
T. Smith attended for R. Butler; J. Koch attended for S. Clayton; T. Heinze attended for D. Munk, M. Cozad attended for W. Tolhurst.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Crisler, Cummings, Engel, Frank-Stromborg, Garcia, Greene, Jeffrey, Johnson, Kang, Kolb, Lin, Loubere, Mehrer, Novak, Powers, S. Song, Spear, Stodard, Wade, Wickman, Windelborn

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

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

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Ivan Legg to speak – see memo from Ivan Legg to Sue Willis

Provost Legg presented his request to change the Vice Provost for Student Affairs to Vice President of Student Affairs, while retaining Student Affairs as a division which reports directly to the Provost. This person would then be a member of the Senior Cabinet, and the change in title would make recruiting of top candidates easier. There is no increase in cost to the University as a result of this change. The reaction from the Senate was positive.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES
A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

The IBHE is concerned about improving faculty diversity; they wish to encourage minority recipients of Illinois masters’ degrees to remain in Illinois, teaching at community colleges. The FAC expressed some concern about possible loss of tenure track positions. There are community colleges which would like to offer bachelor’s degrees – one wants to take over a nursing program that is being phased out at a nearby college and Harper College is looking into the possibility of four-year degrees in general. The IBHE is not, in general, in favor of this.

Administrative costs continue to be an issue, both their definition and how to minimize them in the face of ever-increasing demands for assessment and reporting.

The FAC is concerned about communicating to the public about the effects of cuts on higher education, and about the true costs.

In response to a question about reduced state funding, Pat agreed that limiting access to higher education was a real risk, and one she will bring up to the FAC.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere and William Tolhurst – written report

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

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Sara Clayton and Beverly Espe – no report

E. BOT – Sue Willis – report

The Governor has said that between $200 and $400 million worth of appropriated funds will not be released. Although this sounds ominous, it is apparently not new; funds are released as needed, which may not be in the year they are appropriated. The NIU Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal by $1 million last year, and the Convocation Center made $900,000 over operating costs plus bond payments. The Convocation Center money was placed in a reserve fund, for use if revenues fall short in the future.

F. Council of Illinois University Senates – Sue Willis – report

The Council consists of the Faculty Senate Presidents (or their representatives) from all the state universities in Illinois. The group has existed for about three years, and meets twice a year. Topics of discussion concerned budget cuts and the budgeting process in general. The group will meet again in Springfield during the legislative session, and plans to do some lobbying.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – William Baker, Chair – written report
B. Economic Status of the Profession – Jim Lockard, Chair – report

The Governor is trying again to combine all state retirement systems into one, which would be bad for SURS. This bears watching. Our benefits package is being renegotiated this year; only the AFSCME union has input into the negotiations with CMS.

The state is considering a “pension contribution holiday”, where they would suspend pension contributions until a later date. This was done before, in the early 80s; the result is that this year’s required SURS payment of $320 million is twice what it would have been if the payments had been made on time. Another “holiday” will only make things worse in the future.

Jim encouraged people to join SUAA, the State University Annuities Association; this is the organization which is looking out for the interests of present and future retirees.

It was pointed out that the NIU insurance office is willing to help in cases of difficulty with health insurance reimbursements, although HIPAA (privacy) regulations are making it more complicated than it used to be.

C. Resource, Space and Budget – C. T. Lin, Chair

Bill Goldenberg gave the report. He pointed out, again, the difference between capital funding (for buildings, roads, and so forth) and funding that is used for personnel. Money cannot be moved between these sources; if you see roads being repaired, that money could not have been redirected to instruction. The committee has invited Provost Legg and Chief Grady to come to its next two meetings, and will be reporting on them.

A question was raised about classroom facilities; deficiencies there can be brought either to the Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee or to the Undergraduate Coordinating Committee. Email or writing would be best.

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

E. Rules and Governance – Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Chair

The committee is considering the revised grievance procedures. These will come back to the full Senate; we will not be reprinting them. Please either save them from the September 3 packet or print them from the Web (in the September 3 agenda). They will also be e-mailed.

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

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS
XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

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. Alternate List (Page 17)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT