
Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

THOSE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Arriola, Bukonda, Castle, Cumming, Gebo, Ghrayeb, Greene, Hamlet, Hurych, Johnson, Kang, Kolb, L’Allier, Loubere, Marcus, Markowitz, Miller, Munk, Newman-Ryan, Peters, Ridnour, Smith-Shank, S. Song, X. Song, Swanson, Tolhurst, Tollerud, Wade, Walton Wange, Wickman, Wolfskill

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2004 FS MEETING

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard: The Computer Facilities Advising Committee announced that a spam-control filter is being implemented on emails coming through Northern’s main server. At this point, the filter will indicate the likelihood that a message is indeed spam. A future implementation will actually block delivery of spam email.

Blackboard email addresses are going to be locked in by June of 2005. All students will have to use their NIU accounts to get email through Blackboard. They will be able to set up a forwarding protocol, however. Faculty will have their NIU server accounts locked in as well. Students will no longer be able to put a different email address into their personal information field. All information from NIU will be sent to their NIU accounts only. J. Holt worried that non-traditional students will have problems. J. Stephen felt such measures are reasonable for students to ensure that we’re corresponding with an actual student, but since faculty have varied (but generally unchanging) email accounts, this would present an unnecessary inconvenience. W. Baker opined that Computing Services should service the community, not the other way around.
P. Stoddard noted that this particular change is being made at the direction of Registration and Records. W. Baker suggested inviting Wally Czerniak to a senate meeting. J. Knapp added that an invitation to a Registration and Records representative would also be helpful. A senator added that AOL would start excluding NIU as spam.

A motion to invite Wally and the Registration and Records representative to a future Senate meeting passed.

P. Stoddard further reported that the University Benefits Committee is monitoring the Caremark mail-order prescription benefit issue. This is in a state of flux. D. Haliczer explained that Caremark is trying to have people get their maintenance medication through the mail order program and it is financially advantageous although not necessarily the best method of delivery. As of yesterday, probably half of the local pharmacies said that they will begin participating in this plan which means that they will be able to offer the same advantageous rates as in the mail order plan and you’ll be able to continue getting it at your local pharmacy. J. Stephen pointed out that in some cases, mail-order is a very poor method for getting prescriptions. J. Holt asked about controlled substances that have to be refilled (every?) 2 days or have a time limit when as to when they have to be refilled. D. Haliczer pointed out that the regular medications (not maintenance ones like blood pressure or contraception) will be filled as usual at your regular pharmacy. Those who are on maintenance medication will have gotten or will be getting a letter saying which medications are subject to this maintenance medication program. In a clear attempt at self-preservation, D. Haliczer stressed that as usual, she’s the messenger, not the decision maker.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Review of the Office of the Ombudsman – Richard Orem

R. Orem: asked for any feedback on the Office of the Ombudsman as part of the University Council’s quadrennial review. He can be reached through Groupwise, the Department of Literacy Educatino, or at 753-1688.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. PickAProf.com – see memo from J. Pierce – refer to Rights and Responsibilities (Page 7)

B. Freedom of Speech/Privacy Policy – refer to Rights and Responsibilities

The consent agenda was approved.

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

P. Stoddard: Moving on to reports. FAC to IBHE – Pat Henry has a walk-in report.

A. FAC to IBHE – Patricia Henry – report – walk-in
P. Henry: reported on the November 12 meeting, which included local State legislators, senators and representatives. Representative Beaubien suggested that the FAC, and higher education in general, make common cause with chambers of commerce to make the case to the legislature regarding the necessity of higher education. FAC chair Alan Kearns said he would contact business groups. Issues such as “classroom time” versus “work time” need to be made clear.

Ken Anderson, FAC representative on the Priority, Productivity, and Accountability Committee, reported that the relationship between public/private universities and also the for-profit universities needs to be addressed.

There remains the question of tracking students, both in terms of granting credit to institutions for instruction and graduation, and national security. The Department of Education is considering a tracking system to keep track of students as they go through the higher education system. Privacy issues need to be considered in this, as well.

The FAC is now proposing a letter to Illinois State legislators along the lines of the previous OpEd piece.

J. Stephen wondered about NIU’s (and other institutions’) degree requirements and how they affect our ability to guarantee the quality of the degree. P. Henry responded that there’s some variation in that and that’s one of the issues that this committee is looking at.

J. Holt asked about discussion at IBHE about discontinuing early retirement for teachers. P. Henry said that she is not sure if this would affect higher ed teachers.

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 – no report

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

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

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Radha Balamuralikrishna, Chair – no report

C. Resource, Space, and Budget – C.T. Lin, Chair – report (Page 8)
C.T. Lin: reported on the committee’s meeting with Provost Legg. A mid-year rescission does not look likely. We will have about 2800 incoming freshmen. A new initiative program is giving a one-time stipend to certain departments that have critical courses with excess student demand. Salaries remain the top priority of NIU and the library is also a high priority. Human Resources is conducting a faculty salary compression study. The Provost was proud of all the exceptionally fine work and the attitudes of faculty, staff, and administration.

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.

X. NEW BUSINESS

P. Henry asked about the status of the dispute between NIU and the kitchen staff union. D. Haliczer said she thought that all parties had agreed on a solution, after extensive negotiation.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

P. Stoddard: Any comments or questions from the floor? Buck?

J. Stephen informed us that the task force on student grievance procedures is set with the exception of students to be named by the Graduate Council. [Students have since been named.] The task force will begin its work in January, 2005.

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 or about 3:50 p.m.