FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2005, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER REGENCY ROOM

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Arriola, Baker, Balamuralikrishna, Barrett, Bisplinghoff, booth, Burns, Castle, Coller, Gallagher, Gebo, Goldenberg, Gordon, Gorman, Greene, Gregory, Hanley, Henry, Holt, Hurych, Jaeger, Johnson, Kamenitsa, Lin, Loner- 
gan, Lowman, Lusk, MacFarlane, Marchewka, Meganathan, Miller, Newman-Ryan, Pierce, Rosenbaum, D. Smith, P. Smith, Smith-Shank, Stephen, Sytsma, Tolhurst, Webber, Wickman

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended (no action under VIII F).

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2004 FS MEETING (Pages 3-6)

The minutes passed with a minor amendment.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard announced that Northern won the Silicon Valley Football Classic over Troy State, and that NIU supporters outnumbered TSU supporters by about 4000 to 1000.

The NIU community suffered two losses over the break. One was Kevin McKeough who served as Faculty Personnel Advisor. The other was Dan Griffiths who used to have this position that I’m in. Dan served on the Senate and UC from 1993 to 2001. He served on Rules and Governance during most of that period. He was chair of Rules and Governance for three years and he was the Executive Secretary of the University Council which is also President of the Faculty Senate during the ’00-01 term. He died December 21.

W. Baker: moved that the Faculty Senate find an appropriate way of memorializing Professor Griffith’s contribution to this body, including a letter of condolence from the President of the University and the President of the Faculty Senate.
The motion passed by acclamation.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 7-9)

P. Henry reported that the state budget is staying on track, but that track doesn’t lead directly to easing any budget constraints on the University. The IBHE priorities include ensuring affordability, and while the FAC commends this, it does keep trying to hold the line in terms of quality of the education.

The Governor’s Pension Commission is looking at ways to make up the shortfall in SURS funding (resulting from the State’s not meeting its obligations). While many options are being discussed, it is unconstitutional to decrease benefits to current employees or annuitants. Nevertheless, this bears watching.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – no report

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – no report

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Donna Smith and Shey Lowman – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report – walk-in

P. Stoddard reported that the Board of Trustees’ Chair’s announced that NIU has taken a leading role in reviving the neutron therapy program at Fermilab. The BOT approved money for improvements in the residence halls. NIU reached agreements with two local unions representing a total of about 45 employees. It was announced that NIU will be renaming the SSRI downtown as the William R. Monet building in recognition of Dr. Monet’s service to the university.

In other matters, mention was made of the federal proposal to use social security numbers to track students as they matriculate, transfer and graduate. An omnibus funding bill contained a provision dictating that on the anniversary of the signing of U.S. Constitution (September 17th) all institutions that receive federal money should have some kind of program addressing the United States’ Constitution. Pell Grants are to stay at $4,000.00.

There was a report on the Convocation Center. In its first year it hosted 175 events and grossed over $5 million of which $900,000 is profit. For the second year, they got 199 events, over $6
million gross and $961,000 net. The profits are going on reserve for long-term projects that have yet to be disclosed.

**P. Henry:** Aren’t the Pell Grants going to be increased? **P. Stoddard:** It’s possible. [N.B: President Bush, in his State of the Union address, announced that Pell Grants would be increased.] **B. Miller:** For the Convocation Center money, how long do the profits go on reserve? **P. Stoddard:** I guess until they identify and pay for long-term projects.

**VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Academic Affairs – John V. Knapp, Chair – no report

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Radha Balamuralikrishna, Chair – report – walk-in

**R. Balamuralikrishna:** Our Committee discussed the stop-the-clock policy for those taking medical or family leave. We noted many positives in the policy but for the sake of brevity we have only included the concerns in the report. These include the policy’s not sufficiently clearly stating that anybody can seek this extension for personal health issues, and the clause that one should have a proper progress towards tenure. The University Council’s Rules & Governance Committee is willing to accept suggestions.

The University Benefits Committee voted to provide benefits for domestic partners.

Included in the report is a history of salary increments at NIU. The 2004 data doesn’t include the 1% raise that was effective in January. I will let you judge for yourself. At least a few members expressed some concern that their increases were not reflected by these numbers so you may find this table useful.

As new business we would like to look at the salary compression at NIU (pay raises failing to keep up with market value of new hires). There is an ad hoc committee at Human Resources also looking at this issue.

**P. Henry:** With regards to the stop-the-clock policy, some of the language is a little unspecific because the desire was to leave a little room for departmental appraisal.

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

D. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities – Joseph “Buck” Stephen, Chair – no report

E. Rules and Governance – Augden Windelborn, Chair – no report

**P. Stoddard** reminded the Senate that R &G is working on the question of to what degree do University Council members need to sit in on Faculty Senate meetings.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Chair - no report

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IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update on Student Grievance Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen

J. Stephen reported that the Student Grievance Procedure Task Force has been completely filled.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

B. Miller expressed interest in the creation of a university-wide form to be used for Faculty Service Reports. A lengthy discussion followed, with many pointing out that the diversity among departments and colleges made a single form applicable to all a rather problematic idea. No consensus was reached, and no action recommended.

L. Kamenitsa asked why it was necessary for Fall class schedules to be finalized so early. It is difficult to coordinate with other faculty before the semester begins. With the elimination of a printed schedule, it seems the deadline could be pushed back, rather than inched forward. P. Stoddard said he would look into it.

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.