
T. Smith attended for R. Butler; M. Barnes attended for K. Kahn; L. Jeris attended for A. Rose.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2004 FS MEETING (Pages 3-5) – approved, with date correction

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Cunningham will probably not be able to make it to the April 28 meeting; he will send Deb Haliczer instead. Questions may be sent to Pres. Willis in advance.

Workplace issues: Pres. Willis continues to work on this; some people are volunteering sufficient information that particular instances can be investigated. Others are willing to talk in private. Willis hopes that the new grievance procedure will help, once it is enacted.

A. Gip Seaver will attend to discuss enrollment management.

An Enrollment Committee was established late last summer; there had been a pre-existing ad-hoc committee but this one is smaller. The Committee meets approximately once a month, and comprises Provost Legg, Vice Provost Seaver, Vice Provost Schwantes, Director of Admissions Burke, Executive Director of Enrollment Services Larson, CHANCE Director Mitchell, Director of Institutional Research House, and Associate Dean Grush of LA&S. The first goal of the committee is to review what happened in Fall 2003 and then to set targets for Fall 2004. The
Provost wants the total undergraduate enrollment to be 18,000 or less, which would mean about 3000 new freshmen and about 2000 to 2200 new transfer students.

Up until now, admissions at NIU have been open for all those who meet minimum requirements. One new requirement is that transfer students with fewer than 60 credit hours must have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Deadlines were also made earlier. Applications were running as much as 40% higher than last year, but about half of this was due to prospective students applying earlier. At last count, applications were up about 19%. Applications received since mid-January have gone onto a waiting list. In addition, there is a May 1st deadline for students to accept NIU’s offer of admission. Housing reservations are also a good indicator of actual enrollment, as there is a deposit fee.

In the fall, there will be a November 15th deadline for priority consideration of those who meet the minimal credentials; between then and February 1st priority consideration will be given to those who are in the top 10% of their graduating class and ACT 19 or more, and to those who are in the top 33% of their class and have ACT 21 or more. Others may be put on a waiting list, depending on the number of applications received. In addition, there will be a $30 application fee beginning in fall 2005; this has been approved by the Board of Trustees, and is close to fees charged by similar institutions. Fee waivers will be available, based on merit and need. The committee is paying close attention to the effect the earlier deadlines will have on diversity; the admissions office is doing an excellent job of keeping high school counselors informed. Communication with departmental recruiters at NIU could be improved, though.

The group is monitoring class availability, so that admitted students will be able to carry a full load, although it may be dominated by gen-ed classes. This involves working with the deans and with Finance and Facilities. A person from Student Services will be added to the committee soon.

The numerical goal for enrollment is for 2004 and 2005; decisions have not been made for subsequent years. The number of “exceptional enrollments” (other than CHANCE) is not known.

A question was asked about limiting enrollments by raising minimum standards; this has been discussed by the committee but is not being done at this time. These standards are set by APASC. What to do with the waiting lists has not been decided yet either, but it may very well involve program availability. Recruiting efforts for top students are increasing, through targeting appropriate high schools and through scholarships, and work is being done to increase funds available for scholarships. The honors program is also attractive to these students. Tuition waivers are used for honors students, for academically talented students in other areas, and especially in the arts. NIU is especially visible in theatre and dance due to these waivers. More would be nice.

The Honors Committee, spurred by a recent Faculty Senate request, is putting together a plan to create an Honors College. This would be attractive to donors as well as to prospective students.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION
A. **Nominees** for Student Grievance Procedure Taskforce – walk-in

There were five nominees for four positions. A paper ballot was taken, and after the votes were counted, the nominees are Bill Tolhurst, Joe Stephen, Pam Smith, and Beth Miller.

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA**

VII. **REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

Pat and two other FAC members did some lobbying in Springfield on March 25th, but were somewhat lost in the crowd. They were able to see Senator Jeff Shoenberg, and Representatives Ricca Slone and Kevin McCarthy, all of whom are supporters of higher education issues, and talk to them about supporting the IBHE budget recommendation for higher ed (flat) rather than the governor’s recommendation (2% cut). Writing letters would be a good idea, but not using any University resources. Bringing legislators from our students’ districts to campus would also be a good idea, as would inviting ours to a Faculty Senate meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed, that the Elections committee consider what the Senate might do to promote these visits.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – report (Page 6)

Most information was in the written report; the number of requests for sabbatical leaves is down, and the salary basis for different groups on campus may be of interest.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Sue Willis and Xueshu Song – report

The FFO committee passed the following, among others: a 6% increase in student fees (dominated by 9% increases in health insurance and in the bus contract); a 9% increase in room and board fees.

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

The LAEA committee heard about state and federal legislation, passed or pending, that would affect the University, and about NIU’s latest audit report, which was very good.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – report

The full board passed the items recommended to it by the committees, and heard a proposed bylaw amendment, which would allow any trustee to be a temporary committee member at a committee meeting if otherwise there would not be a quorum.
F. CIUS – Sue Willis – report

The Council of Illinois University Senates (CIUS) comprises all the Faculty Senate presidents from state universities in Illinois. It meets twice a year. Issues that are active are: domestic partner benefits; an FAC member as a voting member of the IBHE; attendance at IBHE “Big Picture” meetings; exclusive agreements with commercial vendors; faculty productivity; responses to the Patriot Act; and the conflict between the military’s don’t-ask-don’t-tell policy and universities’ antidiscrimination policies.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs Committee – William Baker, Chair – no report

B. Economic Status of the Profession Committee – Jim Lockard, Chair – report – walk-in

The University Benefits Committee is still looking at domestic partner benefits. At this time of year, payments to health care providers tend to slow down, and some are requiring payment in advance. The benefits choice period is the month of May, but available options will be subject to the results of union negotiations; the chances of having the choice booklets available in time are slim. Some SURS calculations have changed; anyone close to retirement should be meeting with HR staff to get complete information. SURS funding is still in jeopardy as the Governor tries to balance the budget without raising taxes.

President Willis: Okay, any other questions or comments? 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

Paul Stoddard is the only nominee for President of the Faculty Senate and Executive Secretary of the University Council; the election will be at the next meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A question was raised as to the non-transferability of funds from old copy cards to new ones. The old cards are only usable at a tiny minority of machines on campus, and there are quite a lot of copy cards out there with money on them. President Willis promised to investigate.
XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Nomination letter from Paul Stoddard for the Executive Secretary of University Council position (Page 7)
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