
Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 2004 FS MEETING (Pages 3-7)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard (GEOL) noted, for those whose are new to the Senate, that the role of the Faculty Senate is essentially that of an advisory body. We make recommendations to the University Council on policies and procedures of interest to the faculty.

P. Stoddard introduced our parliamentarian, Ferald Bryan (COMS) and our administrative assistant, Donna Mathesius. A lot of times when you’re trying to get in touch with the Senate, Donna is the first person you’ll end up speaking with.

P. Stoddard announced that he is taking up the cause of those with concerns about computing facilities and practices on campus. If you have any such concerns, please let him know.
V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Selection of Vice president and Secretary of Faculty Senate

Joseph “Buck” Stephens (MATH) will act as VP, and Radha Balamualikrishna (TECH) will act as Secretary of the FS.

B. University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees – need to elect two members.

Joseph “Buck” Stephens (yes, him again), has agreed to serve. Ferald Bryan has also agreed, at least temporarily (sometimes it doesn’t pay to sit close to the president at these meetings).

P. Stoddard and X. Song (EET) noted that the primary obligation of UAC members is observation, although there is the opportunity for very limited formal input. X. Song noted that there is ample opportunity for more informal input to the BOT.

C. Election of faculty member to the Holmes Student Center Board. (1-year term)

Joan Quinn (FCNS) was elected.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Faculty Senate Committee chairs and composition for 2004-2005

B. Membership of Faculty Senate and University Council (re-evaluate the need for UC faculty to also serve on Faculty Senate) – refer to Rules and Governance

The consent agenda was approved.

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report (Pages 9-12)

P. Henry (FL&L) The Faculty Advisory Council is an interface between faculty of assorted universities and institutes of higher learning and the IBHE. The public universities always have representatives. There’s also membership by the private universities and the community colleges on a rotating basis. We meet all over the state once a month and I am to keep you, and NIU in general, informed as to what’s going on at the IBHE, and serve as a means of conveying your concerns through the FAC – through the Faculty Advisory Council – to the IBHE.

The control of the SURS’ board that is moving gradually from the old to the new and Jim Hacking who, according to many, done an excellent job of minding the store may well be on his way out.
Priorities, Productivity and Accountability (PPA) is going to be an ongoing concern. This is basically set up by the IBHE to look at issues of priorities, productivity and accountability. We do have a representative, Ken Andersen, of the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana and he’s a very able fellow who will keep us posted.

We keep trying to push the idea that the IBHE should be making the case to the legislature and the governor about what higher education is all about. The IBHE often doesn’t really do that. Our next meeting is going to be September 10 and so concerns that you have can be brought forward at that time as well.

There is a website for the IBHE (http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/) which is actually pretty valuable and does give you a lot of information about a lot of things and I will make use of it from time to time.

One of the things on the website is the “Illinois Commitment,” a list of six goals for Illinois higher education. In generally, they’re pretty utilitarian, at least the Faculty Advisory Council has felt that they emphasize good solid things like business and industry and so forth and so on. They don’t mention things like research and artistry all that much. J. Newman-Ryan (COMD) asked about a proposed seventh item. P. Henry answered that it is still in the works. The Faculty Advisory Council tried to put forth the motion that would have something to do with the quality of life and research and so forth.

The Governor is interested in some sort of taskforce that will look at textbook prices

The PPA committee is currently has Alice Hayes as chair, now that, the prior chair, Tom Lamont, is Executive Director of the IBHE. Subcommittee A (Chair, Proshanta Nandi) issued a memo looking at faculty productivity and I added three little paragraphs or excerpts of this memo to try and give you some idea of the kinds of things they’re looking at. I personally found it a rather reassuring memo in that it seemed like he was being relatively sensible about this. For example, saying that the IBHE should coordinate and be cooperation with institutions concerning mission and focus statements. This is the one that’s going to be a very interesting item for us.

So please feel free to e-mail me or share concerns at the meetings as we get going.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere – report (Page 13)

B. Tolhurst (PHIL) reported the approval of recommendations for promotions, tenure and so forth. P. Stoddard reported approval of the appointment of Brian Hemphill as the Vice President for Student Affairs.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – report

X. Song: There was a long list of items approved by the Board of Trustees which are in the public record, so if you are interested in the detail we can find them somewhere on the website (http://www.niu.edu/board).
P. Stoddard: They approved the faculty increment that the President wrote us about yesterday. They approved the University requests for capital improvement budgets and so forth. All of our budget requests. Their approval doesn’t bring any money, however. It still has to go to the IBHE and then through the Governor and the legislature.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Donna Smith and Shey Lowman – report – walk-in

P. Stoddard: We should have a report as a walk-in item from Donna Smith and Shey Lowman on the BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee and if one of you would like to summarize what you have written down.

D. Smith (OSC): The General Assembly report was made by Ken Zehnder and as far as I know these bills have actually passed: House Bill 3877, 4361, 4491 and Senate bills 3107 and 3340. Kathy Buettner made the federal report from the Department of Defense which gives the ROCK program an additional 3.5 million to give a total for the last two fiscal years of 5.75 million dollars. John Lewis gave the report on the Belvidere/Boone County New Uses Agricultural Technology Partnership with the city of Belvidere, Boone County among other corporations up that way and NIU. He also announced new staff for that partnership. Sharon Dowden reported on NIU procedural audit revisions that would make campus departments accountable for complying with previous findings. Lastly, President Peters announced that House Speaker Dennis Hastert has designated him to the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program Commission. That was by congressional action. I’d be happy to try to answer any questions if there are any.

P. Henry: One note – I think the one that was very attention grabbing last year was the third one down, House Bill 4073, which I believe, was pretty much tabled. This would do something rather drastic in terms of inter – putting another level of deciding tenure criteria for tenure but as far as you know that one’s still dead but not terribly buried?

D. Smith: That was tabled by the sponsor.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – John V. Knapp, Chair

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Radha Balamuralikrishna, Chair

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

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Ngoyi Bukonda, Chair

E. Rules and Governance – Augden Windelborn, Chair
The above committees had no report, which is not unusual considering the time of the academic year. The chairs all introduced themselves and made announcements regarding initial meetings.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Chair

P. Stoddard: And then finally, the committee, which does have some work today, is Gretchen Bisplinghoff in for Elections and Legislative Oversight.

G. Bisplinghoff (COMM): Yes, we actually have a couple of tasks to do today so I will go ahead and get started.

1. Election of members of Faculty Grievance Committee – Colin Booth, Chair (Page 14)

The following faculty members were chosen to serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee by lot. Katherine Kahn, David Wade, Correna Cummings, Nancy Castle, Ragaswamy Meganathan, Kent Gallagher, Deborah Smith-Shank, Richard Orem, Jack Marchewka, Pat Henry, William Goldenberg, John Wolfskill, William Tolhurst, Elizabeth Miller. The alternates are: Jitka Hurych, Paul Loubere, Janet Holt

W. Tolhurst: At some point it might be nice to have a little explanation since a lot of us spent a lot of time creating a new grievance system that was supposed to eliminate this committee and I thought I had been delivered from it forever.

President Stoddard: We left in place the Grievance Committee that handles questions of academic freedom for faculty members. That is still Article X and Article X is what creates this policy. What we have done is Article XI – and Article X is what is given to you on page 14 of your packet – Article XI is all new material that the Committee put together which is a more comprehensive grievance list for staff and faculty concerns and staff with academic freedom issues.

2. Election of University Council alternates – see sample ballots – ballots will be distributed at FS meeting (Pages 15-20)

G. Bisplinghoff: Okay, we’re going to move on to the election of the University Council alternates and this will be done by ballot

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.

G. Bisplinghoff: Okay, the final order of business was the nomination of two Faculty Senate members to serve on the Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee. The name of Ken
Burns was forwarded to Vice President of Research and the Dean of the Graduate School and was acceptable. Motion to name Ken Burns to RCS was approved.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Lecture Series

P. Stoddard introduced the general idea of a series of lectures to be given by NIU faculty, geared towards local teachers and the community at large. Suggestions for a more well-defined format, and/or how best to proceed should be directed to him.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Questions were raised concerning the salary increment and its implementation, and a concern regarding parking space re-allotment and the role of the Campus Parking Committee was also brought to the Senate’s attention. P. Stoddard said he would look into these.

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. Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005 (Page 21)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.