I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

D. Wade made a slight modification to the agenda by moving New Business before Old Business. It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by E. Mogren, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Electronic Approval of Minutes (10/4/06). The minutes for meeting #135 were approved electronically via email.

B. New Student Information System Update

No update to report.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. English Proficiency Requirement for Undergraduates

Deb Pierce proposed that another English proficiency exam be added to the list of approved ways to demonstrate English proficiency in order to
enroll as an undergraduate at NIU. The exam to be added is IELTS (International English Language Testing System) which is used in more countries and more readily available to the non-immigrant student. D. Pierce said that if we go with this additional test we can expect more students applying to NIU and more students meeting the English proficiency requirement. She reported that TOEFL is not available in all countries and is not always easy to get to. She proposed the following changes to the catalog:

Page 18, International Students, 2006-07 Undergraduate Catalog

International Students

International students…. Students from all countries where English is not the native or official language must submit a score from either the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or from the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), in lieu of the official composite ACT or SAT score.

All application materials, including the application for admission, application fee, letters of recommendation, all transcripts or national examination scores and/or transcripts from colleges or universities attended (with an English translation), all test scores including the TOEFL or IELTS, and proof of adequate financial support must be on file in the International Student and Faculty Office by May 1 for the fall semester, by October 1 for the spring semester, or by April 1 for the summer session. International students will not be permitted to register for any courses until they have completed complied with the minimal requirements for admission to a university as stated by the United States Citizenship and Immigration and Naturalization Services (USCIS) and the United States Department of Education. All necessary forms for this procedure will be available during the orientation period preceding each term. Undergraduate international students must register for a minimum of 12 semester hours each semester.

For complete information concerning the TOEFL examination, applicants should write to contact the Test of English as a Foreign Language, Educational Testing Service at http://www.ets.org. For information regarding IELTS, please contact the International English Language Testing Service at http://www.ielts.org/contactus/default.aspx.

It was moved by R. Holly, seconded by J. Parker, to approve the catalog change including the IELTS. Motion passed.

B. Catalog Changes

The following colleges submitted catalog changes:

College of Education #2, September 19, 2006
It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by R. Garcia, to approve the packet of catalog changes. Motion passed.

IV. Old Business

A. Repeat Policy

E. Mogren stated that Liberal Arts and Sciences unanimously supported the second grade rather than the higher grade in the calculation of the GPA.

William Minor, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, submitted a possible third option for APASC to consider.

The third option was the same as option one with an additional statement:

The grade which the student earns in the repeat will replace the original grade in the GPA calculation, but both grades will always appear on the student’s official transcript.

If a student forfeits credit for a course by earning an F in a course in which he or she had previously earned a grade of D, the student may petition the dean of his or her major college to have credit for the course restored. If approved, credit for the course will be awarded, but the F will be used in the calculation of the student’s GPA.

E. Seaver said that the third option will not work. The grade and credit cannot be separated which is what is being dealt with now.

L. Rigg said that one of the potential pitfalls is that if a student believes they are getting credit for the highest grade they won’t necessarily realize that they aren’t when they go to financial aid. So they’ll be walking through their courses with a higher GPA, but when it comes to financial aid all courses are counted in the calculation. There’s a chance that the student will be mislead by their GPA on their DARS.

B. Gage confirmed that satisfactory academic progress is based into units and number of hours attempted. All hours attempted are included in the blocks or units that one gets to complete to satisfy academic progress requirements toward financial aid.
The discussion that followed covered many issues, including but not limited to loss of credit hours by the student, the academic standing of the university and the fact that repeated courses is a resource issue.

E. Seaver indicated that a decision on the repeat policy needed to be made during this academic year because it needs to be tested in the prototype.

The suggestion was made to possibly drop the repeat benefit altogether and record all attempts and average the grades. B. Gage and E. Seaver were going to check to see if this was an option with PeopleSoft.

It was moved by E. Mogren, seconded by R. Holly, to table this until the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by R. Holly, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Gambino.