I. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by J. Corwin, seconded by L. Derscheid, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

II. Announcements

A. Electronic Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2006, meeting were electronically approved.

B. Student Information Systems Update

E. Seaver reported that the implementation process for the new student information system is moving along close to schedule. Final rollout of the new system is scheduled to be in effect for the Fall 2008 admitting cycle. The curricular aspects are starting to come through UCC standing committees. He suggested that later in the semester a member of the NIU Connect project team be invited to attend a UCC meeting to demonstrate what the system will look like from the faculty page. He reminded everyone that all NIU faculty and staff have access to visit the Blackboard site set up specifically for the implementation of the new student information systems. The Blackboard site includes policy information, project team membership, and other information about the project.
III. Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees

A. Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee – W. Goldenberg

There was no report.

B. General Education Committee – J. Stephen

J. Stephen reported on the last two meetings of the General Education Committee. He drew attention to two conferences, one in March and one in May, being sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, related to general education goals and assessment. The committee also received the Writing Project Report for 2006 and received feedback from GEC subcommittees on their reviews of general education course resubmissions.

J. Stephen made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the November 16, 2006, minutes and the January 18, 2007, minutes of the General Education Committee meeting. The motion carried.

C. Honors Committee – W. Goldenberg

W. Goldenberg reported that at its November meeting, the University Honors Committee approved several EYE grant proposals, heard reports from the director and assistant director, and received an update on the status of the Long Range Planning Committee. The committee also approved alternate criteria (accepting the unweighted GPA of 3.75 or above) for evaluating incoming freshman students for entry into the Honors program.

W. Goldenberg made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the November 3, 2006, minutes of the University Honors Committee meeting. The motion carried.

D. Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education – E. Seaver

E. Seaver reported on the October 9, 2006, meeting of the Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education.

E. Seaver made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the October 9, 2006, minutes of the Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education committee meeting. The motion carried.

E. Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment – C. T. Lin

There was no report.

F. Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum – R. Beatty
There was no report.

IV. Other Reports

A. University Assessment Panel

W. Goldenberg reported that Executive Vice President and Provost Ray Alden attended the January 19, 2007, meeting of the University Assessment Panel. Provost Alden conveyed to the committee that, as a result of the recommendations made by the Spellings Commission, there is a national trend toward going to a universal, across-university, testing for the purpose of accountability. In his contact with other Provosts, Dr. Alden has found that most other Provosts are endorsing this idea. Universities will not be asked to report statistical summaries or analysis of data, but raw data will be requested so that the appropriate government body will do their own analysis.

J. Stephen asked which university Provosts supported the idea of a universal test, public, private, etc. E. Seaver said that at the National Association of State University and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) conference he attended there was a panel formed to debate the issue of using standardized tests. A number of the individuals from these public institutions felt this was inevitable and that it would be best to move ahead with this and explore what type of options are available.

The UAP committee also reviewed status reports and funding requests for several programs.

V. Old Business

A. Date of UCC Retreat

E. Seaver reported that, due to the full schedule of meetings and commitments that Provost Alden has had recently, he thought it best to delay discussing an invitation/date to attend a UCC retreat with him until next month. He said he would discuss this with Dr. Alden at his next meeting with him.

B. Faculty UCC Representative to Honors Committee

As J. Corwin is no longer be able to serve as UCC representative on the University Honors Committee, E. Seaver asked for a volunteer to serve as a replacement. R. Beatty indicated his interest, but he has developed a time conflict was not sure he would be able to attend all of the meetings.
L. Derscheid volunteered to serve in this capacity, and the committee approved. W. Goldenberg also offered to bring reports back to UCC if other members were unable to attend.

VI. New Business

A. Student Representative to University Assessment Panel

As K. Eckmann, Student Representative from the College of Education, is not able to serve on UCC during this spring 2007 semester, a replacement student representative is needed to serve on the University Assessment Panel. As neither of the present student members were able to accommodate the UAP meeting schedule, the issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

B. Wireless Transmission Cheating Issue

J. Stephen informed the group there is a concern about hands free wireless transmission and cheating in the Mathematical Sciences Department. He explained that the newer equipment is so small that it is difficult to see a student wearing it. The department is considering trying something new in the large sections of math and is looking into using Spy Gear to detect the use of cell phones, cameras, and electronic listening devices, as opposed to using a cell phone jammer or other devices. J. Corwin asked if cheating had been a big problem. J. Stephen answered that it is a problem in the large section math courses. R. Beatty cautioned that this may be a privacy issue.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m. The next UCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2007, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in Altgeld Hall 203.

Respectfully submitted,
Mollie Montgomery