
E. Cancio attended for D. Munk; B. Cummings attended for P. Smith; D. Clinton attended for S. Webber; F. Giordano attended for S. Wickman

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Crisler, Cummings, Engel, Finkelstine, Frank-Stromborg, Garcia, Ghrayeb, Greene, Jeffrey, Johnson, Kahn, Kang, Kolb, Loubere, Mehrer, Payvar, Pierce, S. Song, X. Song, Spear, Wade, Wang, Windelborn,

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2003 FS MEETING – approved

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is no information on the budget; Kathy Buettner will attend the next Senate meeting and can answer questions about legislative matters on the state and federal level.

The University Council, rather than endorsing the creation of an advisory board for technology services, added two items to the functions of the existing Computing Facilities Advisory Committee: To review and make recommendations about major changes, deletions, and new technologies that have a broad effect on campus information technology practices; and to develop and implement procedures to improve communication of current policies and notification of proposed changes in information technologies to faculty most likely to be affected by such policies and changes in technologies.

This brought up the question of the various categories of committees - committees reporting directly to the University Council, committees reporting indirectly to the University Council, committees not normally within the jurisdiction of the University Council, and committees
reporting through University Council committees. Only the first and last categories have definite paths of communication with the University Council; the distinction between the second and third categories is not clear. The categories need to be brought closer to reality, and paths of communication should be created where they are needed.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report

The Chair of the IBHE had asked the FAC at its previous meeting to come up with ideas to increase faculty productivity. The FAC feels that there are funding issues in higher education that need to be addressed, and that prior budget reductions have already had a severe effect on faculty and students. Feedback on the effects of the existing cuts on students would be very useful. The FAC had also written a proposed resolution endorsing the IBHE’s revival of PQP; this was not well received by the Senate. After much dismay was expressed, it was clear that the Senate wanted no part of any resolution that mentioned PQP or anything which could be construed as being similar to PQP.

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 (Pages 6-11)

The Committee report included a report to the provost on non-tenure-track (NTT) faculty, as well as a suggestion that NTT faculty be represented on the Faculty Senate. They are not prohibited by their union contract from doing so.

It was moved and seconded that the Senate endorse the report and recommend that it be sent to the Provost; the motion passed.

It was moved and seconded that the Rules and Governance Committee look into the details of including NTT faculty representation on the Faculty Senate; the motion passed.
B. Economic Status of the Profession Committee – Jim Lockard, Chair

J. Lockard reported that an article had appeared in the Tribune questioning whether a recent request from the governor to a foundation that it surrender half its endowment to the state would also apply to university foundations. Also, despite the appearance of their Web page, the NIU annuitants’ association is open to all.

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

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Ngoyi Bukonda, Chair – report

(Pages 12-16)

The committee has been looking into the question of a grievance procedure that students could use to file grievances against faculty. They found that there was a need for such a procedure, and that none exists presently at NIU. There are models at other institutions that could be used.

A motion was made and seconded that this recommendation be forwarded to the University Council. There were some concerns expressed that the procedure not presuppose problems that may or may not exist; that misuse of the policy should be avoided; and that existing informal procedures that are working be left alone. These concerns were discussed at some length, after which the motion to refer the issue to the University Council passed.

E. Rules and Governance Committee – Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Chair

The Committee reviewed the proposed new grievance procedures. It was moved and seconded that the Senate accept these procedures.

There was a question about whether it might make sense to include administrators as a separate category. It was moved and seconded that the paragraph under discussion be amended to read “a faculty member who has an administrative appointment above the level of department chair”. The motion passed.

The grievance procedures were approved as amended.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – 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

X. **ADJOURMENT**