I. Adoption of Agenda

C. Snow requested to revise the order of the agenda to allow the guest speaker to present to the committee prior to the regular business meeting.

A motion was made by S. Morris, seconded by K. Wiemer, to approve the revised agenda. The motion carried.

II. Announcements

A. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 1, 2010, UCC meeting were electronically approved.

III. Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees

A. Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee

W. Goldenberg reported on the March and April meetings of the APASC committee. At the March meeting, the committee approved several curricular catalog changes and a request for renewal of the limited retention program in the B.S. in Mathematical Sciences.
W. Goldenberg made a motion, seconded by K. Mantzke, to receive the March 3, 2010, minutes of the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee meeting. The motion carried.

At the April 14th APASC meeting, the committee heard a presentation by Denise Rode and Earl Seaver on the status of the Foundations of Excellence® (FOE) initiative. The committee also approved a catalog language change for the University Honors Program and two curricular items. A third curricular item from the College of Business regarding the Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Finance was sent back to the department for reconsideration.

W. Goldenberg made a motion, seconded by K. Mantzke, to receive the April 14, 2010, minutes of the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee meeting. The motion carried.

B. Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education

K. Mantzke reported on the February and March meetings of the Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education. At the February 1st meeting, the committee heard results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and discussed the evaluation process for the CIUE grant awards.

K. Mantzke made a motion, seconded by B. Henry, to receive the February 1, 2010, minutes of the Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education meeting. The motion carried.

The February 15th CIUE meeting was devoted to reviewing the CIUE grant proposals and selecting and approving grant award recipients.

K. Mantzke made a motion, seconded by P. Stoddard, to receive the February 15, 2010, minutes of the Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education meeting. The motion carried.

At the March 15th CIUE meeting, the committee reviewed, discussed, and awarded the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Instruction Awards for 2009-2010.

K. Mantzke made a motion, seconded by K. Wiemer, to receive the March 15, 2010, minutes of the Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education meeting. The motion carried.

C. Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment

B. Henry provided a summary of the March 16, 2010, CUAE meeting noting that the committee toured three residence halls and received an overview of the Grant Tower renovation project. The committee discussed and agreed to endorse support for encouraging the prioritizing of further initiatives as soon as possible to improve and enhance the quality of the living environment, both residential and academic, for the
students in the residence halls. The committee will develop and forward a statement of support to the appropriate administrative offices in the near future.

B. Henry made a motion, seconded by K. Wiemer, to receive the March 16, 2010, minutes of the Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment meeting. The motion carried.

D. Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum

G. Schlabach reported on the April 8, 2010, CUC meeting. The committee heard a Foundations of Excellence® (FOE) presentation by Denise Rode and Earl Seaver, co-liaisons for the FOE initiative. The committee also discussed student engagement and service learning activities with relation to coursework with guest speaker Julia Spears, Research Associate, Office of the Vice Provost.

G. Schlabach made a motion, seconded by C. Snow, to receive the April 8, 2010, minutes of the Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum meeting. The motion carried.

E. General Education Committee

K. Wiemer reported that at the March 25, 2010, GEC meeting, Greg Long provided the committee with an update on the Baccalaureate Review process. The committee also discussed the general education goals and their alignment with the baccalaureate review process and how the committee will once again begin the resubmission and review cycle of general education courses. A subcommittee was formed to review and possibly revise the current resubmission form for general education courses.

The committee also received a report on the AACU general education conference which was attended by Greg Long, Carolinda Douglass, Dave Changnon, and Jes Cisneros. One suggestion coming out of the report was to add a staff leadership position to oversee and enhance the work of the general education program. It pointed out that most universities now have such a position. The committee’s discussion led to the decision that wording for a request and rationale for such a position be drafted.

K. Wiemer made a motion, seconded by G. Schlabach, to receive the March 25, 2010, minutes of the General Education Committee meeting. The motion carried.

K. Wiemer noted that, as discussed at the March meeting, a request had been sent to Vice Provost Earl Seaver for administrative support for the general education program. The request will be reviewed and discussed in correlation with staffing and job responsibility changes scheduled to take place in the Provost’s Office during the summer of 2010. The committee also heard a Foundations of Excellence® (FOE) presentation by Denise Rode and Earl Seaver, co-liaisons for the FOE.
K. Wiemer made a motion, seconded by C. Snow, to receive the April 15, 2010, minutes of the General Education Committee meeting. The motion carried.

F. Honors Committee

C. Snow provided overviews of the February, March, and April University Honors Committee meetings. At the February 5th meeting, it was reported that enrollment numbers are down mainly due to the fact that the Program is no longer allowing students who are not active or who are not meeting academic standards to continue for an unlimited number of semesters. This a change from past years, and the Honors Program is working on improvements to the program in hopes of reversing this trend. For the spring 2010, many new honors courses have been added, thanks to funding approved by the Provost’s Office, and the recruiting efforts at open houses are being improved.

The Honors Director’s report at the February meeting included an update on the meeting of the departmental honors working group which is focusing on coordination of the departmental honors and the University Honors Program. C. Snow said that after much discussion, the Honors Committee proposed a change that would allow students participating in departmental honors program to take the Honors Program seminar in their major department. This would help students meet requirements for both the University Honors Program and departmental honors.

S. Morris commented that she likes the idea that students currently have to “go outside of their comfort zone” and take a seminar about a topic in another department. If this change is made, then the student may take the seminar within his or her major, if the department has an honors program. She made clear that she understands that the intent is to have more departments offering honors programs, thus making it easier for students to fit in courses; however, she noted, the expectation is that honors students are to be doing some extra things. She pointed out that departments changing over to honors programs would have to re-organize their entire curriculum in order to allow for that change. She voiced concern that this would be limiting and reducing the depth of the Honors Program. She said that, if her department was to add a seminar with the intent of attracting students outside of the department, the seminar would fill up with students from their own department. C. Snow commented that he would forward S. Morris’ concerns to Dr. Daniel Kempton, Director of the University Honors Program.

C. Snow added the committee also reviewed two Honors “Dream Lists” and several EYE Grant proposals.

C. Snow made a motion, seconded by K. Mantzke, to receive the February 5, 2010, minutes of the University Honors Committee meeting. The motion carried.

At the March 5th Honors Committee meeting, results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) were presented by Julia Spears, Research Associate, Office of the Vice Provost. Also, the policy of requiring Honors House residents to
C. Snow made a motion, seconded by K. Wiemer, to receive the March 5, 2010, minutes of the University Honors Committee meeting. The motion carried.

C. Snow reported that at the April 2nd Honors Committee meeting, Denise Rode and Earl Seaver presented results of the Foundations of Excellence® (FOE) self-study, and the committee approved changes to the catalog language regarding the University Honors Program and departmental honors.

C. Snow made a motion, seconded by K. Wiemer, to receive the April 2, 2010, minutes of the University Honors Committee meeting. The motion carried.

IV. Other Reports

A. University Assessment Panel

S. Morris reported on the March 5, 2010, meeting of the University Assessment Panel. The committee was reminded of the Assessment Expo scheduled for March 19th and received status reports from University Libraries and Students’ Legal Assistance as well as a First Year Composition report.

S. Morris made a motion, seconded by G. Schlabach, to receive the March 5, 2010, minutes of the University Assessment Panel meeting. The motion carried.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

A. Foundations of Excellence® Presentation
Denise Rode, Director, Orientation and First-Year Experience, provided an overview of the results to date of the Foundations of Excellence® (FOE) initiative. The FOE is a national initiative and evolved as a recommendation from the strategic plan. It is a two-year self-assessment study centered on the first-year experience of freshman students. The study focuses on campus living, learning, and services through nine foundational dimensions: philosophy, organization, learning, faculty, transition, all students, diversity, roles and purposes, and improvement.

Data has been collected from student and faculty/staff surveys, focus groups, mini-surveys, and secret shoppers. Evaluation of the data evidence compiled to date has resulted in recommendations surrounding six themes: oversight/coordination, communication, programming, environment, academic advising, and reward and regard. Next steps in the process will include developing a philosophy statement, finalizing recommendations, communication of results to the campus community, implementation of recommendations, and continued coordination with the Baccalaureate Review Committee.

B. Misconduct Policy Catalog Language

Committee members reviewed and discussed a proposed revision to the Misconduct Policy catalog language. C. Snow explained that the proposed revision to the language has come forward from the Faculty Senate and is intended to address the student code of conduct. He added that the revised language was approved by the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee (APASC) on May 5, 2010. Alan Rosenbaum, President of Faculty Senate, provided background information and clarification for the revision.

The question was asked how the new catalog language would be coordinated with the student judicial code and if both records would be changed to be congruent. Rosenbaum explained that the difficulty with that is that no one group has jurisdiction over both documents. Thus, the procedure that was chosen to follow was for the faculty to develop language that was agreeable to the faculty and that language be presented as advisory to both the curricular governance bodies and the Judicial Advisory Board in the hope that, if the language was acceptable to both, then both would adopt the same language.

P. Stoddard commented that NIU’s Constitution clearly states that faculty have the right to assign grades - not Student Affairs. Rosenbaum noted that Student Affairs favors getting the penalty stage out of Student Affairs and is agreeable to not being responsible for assigning student grades. He pointed out that the only relatively new change in the policy is the addition of the last line of the new language which reads:

“In cases where the student feels the penalty is inappropriate, an appeal of the penalty only, may be made to the college council.”

He went on to explain that this line was added due to a concern voiced that a faculty member might disregard the judgment of the Judicial Hearing Board, and this would then offer some recourse for the student. He added that there had been a fair amount
of debate among the faculty about the addition of this line; however, the language had been approved, although by a small margin.

A lengthy discussion centered around grade dispute and appeal procedures ensued resulting in the following motion being made:

A motion was made by O. Najjar, seconded by P. Stoddard, to remove the last sentence of the revised misconduct policy catalog language which reads: “In cases where the student feels the penalty is inappropriate, an appeal of the penalty only, may be made to the college council.” The motion carried.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by C. Snow, seconded by K. Mantzke, to approve the new catalog language for the misconduct policy as amended with the deletion of the last sentence and change of the word “responding” to “responsible” in the first line of the newly added wording. The motion carried.

It was also the consensus and recommendation of the Undergraduate Coordinating Council that the catalog section wording entitled “Academic Integrity” on page 52 of the Undergraduate Catalog also be added into the Student Code of Conduct. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Division of Student Affairs.

C. Selection of UCC Faculty Representative to the University Assessment Panel

Sherrill Morris stated she was willing to continue serving on the University Assessment Panel for the second year of her term through the 2010-2011 academic year, and approval was granted by the committee. Selection of a student representative will be made in the fall 2010.

D. Selection of Faculty Chair for 2010-2011

Cason Snow was nominated and approved by the committee to serve as Faculty-Co-Chair of UCC for the 2010-2011 academic year.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next UCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 2, 2010, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in Altgeld Hall 203.

Respectfully submitted,
Mollie Montgomery