Northern Illinois University
UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATING COUNCIL
146th Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2006
Altgeld Hall 203

MINUTES

Approved

Present: J. Casper (Student - EET), J. Corwin (LAS), L. Derscheid (HHS), K. Eckmann (Student - EDU), J. Fisher (Student - BUS), W. Goldenberg (VPA), D. Gorman (LAS), B. Hart (VPA), C. T. Lin (LAS), M. Mehrer (LAS), S. Ouellette (HHS), E. Seaver (Vice Provost), D. Shernoff (EDU), C. Snow (LIB), J. Stephen (LAS), M. Van Wienen (LAS), E. Wilkins (EDU)

Absent: A. Azad (EET), R. Beatty (BUS), P. Brown (BUS), S. Conklin (HHS), J. Gau (EET), D. Smith (Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator)

Students: A. Novotney (SA)

I. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. The motion carried.

II. Announcements

A. Electronic Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 2, 2006, meeting were electronically approved.

B. Student Information Systems Update

E. Seaver reported that the implementation of the new student information system is moving forward, and updates will be posted to the Blackboard website. It is hoped that at the beginning of the new year some screen shots will be posted for faculty to preview so that they can get an idea of what it will be like to interact with the new tool. The NIU Connect Steering Committee would also like to put together some simulation where faculty can see what it will be like to assign grades and view student data.

III. Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees

A. Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee - W. Goldenberg
W. Goldenberg reported on the APASC minutes of November 1, 2006. He reported that Deb Pierce, Director of International Programs, gave a presentation to the committee on the new English proficiency exam for international students. Proposed catalog language changes related to this were approved by the committee.

He also noted that the repeat policy was discussed at length and tabled until the next meeting.

W. Goldenberg made a motion, seconded by E. Wilkins, to receive the November 1, 2006, minutes of the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee meeting. The motion carried.

B. General Education Committee – J. Stephen

Although there were no minutes submitted, J. Stephen reported that at the last GEC meeting subcommittees were formed for the purpose of reviewing general education submissions and resubmissions. The committee will make final recommendations in January on submissions currently being reviewed.

C. Honors Committee – J. Corwin

Although there were no minutes submitted, J. Corwin gave a brief overview of the last meeting of the Honors Committee. He reported that Provost Alden met with the committee to describe a general outline and various alternatives/directions that the Honors program could take. E. Seaver added that the Strategic Planning Committee has developed a mission statement, vision statement and a set of values statements which will be taken to the Honors Committee for input.

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

There was no report.

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

C. T. Lin gave a brief overview of the October 10, 2006, CUAE meeting. The committee received an update on the new student information system, heard a report from Tim Griffin, University Ombudsman, and discussed future topics to be addressed by the committee. He also noted that the November CUAE meeting was cancelled.

C. T. Lin made a motion, seconded by J. Corwin, to receive the October 10, 2006, minutes of the Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment Committee meeting. The motion carried.

F. Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum – E. Seaver

E. Seaver reported on the November 9, 2006, CUC meeting which
consisted of many catalog changes. J. Stephen asked if the Academic Advising Center was given notice of all of the catalog changes. E. Seaver said that Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator, Donna Smith, makes all of the changes online, and all of the changes are circulated to the Advising Deans’ group which includes the Director of the Academic Advising Center.

J. Stephen also pointed out that a new Actuarial Science program has been developed. He explained that this is basically a consumer driven education program and is a heavy-duty, hard-core mathematics degree focused on professional disciplines in business and law.

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

E. Seaver also reported on the November 16, 2006, CUC meeting. He noted that the major discussion topic at this meeting was catalog changes related to the new Homeland Security Certificate. He explained that the university has been awarded a grant, along with Western Illinois University, to develop a Homeland Security Alliance within the state. Other public institutions are being asked to participate with NIU and WIU. The Alliance will allow for students to be able to seamlessly take courses in the area of Homeland Security at any of the institutions of the participating alliance members. Certificates are being funded by current existing resources; they are offered by a current program and are making use of courses that are already established, for the most part. E. Seaver also noted that scholarships have been received to offer to students who are studying in the homeland security area. He explained that the Alliance has a three-year funding mechanism, but the intent is that it will become self-supporting by the ending time of that grant.

E. Seaver made a motion, seconded by J. Stephen, to receive the November 16, 2006, minutes of the Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meeting. The motion carried.

IV. Other Reports

A. University Assessment Panel

W. Goldenberg gave an overview of the purpose of the University Assessment Panel (UAP). He explained that the committee helps departments prepare for their eighth year program review which is done by the Academic Planning Council (APC). Every eight years each department has to present a report on how their program is assessed, results of the assessment, and how they are changing their program. The UAP reviews the plans, makes suggestions for improvements, and makes sure the timelines are on track. He reported that at the last meeting of the University Assessment
Panel the committee reviewed assessment plans submitted by the College of Law and the College of Education.

V. Old Business

A. UCC Retreat

E. Seaver reported that Provost Alden has asked UCC to postpone scheduling a date for a retreat until after the first of this next year and after the next few Provost’s Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) meetings. E. Seaver said that Provost Alden feels that there will be a better feel for themes that may come out of the campus-wide interviews, and he will be better able to share with UCC what’s happening with the Strategic Planning Task Force activities. E. Seaver will discuss this again at a later date with Provost Alden.

VI. New Business

There was no new business.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. The next UCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2007, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in Altgeld Hall 203.

Respectfully submitted,
Mollie Montgomery