FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM  
3:00 P.M.


F. Solares-Larrave attended for F. Jaeger.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Clayton, Cummings, Gebo, Ghrayeb, Greene, Johnson, Kahn, Kang, Kolb, L’Allier, Loubere, Marcus, Markowitz, Minor, Peters, Pierce, Ridnour, X. Song, Tollerud, Wade, Walton, Wang, Wickman

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was passed as amended (to include a report from the Economic Status of the Profession).

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2004 FS MEETING  
(Pages 3-7)

After a spelling correction, the minutes were approved.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Deborah Haliczter will discuss Ethics Training – see information sheet – walk-in

D. Haliczter reported that NIU needs to have all our employees, even occasional, temporary and seasonal workers, participate in mandatory ethics training between October 18 and November 17. The only people who will be exempt from this are people who are officially not here during that month period. It’s going to be delivered in “self-administered, interactive, one hour program” where you log on to a computer, go to the internet to the address that you’re directed to in
Steve Cunningham’s memo, log in according to the ID that you’re going to be assigned by the State (e.g. DeborahHHaliczer with birth date). You can complete the training on your office computer or you can log on through the internet from home. Some of the things that are covered in this training include things like acceptance of gifts, conflict of interest, fund raising and political activities during your work time, official misconduct. There’s also a quiz you need to pass.

J. Stephen asked if student workers will get paid for the time they spend on the training. D. Haliczer responded that she thought they should, since this will be work-related.

J. Stephen asked if this is an attempt to curtail our freedom to express our political views. D. Haliczer answered that this fundamentally is not really directed at universities and it’s not really at all directed against academic freedom. She thinks that this stems from workers downstate whose bosses send them on work time to do political fundraising down in Springfield. P. Stoddard added that President Peters specifically asked our Inspector General about political activity and free speech issues and she said that it’s not about that. If you were to take a Tuesday afternoon off to go hand out fliers someplace, assuming you did not have a class or committee meetings that you were missing that afternoon, which would not represent a problem. If you cancelled class to go hand out political materials, or if you passed them out in class, that would be a problem. R. Meganathan noted that it’s ironic that today Northwestern University investigated the U.S. Congressmen for ethics and of the 400 [sic], only 7 are found to be not taking gifts. D. Haliczer’s understanding is that our legislators will also be participating in ethics training and our Board of Trustees and Board members will also be taking it so NIU’s Board members must also take this training.

P. Henry asked who the legislators responsible for bringing this about are. D. Haliczer didn’t know, but suggested looking at the public act on line.

J. Holt asked about a memo from Steve Cunningham that had times to sign up for training. D. Haliczer pointed out that that memo referred to non-discrimination training.

C. Booth was curious as to consequences of not meeting the standards for successfully completing the training. D. Haliczer replied that you may be redirected to read a section and then answer the question again. S. Lowman (who took a beta version of the test) added that they’ll have different sections and at the end of each section, they’ll give you little questions and they’ll grade you and tell you where to go back and look. Then at the end of the whole thing, is where your ten question quiz is. You just keep retaking it until you pass it.

J. Knapp asked how this is in anyway different in spirit from the loyalty oath from the 1950’s. D. Haliczer relayed that everything that she’s been told suggests that it’s just “are you familiar with the laws of the State” and not more effort to control your thinking and freedom of expression.

J. Newman-Ryan asked about allowances or accommodations made for people with limited English proficiency. D. Haliczer indicated that she is responsible for making arrangements for people who have any kind of limitations. B. Miller expressed concern about privacy issues. D. Haliczer responded that anyone who needs any kind of accommodation should just call her
B. Miller expressed further concerns regarding the notification of people needing special accommodations. D. Haliczer further responded that there will be articles in *Northern Today* and other various places.

R. Meganathan asked if this test going to be repeated every? D. Haliczer believes this is an annual event.

J. Stephen took the opportunity to raise the issue of unreimbursed dental bills. D. Haliczer answered that that is an issue that can be addressed to the Benefits Committee. This is an endless issue and it always happens to a few people. Immediately call Central Management Services, and complain. It might help.

A. Windelborn asked about faculty being responsible for keeping track of how they spend their time. P. Stoddard answered that nothing has been decided yet, but that it is coming. The format has not been decided. A. Windelborn suggested one could “cheat” the system – e.g. by not having zero office hours one would never miss them. L. Gregory pointed out that you really do have to have office hours.

B. Miller pointed out that trying to apply rigid time accounting to a job that is not inherently 9-to-5 is a difficult, if not pointless, exercise. D. Haliczer agreed. P. Stoddard said he felt the President felt the same way, and was working to convince the Inspector General of this, apparently with some success. D. Haliczer echoed the assessment of the President.

G. Sheldon asked about the consequences of not doing the training. D. Haliczer relayed that we were told that the staff or the administrators for the Inspector General had said, “You will have 100% compliance.” Every other State agency that has already completed this training has 100% compliance. P. Stoddard offered that it’s also possible that there could be institutional consequences if Northern didn’t get 100% compliance.

The remaining discussion (L. Gregory, D. Haliczer, J. Stephen, and B. Miller) concerned assessing the cost of the training program to the University in time and money.

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V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

There were no items for FS consideration.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda.
VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report – walk-in

**P. Henry:** The Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE met September 10. We’re continuing to discuss with legislators the kind of pain budget cuts are causing and the impact they have had on the quality of education.

The Illinois Commitment is an ongoing concern. We’re working for a “quality of life of Illinois’ citizens” statement into the Preamble (see accompanying report for a brief paragraph showing what we’re working towards).

Also in the report is the proposed statement that the FAC has adopted to give to the IBHE regarding the budget. We go through the existing problems and try to clarify the kinds of effects they’ve had. We also did want to say thank you to the IBHE for at least holding the line and having a budget that was not cut even further.

We are also working on an Op-Ed piece that hopefully will be approved next Tuesday. It will address the notion of how public universities are being privatized and how the increasing budget pressure and the cuts in funding from the State force such things as raising tuition and that it will be harder to maintain the typical profile of a public university as it once existed.

I would like some feedback as to whether you would like me to discuss this issue of the mandatory ethics training. Any other things that you would like me to bring up, I will be happy to do so.

**B. Tolhurst** despaired that there’s no good that will come of talking about this anymore. It’s just something we’ve got to do.

**J. Stephen** asked about adding research and artistry to the Illinois Commitment. **P. Henry** responded that they are being incorporated into the “quality of life” statement into the.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee – Paul Loubere – 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

**P. Stoddard** reported that the Board of Trustees met last week. The earlier actions of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Personnel Committee and Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee (see enclosed reports) were approved by the full Board.


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 reported that it’s official - the Board of Trustees gave their final approval to an average 3% raise. Given the state of things last spring, President Peters and the Board of Trustees deserve some appreciation from all of us. We all know that President Peters has repeatedly said that raising faculty and staff salaries is one of his top priorities and that should all bode well for us. Much of the other part of the report is a summary of what took place in the University Benefits Committee. The website at the end of the report has the details. The committee wants to address the stopping the clock issue.

P. Henry noted that there has been some work done on the stopping the clock issue, which will be discussed by the UC/PC next month.

C. Resource, Space and Budget – C.T. Lin, Chair – report (Page 8)

C.T. Lin reported that RSB Committee the delayed building repairs and the traffic congestion in the DuSable area of campus. Executive Vice-President, Eddie Williams addressed both issues. Williams also talked about long-term campus planning including the West Campus. The Trustees have recently purchased about 240 acres on the West Campus which already has federal funding for building up the Family Violence Center as well as some infrastructure. In response to concerns raised at the last FS meeting the Committee, has invited the Parking Committee Chair to their October 13 meeting. If you have a question, you are welcome to e-mail us so we can ask the question of the Committee Chair. Provost Legg will be coming to talk to the committee on November 10. B. Goldenberg added that if you have a concern or question you would like answered about the parking situation specifically, you are always welcome to get in touch with me or C.T. about anything.

J. Holt offered support for efforts to address the issue in the DuSable parking area as well as in the Field House parking lot where the parking congestion has gotten really bad. C.T. Lin mentioned that options, such as opening another road, are being considered. B. Goldenberg added that Eddie Williams was very happy to try to help out with the problems we brought up and he did say he was going to check on the congestion problem. C.T. Lin thought he mentioned some suggestions regarding a parking structure on the periphery of campus so everybody park outside and take a shuttle.

P. Henry asked about making the campus more bicycle-friendly. B. Goldenberg said that he has heard the idea of eliminating traffic from the campus; however, closing Normal Road or some of the other roads around here would hamper fire engines in the case of emergency and that sort of thing can’t be completely done. P. Henry suggested that if bicycle are encouraged more, there would be some decrease in traffic.

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D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Ngoyi Bukonda, Chair – no report
E. Rules and Governance – Augden Windelborn, Chair – no report
F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Gretchen Bisplinghoff, Chair – no report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business. (We’re just that good!)

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XI. COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Holt noted that in the new division of sabbatical and leave of absence forms, there are questions and statements left over from the “uni-form” that are no longer relevant to the particular leave being requested.

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. Report for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees September 1, 2004 meeting (Page 9)
K. Report for Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees September 1, 2004 meeting (Page 10)
L. Alternate list (Page 11)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.