

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2002 FS MEETING – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to Donna for her hard work on the Committees Book!

One more faculty member is still needed for the Sweatshop Committee [and has subsequently been identified].

President Peters is not in favor of the Senate doing a review of him without a request from the Board of Trustees; he will speak to the Chair of the Board and suggest to him that asking us for such input would be a good idea. H. Rubin said that a lot of time is spent doing evaluations and it is disruptive to our educational mission, but he is also uncomfortable with what he is hearing procedurally from the Board.

A. President Peters will attend meeting

President Peters said that part of his role was to move the presidency to an external role and to create an internal administrative structure where the provost, along with the president, would set the tone and direction of the academic side; he felt he had made significant progress in this. He commended the many people working on the NCA reaccreditation process, and is giving advice on who should be on the evaluation team. He said that NIU has a richness and uniqueness; he is continually amazed at our commitment to social justice and diversity. NIU usually responds quickly to questions or concerns from policy makers.
Retitling the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School to Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies is a strengthening move for NIU, and will help us attract good candidates for the position. NIU is doing better at getting external funding; the new chief research officer will help with that as well. Reorganizing the Division of Outreach and Public Service was also a strengthening move. Along with the search for a replacement for Bob Wheeler, the functions associated with that position will be looked at; creating an Honors College is still a goal. Preparation of students is a concern. Enrollment management needs to be done.

President Peters said he will take our request to contribute to his evaluation to the Trustees.

The budget situation still does not look good; there will be a new governor shortly and we will just have to wait and see. Accountability may become more of an issue.

P. Henry asked about the results of the marketing survey that was done in the spring; President Peters said that the analysis was done; phase two would involve more research but there are things we can do right now without spending a lot of money. The study showed that NIU has a very good academic reputation; students are treated well and get a lot of academic support; many programs are excellent; faculty, admissions, and orientation get high marks; the physical plant also gets high marks except for some of the residence halls. However, our image is not well defined; the local area is not as vibrant as some students would like.

D. Wagner said that NIU ought to promote rational discussion of how state revenue could be increased; President Peters agreed.

H. Rubin asked about what one could say to a new junior faculty member who was looking at the possibility of several years without raises; President Peters said that usually faculty do not go into this business for the money anyway but that we still need to fight for better salary and benefits, especially as the current professorate is aging.

J. Pierce pointed out that SIU had an 18% tuition hike and asked if NIU might find some money that way; President Peters replied that SIU’s tuition was pretty low to begin with and that both he and the Trustees are in favor of keeping the tuition as low as possible.

J. Lockard asked, in view of the large increase in enrollment paired with the lean budget, how long this could go on before we would get in trouble because students couldn’t graduate in a timely fashion. President Peters said that we are now at our limit, and will have to manage our enrollment carefully.

President Peters then said how proud he was of the football team, and encouraged everyone to attend the Bowling Green game on the 9th [which as you all know, we won, in front of a great crowd!]

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Paul Stoddard to talk about General Education
P. Stoddard said that the Gen Ed committee has the impression that the Gen Ed program has a “less than stellar” reputation among students and faculty; they are having a series of informal lunches with students to get their input, and would like to do the same with faculty. He asked the Senate for suggestions on how to proceed.

H. Rubin suggested that the conveners of these groups not be members of the Gen Ed committee.

D. Wagner expressed a concern about the time and lack of clarity involved with assessment; P. Stoddard agreed but pointed out that we are being required to do it, and that he thinks it might not be such a bad thing.

J. Kowalski said that he was on the Gen Ed committee for three years, and is also the Division Head for Art History; he thinks that assessment can be a useful exercise if done properly. However, it becomes not so good if we are spending our time assessing our teaching rather than teaching. H. Rubin agreed, and said that they have a member of their department who has done design of assessment instruments for years, but who was not asked to contribute. P. Stoddard said that was exactly the sort of thing they wanted to find out.

J. Kowalski said that general education is vital to preparing an educated citizenry.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – no report

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – no report

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Sue Willis and Jim Lockard – no report

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 – no report

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Jim Lockard, Chair
J. Lockard said that his committee is looking into issues related to insurance coverage. There were no direct changes as a result of the switch to Cigna, but the PPO list is different; if you keep going to the same doctor they may no longer be on the list, and you may find yourself paying more. Also, it has been hard to find copies of the list. There was also a change in which prescription drugs were on the preferred list, with similar results. They would like to hear from anyone who believes they have experienced an actual change in medical coverage. Also, if you receive something from Concentra (a subcontractor to Cigna) you should look at it carefully; they have made some mistakes but are not telling people, they are waiting for people to call them.

Human Resources will be scheduling a series of meetings with colleges in the spring to explain the benefits package. The ESP committee will be meeting with healthcare providers in January to find out what their experience with Cigna is. J. Lockard is hoping that corrections can be made to the way “reasonable and customary” charges are calculated; this could have the effect of improving our benefits without changing the actual package.

M. Larson asked how long we would stay with Cigna; J. Lockard said he would find out.

H. Rubin asked if the PPO and preferred drug lists could be distributed electronically; J. Lockard said he would ask about that. S. Mini said that none of this information is on the Cigna website.

C. Resource, Space and Budget – C. T. Lin, Chair – report (Page 6)

C. T. Lin said that the RSB committee has formed subcommittees for physical innovation, campus connectivity, and technology resources. The west campus plan was discussed again; E. Williams will give the committee some preliminary ideas by the end of the semester.

P. Henry said she would like to see some input about bicycles; H. Rubin said that it was his fault that there wasn’t any.

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Mark Cordes, Chair

M. Cordes gave an update; the FRR committee has been meeting with the Academic Policy committee of the University Council to discuss IRB issues. They are in the process of formulating recommendations and will pass them on to the Graduate Council; they expect to have a report at the December meeting.

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

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

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
K. Miller asked Senate members to emphasize to their faculty that students are not to be asked for their Social Security numbers, and that he was very much opposed to an 18\% tuition increase.

President Willis said she is looking into the use of faculty and staff Social Security numbers.

J. Lockard expressed concern about the December graduation plans; he feels his graduate students will be denied the participation of people they are familiar with in the graduation ceremony. He also complained about the process of deciding the change, that faculty were not involved; S. Willis said there was a committee that included faculty. D. Wagner also said there was no student responder for LA&S, and that this was the highlight of the ceremony for some people.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. University Council Membership List
B. Faculty Senate Membership List
C. University Council Personnel Committee Membership List
D. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
E. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
F. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
G. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
H. Minutes, Graduate Council
I. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
J. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
K. Minutes, University Benefits Committee minutes

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.