UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Andree (for Monteiro), Baker, Ballantine (for McCord), Bateni (for Plonczynski), Birberick (for L. Freeman), Block, Brubaker, Campbell, Chakraborty, Chavez, Chen, Coles (for Perea), Dawson, Deng, Doederlein, Donovan, Falkoff (for Arado), Feurer, Fredericks, Giese, Haliczer, Hathaway, Henning, Kamholz, Lee, Liu, Long, Macdonald, A. Martin, S. Martin, Mason, Mogren, Moremen, Munroe, Naples, Parks (for Holly), Phillips, Pitney, Riley, Sagarin, Salem (for Frascello), Schoenbachler, Schwartz-Bechet, Shannon, Starofsky, Summers, Ueckert, Vohra

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Arado, Arriola (sabbatical), Bond, Chmaissem, Domke, Farrell (fellowship), Frascello, A. Freeman, L. Freeman, Harris, Hedin, Holly, Jaffee, Khoury, Lenczewski, McCord, Mohabbat, Monteiro, Neal, Perea, Plonczynski

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Coryell, Klaper, Kolb, Stafstrom, Stoddard, Weldy

OTHERS ABSENT: Kaplan, Suttenfield

I. CALL TO ORDER

D. Baker called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda was approved with no changes.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2014 MEETING

Minutes were approved with no edits.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Use of Microphones – William Pitney

W. Pitney reinforced the need to have UC members use the microphones to not only allow others to hear, but also to record the session.

B. Ombudsperson Annual Report per Bylaws, Article 20.1 and presentation – Sarah Klaper – Pages 4-13

S. Klaper provided an overview of the Ombudsperson’s office as well as some statistics related to her role. The office works with faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, families, community members – anybody associated with the campus.
The office is confidential, neutral, informal, and independent. Statistics and trends for this past academic year were presented. For these, please see the full report by clicking on the presentation link above.

C. UNIV 101/102 & PLUS update – Anne Birberick and Michael Kolb

M. Kolb provided an update on the PLUS Task Force as it relates to the implementation of the various components of the PLUS program. The PLUS Task Force finished its report about two weeks ago. This report is now in the hands of the provost. Various PLUS components have been submitted to appropriate curricular bodies. The GEC has been working on developing pathways. The pathways will be implemented in the fall of 2015. Final implementation of PLUS will be the fall of 2016. A. Birberick provided an update on UNIV 101 and 201 that not only reflected the recommendations of the PLUS, but they also dovetail with other points of feedback received.

D. Other Announcements

D. Baker discussed the current speculation regarding the Illinois budget for Higher education. With the level of uncertainty, NIU is doing some contingency planning in its budgeting. Also, the presidents and chancellors met in Springfield before the Board of Higher Education meeting. The legislative agenda was discussed and how higher education, the four-years in the state, should work together. In the afternoon the board met with a panel, including Ed Maloney, who is a lobbyist and is the former chair of the Senate Higher Ed committee. One positive development was the creation of a higher education caucus by Representative Pritchard. Legislators and representatives from higher education came together and had individual conversations with a variety of higher education leaders from all the four-year publics in the state.

On December 11 there is another leadership retreat focused on the strategic planning framework and a look at some of the work to date on recruitment and retention activities.

The DeKalb library is working on an addition to the local public library – a $30 million addition which is quite an effort for this community.

NIU recently had a giving day this week. D. Baker thanked all who donated to NIU and he thanked Provost Freeman and her husband for the sizeable matching gift that they made.

Airport interviews are occurring for the vice president for advancement and the vice president for administration and finance. D. Baker encouraged faculty, staff, and students to attend the open forums and give feedback on the candidates.

D. Baker will fly to Washington D.C to attend the higher education summit. There will be 100 schools in attendance so they’re going to move it across the street. NIU has been invited to talk about the P-20 partnership. Marilyn Bellert and Laurie Elish-Piper have been leading this effort that combines local school districts, community colleges, NIU, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, a number of advocacy groups, including business groups and public sector groups.

Dan Gebo was named the Illinois Professor of the Year. M. Krishnamurthi, with the assistance of D. Macdonald and M. Magara, constructed the nomination to help make this happen.
V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report – Page 14

S. Armstrong noted that the FAC is creating two resolutions, one on faculty governance, and the other on academic freedom. Next meeting is in Springfield with the IBHE staff and those resolutions will be finalized at that time.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Dan Gebo and William Pitney – report – Page 15

W. Pitney highlighted that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee for the Board of Trustees approved the change in degree designation from the Ed.D. to the Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision. They also approved the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).


D. Baker noted this is a written report only.

D. BOT Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee – Deborah Haliczer and Dan Gebo – report – Pages 18-19

D. Haliczer noted that Leslie Rigg presented on the funding and sponsored projects NIU has received. Anna Quider, NIU’s director of federal relations, presented on her role in Washington, D.C.


D. Haliczer noted that the Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs committee heard a report from the Office of Internal Audits which explained that there were 21 audits, 19 of which were completed. Chief Tom Phillips shared different portions of the Clery Report.

D. Baker noted that the Violence Against Women Act Committee report will be coming out next week.

F. BOT Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee – William Pitney – report – Page 21

W. Pitney presented that the Ad Hoc Committee for Enrollment was established largely to help the board create policy as it relates to the financial sustainability of NIU. The meeting was largely informational and organizational in nature. They received a report from Dr. Weldy, NIU’s vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, as well as information from Dr. Lisa Freeman and Dr. Anne Birberick. The information that the board received related to
NIU’s enrollment trends and recruitment and retention efforts here on campus.


W. Pitney explained that the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance was created so the BOT could identify where some changes need to be made in terms of the governance structure of the board. Dr. Jerry Blakemore identified several areas that would potentially be worth examining for the health and well-being of NIU and the governance structure of the board. This was largely an organizational meeting in that there were many items listed for them to examine and they prioritized those. Some of those items of business included, for example, updating their conflict of interest policy as well as some of their reformation of all their standing committees.


I. Academic Policy Committee – Virginia Naples, Chair – no report

J. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb, Chair – no report

K. Rules and Governance Committee – Jana Brubaker, Chair – no report

L. University Affairs Committee – Greg Long, Chair – no report

M. Student Association – Joe Frascello, President – report

R. Chavez updated the UC on the It’s On Us campaign, The Week of Action occurred prior to Thanksgiving break. The It’s on Us leadership met with Dr. Weldy and Dr. Wesener Michael to discuss how to best maintain the longevity of this program. The SA is meeting with Ron Walters to create and plan for a Spring Welcome Back Days for students.

N. Operating Staff Council – Jay Monteiro, President – report – Pages 23-24

This was a written report only.

O. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Deborah Haliczer, President – report – Page 25

D. Haliczer thanked Vice President Brett Coryell for coming to the SPS Council meeting and speaking about the many initiatives that his division is doing. Ethics training was completed with a very good result. There were 14 nominees for SPS awards. And the Outstanding Women Student Awards have been nominated. SPS Council continues to work on morale issues.

P. University Benefits Committee – Brian Mackie, FS Liaison to UBC – report – Page 26

Written report only.

Q. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Mary Beth Henning, Chair – report

M.B. Henning stated that there is still an opening for a University Council representative from the College of Visual and Performing Arts because we had a retirement.
VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. University Assessment Panel – Proposed revisions to committee composition, NIU Bylaws Article 15.8.1 – SECOND READING – ACTION ITEM – Page 27

W. Pitney clarified that this is a second reading for this item. A motion was accepted from the floor, seconded by R. Chavez. W. Pitney clarified the nature of the bylaw change. Motion passed with the following vote:

Yes – 43
No – 1
Abstain – 2

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reconsideration of Committee on Multicultural Curriculum Transformation – Proposed revisions to committee composition, NIU Bylaws Article 15.9.1 – SECOND READING – ACTION ITEM – Page 28

W. Pitney asked for a reconsideration for the Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Committee composition item that did not succeed at the last meeting. W. Pitney reminded UC members that there were 50 voting members in attendance but only 40 votes were cast. Thus, the request for reconsideration. R. Chavez motioned the reconsideration, seconded from the floor. Motion passed.

W. Pitney asked for a motion to approve the bylaw change. A motion and second was received from the floor. Motion passed with the following vote:

Yes – 42
No – 2
Abstain – 3

B. Open Access for NIU-produced published journal articles Proposed policy – Page 29

W. Pitney presented a resolution that was developed by the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee under the leadership of Sarah McHone-Chase. The resolution introduces an open access policy. A motion to approve the Open Access Policy for NIU-produced published journal articles was received from the floor and seconded. C. Campbell asked for clarification as to whether this was for published articles, not pre-published articles. P. Dawson clarified that according to the act, it’s for published material, not pre-publication, it must be something that’s been accepted and been published—this included online and in print. Motion passed with the following vote:

Yes – 46
No – 1
Abstain - 0
IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Course Syllabus Accommodation Statement – Greg Long – report

G. Long presented recent data pertaining to whether syllabi included an accessibility statement required by NIU. Last year there was a 77 percent inclusion rate. This year, 91 percent of syllabi across the university have an accessibility statement – a 14 percent gain.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

D. Baker: All right, and then we’ve got the information items.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.