
T. Smith attended for R. Butler.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was also present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – walk-in added to New Business; agenda approved as amended

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2003 FS MEETING – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters was unable to attend, as he was in Springfield. There is an information item in the packet about the P-20 initiative; Fred Kitterle and Anne Kaplan will discuss this at the next meeting.

S. Willis is willing to be nominated, and to serve, as Executive Secretary again.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Nominations for, and renaming of, the Bob Lane Award.

The following motion was passed:

The Bob Lane Bottom-of-the-Deck Award will be renamed the Bob Lane Eternal Vigilance Award.
Nominations for this award should be forwarded to any member of the Executive Committee.

Nominations are also needed for the position of Faculty Personnel Advisor.

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA** - approved

A. Avoiding vacation “creep” – see memo from S. Willis to M. Cordes – refer to Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

VII. **REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report – walk-in

Community colleges are working on increasing their ratio of full-time to part-time faculty. State-level funding issues were discussed, including affordability. There has been some negative publicity about administrative costs at Illinois’ public universities; a consistent definition of what counts as administration is needed.

The presence of community college representation on two state boards – the Community College Board and the IBHE was discussed; there was some disagreement, but most felt that the multiple roles of community colleges warranted it. The FAC is still attempting to get a faculty member on the IBHE.

The Public Policy Committee is trying to find out how the legislature views higher education; there is a fair amount of misunderstanding, particularly of faculty workloads.

The Pew Charitable Trust is doing a pilot assessment study, most FAC members were concerned about this but felt it was better to have some input.

The FAC passed a proposal to add a seventh goal to the Illinois Commitment: that the collective efforts of colleges and universities will enhance and enrich the quality of life for all Illinois citizens.

Illinois public universities and community colleges are being asked to put 8% of their FY03 budgets in reserve; NIU’s share of this is $8.6 million.

J. Wolfskill asked how the proposed seventh goal would be evaluated; P. Henry replied that this would be more qualitative than quantitative.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – report – walk-in

The Board demonstrated enthusiastic support for the concept of sabbaticals; other business was routine.
C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Sue Willis and Jim Lockard – report – walk-in

This committee approved student fees, budget authorizations, and an agreement to allow the NIU police to cooperate with local authorities. There was a progress report on the development of an “Academic Program Enhancement and Instructional Technology” surcharge; this is still under consideration. It would be in addition to any laboratory or class fees for individual classes, and should not be confused with the technology fee in the residence halls.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Sara Clayton and Beverly Espe – no report

E. BOT – Sue Willis – no report

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Jody Newman-Ryan, Chair

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Jim Lockard, Chair

The committee is looking into how insurance carriers get changed, and whether the standard for “reasonable and customary” charges in DeKalb can be the Chicago base rather than the rural base.

The switchover to Cigna has resulted in an increased number of claims denials, some of which are in error; be alert. If enough data can be collected, it is possible to ask the President to intervene with CMS to improve insurance handling and reimbursement.

The benefits choice period starts May 1 each year; final information is usually not available to HR until April 29, and to the faculty in mid-May. This cuts short the choice period, and puts it into a time when faculty may not be around, as classes are over. Again, be alert; there is very little that can be done about this.

The committee would like to request that the Faculty Senate co-sponsor the Wellness Fair along with HR; the following resolution was passed:

The Faculty Senate will officially co-sponsor the information sessions at the Wellness Fair.

Co-sponsorship means that our name will appear on publicity; there is no further action or funding required from us. The hope is that this will encourage faculty to attend. The SPS and Operating Staff councils will consider co-sponsoring as well.

P. Henry asked about the availability of information on HR web pages; J. Lockard replied that further information is planned to be available but the budget crunch is limiting personnel to do the work.

C. Resource Space and Budget – C. T. Lin, Chair – report given by W. Goldenberg
The problem of students getting to class on time, given the expanding campus, is being handled by CUAE; RSB will leave it to them.

We are close to the goal of having 50% of the major classrooms on campus be smart classrooms; ITS is doing reasonably well despite budget cuts. The Faculty Development Center is working hard on Blackboard, which is becoming quite popular around campus. Planning for the far west campus (west of the Convocation Center) is in the early stages.

The priorities for Academic Planning include salaries and increased faculty hiring, although the probability is that budget cuts will interfere.

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Mark Cordes, Chair – no report
E. Rules and Governance – Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Chair

1. Placement of Ethics Statements – see memo from Sue Mini, FIRST READING, as Article 9 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws (the present Article 9 would then become Article 10)

A typo in the online statement was corrected (the last two sentences of (5) should be one sentence).

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – John Novak, Chair

1. Nominations for Executive Secretary of University Council/President of Faculty Senate – See list of University Council members eligible to be elected.

S. Willis was nominated.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grading System – see memo from David Wagner – walk-in

D. Wagner presented a proposal that the grades AB, BC, and CD be added, in order to give more flexibility in grading; it was decided to refer the issue to Academic Affairs, giving them the flexibility to consider various grading schemes including pluses and minuses.

Referred to Academic Affairs.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
P. Henry asked about the status of salary increases; S. Willis replied that there was a request from the IBHE for 2% but that, given the state of the budget, nothing definite could be said at this time.

S. Nord asked about sick leave and retirement payouts; the Governor has focused on these as a possible source of abuse but does not seem to be targeting universities.

**XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Northern Illinois University’s P-20 Initiatives – from F. Kitterle (Page 16)
B. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
C. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
D. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality
E. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
F. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
G. Minutes, Graduate Council
H. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
I. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
J. Minutes, University Benefits Committee minutes

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**