Northern Illinois University  
UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
144th Meeting  
Thursday, October 5, 2006  
Altgeld Hall 203  

MINUTES

Approved

Present:  A. Azad (EET), R. Beatty (BUS), P. Brown (BUS), J. Casper (Student/EET), S. Conklin (HHS), J. Corwin (LAS), L. Derscheid (HHS), K. Eckmann (Student/EDU), D. Gorman (LAS), B. Hart (VPA), C. T. Lin (LAS), M. Mehrer (LAS), S. Ouellette (HHS), E. Seaver (Vice Provost), D. Shernoff (EDU), J. Stephen (LAS), M. Van Wienen (LAS), E. Wilkins (EDU)

Absent:  J. Gau (EET), W. Goldenberg (VPA), C. Snow (LIB)

Student:  A. Novotney (SA)

Guest:  D. Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator

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 September 7, 2006, meeting were electronically approved.

B.  Student Information Systems Update

E. Seaver gave a report on status of the implementation of the new student information system. He reported that discussion of various issues is taking place with many groups across campus. He noted that one item related to the implementation of the new student system, the repeat policy, was discussed for the first time by APASC. This issue will now be taken back by committee members to their departments and colleges to acquire additional information.

He also reported that, in an effort to keep the campus community informed of the status of this project, a Blackboard website will be launched during the week of October 9, 2006. The site will be available and accessible to all NIU faculty and staff to use as an information site for documents, project progress reports, etc. A campus email will be sent to all faculty and staff as soon as the site has been activated.
C. **Introduction of New Committee Members**

Self introductions were made for the benefit of the new committee members in attendance.

III. **Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees**

A. **Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee – E. Seaver**

E. Seaver reported on the APASC meeting of September 6, 2006. He pointed out that the committee approved the addition of general education goals to the undergraduate catalog.

   **E. Seaver made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the September 6, 2006, minutes of the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee meeting. The motion carried.**

B. **General Education Committee – S. Ouellette**

S. Ouellette reported on the minutes of the September 21, 2006, GEC meeting.

   **S. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the September 21, 2006, minutes of the General Education Committee meeting. The motion carried.**

C. **Honors Committee – E. Seaver**

E. Seaver reported on the minutes of the September 1, 2006, University Honors Committee meeting.

L. Derscheid asked about the status of the proposal for increased funding. E. Seaver reported that a proposal has been submitted to himself and the Provost. In answer to Jim Corwin’s request for clarification, E. Seaver said that the statement in the minutes indicating that $50,000 given by a previous Vice Provost has disappeared was not true. He said that there is still approximately $35,000 of that $50,000 amount that is operational. He explained that the $50,000 was put in the program before the current Director was in place, and some of the funds were pulled back into the operational fund as part of the administrative budget cuts that were implemented in 2002 and 2003.

E. Seaver said that the Provost will be attending the next Honors committee meeting on October 6, 2006, to talk about his vision for the Honors Program. E. Seaver added that a strategic planning committee has also been formed to develop a plan to decide in what direction the Honors Program should go, which will then set options to develop a plan for funding. The plan, as has been stated before, indicates that the Honors Program would like to receive $300,000 or $600,000 in order to offer more seminars. However, questions about seminars have arisen, such as what area,
what colleges, are there themes, how does this relate to the current requirements, etc., so those types of things need to be worked out.

L. Derscheid noted that another area of concern was the size/enrollment of the Honors Program, noting the drop in enrollment. E. Seaver said that size of the program is another part of the issue, the need to determine what size the Honors Program should be. He said the Consultant also raised this issue as well as the need to determine what number of the current honors students are actually taking courses. A closer look at the honors students was taken, and it was found that a number of students listed as honors are not actually taking anything in honors; thus a more reasonable number of students who are actually making use of the benefits for honors was evident.

M. Van Wienen asked if the Director is pursuing the issue of students who are registered as honors getting preferential enrollment. E. Seaver answered that is the reason enrollment figures are shown dropping. Students who are not taking honors courses should not be getting preferential enrollment. M. Van Wienen pointed out that with 1200 students and only 23 honors seminars, it does not appear that we are supporting the program to the extent that other programs are and that seems to indicate that there are some serious issues to review. E. Seaver stated that honors seminars are defined differently at different institutions. He went on to say that we are not funding honors to the extent that we would like, but it is important to look at the program first and determine what we want the program to be and what direction we want the program to take. He emphasized that this is exactly the reason the consultant was brought in to review the program. The role of the strategic planning committee will be to prepare a long range plan for the Honors Program in order to look at options available for funding and addressing the needs of our students.

E. Seaver made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the September 1, 2006, minutes of the University Honors Committee meeting. The motion carried.

D. Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education – M. Van Wienen

M. Van Wienen reported on the September 11, 2006, meeting of the CIUE.

M. Van Wienen made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the September 11, 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 – E. Seaver
R. Beatty reported on the September 14, 2006, meeting of CUC.

R. Beatty made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the September 14, 2006, minutes of the Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum meeting. The motion carried.

IV. Other Reports

A. University Assessment Panel

There was no report.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

A. Date/Agenda for Annual UCC Retreat

E. Seaver reported to the committee that he had discussed with Executive Vice President and Provost, Ray Alden, the possibility of his participating in a retreat with UCC. Dr. Alden requested to postpone discussion on this until spring 2007. There were no objections to this.

B. Selection of UCC Student Representative to the University Assessment Panel

K. Eckmann, College of Education student representative, volunteered to serve on the University Assessment Panel as a student representative for UCC. S. Conklin nominated K. Eckmann to serve in this capacity.

S. Conklin made a motion, seconded by C. T. Lin, to approve the appointment of Kim Eckmann to the University Assessment Panel as the Undergraduate Coordinating Council student representative. The motion carried.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m. The next UCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2006, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in Altgeld Hall 203.

Respectfully submitted,
Mollie Montgomery