
K. Judson attended for G. Gordon, and Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was also present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:  Arriola, Butler, Crisler, Cummings, Frank-Stromborg, Garcia, Ghrayeb, Johnson, Kahn, Kang, Kim, Kolb, Larson, Markowitz, Meganathan, Payvar, Robertson, Smith-Shank, X. Song, Spear, Wade, Wang

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2004 FS MEETING (Pages 3-6) – approved, with the change of “evacuate” to “evaluate”

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cary Groth and Jan Rintala will come to the March Senate meeting to discuss athletics issues; discussion will be postponed until that time. ACT scores for incoming freshmen are included in the packet; there was a question about the number of CHANCE students. Nominations for Executive Secretary of the University Council and President of the Faculty Senate will be taken next meeting; a list of who is eligible is in the packet.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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

The FAC met with two state legislators; they were not at all familiar with the Illinois Commitment, nor were they aware of any concerns in the Legislature about faculty productivity. Also, some IBHE members have indicated their disagreement with Chair Kaplan’s comments as reported in the Chicago Tribune. Dr. Paul Ligenfelter, the Executive Director of the State Higher Education Executive Officers, then spoke to the FAC about the increased demands and
decreasing resources for higher education. He suggested that universities should work together with the government to find creative solutions to this dilemma. The new ethics act requires state workers to do more documentation of time worked; the FAC hopes that this can be done at the colleges and universities without placing too much of an additional burden on faculty.

There will be a committee established to look into the PPA (Priorities, Productivity and Accountability) issue; Chair Kaplan has requested Ken Anderson, a member and former chair of the FAC, to participate. The FAC agrees with the choice but would have liked to have been consulted. The FAC chair suggested that faculty contact their legislators with their concerns, and invite them to campus to get a better understanding of what faculty do. Legislators from student’s districts should be included as well.

D. Wagner suggested that the university ought to be educating the public about tax increases as part of the solution to the budget problem.

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 – no report

E. BOT – Sue Willis – no report

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs Committee – William Baker, Chair – report (Page 7)

The Committee presented the following resolution:

“The Committee met on January 28th and discussed the grading issue. Many responses were received and there was an overwhelming consensus and interest, throughout the university, in favor of change.

“The Committee recommends that the Senate make a very strong recommendation to the University Council that this issue be addressed, and that a more finely divided grading scheme be implemented. The obvious time to do this is when the new PeopleSoft student system is installed; at that time we can have whatever system we want, but changes afterward are likely to be more cumbersome.

“The Committee had no recommendation for the exact system to be implemented, but would not like to see that issue bog down the whole decision.”

After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
B. Economic Status of the Profession Committee – Jim Lockard, Chair

The benefits booklet is now online at the HR website. The Governor may be playing some games with the state’s pension plans by changing the assumptions under which the contributions are calculated; this bears watching. Paid outside consultants apparently were used to come up with this. The unions also may be asked to contribute to their own pension plans again.

The Wellness fair will be March 24 in the ballroom of the Student Center, and there will be a pre-retirement workshop on March 31.

There will be a new supplementary long-term disability insurance plan; new hires might want to look at this particularly closely.

SURS will be making some changes in how the high four years are calculated for retirement purposes; this should have little effect on NIU and is designed to thwart some things that have been going on at community colleges.

The Governor is apparently still going to try to combine all five state pension plans and put them into the state investment pool, which is apparently not a very good investment at all.

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

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

It was noted that the overall ACT scores showed no change from 2000 to 2002, although significantly more applications were received in 2002. Questions were again raised about enrollment management.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Letter from Sue Willis announcing the procedures for electing the Executive Secretary, with a copy of the Bylaws and a list of who is eligible (Pages 8-10)

B. Minutes, Academic Planning Council

C. Minutes, Athletic Board

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
I. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
J. Minutes, University Benefits Committee
K. Report on ACT scores (Page 11)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT