It is not intended as the whole procedure. There are many details that would have to go into it, but in discussing, rather than try to protract a flow chart of how it would work after we drafted it, we start with a flow chart of drafted procedures to fit the flow chart so people could understand it a little bit better. And we included comments about how some of the key features might work and that is Attachment A. Again, I’m not go through a lot of the details there of what’s involved. I think, if you look at the flow chart, you get a sense of it because I know we don’t have a lot of time today, I want to keep this a little bit short and answer questions.

We talked over this draft among the committee. We made a few changes and then we’ve been inviting comments from various interested parties around the university. We had several to a meeting of the committee; we received written comments from others. Those comments are all summarized in Attachment D and it’s anticipated that those comments will be taken into account as we make further revisions to the procedure. Most of the comments are for suggestions of details that would be added here which probably will be in the final procedure.

There has, however, been one serious objection raised to the committee, powers that have been contemplated here. In fact, they may raise due process concerns and it’s our understanding that University Council is, or will be, looking at those as well as Human Resources.

That’s what I’ve got to say, we have nothing to report final now. We’ve got a lot of details to iron out. Our recommendation is, and we have a few volunteers already, for a volunteer working
group this summer to finish up at least the reports on what the other universities are doing; trying to work the procedures along a little more; and then turn it over to the new University Affairs Committee with the goal of trying to get a bylaw revision proposed next semester.

That is where we stand. I’ll take any questions and, if you want more time to look over all this and see what you think including the comments at the end, I’m happy if you would send me e-mail comments on your own up until the end of June and then we’ll turn everything over to the new committee.

J. Peters: Okay.

K. Thu: I serve on the committee and I want to commend Kathleen for a fantastic job. She’s assembled a huge amount of information, organized it, reassembled institutional history and just kept pushing forward. Unfortunately, she’s stepping down from University Council so there are big shoes to fill to keep this moving forward, but again, a masterful job.

K. Coles: Thank you.

A. Rosenbaum: I’d also like to add to that that Kathleen is leaving the University Council because she’s taking a position with the dean’s office, is that right, associate dean of psychology [students], so it’s a great thing for her and it’s our loss. I know how important this is to her and she wanted to stay on if at all possible. And so what we talked about is the fact that we will make sure that this does get carried forward, it won’t get lost in the shuffle during the summer and that Kathleen has agreed to be a consultant to the new chair of the committee when it reformulates in August. We’ll try to keep as many people on the committee as we can. Hopefully, they will have written on those choice forms that they want to stay on the University Affairs Committee and we will make sure that this is carried forward and that Kathleen will be involved to the extent that the committee will allow. I agree, thank you very much for all that you have done on this committee. And they’ve done a lot of work also; this University Affairs Committee has been doing a tremendous amount of work this year. They also had the joint appointment policy and they also had the evaluation of the ombudsperson.

J. Peters: This is great work. Are the students comfortable with the direction just so we don’t … I’ll be watching from Knoxville. Okay, good. Great work. Sometime next year something will be coming forward.

K. Coles: That is the goal.

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

J. Peters: All right we’ll move on to Student Association. Delonte is going to give that report I understand.

D. LeFlore: Hello everyone. Along with President Peters I too am counting my days. I have nine days, 17 hours and seven minutes until I walk across the stage. I have 53 days, 18 hours and seven minutes before I leave to Minnesota where it’s snowing. I don’t know if I made the right
decision. But one thing that I do want to say, I really enjoy the learning curve that I have done during my tenure here at Northern Illinois University. It has really been an experience that I will never forget. I really enjoy working with the staff, the faculty, the administration, the students; all of the collaborative efforts here enhance the quality of life for students here at Northern Illinois University and I just want to say that I am honored and I definitely will take these memories with me and I will think about them when the foundation calls me and asks me for money.

J. Peters: And remember to give.

D. LeFlore: In closing, I do want to talk about right now we’re doing transitioning from the current administration to the next administration. Everyone is learning their positions and learning who to work with and so I encourage everyone who has relationships with the Student Association to also reach out to their next-year administration to continue those relationships and continue building the relationship between the student, faculty and staff. Also Sunday we will be closing out with our end-of-the-year banquet and we look forward to closing the year out. Good luck with finals, students; and, faculty, good luck with those evaluations; administration, keep going.

J. Peters: Congratulations to you.

K. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – report – Pages 24-28

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

A. Small: Thank you, President Peters. I draw your attention to our report on page 24. I won’t go into any of the details there. The one thing I would like to mention, though, on the public relations part, we are very proud of the fact that we have an operating staff scholarship and we had two winners recently announced: Evan Wittke and Jacqueline Zimmerman. So congratulations to those two students that we were able to support financially with our scholarship.

I also want to draw your attention to the NIUToday report where our four outstanding service award winners were announced. In case of you know any of these particular people, please take the opportunity to thank them and acknowledge them for their outstanding service; Sharon Freeman, lead secretary in the Academic Advising Center; Shyree Sanan, the business/administration associate, Division of Research and Graduate Studies; Steve Sarver, administrative assistant in the Office of Development; and finally, last but not least, a man who’s taken a lot of our pictures, Scott Walstrom, senior photographer in Media Services. If you know any of these people, please reach out to them. They are the class of 2013 Operating Staff Service Award winners.

In going with the same theme of thanking people, I want to thank the people in the HR department for a couple of things. One, I attended the benefits fair and I thought it was extremely well done. I saw a lot of operating staff people there taking the opportunity to see what was going to happen with their benefits along with the other classifications here on campus. If I heard
correctly, I’m going to have to pay more for benefits. So, unfortunate news, but a great benefits fair. Good presentation right. Bad news is always better if it’s presented well.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Steve Cunningham and Dr. President Peters on behalf of the staff. As we well know, the four-day work schedule in the summer is a somewhat controversial program. It’s been in place for a long time. It has helped a lot of staff people over the years. We are truly appreciative of that. We acknowledge that there is a need to be on campus for a five-day work week. We also acknowledge the fact that the unfortunate short notification made it sort of an interesting scenario this particular year and backing off on that schedule increased the morale of operating staff. I hope it increased the morale of the campus, in general, and, on behalf of the operating staff, we want to thank all of the administration for that particular decision.

In regard to that, the operating staff would request that we take a serious look at December 23 on this particular calendar coming up. That is a Monday that falls obviously right before Christmas Day, Christmas Eve, the days that are going to be off. And it would be an awkward day to have to come in and work, if we’re going to have to take a vacation day, we’d like advanced notice so people can accumulate vacation, if possible, for that.

**J. Peters:** Steve you have any forward thinking for that yet?

**S. Cunningham:** As Andy indicated it does certainly fall within, it’s a good opportunity to have a vacation day on our schedule because it’s only one day. Sometimes when it’s two or three days, it’s difficult for staff but just with the one day, it’s probably a great opportunity to expand the winter break.

**J. Peters:** Well make sure that the new president makes that decision.

**S. Cunningham:** Yes sir.

**A. Small:** Timely decisions on those types of things really help people to plan for their vacation holidays so we appreciate that. And finally, on behalf of the staff, we want to thank Delonte for his service on Student Association, one of the great leaders of the Student Association in recent years. I know you’ll do well, my friend. And also to President Peters, your leadership, your vision, more than losing a president, we’re losing a friend, so, on behalf of the staff, congratulations on your new job.

**J. Peters:** Right back at you. I appreciate it.

**A. Small:** And that concludes my report. Thank you very much.

**J. Peters:** Okay, any questions for Andy?

**L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – no report**

**M. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair**
1. University Council election of 2013-2014
   Executive Secretary of University Council

J. Peters: All right, then we move on to Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee, Mr. Gupta, and we have an election to conduct, correct?

A. Gupta: Pursuant to Article 3.2 of the NIU Constitution and Article 2.1 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws, I call your attention to the nominee for the office of Executive Secretary of the University Council, Professor Alan Rosenbaum. I make the motion to accept his nomination, to close the nominations and to approve his election to this position.

J. Peters: All right, is there a second?

S. Farrell: Second.


1 – YES – 42
2 – NO – 3
3 – ABSTAIN – 2

J. Peters: That looks like a yes to me. Thank you. Good luck. Great job. Let’s hear it for his service. I so enjoyed working with you. You see how he prepares me, the president’s hopping around doing this and that, it’s important that you get a good working relationship with the executive secretary and I’ve really appreciated that over the past years. It’s really been very, very helpful for shared governance.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Reconsideration of proposed revisions to NIU Bylaws, Article 14.6.4, Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum – ACTION ITEM – Page 29

J. Peters: All right, now we have unfinished business. All of these votes, A., B., and C., are going to require a two-thirds vote of some 40. The first is reconsideration, a try again, of the proposed revisions to NIU Bylaws Article 14.6.4. This comes from the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum. The action item is on page 29. We need a motion, a second and a vote. Is there a motion for reconsideration?

A. Rosenbaum: May I explain this also before we start?

K. Thu: So moved.

J. Peters: Yes.
A. Rosenbaum: This is the item that we did not have, we had a vote last time, but there were so few University Council members that it lost by just one vote I think. So the vote was like 39-2 and 1, and we needed 40 votes to pass it because it’s a bylaw revision. The only way this could get back on as reconsideration was an appeal to President Peters. Melissa Lenczewski handled the collection of signatures and brought those to President Peters who has agreed to uphold the appeal and put this back on. This is that same item that we just barely missed approving last time. We have a motion.

J. Peters: We have a motion, is there a second?

D. Smith: Second.

J. Peters: We have a motion and a second. If we have questions, we have Anne Birberick here for questions. Hearing none, 1 is yes, 2 is no, and 3 is abstain. Are we ready, vote? I’ll pray while you vote.

1 – YES – 45
2 – NO – 2
3 – ABSTAIN – 0

J. Peters: I don’t believe it. Thank you.

A. Rosenbaum: Keep your voting shoes on. There’s more.


J. Peters: All right, we move to B., which is proposed bylaw revisions to Article 5, Academic Personnel Process and to the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual. This is the joint appointment, second reading on pages 30 to 35. Second reading, we don’t need a motion. Questions? Chris McCord or Brad is here for…All right, so this requires again a two-thirds vote of 40. Hearing no questions, we move to a vote. 1-yes, 2-no, 3-abstain. Vote. Close vote now.

1 – YES – 41
2 – NO – 3
3 – ABSTAIN – 2

J. Peters: All right, the motion passes.

C. Proposed revisions to NIU Bylaws, Article 19.4: Annual Evaluation of Ombudsperson – SECOND READING – ACTION ITEM – Pages 36-37

J. Peters: Then we move on to C., proposed revisions to the bylaws. As Kathleen Coles had referred to, this is a change in the annual evaluation of the ombudsperson. This is a second reading on pages 36 through 37. Are there questions for Kathleen?
A. Rosenbaum: I’d also like to point out that the last time we did this there were some comments and that Kathleen has revised this somewhat from the last time. So there were friendly amendments, so this is not exactly the one we voted on at the first reading and reflects changes that were made in response to comments we made at that meeting.

K. Cole: If you recall, the concern was over new hires that moving to a mid-term evaluation wouldn’t enable university members to spot and identify problems early. We discussed it and we proposed an amendment where there would be annual evaluations during the first three-year term of an ombudsperson and then mid-term evaluations after that until a new person is hired.

J. Peters: All right, are we clear? All right, let’s move to a vote. 1-yes, 2-no and 3-abstain. Vote. Close voting.

1 – YES – 41  
2 – NO – 1  
3 – ABSTAIN – 4

J. Peters: All right, the new rules pass.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Comments from the Executive Secretary

J. Peters: Now we move to new business. Comments from the Executive Secretary.

A. Rosenbaum: First I guess I should thank the 42 of you, not so much the two and the three or perhaps the other way around. Maybe I should thank the two of you, but I appreciate it. I appreciate your vote and I really will do my best to try and orient our new president in the right direction. And I am looking to that as one of the major challenges of the upcoming term, which, as I said, not because of anything having to do with me, but this will be my last term as executive secretary. By constitution, you have to be a member of the University Council. You can only run for two consecutive three year terms. Next year will conclude the third year of my second term and I will have to step off. During this year, hopefully, we will be finding a successor, someone to take over, and someone who is interested in continuing the work of the executive secretary. I really want to encourage people who have an interest to talk to me about it and we have a whole year to sort of orient that transition in July of 2014.

I want to make some comments, I appreciate John’s comments. For four years, it’s really been my privilege to sit beside John at the UC meetings. In that time I’ve come to know him as a champion of public education. As a first generation college student himself, he’s devoted himself to the idea that everyone, rich or poor, has a right to an education and he has dedicated NIU to that mission. For 13 years, he’s been the face of NIU and the strong shoulders that have carried us through the most difficult times. We’ll miss his good humor and his enthralling presidential remarks at the start of each council meeting, at least the humor.
Now, as he joins the ranks of the annuitants, just as the jokers in Springfield are about to slash retirement benefits, we wish him a long and healthy retirement. And, John, you better stay healthy because you’re not going to have health benefits. We also have a presentation on behalf of the council so if you want to join me at the easel there.

J. Peters: Oh my.

A. Rosenbaum: Yes, it’s that time again.

J. Peters: I’m finally getting tenure.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, John although you’re a political scientist we know that you like history.

J. Peters: Although, I resent that.

A. Rosenbaum: Well you know, like a political scientist.

J. Peters: In addition to being a political scientist.

A. Rosenbaum: A political scientist is to history as Fox News is to CNN. Isn’t that correct? I’ve heard you have a fondness for antique maps and so what we have here are two maps – you do need your glasses for this. The one on the right is a map of DeKalb that was made in 1905 and the one on the left was from 1899 and it is a plan showing the proposed location of Altgeld Hall. On behalf of the University Council, I want to present you with this token of our respect, appreciation and affection.

J. Peters: You don’t know how meaningful that is. Wow. Thank you.

A. Rosenbaum: So some of you can have a look at it, we’ll have it on display at the reception so we’ll bring it down there and people will be able to get a close look at it.

J. Peters: Thank you very much. That is true, I love old maps and prints. I think they tell us so much. Just there it is, that little dot there, that little blob. Look what we’ve done to the landscape. I am going to miss all of you tremendously. I spent yesterday, my family came in, the Peters family, my three grandchildren, son and daughter-in-law, and I ran back to do this, and I have to fly to Indianapolis right after this for NCAA Executive Committee. And I tried to run the family – the next two days - like I do the university, you know run it into the ground, to see how that would go, see how I… and it isn’t working. Let me tell me. It’s like, I get it, and it’s like running the Faculty Senate. So I want to thank you all. Best wishes to all of you. You’re really just a great group of people and, remember, what I think is so true, public higher education so important to this country. Try to image this country, this state without public higher education, without universities. We’re messy, sometimes we do…but if you want to bring culture to the plains, we did it. We have trained generations of poets and scientists and artists and practitioners and teachers. Of course, this is the place to do it. You want to have a nice place to raise a family and work? This has been a good place. Let’s hope that our public officials don’t muck it up, but we’ve had tough times before historically here.
A. Rosenbaum: You said “much,” right? The Northern Star, he said “muck.”

J. Peters: So, anyway, I just want – I’m going to miss you all but I’ll be back again from time to time to check up on all of you and to see if the grievance procedures pass. Thank you.

X. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Peters: All right, any other business before the house? Any comments because it is that time of year where now we adjourn and get to partying down in the University Suite.

A. Rosenbaum: University Suite on the second floor.

XI. 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, Graduate Council
L. Minutes, Honors Committee
M. Minutes, Operating Staff Council
N. Minutes, Supportive Professional Staff Council
O. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council
P. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
Q. Minutes, University Benefits Committee
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XII. ADJOURNMENT

J. Peters: For the last time, we stand adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.