FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


J. Koch attended for S. Clayton; D. Wallace attended for L. Finkelstein.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NO PRESENT: Crisler, Cummings, Engel, Frank-Stromborg, Green, Johnson, Kang, Kolb, Larson, Loubere, Markowitz, Meganathan, Mehrer, Minor, Payvar, Pierce, Schneider, Spear, Wade, Wang

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – approved


IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome back. This year’s committee chairs: Executive, Sue Willis; Academic Affairs, Bill Baker; Economic Status, Jim Lockard; Resources, Space, and Budgets, C.T. Lin; Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Ngoyi Bukonda; Rules and Governance, Gretchen Bisplinghoff; and Elections, Steven Nord.

There will not be a planning retreat; suggestions for items the Faculty Senate might want to consider are always welcome, either to the committee chairs or to S. Willis. Questions about the policies and practices of the Senate are welcome after the meeting.

On the Federal level, the budget looks good. We are expecting to get some research money. The Federal Higher Education Act is up for reauthorization next year; there may be some sentiment to include assessment provisions like those in the “No Child Left Behind” act. On the state level, things are very fuzzy but not encouraging. There is a real possibility of a midyear rescission, but nothing will be known for several months. The FY05 budget is even more uncertain. The “Truth in Tuition” bill has been passed; implementation details still need to be worked out.
At NIU, 59 non-instructional positions have been moved off general revenue funding. Most are simply not being filled; a few have been switched to other types of funding. Also, the SSRI has been eliminated as an umbrella organization; there was only one major office in it, the Public Opinion Lab; it was decided that the SSRI was an unnecessary extra level of bureaucracy. The TA training function has been taken over by Faculty Development. Savings from the 4-day week in summer are being calculated; the extra 2 days before Christmas should help too.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Selection of Vice President and Secretary of Faculty Senate. Jim Lockard and Gretchen Bisplinghoff have agreed to serve.

No other nominations being offered, Jim Lockard and Gretchen Bisplinghoff were elected Vice President and Secretary.

B. Approval of Xueshu Song to serve on the University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – 2003-2006 – approved

C. Election of Joan Quinn to the Holmes Student Center Board for one-year term – approved

VI. CONSENT AGENDA – approved

A. Approval of Faculty Senate Committee chairs and Faculty Senate committee composition for 2003-2004

B. Revised Grievance Procedures – see memo from S. Willis – refer to Rules and Governance

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

The FAC is concerned about SURS, and also about the effect of increased assessment requirements on administrative bloat. The June meeting concerned the Illinois Articulation Initiative, which still needs work. The 7th goal that the FAC would like to add to the Illinois Commitment is in progress. The FAC is working on a media piece that could serve as an op-ed article, on the effects of budget cuts on the universities. The IBHE has a report on affordability on its Web page, as well as a report on diversity. The IBHE Web page is in general a very useful resource.

In response to a question, Pat said that the 7th goal and the university mission statements are indeed similar; that was the idea, to have the Illinois Commitment reflect what the universities see as their mission.
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 – no report

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

This meeting was in June; most topics have already been updated. There is a new bill clarifying who is and who is not an Illinois resident for purposes of tuition. There is an amendment of the Open Meetings Act which requires records to be made of executive sessions.

E. BOT – Sue Willis – **report**

The Board held a special meeting on May 5th solely for the purpose of setting tuition. Tuition was increased by 9% for freshmen and sophomores, and 12% for all other students.

The regular session was on the 19th of June. New officers were elected; the new chair is Gary Skoien. The FY05 budget guidelines are there, which will be submitted to the IBHE. Included is a 5% salary increment, as well as money for deferred maintenance, operation and maintenance of new buildings, and so forth. Last year our request was similar; the IBHE zeroed out most of it and the Governor zeroed out the rest. The Trustees also approved a salary increment for this year, 1.5% effective on the first of July (or the 16th of August for faculty) and another 1.5% effective on the first of January. Both increases will be across-the-board.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

**President Willis:** I assume the standing committees don’t have reports yet but I know some of them want to say that they’re meeting. Bill?

A. Academic Affairs – William Baker, Chair

The first meeting will be September 17 in HSC 303.

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Jim Lockard, Chair – no report

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

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

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

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Stephen Nord, Chair

1. Election of members of [Faculty Grievance Committee] – William Tolhurst, Chair
Elizabeth Miller, Mark Mehrer, Colin Booth, Gyu Chan Kim, Lynn Kamenitsa, Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Kathryn Kahn, Ngoyi Bukonda, Corenna Cummings, Sally Webber, Robert Zerwekh, Larry Gregory, Pam Smith, Jitka Hurych were elected. Alternates are: Donald Zinger, Jean Pierce, Clerisida Garcia, Marilyn Frank-Stromborg and William Baker.

2. Election of University Council alternates – see sample ballots – ballots will be distributed at FS meeting.

3. Nomination of two Faculty Senate members to serve on the Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee. Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School will choose one member from the two nominations to serve on the committee.

Ken Burns and C. T. Lin were selected.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation for Advisory Board for Technology Services

This recommendation came from Bill Baker, who would like to see an independent “think tank” for technology decisions, which would not be dominated by special interests.

Some examples of difficulties that it is hoped can be averted include changes in e-mail without sufficient notice, upgrades of smart classroom computers leaving them unable to run needed software, difficulties with PeopleSoft and GroupWise, software taking a long time to be installed in smart classrooms but being deleted very quickly, and changes in forms that need to be filled out.

Bill Baker moved the following resolution:
The Faculty Senate recommends that an independent advisory board be established to review and make recommendations about major changes, deletions, and new technologies that have a broad effect on campus information technology practices. This board should have representatives of faculty, supportive professional staff, operating staff and should advise the head of ITS, Executive Vice President for Business and Finance/Chief of Operations, and ultimately the President on the implications of any major changes.

The resolution passed unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
D. Wagner asked about issues the Faculty Senate had sent to the University Council; there are three still pending, two having to do with the Faculty Personnel Advisor, and the Office Privacy Policy.

The extended Thanksgiving break (starting Wednesday morning, instead of noon) was planned to be implemented in the 2004-05 academic year, but, as the schedule books had already been printed with the new schedule, it was decided to implement it this year.

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. Faculty Personnel Advisor Annual Report for 2002-2003 (Page 38-39)
K. Meeting Schedule for 2003-2004 (Page 40)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT