
Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted, with V.A. and B. added: selections of committee members to evaluate the Executive Secretary and the Faculty Personnel Advisor.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2003 FS MEETING – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerical staff will be receiving an additional 3% raise, effective January 1, across the board.

Pres. Willis has applied for an A.C.E. fellowship; these are intended for university faculty who are interested in going into administration. If accepted, someone else will need to serve as Executive Secretary even if Willis is re-elected.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Selection of members of the Committee to Evaluate the Executive Secretary: From the University Council, Pat Henry, Xueshu Song, and David Wade (alternate). From the Faculty Senate: Nancy Castle, Ngoyi Bukonda, and Geoffrey Gordon (alternate). From the students: Eric Johnson and Adam Novotney (alternate).

B. Selection of members of the Committee to Evaluate the Faculty Personnel Advisor: Donald Zinger, Sally Webber, Marilyn Frank-Stromberg, and Angela Powers (alternate).

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report.
Doug Day, who has been the liaison to the FAC from the IBHE, will be leaving; his replacement is not yet known. Several other staffers are leaving as well, and the FAC is concerned about the loss of institutional memory.

Faculty productivity remains a major concern; the FAC wrote a report emphasizing the complexity of the question, which was viewed by Chairman Kaplan as not helpful, and as “circling the wagons”. The emphasis this year is Priorities, Productivity, and Accountability, to be contrasted with PQP – priorities, quality and productivity. The FAC was distressed by the absence of emphasis on quality.

The IBHE is still not communicating with the university administrations about this, but it is to be hoped that they will do so soon. President Peters agrees with the faculty on this issue; specific responses have not yet been formulated as specific questions have not yet been asked. Kaplan, as chair, can request the staff to prepare materials and can form a committee to study the issue; any recommendations would need to be approved by the full Board before being implemented. As far as we know, this process has not yet begun.

One particularly irritating statement by Chair Kaplan was the suggestion that faculty attend professional conferences on their own time, as these did not represent a public service. The FAC takes considerable exception to this; P. Henry expressed the hope that this statement was designed more to get faculty upset than to present an actual plan. It was also pointed out that professional conferences aid not only in our professional development but also in our teaching, as this is where the most current information is available.

It was suggested that, if it has not already done so, it would be useful for the IBHE to describe their ideal university, undergraduate college, and community college, as we have no idea what they really want.

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 Xueshu Song – no report.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Sara Clayton and Beverly Espe – report.

The main issue of concern at the national level is the College Affordability Index. This would tie tuition increases to increases to the Cost of Living Index, and punish higher educational institutions (private as well as public, and 2-year as well as 4-year) if their tuition increases too fast by loss of federal funding. This is very controversial, and may very well not come to pass, but needs to be watched.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – report.

The NIU Foundation reported to the Board that both donations and number of donors have seen large increases over last year; the reason is unknown but it may very well be related to the success of the football team.

The Board also endorsed the memorial resolution for David Wirsing, and directed that it be put on a plaque to be placed in Altgeld Hall. They extended the President’s appointment to June 30,
2010, and gave him the same raise as the faculty and staff got, 1.5% effective July 1, 2003, and 1.5% effective January 1, 2004.

The Executive Committee of the Board met by conference call on December 18th, and approved the next step in the purchase of the PeopleSoft student information systems package. This would be fully implemented in 2005 or 2006.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs Committee – William Baker, Chair – The Academic Affairs Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 28th in Room 303 of the Student Center.

Bill Baker thanked the Senate for all the responses they received on the grading issue; they will be discussing this issue in detail shortly.

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

Employee benefits will be renegotiated as part of the AFSCME contract; the cost of health insurance is skyrocketing, so increases in co-pays are likely. However, the unions are part of the governor’s remaining support base; he may not want to antagonize them.

The Governor has proposed hiring a group of outside experts to advise him on the pension funds; this has gotten unfavorable reactions, as the state is short of money and the pension funds seem to be working pretty well.

President Willis: Okay, any questions or comments for Jim? All right.

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

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Ngoyi Bukonda, Chair – no report

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

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight committee – Stephen Nord, Chair – no report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Framework for Comprehensive Athletics Reform, from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. (Pages 13-14) This is a coalition of faculty senate representatives from Group IA, started by faculty at several BCS schools. They would now like to expand their membership, and are requesting that schools in the MAC consider endorsing the Framework. They are already using the Framework in discussions with the NCAA and its Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, the Knight Commission, and so on.

The Executive Committee presents this to the Senate for consideration. A majority voted to recommend endorsement, although doubts were raised about its potential effectiveness.
This issue was discussed at length; many questions were raised and it was decided to postpone the matter until the next meeting, as answers to many questions were not immediately available. Cary Groth will attend the March 3rd Senate meeting to discuss this issue further.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

2. Athletic Board minutes. [http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/Athletic.html](http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/Athletic.html)
3. Campus Security and Environmental Quality minutes. [http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/CSEQ.html](http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/CSEQ.html)
4. Committee on Initial teacher Certification minutes. [http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/CITC.html](http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/CITC.html)
5. Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum minutes. [http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/CUC.html](http://www3.niu.edu/u_council/CUC.html)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT