D. Walker attended for R. Butler; M. Barnes attended for K. Kahn.
Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Balamuralikrishna, Bisplinghoff, Briscoe, Crisler, Englel, Fox, Frank-Stromborg, Garcia, Ghrayeb, Goldenberg, Green, Johnson, Kang, Kolb, Loubere, Mehrer, Munk, Payvar, Powers, Rose, S. Song, Spear, Tolhurst, Wade, Wang, Wickman, Wolfskill, Zerwekh

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted, with IX.F. moved before IX.A.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 31, 2004 FS MEETING
(Pages 3-5) – approved

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Report from the Committee to Evaluate the President of the Faculty Senate/Executive Secretary of the University Council (Xueshu Song, Geoffrey Gordon, Ngoyi Bukonda, Patricia Henry, and Eric Johnson)

B. Report from the Committee to Evaluate the Faculty Personnel Advisor (Sally Webber, Marilyn Frank-Stromberg, Donald Zinger)

V. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to all committee members and chairs. A “Sense of the Senate” resolution was passed in appreciation of David Wagner’s many years of service.

A. Recognition of Faculty Senators whose terms are:

Completed

Gyu Chan Kim, Operations Management & Information Systems
Clersida Garcia, Kinesiology & Physical Education
James Lockard, Education Technology, Research & Assessment
Parviz Payvar, Mechanical Engineering  
Mark Cordes, Law  
William Baker, English  
Lisa Finkelstein, Psychology  
John Novak, Music  

Re-elected  

Eliot Kang, Political Science  
Katherine Kahn, Art  

Newly Elected  

Jack Marchewka, Operations Management & Information Systems  
Pamela MacFarlane, Kinesiology & Physical Education  
Janet Holt, Education Technology, Research & Assessment  
Brianno Coller, Mechanical Engineering  
Elvia Arriola, Law  
John V. Knapp, English  
Alan Rosenbaum, Psychology  
Greg Barrett, Music  

B. Presentation of the Bob Lane “Eternal Vigilance Award”

The Bob Lane award was presented to Beth Miller.

C. Deborah Haliczer, Director of Employee Relations

This year the benefits choice period will be May 31 – June 18. Unfortunately costs of various options will not be known at that time, so there will be a second benefits choice period later. Everything can be changed during the second period, whether or not changes were requested in the first period, except the Dependent Care Assistance Program. Paperless initiatives mean that the Benefits Choice booklets will be printed only in small quantities this year; they will be sent to departments but not to individuals. Next year no booklets will be printed; they will be available only online. HR has set up a listserv so that people can receive benefits updates by e-mail. Cigna will continue to administer the Quality Care Health Plan, and Magellan the mental health services, but the Health Alliance and OSF HMOs will no longer be offered. [This decision was later reversed by the state]. In addition, the vision care plan is being changed to Spectra Vision Plan; the only providers in DeKalb County are WalMart and Better Vision. [This decision was reversed as well]. If premiums increase after July 1, the excess will be deducted automatically from paychecks. Benefits payments will be more confused than usual; be careful to check all statements thoroughly. President Peters wrote a letter to the Director of CMS deploiring the present situation. Complaints from NIU personnel may be addressed to the University Benefits Committee.
Faculty should ensure that they have sufficient representation on the PeopleSoft Advisory Committee as soon as possible, especially as the student information system comes closer to implementation. The Senate should make this request directly to Steve Cunningham.

**The Senate passed the following motion:**
That the President of the Senate contact Steve Cunningham and request faculty, staff, and student representation when issues are discussed or decisions made concerning the move to the PeopleSoft student information system.

**The Senate also passed the following resolution:**
The Senate views with some alarm the fact that it was not consulted earlier concerning the implications of PeopleSoft, and does not view this as being conducive to shared governance.

**VI. ITEMS FOR SENATE CONSIDERATION**

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA** – approved

A. [Committees](#) of the University 2004-2005 vacancies for Faculty Senate to approve (Page 8)

**VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – [report](#) (Pages 9-10) and [walk-in](#)

The IBHE’s committee on Priorities, Productivity, and Accountability needs to be carefully watched. There is one faculty member. We do not know how the committee is going to go about its business, or from whom it will seek information.

The FAC met with two state representatives, one from the 11th District and the other from the 5th. Both are Democrats but neither is fully in support of the Governor’s agenda. Neither was especially familiar with higher education issues, and both would appreciate more communication.

The difference between online and traditional courses and degree programs was discussed. Assessment needs to be carefully considered. The University of Illinois at Springfield announced – much to the surprise of its faculty – that many of its degrees will be offered entirely online as well as in the classroom.

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

IX. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Stephen Nord, Chair

1. Election of President of Faculty Senate for 2004-2005

Paul Stoddard’s nomination was accepted, and he was unanimously elected.

2. **Election** of UCPC representatives for 2004-2005 – ballots will be distributed at FS meeting – voting will be by college – votes will be counted the following week and new UCPC members will be notified – sample ballots are enclosed. (Pages 16-20)

3. **Committee** of the University 2004-2005 vacancies for Faculty Senate to approve or select. (pages 21-31). Results are available from the Office of the Faculty Senate and University Council.

A. Academic Affairs Committee – William Baker, Chair – no report, but thanks to the committee members

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

(Pages 11-14)

Jim recently attended the Members’ Advisory Committee to SURS meeting. Health care costs are going up, and the Governor’s budget does not call for a sufficient increase to cover the full cost. The SURS investment plan has been doing very well, having netted 16% year-to-date as opposed to the 0.7% - 3% the other state plans have earned. The Governor’s budget again calls for underfunding or entirely failing to fund retirement plans for the next year through FY08, which will result in huge liabilities in future years. The State University Annuitants’ Association has a web site where you can track legislation and find contact information for state legislators. Anything not constitutionally mandated, such as increments and health care, is potentially at risk. Changes are being made in retirement calculations; those who are thinking of retiring should meet with HR to find out how this affects them.

C. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – C.T. Lin, Chair – report

(Page 15)

Chief Grady has increased the number of officers; all are well educated and well trained. He is focusing on prevention of crime rather than the apprehension of criminals. Every residence hall now has a Community Safety Center. The crime rate on campus has reduced dramatically; NIU now has the lowest per-capita crime rate of any university in the state. Building administrators will be identified and trained to handle emergencies.
D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Ngoyi Bukonda, Chair – report – walk-in

The Committee is considering what kind of response to submit to the IBHE committee on priorities, productivity, and accountability.

The following motion was passed:
That the President of the Faculty Senate endorse the sentiments as expressed in the FAC report and express that they are also the sentiments of this body and forward it to the IBHE that way.

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

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shey Lowman, head of Document Services, was present to answer questions about the conversion to new copy machine cards.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Thanks to President Willis.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Athletic Board minutes
C. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality
D. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
E. Minutes, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
F. Minutes, Graduate Council
G. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
H. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
I. Minutes, University Benefits Committee minutes
J. 2004-2005 Meeting Schedule (Page 32)

XIV. ADOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.