I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Peters: I have to read that to you, I believe this is non-controversial.

Meeting called to order at 3:07 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

J. Peters: First order of business (technical difficulty with tape).

P. Erickson: Okay, this is for the Student Conduct Board. University Council is being asked to approve Kelli Bradley. Kelli is the professional development and operations coordinator in the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. She will be replacing Kris Coffin on the Student Conduct Board. Kelli Bradley is an operating staff employee and she is replacing an operating staff employee on that board.

J. Peters: So that fits the distributional formula, okay. So with those two walk-ins, I am calling for a motion to adopt today’s agenda.

A. Quick: So moved.

J. Peters: Is there a second?

P. Vohra: Second.’

J. Peters: All right, do we have that? All those in favor of adopting the agenda say aye.
Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed? We have the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2012 UC MEETING
(sent electronically)

J. Peters: And we have the approval of the minutes of May 2, 2012 which were distributed electronically. I’ll call for additions or corrections. Yes?

D. Munroe: And it has to do with, it’s on page 7 of the minutes, the report from the Academic Policy Committee. It was my recollection that the Academic Policy Committee referred this particular issue back to CUAE. However, at the end of that section, section F, it says that we voted to return the issue back to the Academic Policy Committee, like we sent it back to them again and I don’t think that’s what happened.

J. Peters: That’s right from the transcript.

D. Munroe: Pardon?

J. Peters: This is from the transcript. Was there something missing in the transcript?

D. Munroe: I don’t know and I don’t know if there are former members of that committee here to speak to that.

J. Peters: Does anybody remember this? Why don’t we do this, why don’t we approve the agenda, pending this item, a correction on this item and then I am going to direct Pat to clarify with Alan.

D. Munroe: Sounds good to me. Okay, great.

J. Peters: Is that acceptable to everyone. Okay, so all those in favor of the minutes pending this clarification, say aye.

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed?

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS – Presentation and video

J. Peters: Thank you. Alan said this was going to be easy. Well welcome back everyone. We have a light agenda today so I thought I would take the opportunity to lecture and to talk to you about the things that have been happening and where we are with certain things and update you on what’s been happening. I’m getting some help from, who’s controlling the, okay so the next slide. First, as I do every year, how’s our bank book looking? I do that every year and we’ve got new members. If you’re a new member raise your hands. Okay, this will be a little bit of a
primer. This is the internal budget, it’s very simple, that we have to by state statute and board bylaws, must be approved by our Board of Trustees, and this will be hopefully adopted next week at the Board of Trustee meeting. It has already been approved by the Finance and Facilities Committee of the board. This is a very simple view of what our budget is. This is a budget we set. It’s not expenditures, but it’s an anticipated budget. It’s required by law and by bylaw.

There are three components of our budget historically. There is something called appropriated funds and when people talk about our budget, most often they think appropriated funds, which means money we get from the state, or general funds. All right, and a second component which has many aspects to it, is non-appropriated revenues. Those are things that don’t come directly from the state, they are not the subsidy from the state, but we generate them in various ways. For instance, the income fund is tuition and fees; revenue bond operations is money for instance you get from room rates; auxiliary enterprises is the services we sell, food items; and then gifts, grants and contracts, whether that’s corporate giving, private giving or the grants we get from the federal government to do research or public service; and we hold local funds.

So those are the components and let me go back up to the general revenue budget. Last year our budget was $99.6 million, thereabouts, and that has been in steady decline from 2000. At one point we were $118 million, we were about $118 million way back when. You see a steady decline in that. This year we got hit again. We were reduced by 6.13 percent so our new general revenue going forward this year is $93.5 million. We anticipated that, we accommodated it in two ways, we took 3 percent from central funds and 3 percent was pretty much allocated to the units. Those opening conditions are set; it’s painful but we anticipated it; we made it, we’re okay, we got a budget.

One other thing you should understand, you probably can’t read the fine print here, but as we entered this fiscal year, the state still owed us from last year’s $99.6 million. They owed us $28.3 or $4 million, so they paid us $70 some million and they still owe us $28.4 million which they are pledged to pay by December 31 but we don’t have it now. The good news is that’s less than they owed us last year. Is that good news? We’ve adjusted to it, we’re okay. We need the money though and that’s $28 million of vouchered, you know things that have a string to it, it’s vouchered, it’s not just cash. It has a payment, we owe somebody. Would that be correct Eddie?

Let me talk a little bit about the income fund. When we set, and these are targets that we set, they are not actual numbers yet because we haven’t received the dollars and they are variable and you have to be very careful when you set these numbers because it’s based on things like enrollment, so the more enrollment you have, the more income fund you have. We set this based upon a very conservative range of what we expect. I’ll get to enrollment later in my report, but we’re okay. We set that, we were anticipating enrollment fluctuations. We do that every year and we set the range so we don’t get caught allocating money that we don’t have. So you can see that our total budget from all sources shows at least a theoretical increase. The actual number may vary depending on things like how much services we sell, how many gifts we get, how many contracts we get, what our enrollment is. But you can see that we ‘re almost a half-a-billion-dollar corporation and you can also see, what I have been harping on for four or five years, the state has become an important, we need it, but a minor contributor to our overall enterprise, like 20 percent, 21 percent. In a bygone era, that was in the sixties and so it’s kind of simple. The less we get from the state, the more we have to do for ourselves and that usually means passing out costs.
and being economically efficient.

I don’t know if that’s very helpful for you or not. I always try to simplify budgeting. I like two pieces of paper. How much money I got, how much money do I spend and where do I spend it? Opening condition, we’re still owed $28.4 million but the check is in the mail by December 31 and we set our targets based upon realistic expectations of the revenue we’re going to get from all sources and we’re okay, we’re not flush as you know, but we’re okay. I’m very pleased at the work that Dr. Williams and all of the people out there, down to the department and unit level. We’ve got really good budgeters. I know that there’s pain out there, but look around. I had the misfortune of spending a lot of time talking to other presidents this summer and it’s kind of grim out there to tell you the truth, but I have a smile on my face because I am very proud of what we’ve done.

Next slide. Now, for something different. We’ve really had a busy summer in Lake Wobegon. You know, over a year ago, almost two years ago, what became clear in, one thing that became clear in Vision 2020, is that people wanted us to spend more attention to the little things on our campus. But the little things are not so easy and they are significant. Taking care of our physical plant, making it cleaner, making it look more beautiful, and it was all part of our renaissance in terms of residential renaissance for students and to attract the best faculty we can, the best staff and students. We’ve had a lot of things going on this summer. And again, these are really not sexy things but bridge repairs, sprinklers, lighting upgrades, those nice architectural lights, parking lots and deck repairs. I get more complaints about parking than anything. Roofs, you got a big aging physical plant like we do, and roofs are a nightmare. There is probably one leaking right now and it’s not even raining. Water features, painting, concrete repair. We laid more concrete this summer, I see more new concrete and landscape improvements and cleaning our buildings. So Finance and Facilities under Eddie’s leadership and Jeff Dauer, has but together, they’re getting in the modern world, they put together a six-minute video and I’m glad they did this because, you know I keep bumping, you keep bumping into these signs and have “redirect your route” because of all the dirt and dust that’s flying, so queue up the video, it’s six minutes. I hope the sound works.

Video

**J. Peters:** Okay, it felt more than six minutes, but that was six minutes and 14 seconds. I want to thank, I think it was Eddie’s idea to put this together, and he got help from Jay Orbick and I wanted them to do the score from Rocky! I don’t like flute music or piccolo music. You noticed there was a mixture of capital projects in there as well and we’re not done. We are going to keep doing this as long as the money holds out and our will holds out. I want to thank a lot of people; Jeff Dauer, we had a lot of subcontractors. It’s a lot of blended funding from various projects; and here’s the thing – I hope the local community understands, that has poured millions of dollars into the local community and jobs and we never get credit for that. We’re doing our bit to help the local community in terms of economic development. I hope you appreciate it the way I do because it makes me feel proud to be associated with this and I wish we could fix everything up as once but we have $300 million for maintenance and very little money from the state if any to do that, but I do like our priorities.

I do want to say a little bit about the focus on the new residence hall which is the crown jewel of
our residential renaissance. We opened in up on time, on budget; everybody got moved in; 1,008 students in 88 pods of 12. If you’ve been through it, very, very exciting. It’s really three units in the complex, three separate buildings. A new residence hall, I believe that one is West, the community center, I call it the country club and here’s East, 500 in each and this is where they congregate.

Next slide, some celebrations – this is the ribbon cutting that we had the week before move-in day. We had a lot of dignitaries there, a lot of enthusiasm. That was in the community center. We have 160 honor students living together, in a group together. We have a similar number of student athletes that are grouped together and all reports are everybody likes it. That’s pretty remarkable that you turn 1,008 showers on at the time and they work and the water is still hot and I don’t know what else happened over there. I went through it, it’s remarkable and I’m going to be very interested to see the impact that it has. The word is spreading all over the Chicagoland area about this and its part of our residential renaissance. You can move on. You can see some more of it. The students really like the state-of-the-art workout center. It seems like students can’t get enough of the recreation thing. That’s a big part of their culture and, by God, let’s give it to them if that’s what they want. Okay, next slide.

We are looking ahead a little bit, we’re renovating Grant Tower D. We did see, to rave reviews last year, this will come in line next fall, 2013; pretty complicated project but we’ll be opening it up for over 300 students. You lose rooms because we make the rooms bigger and we have compliance issues so you lose rooms when you do that. Okay, next slide. And then this one, you know, those of you have been around long enough to know, Gilbert Hall, which is on the east side of campus, was a residence hall for many, many years and we took it out of service in the late ‘90’s, mid to late 90’s, and it’s just been spill-over space, but we finally decided to renovate it. It’s about an $18.6 project. You know that we are working on it. It’s going to be wonderful and I really like the fact that we’re going to bring 294-300 students to that end of campus because it’s near the art, music, education, engineering and Barsema College of Business. I’m really pleased about that and I can’t wait to see the final product. Okay, next slide.

A few other things: I just want to bring attention again Cole Hall. This is the first year of full operation and it’s a work horse again for lectures and it of course has the state-of-the-art technology classroom and anthropology museum which is just great to go see. What a great project. It’s $10 million from the state and we are appreciative of that.

Go ahead and I’m pleased to say that we do now have the authorization and the appropriation for Steven’s Hall and the plans are drawn and through a lot of work of a lot of people, Frederick Schwantes, Eddie, Jeff Dauer, Kathy Buettner, others who helped program it, we of augment of that original project and take out that, I think it was like the north connector that moved out, totally re-build that because it wasn’t worth rehabbing, be all new space, plus at the end of it there is going to be the replacement of the second major large classroom that we lost at Cole Hall when we took one out. This is going to be a great project. You’re going to hear about timelines later on. I think we’re almost ready to announce all of that. This is a project, however, that’s under the control of the CDB. The Capital Development Board, that’s a state agency, they control the timing, what goes on and when. If we controlled it, I could predict to a day when we were going to open. You can’t do that with the state, but its state money so they control it. Okay, next.
The other thing here is for students. I’m really pleased about this, because north of the Convocation Center, and we just have big fields now, we are putting in – with bonds that we floated under American Build bonds I believe last year – and it was part of the renaissance, we are building – and the bulldozers are moving already – you probably can see out the window, major intramural fields, a whole bunch of them. Some of them are in turf, field turf, some are lighted. There is a kind of a recreation center, restrooms, there is a running track, it is lit and the perimeter is fenced so that you can run in there at night and be safe. I am really excited about this. I know the students are excited about this. They really wanted it. Eddie, when will we be open for business?

E. Williams: I think we should plan for next year.

J. Peters: Next year, a little more complicated than you think, but it’s going to be great. Okay, next. And I just want to briefly mention that we just about raised all the private money. We’re over $9 million on this $9.6 million project for the indoor practice center and it is named after Ken and Ellie Chessick, we call it the Chessick Center. It’s married to the Yordon Center on the north end of the stadium. It’s huge. It’s well engineered, it’s an exciting project, we’re ready to break ground. It must be ready for November of next year, 2013, because the Illinois High School Association is bringing back its high school football championships every other year to DeKalb and that’s one major reason why they’re doing it. That’s all I have to say about that. All athletes will be using that, all 469.

Now I want to move on to something that I’m all about and that is, I want to focus on new faculty and new students. Now, some of these people are not new. We haven’t had time to take a picture of new people yet. I see some people I know up there. Now I didn’t do that for political reasons C.T., but if I thought about it, I would have done it. We have, this year, approximately 50 tenure and tenure-track faculty new hires and that’s more than we’ve hired. We’ve had to hold the line because of budgets and we’ve had a lot of retirements and I’ll have a report on that when we can figure that all out. And we have a lot of baby boomers and a lot of people nervous about the pension. But let me tell you, most of these have come from the College of Liberal Arts because it’s the largest college and had the most vacancies, but the reports I’m getting from the provost and from the deans and from Chris McCord is that this is a great group and I’ve heard that from so many people, that this new group of faculty are an exciting group and it is a buyer’s market out there.

There are not a lot of tenure track positions in higher education and so therefore we are in a very, very good position to recruit them. I always say its replenishment, a major infusion of new ideas and new energy and new ways of thinking. They are coming out of some of the best Ph.D. programs in the world – Yale, Cornell, London School, Northwestern. Some are at the upper level. We have attracted people who are in tenure track positions from some other universities. That’s a switch rather than losing people. Interestingly, it looks like the schools that we get the most from are from Wisconsin. The tables are turned I guess. We should tell the governor that of Wisconsin, there’s a brain drain we’ll take all that they want to give us. The other thing that I find fascinating, you know a few years ago we did the Great Journeys and we really put a focus on inter-disciplinary programs and according to what I heard from Dean McCord, at least nine of these faculty, have join appointments in our interdisciplinary centers, like our Nanotech Center, our Environmental Studies Center, our Non-Governmental NGOLD Center, Women’s Studies,
Latino Studies, Southeast Asian Studies and our new Center on Secondary Science and Math; that’s really important. That we’ve recruited people who are already committed to multi-disciplinary activities, that’s fantastic. So it’s an energetic group; they are already submitting proposals, they’re in the PI Academy and we expect great things for them. And we have to do everything we can for them and for all faculty and all of you to remove the roadblocks to being successful; the little things that drive you nuts. I’m going to have an attempt this year to identify them and eliminate them. Not everything costs money. Sometimes when you throw money at a problem you don’t solve it at all. I’m really excited about that.

Also, I’m very excited about our new students. Next slide. Our new students and I’ve already talked a little bit about them. I’ve had the pleasure of being around on move-in day and I’ve met a lot of the new students. Provost Alden has had the opportunity to do a retreat with our honors students and everybody agrees, and it will be interesting to hear what the faculty have to say, this is a very, very good group of new students.

Now, I’m pleased to announce today that for the fall 2012 new freshman enrollment is up 2.9 percent or 3 percent, 2,664 and that’s after our ten-day where we set the count. So that’s a pretty solid number. That’s very, very good news because we worked very, very hard on recruiting freshmen, that’s a key for us, freshmen. I want to say a little bit about the class, it’s reflected not only in those numbers which pleases me, but also grade point average and class rank. The percentage of students in the top percent of their high school class rose from 8.8 percent to 11.1 percent. And we put money into that, we put money into high-end scholarships and those graduating in the 25th percentile represented 33 percent, whereas last year it was 29 percent. The arrows in the mean GPA went from 3.06 to 3.11. Those arrows are all in the right direction. The numbers are where they are and the quality is there. That’s the good news.

We have experienced a decrease in our overall enrollment that was not totally unexpected and I’ll explain that in a minute. Our university total enrollment is 21,864. Last year it was 22,990, so that’s a 4.9 percent decrease. There are three factors contributing here, we sort of knew this. Number one, we had a huge graduation class last year, which we want, we want to get them out and that was reflected in a very large freshman class in 2008. So we awarded 5,700 degrees last year and 4,000 of them were bachelor’s degrees and that largely represented that class of 2008. So they are moving out. Then we had three smaller freshman classes. Each smaller and then we turned it around this year. And then given retention rates, you have a burn rate, so we expected that.

The thing we didn’t quite expect, although we saw it out there and everyone – most people experienced it in the Midwest – new transfer admissions are 19,013 and that’s down ten percent from last year. So the transfer students coming from community colleges, which are usually 39 or 40 percent of our total undergraduate enrollment, fell off. What’s the reason? Price point and it’s in the Midwest and there some bright spots to that. There was an increase for the past two, three years in the number of students who went to community colleges, but they apparently all were not four year college bound or they are still staying there. There is a decrease this year in community college enrollments. We’re looking at that. It gives us cause for concern. We’re pleased about the freshman enrollment, not so pleased about the transfer, we expected the downturn. This has no way, I’m optimistic, this has no way caused me great concern because, remember, I said we had planned in our budgeting for fluctuations? We had planned for it. We
wished we would have had another few hundred students, it would add to the bottom line, but we’re okay.

But here, we have a goal that we set in Vision 2020 that’s ambitious, that’s a long way off. We have to redouble our efforts and this clearly the clarion call is let’s continue to work on freshman enrollment. We’ve got a really good product to sell: great faculty, great facilities, great new residence hall, and residential renaissance, good campus and engaged learning. We’ve got a lot to sell. We’re going to try to figure out this transfer which is going to come back. We have to work on retention because we have to keep more of the students that are here but we have turned the corner on freshmen so we’re loading the pipeline. Graduate enrollments are down a bit and that is an issue with the economy, given the kind of graduate programs we have.

Let me do a shout-out to a few colleges that have had some increases in enrollments, good work. We’ve seen the highest enrollment, undergraduate, in the College of Engineering with 11 percent, good going. College of Education is at 8 percent increase, good going and we did have a fall off in those, but education is coming back. And College of Business increased this year by over 6 percent and that’s because we have a great College of Business. There is still much to be done, but I’m really happy about the quality. I like our students an awful lot. I like our plans, they are coming together. I knew this wasn’t going to be easy, but I’m really optimistic about it.

The other thing I want to, next slide please, is I’m really proud of the Honors Program. Just look at this. We have 226 freshmen in honors. That’s the largest since ’87. The average ACT is 29, that’s getting up there. That’s competitive with the best. Class rank is up and GPA is up. And you know we’re focusing on transfer students. There are great transfer students out there who are honors caliber and we’ve put some scholarships in that and we have 85. Good work, and again, 160 of them are grouped together in those pods of 12 in the new residence hall.

And then the last thing, and I’m not going to talk about this too much, but I want you all if you don’t know about it, what we do in engaged learning and themed learning on this campus is truly remarkable. That is the value added for us and I know Julia Spears runs the outfit, what’s the name of that?

**R. Alden:** Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning.

**J. Peters:** The Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning and in each college and department, there are similar kinds of activities. This makes the difference for our students. And the other thing that I’ve asked Ray and Kelly to do this year is to start integrating career thinking from the minute we recruit a student and not wait until the end in March when they are seniors and they go over and say, “Gee, can you help me find a job?” This is what parents want and what students want and what we are all about – engagement, externships. So I’m very excited about that.

Lastly, stay tuned you’re going to hear more from me. Next week I’m giving an update to the board on Vision 2020 and our metrics and then October 11, the State of the University and that’s going to be a little different. I want to focus on the challenges to higher education, how we are meeting them and what the future may hold for higher education and how we can improve what we do in small ways by removing obstacles.
And I want to end by introducing the newest member of our group and that’s our new ombudsperson, is that what you call yourself? Sarah Klaper, Sarah you want to say anything?

S. Klaper: Thank you very much. I know I have large shoes to fill with Tim Griffin retiring and so I appreciate it. I’ve been making my way across campus to try to meet as many people as possible and I appreciate all of your hospitality and patience with me in making my way to many of your offices. As you know, the ombudsperson’s office is a neutral office. We represent or work with every constituency on campus: faculty, staff, students, administrators, everybody. So we’re a neutral office but at the same time we are an office that is confidential and we work to resolve conflict. If somebody comes to our office, we work to find out what the core of the problem is and help them figure out what are the best ways that they can advocate for themselves and at the same time I’m tracking trends to see if there are any issues that need to be addressed more systemically so I can make policy recommendations to whoever is the decision maker or decision makers on that issue. We have a wide variety of things that we are doing in our office but right now I’m focusing a lot on just getting out there and meeting people and understanding what all of you do in your different offices and so I appreciate all of your time that people have been devoting to talking with me. We are having an open house. My office is down on the sixth floor in Holmes Student Center, 601, and we are having an open house next week on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. so we welcome everybody to come on over and visit with me, the office manager, Karola Smith, who used to be at the School of Art and two graduate assistants. So please come on over and visit us. Thank you.

J. Peters: Very welcome. You have big shoes to fill, but thank God we don’t have to observe ZZ Top beards. Okay we can bring up the house lights and move into our agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. University Council Standing Committees – approve 2012-13 membership rosters – Pages 4-6


C. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee – Approve the addition of this council to the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Page 8

D. Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources Advisory Committee – Approve the updating of this committee description in the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Pages 9-13

E. Intellectual Property Committee – Approve the updating of a position title referred to in the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Page 14

F. University Outreach Advisory Committee – Approve the updating of a position title and division name referred to in the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Pages 15-16
G. Student Conduct Board – Approve Kelli Bradley, Professional Development and Operations Coordinator, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, to replace Kris Coffin on the Student Conduct Board. Kelly Bradley is an operating staff employee.

J. Peters: All right, the first item, Item V Consent Agenda, is there a motion to approve today’s consent agenda?

R. Lopez: So moved.

J. Peters: Okay, Rosita Lopez. Is there a second?

D. Munroe: Second.

J. Peters: All right, all in favor say aye.

Members: Aye.

J. Peters: Opposed? All right, we have a consent agenda.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES


J. Peters: Basically what we have today is reports. Let’s move into reports. Sonya Armstrong, who is the new faculty representative to the IBHE’s faculty advisory group. I know she’s here. I saw her. I helped her find a seat.

S. Armstrong: Yes, I have two brief reports. There was the meeting in May which I attended at SIU Carbondale and then there was the June meeting which Earl Hanson attended at Blackhawk College. Those reports are in your packet. I would say across both of these meetings there are really three themes and I anticipate that those themes will continue into this year’s meetings. Really it has to do with the MAP funding especially and in particular this group has been trying to think of ways to provide other requirements for students who are already or will be getting the MAP funding. So there were some suggestions on the table as far as providing motivational workshops for students who get MAP funding and the like. So the MAP funding, who gets it and whether it continues, those are issues that we’ll continue to discuss.

The other two issues, one is the turnover at the IBHE, that continues to be on the agenda at these meetings. And then the last one is that remediation or developmental education continues to be a topic. Are there any questions on the report?

J. Peters: Okay, IBHE? Questions on IBHE? Yea on the legislative agenda this year we got three things. The MAP money, the other is there is a waiver task force that has to report by April. This
is of concern because one of the targets for analysis is the waivers for dependents of university employees and this is an important contractual, employment contractual, benefit that has been in place for generations and it’s ubiquitous in American higher education. I’m worried about that a little bit. The other is, I should have mentioned, is pensions. And Steve Cunningham, I don’t know if he’s here or not, but he’s still point person for all of higher education along with Abhijit Gosh from U of I and I expect some action probably in a lame duck session in January after the veto session. That’s what all the pundits are saying and I know no more than they do, but that’s the conventional wisdom. We watch that every day because it’s of tremendous import to our annuitants, to all of us who are employees and our current employees, the ones we recruit, they ask about benefits. Steve spends a lot of his time doing that. Yea?

J. Kowalski: Regarding pensions I just suggest that everyone try to take a look at it and perhaps Google the latest information regarding pending constitutional amendment. It’s constitutional amendment 49 because it directly deals with pension and it deals with language that would require three-fifths approval by each of the houses of the legislature to approve any new sorts of benefits or emoluments and so forth for pensions and then there is a final paragraph that people are scratching their heads about but may have implications for the discussion for future COLA cuts or things of that sort. I bring that to your attention if you haven’t heard about it.

J. Peters: Thank you. Sonya are you done?

S. Armstrong: Unless anyone has questions.

J. Peters: Sorry we stepped on your report there, but welcome.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – report – Pages 20-24

J. Peters: Okay, the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee report I believe Andy you’re going to give that one?

A. Small: Yes sir.

J. Peters: It’s on pages 20 through 24.

A. Small: Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. I’ll move through this quickly. If you have any questions at the end I’ll be glad to try and answer them. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Chair Wheeler Coleman. The one interesting thing about this particular meeting is this was the first meeting that the Board of Trustees has electronic tablets. As they move more and more towards a paperless society, the Board was given electronic tablets and seems to work very well with that situation. The only action item on the agenda that day was request for degree authority for the University Center of Lake County. It seems that they are seeking a B.S. in early childhood studies at that particular university center. The students that are working there weigh into the Associate of Art in teaching degree and students with that will now be able to complete a bachelor’s degree by enrolling in the B.S. program in early childhood studies there at UCLC. They did pass that on first reading with the final approval coming up with the full board on September 10.
The next three items were informational items. I direct your attention to your packet, page 21, if you’d like to follow along. I will take a page out of our most esteemed provost’s book as he announced these particular individuals at the Board of Trustees meeting. I’d like to do the same to honor our best and brightest here. If there is anyone in any of these categories that I quickly mention, if you’ll acknowledge yourself so we can recognize you and give you your due rewards, I would appreciate it.

The first category, Board of Trustees Professorship Award, I find this interesting because if you saw the new faculty slide, you saw our man C.T. up there on new faculty. I think it’s very good that a new faculty member can win the Board of Trustees award right off the bat, so C.T. I see you back there. Congratulations C.T. Is Heidi or Reed here with us today? Please give them your congratulations if you see them.

Presidential Teaching Professors, anyone here with us today? Presidential Research Professor? Presidential Engagement Professor, James? Excellence in Undergraduate recipients, Terry, Nancy or Andrea here with us? They are all off getting better at what they do right so they are not with us today. Excellence in Undergraduate Award recipient, Matt? Operating Staff Outstanding Service Awards please give them you congratulations when you see them. The operating staff people, of course, work very hard for us here at the university and we appreciate their work. In the final category, the best for last, right Todd? The Presidential Supportive Professional Staff Award for Excellence, our own Todd Latham here. Thank you.

The next informational item was the faculty emeritus recognition. I direct your attention to page 23 of your pamphlet, if any of those people are here, I’m surprised quite frankly. Why are you here? Go back home and get your nap in, right? But if they are here, congratulations to you.

The third informational item was the Higher Learning Commission accreditation update. As you know, we are going through the HCL process. Chapter one the introduction has been completed and the university continues to prepare for site visits in the fall of 2013 and the spring of 2014.

We concluded with a substantial and detailed report from Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Lisa Freeman. Lisa’s not here so I guess David will answer questions if you have them. And the three programs that were highlighted this year were the Promise Scholars and the STEM Program, the Operation E-Tank for a more sustainable world and the Rockford area Aerospace Cluster. The report was detailed in those particular situations, very fine projects that are going on that are received funding this year along with a number of other fine projects. If there is any questions I’ll be glad to try and answer them, otherwise that concludes my report.

J. Peters: Very good, very comprehensive. Any questions?


J. Peters: All right, moving on to VI. C. we have a written report from Alan and Greg Waas. Neither are here.
D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – report – Pages 27-28

J. Peters: Moving on to D., we have a Legislative Audit and External Affairs report. I think Rosita is going to give that or Todd is going to give that?

T. Latham: Thank you. The Legislative Audit and External Affairs committee met on August 30. The presentation included a group, the Daly Group. They basically provided an update on federal relations and funding concerns that have occurred in DC. If things continue the way that they are progressing, as they portend to frozen funds and sequestration, NIU could stand to lose $2.7 million for fiscal year ’13. NIU has been recommended that we maintain some of our opportunities by reviewing our internal policies and procedures. That we look at partnerships to further develop those at the federal level as well as with congressional committees and that we build our NIU brand at a federal level. It was noted that over 1,000 universities have an ongoing representation in the District of Columbia and it’s very important that we look at that as well as other universities compete with us for precious funds.

At the state level, discussion continues regarding pensions. We also want to point out that tuition waivers were discussed that they are under review by the legislature. It was estimated that if these benefits were eliminated, $680 million could be saved. The committee also discussed some of the requirements that may be placed upon the university such as a university dashboard of statistics. This would be a one-page information point for parents and potential students to make informed decisions. NIU is also converting its current two tier notification system to an Everbridge System. This system should be online by late September, early October, and will change from an opt-in system to an opt-out system.

And then finally the committee received a compliance report minimal audit findings at NIU. I’d like to report back that all these findings have been addressed by the proper agency or office at the university. Thank you.

J. Peters: Okay, any questions in that legislative audit report?

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – report – Pages 29-30

J. Peters: Okay E., Alan has a written report only from the BOT but he said it goes over the things that we already covered in committee.

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

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Paul Carpenter, Chair – no report

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 Austin Quick, Speaker – report – Pages 31-32
J. Peters: The next report is the Student Association report. I believe Austin Quick is going to give that. Am I correct in that?

A. Quick: Yes sir. Thank you Mr. President. On behalf of the students of NIU and my colleagues here, I think the new improvements are a welcome starting point for our university to be competitive in a global market. Our university is definitely making strides to improve our facilities.

There are a few things I’d like to bring to your attention today. We do have a two-page report in there of things we’ve been doing but there are a few points that I wanted to bring up while we have a moment. The first thing, one of the busiest things that we’ve been dealing with in our office is regarding the changes to the printing on campus and the new restrictions relating to them. Between myself and Delonte and numerous other people, we probably get between 15 to 20 students coming in or e-mailing and complaining about, not only the change, but the fact that many professors are not behaving in a manner that they even realize that there’s been a change in the restriction on printing and also a number of people have complained that they are actually being charged. I think actually Delontes had this happen, we tested it out, and he was charged even though he hadn’t used his 300 allotment yet, where their Huskie Bucks account is being charged. So that is something we definitely want to bring the attention to the administration to look at. One being that they aren’t being charged before their initial 300; and [two] also to instruct both the faculty, I brought it up at Faculty Senate, but that if we are going to go down this road where limiting free printing on campus and we understand it’s free, we understand it’s not part of a fee, we understand it’s above and beyond what people pay, that faculty is also aware. I had a senior and I had a grad student yesterday who said in the first two weeks in grad school he already went through his 300 allotment yet and teachers are still requiring them to print out lots and lots of things. At a time when we are asking students to pay more and more and more, we definitely want to utilize services like Blackboard and other things that we have to not become a hindrance to students. I would hate to see after paying for books and everything else, you still have to pay for a printer and ink and everything else above and beyond. And that has been a nice thing that we’ve had here and we’ll hope both the faculty and the students can come to some type of an agreement where the printing is a little more understandable what’s being expected. But it’s definitely a concern that a lot of people and we’re working through that. The big thing, and I think Dr. Williams and his staff can help maybe look through that, is the Huskie Bucks issue with students being charged right off the offset there.

Next thing, we talked about it last year and I brought it up at Faculty Senate and I brought it up in a couple other avenues. We’ve talked in-depth over the last three years that I’ve been here regarding the student grievance policy and the fact that we don’t have a current one place here at our university. I bring with me today, a copy of the current Student Code of Conduct which is 146 pages of the dos and don’ts of a student. And one of the things that we bring up from time to time is the fact that we would like to see from the student perspective, to have some type of code set up for students in cases of abuse, mis-treatment and just unprofessional behavior by faculty and staff. One of the things that maybe I did poorly in the past was making it more of an us versus them type thing, where I really believe we have a very, and it’s exciting to hear from the president that we have a top notch group of faculty members, but I do believe that NIU has a number, by-and-large, a great number of faculty and staff who truly are dedicated to the mission
of the school. At the same time, there are those few that give a bad name for many. We need to rally together, both as faculty, staff and students, to create some type of conduct code for all of us to be self-governed within our institution. And I give you an example. This happened to me yesterday and I’ve told many people about it since then. I’m that guy that waiting until my last semester to take gen eds. Real smart, I know and my English teacher who is an instructor, not a full-time professor, made references to her body parts that were very off-putting and I talked to a few students afterwards and they were very upset and kind of taken aback by that but currently there’s nothing I really can do. I can complain to the chair, but there is no process in place and it’s those types of examples and I know a couple of other professors have worked with the whole thing regarding disabilities and the outing of students with disabilities. This is just something that I really want a buy-in from both faculty and staff that this is something that we need to have in place so our students are also not abused and taken advantage of in these situations.

The next couple, I have three more things, is the rec center. One of the things that I thought was awesome to hear the president say, I’m going to say awesome again, that he understands and the administration understands that it’s part of the culture of today’s young people, the rec center and the facilities that we have available to us. I think one of the nicest parts of the new residence hall is the rec center that’s in there. The small one that’s available to the students. I know many of you that were here last year on University Council and have listened to me bring it up every time we meet, that our rec center is currently completely less than a third of the size it needs to be for a campus of this size. We had the privilege, both Delonte and Elliot Echols and a couple of members from the rec center had the privilege of visiting a few universities around the state, both UIC, University of Illinois, we have a couple more on the docket, to just see what they have. Obviously, the schools are bigger and have a little bit more revenue base when it comes from a revenue standpoint, but there is definitely a bar that we would like to see met here at our university and one of the things that I brought up at Faculty Senate is to make facilities that it is truly a community center. It’s truly open to our faculty, staff and work with them to insure that they also are getting the best needs of that. So one thing that I would ask of all of you to be on the lookout as we just met with the Acting Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Kelly Wesener Michael regarding a meeting that she had with Dr. Williams in Finance and Facilities about looking at benchmarking and really looking at what our school needs to be competitive in that market. And that is something from day one that we hear students all the time talk about is the fact that when they come through our university for orientation, one of the one places that they don’t get to see during their orientation is the rec center. It’s one thing that we would like to see put a little bit more emphasis on whether it be a complete remodel of the facilities we currently have and build out to the level it needs to be, or a completely new building. But either way I would like to see the buy-in from the faculty and staff and the students of this university to really look forward and I know we’re very much aware that the university, I mean looking through the report, we’re very blessed that we have been able to sustain ourselves the money we have and we understand the state’s giving less and less, but this is something and looking at Vision 2020 and really hitting those benchmarks of enrollment that needs to be addressed and soon. It’s not even a matter, and I want to thank Dr. Williams and the members of Finance and Facilities, for the release of money they did last year to purchase new equipment, that is very welcomed. But when we are completely out-sized of what we need, it’s an issue.

So that’s that one thing and then the last two things, I want to thank the university and also the City of DeKalb. Last year we talked at length about the pedestrian crosswalk issue, I maybe or
maybe not, got a little heated about it last year, but through the help of the City of DeKalb, this summer we did, I hope you’ve seen them, we do have new signs placed on roads that are owned by the city and those I think are mostly Normal and Lucinda, but definitely become aware. The big issue I’ve noticed now is students are walking out and they are thinking people are going to stop and sometimes they don’t, so we’re kind of having a flip side to that now where now people are just walking out and cars are slamming on their brakes. Lord willing we’ll keep going and we need to keep making people aware that our campus is a pedestrian friendly place and people do follow the law.

And the last thing I want to bring and definitely something I know that all of us in this room feel very strongly about is safety. We talked at length this summer, I was very blessed to sit on the hiring committee for the new chief of police for DeKalb, Gene Lowery, and both Delonte and Elliot and members of the Student Association met and had lunch numerous occasions with the new chief of police and brought in members of different organizations on campus to really build a relationship with him and his department so that we can have a working relationships we’re not waiting for something to go wrong to the try to communicate and we’ve been very successful this far in communicating with him and we’ve had those issues in certain neighborhoods over the last couple of weeks. Actually, myself and Elliot Echols were out there with the police chief at 3 a.m., called out there with him to see firsthand what’s going on. One of the things that I have spoken at length and I know Delonte feels very strongly about it and all the students here and the ones that are not here, we want to be safe. We want to insure that our students are safe everywhere they go in this community.

One of things that I would like to see from the university standpoint is meeting with the City of DeKalb is currently working on possibly enforcing new laws and regulations on landlords. This is something that is very important. One of the issues we had with the incident this weekend, landlords are not doing any kind of background checks on people and people are living very close to our campus and almost on our campus who haven’t the best intentions. It’s very pleasing to know that when we have these issues it’s not typically our students that are causing these problems, its people that are unaffiliated. Whether or not they are from a community college in the area or just residents in general. But we really have to be consistent in our message with the fact that safety is the number one priority for our students, because we get a quality education during the day. We’re doing improvement to our campus and making it a better place to live and grow as an individual, but we have to insure after 5 p.m. when they leave this place, they leave the confines of these buildings and they are out of the care of this university and I know that this is an important issue, that they’re safe. And I tell you what, the more I go out there, I live in a nice neighborhood a few miles away from campus and didn’t realize what was going on at night, and I urge a lot of you to go out and look on Thursday, Friday, Saturday night, students are afraid. We had a number of students contact my office from a sorority who sent a message to the chief of police as well, about how they were followed home. There is definitely an issue that needs to be brought to the attention of the university and I know we’ve actually been very lucky that we’ve had members of the student affairs and enrollment management staff come out with us at night just to look and just see. It’s been interesting to see the new chief of police, his methods are different from the previous one where instead of going in and breaking people up and creating a havoc, it’s been more of a standby just making sure people are safe. I was very impressed when you had a group of 300 students and non-students taking over an entire street committing illegal acts of drug use and everything in the middle of the street, the police were
waiting in a perimeter around, just very patiently, with both our police and city, very calmly working together. They had ambulances pre-staged just in case something happened. It’s good to see that but, at the same time, we have to insure our students are safe. We have to insure that there is something that we can do. We do everything that we can. I know that Dr. Williams’ staff has been very good with working with adding more police out in that neighborhood and it’s very welcomed seeing police on bikes in that presence. But after what happened last year to my co-worker and our co-worker, it takes one time and we want to insure that the university continues to keep that as a number one priority in keeping our students safe and we appreciate the work that you have done but we want to make sure that our faculty and staff, especially those that when they leave this campus they drive to the collar counties and the suburbs back to their homes and their families, they remember our students are on this campus, they are in this community and have to live in these environments.

So we are going to continue to work together and we look forward to a great year. It’s great to see, anytime you see improvements and you see construction trucks and vehicles and improvement, people like that. So I really applaud the university for working through this difficult financial time but the work isn’t over yet and I appreciate the work of everyone here and we look forward to a great year. Thank you.

**J. Peters:** Okay, well said. All those points are important. Safety is most important. It’s always difficult, I always feel when I can control things, I can control things, but when I don’t control things, I have to work hard to cooperate. The mayor and I had a great conversation this morning and we both agreed that relations between the university and the city, particularly in this matter, and the chiefs, has never been better. And we are meeting to discuss many of the things you just mentioned but I still urge students to be prudent and use common sense. Some of the things that you referred to demonstrate a lack of common sense and when you put yourself in harm’s way, well you put yourself in harm’s way. But we are really working on it and we want to get at it. It is localized to one area. Thank God.

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

**J. Peters:** Okay, let’s see where are we now? Operating Staff Council, Andy Small, walk-in.

**A. Small:** Good afternoon again. Brief overview of our latest Operating Staff Council meeting, Of course, there were the normal updates and announcements and then the sub-committee reports. I direct your attention to the workplace issues. There are three particular things that we’re looking at. Of course the tiered-parking proposal, we continue to looking at that situation. I think I’ve explained that over the last couple of years, but if anybody was interested in more information on that I’d be glad to take a moment with you.

We’re also potentially looking at our more senior employees who are able to accumulate vacation for retirement pension calculations. Salaried operating staff people can accumulate 56 days, hourly civil service operating staff people can accumulate 50 days. What does that mean? Well that means a reduction in pension calculation for hourly civil service versus salaried civil service. So we are taking a look at that particular proposal seriously. I appreciate the work of Dr. Cunningham taking a look at that with us.
And then the final issue, we are working with the supportive professional staff on supervisory training. I think that kind of works well with the Student Association issue as far the way we treat each other around campus. Whether it’s faculty, staff, students, instructors, we certainly have a great group of people to work with here at NIU and I wouldn’t work anyplace else. But the fact of the matter is there’s still some people out there that could use some training and hopefully we never have to have that grievance process in place, but if we do, certainly we’ll have another way to insure that, but in proactively addressing that, we’re trying to push more towards supervisory training, that’s where the staff has some opportunity.

The next particular issue there, item B, elections and appointments. If you see any of those particular people, congratulate them for being appointed to particular committees. I want to introduce Amy, Amy Polzin back here. Amy will be my alternate in case I’m not able to attend. So if you see Amy sitting up here in my stead, please welcome her. Also, our second voting member, Zach Bohn. Zach, good to meet you. There is a lot of staff on campus and I think it’s the first time Zach and I have had the chance to meet each other. Zach will be working with me here at the University Council level for this year.

Public relations, Dr. Cunningham and I had an opportunity to discuss the Operating Staff Council service awards banquet. And for the administrators who come to that particular banquet who sit with us, we certainly appreciate that, but you know that the fact of the matter is that that banquet is about three-and-a-half to four hours long. And we have looked at that in a way to potentially reduce that time frame which I believe could benefit us all in that particular situation. We certainly want to honor our operating staff people and we have a great evening, presented with a wonderful dinner, we get our service awards, we acknowledge our operating staff outstanding award winners, all in the course of four hours. And I think we can cut that down. So that’s what we’d be looking at with that situation.

And also, a recap of Staff Fest. For those of you that don’t know, the administration, which thank you by the way especially Dr. Williams’ shop, we appreciate that and your help with Dr. Peters in that. We are able to have a lunch and we were able to feed approximately 900 staff employees this year in August, the first Thursday in August is always our event. We have a program called Giving Back and this year we gave back to a local organization called Feed’em Soup. You may have been familiar with the recently. A great group of people. Students sitting around at a bar one night said let’s do something and they organized Feed’em Soup and that thing has taken off. If you get the opportunity to support that group, I really think that that would be money and time well spent. We were able to raise approximately $550 and over several hundred items that we donated to their particular charity. So very good situation.

I’d also like to finalize this by calling your attention; we are going to have another road trip. The Operating Staff Council likes to go on the road to visit different places around the campus. Our next meeting will be at the new residence hall where Tom Morelock, the director of the civil service system down in Urbana-Champaign will be joining us along with Dr. Cunningham and we will be discussing the upcoming civil service audit. As you may recall, we had some opportunity with our last civil service audit approximately 50 positions were identified that were filled with SPS people, nothing against SPS people Todd, they are great people, but we want to continue to make sure that we follow the state regulations and fill operating staff positions with operating staff people. And we will be discussing that particular upcoming audit. I believe we are
scheduled for January of this year. With that, it concludes my report. If there is any questions, I’ll be glad to take a moment to answer, otherwise you can certainly see me after this. Thank you Dr. Peters.

J. Peters: Okay, questions?

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

J. Peters: Hearing none, our last report is Todd Latham Supportive Professional Staff Council report.

T. Latham: The SPS Council met in July and we take this as an opportunity to conduct a new council orientation for our new members. During this time we typically address issues such as our constitution so our members are aware of our responsibilities. We address our council protocol. We review our annual report which is filed by me with information provided by our council. We had presentations by our committee chairs to basically update the new members and council on actions and pending issues. In July, I seem to have been inundated with a large amount of resignations. We received three to our council in July and two in August. This is an increase from last year. The SPS Council will be hosting SPC at a tailgate on September 29. This is also Faculty and SPC Appreciation Day at the sporting event. There is a football game that day.

Our council budget of $2,500 was approved. We had discussion regarding what would happen to our employees if the employee dependent tuition waiver was eliminated and we do agree that that would be a hardship on our SPS employees and their ability to afford an education for their children and their dependents. We also are preparing for our 2013 SPS Council survey. This is a survey that we conduct on behalf of council of all of our constituencies. Typically, we have about a 30 percent return rate and from the SPS that participate in this survey we use that information to further guide and direct council.

In August, we decided that we’d host several guest speakers as we prepared for the upcoming semester. We had Dr. Toni Tollerud who is our faculty and SPS personnel advisor come meet our council and introduce herself. We had Sarah Klaper, our new ombudsperson, come to our council so we could get familiar with her role and her view of how she’ll be maybe changing and conducting the office from her predecessor. We had Kelly Wesener Michael. She came and presented on behalf of student affairs and enrollment management to prepare our staff for welcome days. Alan Rosenbaum was one of our guests. He presented on the role of Faculty Senate and University Council.

Then at that meeting we kind of concluded by our council members actually get to select their own committees, they are not appointed or delegated. We let them pick and then we elect our chairs from amongst those committees. Also in August, we revisited the information that had gone on in respect to pensions and tuition waivers. And finally, we concluded our meeting with an update on benefits choice and the pending mandated reporting requirements that we would all have to comply with. That concludes my report.

J. Peters: Okay, are there questions for Todd on that report? All right, that ends our reports.
M. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. Peters: Is there any unfinished business before the house?

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

J. Peters: Is there any new business before the house?

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Peters: Time for comments or questions from the floor? I have a point of privilege I want to announce that tonight begins the first in a series in the Presidential Speaker Series and its focus this year is on election 2012. There will be a series of four; three of them will be fairly academically oriented. The first one is tonight in Altgeld at 7 p.m. It’s the impact of citizens united. For those of you who are political junkies like me, know that that is the Supreme Court decision on the role of money in the 2012 election. It’s going to be a debate between Richard Hanson from Cal-Irvine and Brad Smith from Capital University School of Law and they kind of take opposite points of view and that’s tonight. It’s going to be followed by, and up to the election, the next one is on the role of media in the campaign. The third one, close to the election, will be on prognostication. We have one of the country’s leading political scientists, it’s all academic. And then post-election, in Naperville, we’re going to have former Speaker of the House and our alum, Denny Hastert, and former congressman Bill Lipinski, who has helped us tremendously at this university, tell us what happened and why. I’m very excited about this. I want to thank Department of Political Science and College of Liberal Arts helping sponsor this with my office. That’s my shout-out.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Meeting schedule, 2012-2013 – Page 33
B. Annual Report, Academic Planning Council
C. Annual Report, Affirmative Action & Diversity resources Advisory Committee
D. Annual Report, Athletic Board
E. Annual Report, Campus Security & Environmental Quality Committee
F. Annual Report, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
G. Annual Report, Faculty & SPS Personnel Advisor
H. Annual Report, Graduate Council
I. Annual Report, Office of the Ombudsman
J. Annual Report, Undergraduate Coordinating Council
K. Annual Report, University Assessment Panel
L. Annual Report, University Council Personnel Committee
M. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
N. Minutes, Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee
O. Minutes, Athletic Board
P. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
XI. ADJOURNMENT

J. Peters: Hearing nothing else, there’s information items in your packet, we stand adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.