
Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Baker, Briscoe, Creamer, Cummings, Garcia, Ghrayeb, Kolb, Loubere, Mehrer, K. Miller, Munk, Musial, Payvar, Pierce, Robertson, S. Song, X. Song, Spear, Stephen, Tolhurst, Turner, Wickman

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2002 FS MEETING – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna is back and healthy, thank goodness!

Ken Davidson will be at the February 5th Senate meeting to answer questions.

Herb Rubin has resigned; his contributions are very much appreciated. Bill Goldenberg will be the UC chair for Resource, Space, and Budgets.

Welcome to Dan Schneider – he is the Law representative to UC, replacing Malcolm Morris.

A Chris Kubic (Orientation) will talk about the First-Year Connections program.

The First-Year Connections program includes UNIV 101 and Student-Faculty Links. Chris would like Senate members to participate and to inform their departments about opportunities to participate. Student-Faculty Links is an informal mentoring program; it begins with a reception in late August, after which the mentors and mentees are on their own, and set their own schedules for meeting.

UNIV 101 is a one-credit, 12-week elective course (except for Chance students, who are required to take it and whose section runs the whole semester). It is an introduction to the college
experience in general and to NIU in particular. About 45% of the freshman class take it; they have better retention rates and higher grade-point averages. Right now most sections are taught by staff; more faculty instructors are wanted. It is a commitment of about 5 hours per week (2 in class plus 3 in preparation and grading). Peer instructors – undergraduates who have taken the course plus additional training – are available to assist. Faculty can indicate their interest in one or both programs by filling out the form available on the Faculty Senate website, the Orientation website, the Senate packet, or by contacting the Orientation office.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Selection of a committee for the Evaluation of Executive Secretary of UC and President of FS – see Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 7. Names drawn by lot were Xueshu Song, Carole Minor, William Goldenberg (UC alternate), Rangaswamy Meganathan, Jean Pierce, Francis Jaeger (FS alternate), Denisha Lang, and Marion Khan (student alternate).

B. Selection of a committee for the Evaluation of the Faculty Personnel Advisor – see Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 7. Names drawn by lot were Earl Shumaker, Carol DeMoranville, Jody Newman-Ryan, and Dennis Munk (alternate).

Donna has materials available for both groups, which are in the process of organizing.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

The Public Policy committee met with a professional lobbyist; he said that letters from students, faculty, and families of students were useful.

The state is now talking about P-16 rather than K-12; the intent is to improve articulation, although there is some worry that the uniqueness of higher education may be hidden by this.

The budget is still unknown; there was concern about the loss of the 5th year MAP funds. The IBHE would like feedback about affordability. The FAC would like the faculty to be fully informed about financial, educational, and policy issues, and to deal with them through shared governance. The FAC will meet again on January 31.

The IBHE and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission on Affordability are soliciting testimony about enhancing academic preparation, assisting needy students, and keeping college affordable.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – no report
The budget shortfall has apparently increased since the report was written. The Board approved the Doctor of Audiology degree, and recognized George Shur for his many years of service.

P. Henry asked if there was any feedback from Manny Sanchez about the Governor’s Higher Education Transition Committee; S. Willis replied not yet.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Jody Newman-Ryan, Chair – report

Last fall the IBHE requested information from universities about non-tenure track faculty. NIU’s response was prepared by Steve Cunningham, and included minimum salaries, evaluation procedures, and so forth (as was requested). However, the Academic Affairs Committee thought it would be good to look at some other issues related to non-tenure track faculty, especially related to the academic mission of the University, and the excess burden of committee service placed on regular faculty when the number of non-tenure track faculty becomes large.

There was a motion and a second to accept the committee’s report.

D. Wagner asked if the problem was temporary faculty effectively becoming permanent. J. Newman-Ryan replied that the committee had not addressed this. S Willis replied that there were potential issues of fairness when a temporary person has been around for many years, but that the difficulties identified by the committee would exist even if the turnover were much more rapid.

J. Newman-Ryan said that the committee had found that there were great differences between different departmental policies on this issue.

D. Wagner suggested that the percentage of non-tenure track faculty in each college be reported at the beginning of each year. P. Henry agreed that this would be a good idea.

E. Shumaker asked about the relation of the union contract to participation in governance. M. Frank-Stromberg said that the contract precluded it; J. Wolfskill said that they could serve but only if given extra compensation.

C. Minor asked what would happen to the report once accepted.

C. DeMoranville moved to amend the previous motion to include forwarding the report to the Provost and getting a response.
The motion passed.

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Jim Lockard, Chair – no report

C. Resource, Space and Budget – C. T. Lin, Chair – no report

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Mark Cordes, Chair – no report

E. Rules and Governance – Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Chair – no report

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – John Novak, Chair – no further report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XL. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
C. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality
D. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
E. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
F. Minutes, Graduate Council
G. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
H. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
I. Minutes, University Benefits Committee minutes

XIII. ADJOURNMENT