I. CALL TO ORDER

P. Stoddard: Okay, let’s consider ourselves in order. I’d like to welcome you all. You may have noticed we have a guest today, Mayor Van Buer from DeKalb who will be happy to make a statement or two and answer questions that you may have. Before we get to him, I’d like to—I think just for his sake, we’ll move him up from Items for Faculty Consideration up into President’s Announcements and just get that taken care of so we can conduct the rest of our business and not bore the mayor.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

P. Stoddard: So with that slight change to the agenda, can I have a motion to approve the agenda? Second? Thank you. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed? Okay, we have an agenda.

The agenda was approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2006 FACULTY SENATE MEETING (Pages 3-5)

P. Stoddard: Next up, approving the minutes from last time. Do I get a motion? Thank you. Second? Any discussion? All right, all in favor of approving the minutes please signify by saying aye. Thank you. Any opposed? Okay, we have minutes.

The minutes were approved as written.
IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard: All right, my first announcement then will be that we do, in fact, have DeKalb’s Mayor Van Buer with us and I will turn the program over to him at this point.

A. Mayor Frank Van Buer will be at Faculty Senate Meeting for questions and answers.

Mayor Van Buer: Thank you Paul. Am I close enough to the mike? It’s really an honor to be invited to come before you. I was sitting here thinking some years back, I could sit here and recognize nearly everyone and now I sit here and recognize hardly anyone but that’s what happens when you retire and particularly when it’s more than a decade since I retired but I know that some of the people in the community want to know about the trains and all I can say is they’ll continue to be with us and I don’t have the powers to do anything about the trains. Maybe if I were Denny Hastert and had billions of dollars a long time ago, I would have dug a big tunnel and put the trains down in the tunnel but that’s – I’m not in the right party or in the right office to do something like that but what we are trying to do is we’re trying to mitigate the noise of the trains and I will tell you that something is in process but again, when you have to deal through levels of government plus we have to deal with the Illinois Commerce Commission, we are hopeful that by this summer we’ll have these trackside horns located at the crossings and we’ll be testing those and then depending on whether we can move the snail faster, the ICC, because we have to – both the ICC and the Union Pacific Railroad, we’re hopeful by the end of the year that we’ll have those trackside horns operating and we’ll have the association of these down by the train horns 24 hours a day starting from Malta ending at Cortland. All I can say is we have the money; it’s been budgeted and we’re ready to move but we have to wait for higher powers to pull this off. Are we going to get fewer trains coming through? No. You know, we’re in a global economy now and I don’t know how many of you have taken the opportunity to read Tom Friedman’s book “The World is Flat” – it has a lot of things that are ??? to the university and to us that are concerned about where we’re going to end up in society and another book that I’ve been reading simultaneously – I sort of ration my books so I can enjoy them so I can keep reading them for a couple of months but I’m mostly reading “The Team of Rivals”, you know, this latest book on Lincoln which is sort of fitting along with the sesquicentennial period. That’s why, by the way, I’m trying to look different. I’m not trying to hide from after the election but I was encouraged by my wife to get in the spirit of the sesquicentennial and so this is the first time in my life I’ve ever grown a beard so it’s a pleasant surprise that I actually could grow a beard. I’m encouraging other people to do it so I’m not the only one around with a beard. It’s interesting if you look at this book back in 1860 when Lincoln was working to get nominated as a Republican candidate, I think there are 11 photos in the front part of that book and I think only 9 – I mean 2 of the 11 have beards and Lincoln didn’t have a beard at that time so maybe we’re silly to think that in order to be at the time of the beginning of the sesquicentennial that we have to have a beard but so it is. Today I was interviewed and it was morning and President Peters is going to be interviewed later on this afternoon by the consultants that are working on the study for our downtown and this is a very important issue to all of us and particularly I’m very interested in how we succeed in ensuring that we have a community that we all feel good about and we tend to focus on the downtown but in my mind it’s more than the downtown. When we say the downtown, it’s more than the main street; it’s a little broader concept. I say it
has to be connected to the university, that we’ve got to find a way to have a better connection to the university than we have presently so we have to get some new ideas. We have to use all of the different tools and techniques that we have in city government but also working very closely with the university and I’d like to emphasize that I think we have a very good working relationship with the university and President Peters and I at different times get together and brief one another on the direction each of us hopes that our particular institutions are going. I believe very strongly that the future of the city and the university is so interconnected that we have to make sure that we each know where we’re going and we should be going in the same direction and I believe that’s the case. I keep emphasizing that back in the latter part of the 19\textsuperscript{th} century, the leaders of DeKalb decided that they wanted an institution of higher education and they undertook a campaign and that’s how Northern is here. It’s not that somebody said to DeKalb “we’re going to put an institution of higher education on you” so by the fact that we as a community, said that very the very beginning, it means that we have a responsibility to continue to have a close and supportive relationship with the university. Of course, when I came here when I got out of the service in 1957 and started as a student, it was a much different place so I’ve watched the university. When I first was a student here, all of our classes were either in Altgeld or Davis Hall which then was called the Science Building. There might have been a few courses – and then we had Still Hall, the industrial arts complex – but that was it. In the fall of 1957, Reavis Hall was opened and the Field House was near completion. I believe the Lab School which is now Gabel Hall, but that was it. When I came back on the faculty in 1966, the big push on building was done and many of us shared offices; we didn’t have enough offices space so the old Still Gymnasium had been turned into bull pens so that’s where we had our offices. In the wintertime, we had to keep our feet up on the desk because, as you know, gymnasiums are heated from the top down with the idea there’s a lot of heat from players and so we had some hard times there so some of the tough stories I can tell you about Northern developing. But getting back to today, we will be working on this development plan and it’s the fact that the president of the university is one of the first to be interviewed symbolizes what our feeling is about what role the university has in the community of DeKalb. We recognize at the same time that Northern has a much – it’s mission is beyond DeKalb – Northern is not only a regional institution, a national institution, but also is making its mark internationally. So while we’re sort of the home of Northern Illinois University, we can’t monopolize what’s happening at the university. What we want to do is be supportive and I think getting back to some of the issues that are raised in “The World is Flat” – and those of you who’ve read it know how he talks about making sure we figure out how to turn things from being vanilla to getting maybe a cherry and some of the other things – so we change what we are and much of that is related to higher education and related to the sciences and that we really have to work toward making sure that we get funding back to support the sciences and mathematics. Those of us that are from the social sciences, we can grab hold and ride on a little bit because back in the heyday when we had a lot of federal funding, even thought I did my piece in economics, I was able to get some funding that were some of the old science federal programs that allowed me to later on be able to get rid of that loan that I got by teaching in an institution of higher education. So the whole idea is that we’re all into this and we can’t run away from the global world that’s coming to us and I think that we’re a fortunate community to have not only Northern University but we also have a very good community college that’s near us. Another thing that’s very good for us as a community is that we happen to be in a county that’s been concerned about urban sprawl and I don’t know how many of you know about the forty-acre rule but you know, in DeKalb County – and it’s been
tested a couple of times in court – that outside the municipality, the city limits, you must have a minimum of forty acres to be able to build a house on so in that way all development has to go out from the municipalities and then that, of course, puts more responsibility on the municipalities to make sure that when we do get growth, that it’s growth that is controlled, that “meets the muster”. Growth that supports what we think about and what our community is and we’re going to be focusing more on upgrading our older neighborhoods and just Monday night we passed both first and second reading of a moratorium on tear downs and fill ins in the older communities because we found out we really didn’t have any good guidelines. That is people didn’t think this was going to be happening in the community and so we’ve got a moratorium until the fall and we will be working with the developers and the builders to work out some kind of solution so we can protect the neighborhoods because we’ve had already some neighborhoods who have come and said these buildings are being built that don’t fit the neighborhood. So we want to make sure that we try to keep sort of an architectural integrity in our communities, our older communities. So these are some of the things that we’re working on. Those of you who’ve kept track of things that are happening, one of the things I think that put us on the map a little bit is that on Monday night we did finally pass second reading on the non-smoking ban and that I think is a very important thing that’s happened in our community and we did have to do a little bit of compromising – more than I would have liked – but I’m a realist and I think it was better that we know that we’ve got to be certain that we have in the September vote in ’07 that even the bars will not having smoking in them. Another area that may be of interest is, of course, liquor. That’s one of the headaches of being mayor is that the state legislation says that the mayor is also the liquor commissioner. I guess it would be nice to be liquor commissioner in my head town which is about 4200 on the banks of the Mississippi river but when your liquor commissioner in a community that has a large university and all of this in this room have been university students and we know how creative we are in trying to figure out how we can do the thing of breaking the rules in order to have fun, but the other side of it is that we do have to be vigilant on the liquor industry while recognizing at the same time in a university community, it is an important industry and we are moving ahead on that front. Last night I announced at the Liquor Commission that I’m recommending a regular position of a deputy liquor commissioner that will be – we’ve got to figure out, you know, we all know what FT is. I don’t know whether it should be one FT. I’d like one FT but it may be only .5 but it’s going to be regular and it’s going to be – it means that all of these functions are going to be pulled together and that we make sure we have a level playing field. Some of the bar owners will be claiming that we’re over-regulating but I think at the end of the day, they’ll find out that it’s going to be a better place to do business if we are consistent in how we administer and regulate this industry. Another bit of interesting news – probably all of you have heard of a Bar One that’s on East Lincoln Highway. As of today, there’s a new ownership of that. There was a sizeable check that was delivered to City Hall today for the so-called fines, $45,000 plus, and the license of the previous owners was surrendered and I signed a new license for the new owners. They’ve been investigated and so there will be new ownership of Bar One. So these are some of the things; I could talk all day but you have more important things. I’d like to open up – if you have any questions, I will try to evade most of them being a politician but – anyway.

J. Stephen: I was rather surprised by the statistics in today’s Northern Star on the number of people per class A liquor license in DeKalb. I did know that that ratio was so incredibly high here and there’s some consideration of expanding that; the number of class A licenses and I
might suggest that if that’s expanded, that may lead to less of the kind of problems that we’ve had with bars on the weekend – fights, police – because they won’t be so crowded. On the other hand, people get drunk and fight anyway.

**Mayor Van Buer:** Also, they do a pretty good job in apartments too, don’t they? That issue has been brought up and I was quoted, you know, being an economist I like a free market but it’s – when you regulate things, right away you’ve sort of done away with the idea of a free market so we’ve got to address this. Part of that is I want to make sure that we have a very strong and active liquor commission which was allowed to atrophy in the previous administration because, you know, I think all of us in this room have ideas but we find out, particularly when we’re in our disciplines, that we have peer review and find out our ideas aren’t quite as good as we thought and so that’s why I have some strong opinions about different things but I want to have a good liquor commission made up of people who represent different points of view in the community and for them to sort of do the wash on these things. Another thing I’d like to see happen is we’ve had a anomalies because of history, we have places like Jewel/Osco is an A license because they bought an A license back in the days before we had licenses for liquor stores and so there’s an A license that could be reused if we so no, you can’t have that anymore, you’re going to have to have a liquor store license and so these are things that have to be looked at. Even though I am gray headed, I still don’t rely on history each time. With liquor license, many people think that you transfer the liquor licenses. No, we don’t. We control the liquor license and every year there’s a review so that you can’t argue that “I had this last year therefore I have the same right”. Each year it’s a new license and so if we stand up and be tough about it we can say “it’s a new year, new rules”. Well, for example, what would happen if the state overnight said we can’t sell liquor in the state of Illinois? Those licenses would be valueless and so that’s why we have to keep emphasizing that this is a privilege we give as a public entity and get away from it. Another thing that’s happened in our community is that in the old days, when I first came here, the only place you could get a case of beer, the old Sully’s tavern used to have a little bit of a liquor store, and there might have been one other place but otherwise, you didn’t have, you know, you couldn’t go to American Liquors and you couldn’t go to the store or any other place and nearly all these places were owned by family that had been in the community a long time. Now the people that run the liquor industry – there’s money from Las Vegas – I mean, we have to do FBI checks and everything on ownership, you know, it’s not like the old days where, you know, your next door neighbor was the owner and you know that he was a square guy. You don’t know anymore. I think nearly every license but one or two is owned by a corporation. So that’s why you have to get serious about this business. You can’t do it the way it was done in the old days.

**J. Stephen:** One other thing about the old days is I think it’s strange that DeKalb doesn’t have very many what you might call “neighborhood bars”. Twins is one I can think of; Sully’s, otherwise, we seem to be a town that has bar districts.

**Mayor Van Buer:** Of course, you know, Twins originally was on East Lincoln Highway.

**J. Stephen:** Yeah, I do know that. Quite a while ago. But it’s strange that it’s ---
**Mayor Van Buer:** Maybe you haven’t been around as long as this, but when I first came here DeKalb was dry on Sunday so that sort of suggests there was a very strong feeling about the liquor business. I always told the story that when I got out of the service, my father came over to help us move in and it happened to be on a Sunday and he said to me “how in the hell could you move into a town where you couldn’t get a drink on Sunday?”.

**J. Kowalski:** First of all I voted for you so take this question in that spirit. You mentioned Tom Friedman and I read substantial parts of his book and, you know, as interesting as whether or not there’s smoking in restaurants and bars is, that wasn’t one of the prime concerns of “The World is Flat” and so just briefly, if you could tell us and me as a citizen of DeKalb, a little bit about what efforts you and the city council and others are taking to attract small businesses or to support small businesses or to find industries that might be interested in providing decent paying jobs to our citizens, that would be of interest to us too.

**Mayor Van Buer:** Good point. We are – I think many of you know Herb Rubin and I’ve appointed him chair of the Economic Development Committee and some of these issues he feels very strongly about; these issues that you’ve raised and I feel the same way. We’re trying to figure out a way to have incentives that encourage knowledge-based industries and so we’re even adding additional incentives in terms of say property tax abatement, which is not one of my favorite tools by the way. I wish we had something else we could use but – so, this is a continuing concern in our administration at city hall. At the same time, it’s quite difficult to pull it off because of the fact of what’s happening and the realities of the global economy. You know, we just had this Keating Project, the Rockefeller Group that was wanting to build a large industrial park that was going to have more, you know, the euphemism is not warehousing but it ends up to be the same thing, and because of the time that we spent considering it, and I think also because of things that were happening in the economy at large, Rockefeller pulled out at the last minute and so we’re back on the drawing board on that. We all the same concern and something related to that also is housing; this whole idea of affordable housing and that gets back to why I’m interested in making sure that we figure up a way to upgrade neighborhoods. I think we’re going to find out the place where we’re going to have affordable housing is in the older neighborhoods. We’re going to be able to gain a couple of things. We’re going to be able to renovate our neighborhoods; we’re also going to be able to have affordable housing. It’s hard to define affordable housing. It’s a nice sounding word but, you know, when you talk about incomes and in our current society, it generally means two incomes in order to be able to afford a house anymore but all I can say is we’re working at it and it’s a very difficult process and we keep putting pressure on the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation to be focusing on that and they are working on that and also it’s related to encouraging small businesses as you brought up because, you know, sometimes you’ll end up with, if you are successful, with ten small business so you’re better off than if you bring in some other outfit that doesn’t provide us those jobs. By the way, anyone that wants to get involved in these things and have skills in this area, there are plenty of positions or we can even expand committees in order to make sure we get people involved. Any other questions?

Thank you very much. I know that you’ve got more important things – pardon me?
J. Stephen: I have another question on another topic. I have about 270 students per semester and they often feel as if the parking restrictions around the university and downtown are specifically aimed at them as a revenue producing device, in particular, the 1:00 a.m. parking restrictions in the area east of campus. I know that there was a test of that about ten years ago and they found that overnight parking was not a good idea. Two concerns came up. One was the 1:00 a.m. parking restriction when on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the bars close at 2:00 a.m. and the second one was there are bars and they close and sometimes these students are not in shape to drive and they feel like they’re playing this sort of dice game “am I going to make it home without being stopped so I won’t get a ticket” or “do I leave my car downtown and break the 1:00 a.m. rule and get an expensive ticket there” so the suggestions that I’ve heard were to delay the parking restriction to 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. and also if possible consider more 24 hour spaces downtown so that they don’t feel like they have to make that devil’s choice of “I know I can’t afford a ticket but maybe I can make it home without getting stopped”. Irresponsible behavior both ways but of concern.

Mayor Van Buer: I don’t have any problem with it. I live three houses from the campus and we only have – we’re only allowed to park in front of – on the one side of the street from 7:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. I don’t think it makes a difference whether it be 3:00 a.m. as far as I’m concerned. We have a difficulty if you have more than three or four couples come to your house, you have to figure out what you do but I would say that long before I ever thought about being mayor, the police were very helpful in that if you’d call them and tell them that you have a gathering at your house and they would say either put a bag over the no parking sign or I mean the delayed sign, or tell your guest that it’s all right to park and if you get a ticket, turn it in so there is some flexibility and I say that and we’ve done that from years before so it’s not having any political influence that can bring that about. When you live close to the campus, you know, you’d like to be able to have some parking for your guests and another – if you know where Annie’s Woods is – there’s that parking area there for people who want to take their kids to Annie’s Woods and in my neighborhood when they redid Miller Avenue, they were able to get the two hour parking which has no meaning because it’s not enforced but it turns out to be long-term parking for students and not for people in the community and so we constantly have this problem of trying to be fair on one hand to both groups and so I listen to these things but I’ve been a faculty member; I know those stories because these stories aren’t much different than “gee, I didn’t get my paper in on time because---“. Somebody had a question back here.

W. Tolhurst: I just wanted to say that it seems to me that many residential neighborhoods throughout the city don’t allow overnight parking for very good reasons and I live in one of them so I don’t think this is anything that should be pursued as directed against students. They’re being treated the same as anybody else in the city who lives in a comparable situation.

Mayor Van Buer: Also you know the street sweepers come around quite early in the morning so do you want to have streets that are cluttered up with leaves and that?

W. Tolhurst: And garbage collection.

J. Stephen: ??? parking should end after the businesses close.
Mayor Van Buer: Well, of course I’d be in favor of closing the bars at 1:00 a.m. You know, the previous administration had this idea that you are able to constantly get votes by catering to longer hours in the bars and I don’t quite buy that. You know, I’ve got the benefit of -- you know, who’s supporting me -- people like you. I mean, if it weren’t for the annuitants and that I don’t know how I could have afforded to run the campaign and so it’s nice to get 60% of the vote and you know that it’s people who gave $5 or $10 because when they give $5 or $10 they vote and you know that and so you can make your decisions at least trying to figure out what the best thing is for the community, not about who’s going to donate something to your next campaign or anything. You’ve got a question?

C. Rollman: Do you have any long-range plans for bike paths and traffic through town?

Mayor Van Buer: I think you’ll see out of this study, I mean, the whole concept anymore is to try and have connectivity with areas in the community and bike paths will be a part of that. It’s difficult in older communities in terms of streets and everything else but we -- I think DeKalb and DeKalb County are cognizant of how important it is to have bike paths, walking paths and I don’t know in the older neighborhoods how we’re going to be able to pull that off but is always on the list of things that have to be considered. My family, we’ve always been, you know, in the old days we used to be able to ride all over. I’d take the three kids and ride out to Malta and that and take the back roads but there are no back roads anymore that aren’t thoroughfares. I mean, I don’t know how anyone does it so that’s why we’ve got to keep pushing for bicycle paths. Anything else? I know how it is to get through a meeting. The other night I wanted Kris Povlsen out so he could get to his daughter’s basketball game and so I’ll gladly go so you can get business done.

P. Stoddard: Well, thank you very much. We appreciate you stopping in. Okay, under other announcements I might have, speaking of bike paths and the like, I know the Parking Committee, we’re going to have a meeting in the next couple of weeks, the Advisory Committee, and I believe some sort of bicycle, public bicycle access or something like that, they’re beginning to think about it and talk about it. I know they’ve talked about large scale bicycle racks or something like that centrally located so I do know they are concerned about bikes on campus. They are pursuing this. I have no idea exactly what shape that’s going to take but I know that they are looking into it.

The other committee I sit on is the Computer Facilities Advisory Committee. They met a couple of weeks ago. Not terribly much going on; they’re going to get a content manager for Blackboard sometime about a year from now, a little bit more, which will allow you to keep your material on there permanently so you won’t have to keep reloading the same course work semester after semester like you do now. So that’s a plus. They’re looking at the possibility of establishing some sort of testing center so if you want to give your students a test on the computer somehow or whatever -- I’m not sure what the logistics would be -- and I don’t think they are yet either but this is something they’re looking into. If you’ve got thoughts of that, you’ve got a class or 400 and you’d like to be able to just send them off to a computer and have them take a test or however you might be wanting to use this, let me know and I’ll pass that on to them. The other big thing that they’re worried about of course is the student system, the Oracle package. Right now, they are essentially establishing committees that are going to oversee the
implementation. There’s one that myself and John Wolfskill are going to be one. We’ve got a meeting I think next week, Monday, to start setting some parameters – or getting introduced to the type of parameters that need to be set and so forth so we’ll be involved in that. There will be a public campus kickoff of the Oracle project in early April sometime. They hope to get the Oracle president here if they can fly him in from Delphi.

There is some concern about smart classrooms expressed to me. Actually, those turn out to be mostly run by Media Services and not ITS and they are happy, that is ITS, is happy to make that as well known as possible. To that end, there is a page and I don’t have the address unfortunately, they’re going to send it to me but there is a page on their website which lists the smart classrooms and who controls them I believe. Some are controlled by Media Services; some are actually controlled by the colleges and departments. There are some that have phones that will get you direct help; there are some that have no phones. Those tend to be the ones controlled by the colleges and the departments. So it’s not a uniform system and I guess if you’re in a room without a phone you need to figure out who owns the room essentially and yell at them. Of course, if they have a phone that means they will have to come running every time you call so I’m not sure how keen they’re going to be on all that.

Also, actually I and Shey and Rachael, thank you, met with the President yesterday or two days ago and he basically gave us a legislative update and the number being kicked around – the Governor has proposed a small increase, a 1.4% increase to higher education which considering we’ve had four or five flat years, is actually pretty significant. NIU stands to get about 1.2% increase this year. There’s a transfer fee that involves the University of Illinois library system that we use a lot and whether than our paying for it every year they’re going to adjust the base I think and we don’t pay for it but we still use it. Anyway, so there is going to be an increase in our general revenue base and the President has again reiterated his first priority is salaries so most of that money should go to salary increments. The capital budget is very much up in the air and so whether or not Stevens will have any work done on it in the foreseeable future we still don’t know.

Let’s see, the President did talk at University Council last time about the tuition tax credit the Governor has proposed. This would be a $1,000 tax credit against tuition for students maintaining a B or better average. This is estimated to cost state-wide 90 to 100 million dollars. The funding for that, they are considering signing and state-wide student loan portfolio, privatize that and use the proceeds to pay for the tuition tax credit. That is shaping up to be a partisan battle from what I understand. I think that is most of the highlights of what the President had to say. Either of you think of anything else that was earth shattering? Okay.

I think that’s all I’ve got for announcements. Any questions on any of those issues? Yes, Beth.

**B. Miller:** When the President talks about the priority being salaries, does he indicate whether this is across the board, merit, cost of living, does he has any indication or is this all decided by the UC/PC?

**P. Stoddard:** Well, he is the president and the Provost does listen to him. They have not decided – they haven’t worked that out yet. He has made his personal preference sort of known
to me. He sort of said it in passing. I don’t know if that’s meant for public knowledge; meant to be public yet. I did point out to him whenever they decide they want to do this or whenever we can encourage that this is good to do that, any across the board increase will make the top half of the faculty upset and any merit based increase will make the bottom half of the faculty upset and that’s really a no-win scenario for the people trying to figure out how to make everybody happy. Basically, his philosophy and the Provost’s philosophy is to have a blend so that there will be a merit component and an across the board component and last time we sort of saw that where year, the whole thing was merit but unless you were really not doing anything, there’s a minimal merit that everybody was supposed to get so that no one would be without an increment. So I think they’ll probably – my guess, and this is not based on the discussions – my guess is they’ll do something similar but where they set that minimum threshold might vary so it would be pure merit but everybody is guaranteed 2% or 3% unless you really are just not contributing.

B. Miller: When they say that there’s going to be a raise and then it comes out in the sort of subtext as long-term retention, it gets a little confusing. I know that this last time the January raise was really confusing for a lot of people because it wasn’t a raise for a lot of people and it was a raise for some people and yet the President sends a big letter saying “okay, everybody is getting another 1%” and, you know, a lot of people didn’t get anything and so I don’t know if you can convey to him – some people are going to get something and some people aren’t – could you announce it to everybody or, you know, we’re happy to have this opportunity but I do think it – when a public letter from the President is being sent that there’s a 1% raise and it’s not across the board but it sounds like it is, it can create more discontent than if we just weren’t told anything.

P. Stoddard: Okay. Sherry is first and then ---

S. Lowman: Okay, well I’m not real sure how the increments get set for faculty but I know Rachael and I as president of our councils, the administration comes to us for recommendations. At the SPS Council we are currently on working on definitions of long-term merit and so on so that this year it will be a lot more clear and we’re really pushing for the administration to – even though it’s an average of 3%, the reality is it’s going to be an average of 2% and they really need to try to find some way to define it a little bit better so people aren’t misled.

P. Henry: That’s really basically all I was going to say too because the word gets out not only to some confusion on campus but off campus as well. It sort of becomes the understanding that everybody is getting this 2% raise of whatever and, in fact, that sort of ??? to our disadvantage.

P. Stoddard: Okay.

B. Miller: As it happens I did call Human Resources to clarify for my department and I was told that is up to the chair to define long term retention. So, if you have a department chair who defines it differently than another department chair, that can lead to a lot of inconsistencies across the faculty and I think that again sets up, you know, inequities across campus and within departments and, you know, I mean none of us are part of the salary system, but it is as Pat says problematic because everybody thinks we got a raise and lots of people didn’t. I’m not even sure
the President understands that back of the ladder because, you know, he doesn’t necessarily understand how things get dived out.

**P. Stoddard:** Well I can certainly and will certainly mention to him that we need to be clear and not mislead the faculty or staff or anybody else, attorneys for ex-spouses.

**B. Miller:** It might be helpful for him to know what percentage of the faculty actually got raises because I don’t know if he and the Provost actually saw those numbers. Did they? Yeah, okay and for everybody else to know.

**J. Hamlet:** Is there any word on the President’s initiative to increase the increment from associate to full?

**P. Stoddard:** I spoke with Frederick Schwantes about that back at the beginning of the fall semester. I know they were working on it. I haven’t heard anything since then and frankly I don’t remember what they said at the time but I can find out for you what the status of that is.

**J. Hamlet:** The President just mentioned it in the e-mail he sent out, I think it was in December, that he was working on it, but I don’t know what that means as far as timeline and what kind of increment they’re thinking about.

**P. Stoddard:** Okay, any other questions or comments? Yes?

**C. Rollman:** What is the President’s e-mail address ??? ?

**V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION**

**A. Nominations** for the Bob Lane Eternal Vigilance Faculty Spokesperson Award (Page 6)

**P. Stoddard:** Okay, if there are no other questions any of the announcement materials, we have one other item for faculty consideration and that would be nominations for the Bob Lane Eternal Vigilance Faculty Spokesperson. There’s a little history and description of the award on page 6. The award itself is a certificate which I think is nicely framed and a hand shake from me. Basically, this award goes to whomever the administration might consider the biggest pain-in-the-neck. This is whoever we feel has really tried to keep the administration on their toes and make sure they play by the rules and don’t try to sneak anything by the faculty. So if you have any thoughts as to who that might be for this year, feel free to forward them to me or to Donna, anonymously if you prefer, that’s fine. If you have any thoughts as to why that person should be nominated, that would be appreciated as well and there’s a list of peoples names that will probably stand out for most of you. Basically, because they’re very outspoken, which is how you get this. So anyway, if you have any thoughts on this I’d certainly appreciate hearing them and that doesn’t have to be today.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**
A. Academic Affairs – Kendall Thu, Chair – no report

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Radha Balamuralikrishna, Chair – report (Pages 7-8) and walk-in report

P. Stoddard: Moving on then to Reports from Standing Committees as we have nothing to consent to, I think the first report we have is from Radha on the Economic Status of the Profession.

R. Balamuralikrishna: Thanks Paul. My report is not going to be as long as it reads so some or all of you may remember sometime in fall, our committee was charged with the responsibility of finding out how FMLA, the Family and Medical Leave Act, is being implemented at other institutions and basically this was triggered by a Northern Star report which seemed to suggest that other institutions are paying their faculty. In other words, Family and Medical Leave Act with pay is possible which was not an opportunity here. So, as it often happens when you’re trying to find information on something, you discover other things as well. In particular, while we were seeking an answer to this, we were able to find out a study conducted by The American Council on Education sometime in September of last year and this survey actually had 12 items and they’re reported on page 7-8 of your packet. So the survey is not prefaced in the materials you received but the walk-in prefaces that actually. If you are just looking for an answer on the FMLA, that is in item 6. I want to call attention to the section where it says “FMLA with pay”. So in this section of 26 institutions, I think 15 institutions said this was an option so in other words, 57% of the universities in this study offer FMLA with pay and I think that’s somewhat of an eye-opener so Northern Star article may be justified when it said that, you know, we could probably do better. On the other hand, I also want to call attention to some other items here. For example, item 10 “does your institution offer domestic partner benefits?”. Nearly 73% of the institutions said they did. Okay, again this is an issue here. We are still trying to come up with an answer on this. Another interesting thing is item 11, “does your institution offer dual career hiring options?” I know that many people at NIU are concerned about this and there is some program in place but there are some interesting variations here in item 11 but overall 22 of the 26 said they’re doing something and they offer some options. So all in all, I think this study shed some light considering that this is very recent and the 26 institutions all fall under the category of first year. I think the results here deserve our attention a little bit. So what our committee wants to know from the general body is, you know, how should we proceed further. You know, does the study mean anything at all and in fact, I’m going to discuss this is Debbie Haliczer tomorrow morning to see how NIU – where we stand on many of these items. The committee felt that was a good starting point but beyond there, I welcome other ideas from this body. Thank you.

J. Stephen: I have a question about a statistic from the walk-in. You have 57.7% of institutions surveyed reported that FMLA with pay was a prevalent practice and then the next sentence says “FMLA without pay was provided by 80.8% of universities”. Two questions I have about that statistic. One, if it’s a mandate, shouldn’t that be 100% and two, 57 plus 80 is more than 100. Does that 80.8 mean as an option?
R. Balamuralikrishna: Yeah, that’s a very good question Buck. In fact, there’s two bullet points in the same handout. They say FMLA applies under what conditions and these 26 institutions, I think there are at least two that are private institutions and FMLA shouldn’t apply to those and that probably explain why you have less than 100% compliance.

J. Stephen: They don’t fall under commerce so that’s correct.

R. Balamuralikrishna: So the private universities, they don’t come under that and the 57.7 probably that includes – well, FMLA with pay is provided by few than FMLA without pay. That sounds logical.

P. Stoddard: Any other questions for Radha? Okay.

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

P. Stoddard: Resource, Space, and Budget. I believe we do not have a report at this time.

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

P. Stoddard: Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, no report.

E. Rules and Governance – Nancy Castle, Chair – no report.

P. Stoddard: Rules and Governance, no report. Boy, this is good.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Stephen Nord, Chair – report

1. Nominations for Executive Secretary of University Council/President of Faculty Senate – See list of University Council members eligible to be elected (Page 9)

P. Stoddard: Elections and Legislative Oversight, we do have an action to take. Sure Beth.

B. Miller: I just have a question for the faculty in regard to this. Has anybody had an issue that they know of choosing another position because of a dual career couple issue? I’m just – they have partner issues. The literature would indicate that that’s an issue, that there are more and more couples who are looking for joint appointments but I’m just curious if there’s any antidotal information about that here among faculty. Do you know if it’s a recruitment issue? We talked last time about there being other recruitment issues in Accountancy.

P. Stoddard: Jeff? Jeff could you get a microphone please? Otherwise, we can’t record this for posterity.

J. Kowalski: It’s not antidotal but I the 1990’s, I’d have to check records to make sure when, we had a faculty member hired whose husband was also an academic but in a different department and was not able to get employment at NIU and eventually, after one year, they found another post at the University of Oklahoma I believe. So it happens that that causes us to
lose people who we thought were highly promising faculty members but I understand the reasons why too. People don’t have openings in the other departments.

**B. Miller:** I think universities have highly active partner placement programs. I’m just curious the degrees to which this effects our recruitment here at NIU.

**R. Balamuralikrishna:** If you look at the data which is 11 there, about 42% percent of the universities, they have some kind of limited funding for use in placement. I thought that was interesting; that’s a significant number of schools.

**Natalie ???:** I can’t speak but before my time, there was a Linda and Dan Johnson in the Accountancy Department and currently this year we hired ??? Lee in Accountancy who left Florida because her husband did not get tenure in his ??? or has a PhD in that. Her husband wasn’t going to get tenured; she was. They left to come here. He is working I think in Springfield. Our concern is that we may lose her if he, I mean, I don’t know how great a position he has there but that’s I think our department’s concern that – you know, because that’s still kind of a far commute. You know, he goes down there a few days a week but those are our issues. They’re here because of that and I know when we were interviewing another couple, they wouldn’t interview with us unless we would interview both of them. One was tax; one was financial so it has come up.

**P. Stoddard:** Okay, anyone else have anything for Beth? Okay, thank you. Okay, now Stephen.

**S. Nord:** Yeah, Paul’s term as President of the Faculty Senate is drawing to an end so we need to open the floor for nominations for the President of the Faculty Senate who also serves as Executive Secretary to the University Council. If you turn to page 9 of the agenda packet, there’s a list of eligible nominees with the exclusion of the fourth one down, Amy Rose from Education, I understand, was not re-elected to the University Council. At this time, I’d like to open the floor for nominations.

**P. Henry:** I nominate Paul Stoddard.

**Kent G ???:** I second.

**P. Stoddard:** Thank you.

**S. Nord:** Paul Stoddard has been nominated. Any further nominations? Yes? All right, nominations are closed. Congratulations Paul.

**P. Stoddard:** I thank you for your vote of confidence. I’ll try not to let it go to my head.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**P. Stoddard:** No unfinished business that I’m aware of.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**
A. “Electronic Student Response System”? (Clickers)

**P. Stoddard:** We have new business. This was brought to my attention from a couple of different venues as it were. This is the electronic student response system, classroom response system. We may know it better as “Clickers”. Basically, this is new technologies that a lot of the publishers are trying to introduce and having some success with especially with Cole Hall and some of the other big class rooms. Students can get a little remote control device which is turned to them or has a key just for them and it’s an instant response, so you can ask a question in class, the students answer on their little remote control and these results are gathered and stored and then you can use them. Faculty use them to take attendance in large classrooms and you can give quizzes and the like, conduct instant polls, do all sorts of neat little things if that is what appeals to you in your class. The issue has come up, however, that there are a lot of different systems around and students are currently being required to purchase individual remotes for each of the different systems in which they have classes and in some cases, multiple sections of the same course are using different systems. So there’s no uniformity across the board. Again, this is very new technology and so, you know, we really haven’t had time to shake out what’s best and so forth but in the interest of cost savings to the students and simplicity, there’s thought we might want to consider the university moving towards a specific system and to see whether or not that’s feasible, whether that would work for the various instructors, departments, etc. To that end, we probably should ask one of our committees to take a look at this and – Kendall’s not here is he? Yeah. Very good. Okay, in looking at the various names of committees that we have, Academic Affairs seems to me to be the most likely choice to refer this matter to. Anyway, I would accept a motion to do that and also if there are any suggestions or comments that people might have that they might want to forward on to the committee.

**J. Johnson:** In the Business School we have a department of operations which has been analyzing several different platforms so whoever the committee is investing this, instead of starting over, we could give you contact information if you’d like to do that.

**P. Stoddard:** Sounds excellent.

**J. Johnson:** One caveat, my daughter is a freshman and she goes to a mass lecture and usually a student will come in with 17 clickers to make sure that everybody is properly attended for the day so there is some downside to this.

**P. Stoddard:** One of the things that was raised, at least in the Computer Facilities Committee, was a possibility of biometric identification on these things. Seriously, you’d have to have a literal fingerprint thingy whatever, retinal scan. Beth?

**B. Miller:** The demonstration that I saw was connected to Textbook, you know, and I know that because this is new, my colleagues are trying to be going to figure out how this is going to – you know, the quizzes are going to be downloaded with the software which is going to be downloaded with the clicker so isn’t that going to be part of the advantage to us as faculty to, you know ---
**P. Stoddard:** Well, I know the publishers have had a lot of deals and demonstration things going on. They provide some of the hardware; they provide software but – and maybe it is preferable, you know, we allow faculty to choose their own textbooks. Maybe we will end up saying well, it’s just better to allow faculty to choose their own systems because they are tied in with the textbooks but I think this is something we want to consider. I mean, there is a downside to that for the students. I mean, if they have to walk around with 8 of these things or 17 times 8.

**B. Miller:** It may cut down on 17.

**P. Stoddard:** There is a cost factor too to them.

**B. Miller:** Then one of the issues for them to look at is are they software compatible.

**P. Stoddard:** Certainly, certainly yeah. We don’t want to be on the beta end of the beta/vhs debate. So ---

**J. Stephen:** How much do they cost?

**B. Miller:** Fifteen dollars for the students, yeah.

**J. Stephen:** So it’s like a universal remote or something, right?

**B. Miller:** It’s packaged with the textbook is what they would say. When the students go to the bookstore – well, actually what McGraw Hill said when I saw a demo last week, the cost to the bookstore would be $15 and most bookstores tack on an extra $5. So that’s been their experience. If the students order on line, they can get it for $15.

**P. Stoddard:** Another thing to consider too, we’re still concerned about textbook prices among other things, you know, is the bundling of all this extra stuff. So, that’s just something else to consider when considering this. For those of us who are old fogies, it doesn’t matter. I’m sorry, I can’t.

**C. Nissen:** When you buy one of these, is it used only once or you spend $15 and what do you get then.

**B. Miller:** It’s my understanding it was used for multiple classes.

**C. Nissen:** And multiple classes also?

**B. Miller:** Multiple classes yes. The demonstration that I saw was ??? and nutrition ??? and multiple nutrition faculty were going to be using it for, you know, probably four or five classes so it’s a bargain and they could use it from their sophomore level on to their senior level.

**P. Stoddard:** That assumes, of course, that all those classes, and in your case it might be true, that all those classes are using the same system. If they have a class that’s using a Thompson textbook or Blackwell or whatever, then they have different remotes for those. In the back?
**Brigid ???**: In the School of Nursing we use free-standing clicker system so the faculty member brings them in, you bring the system in and all the clickers and each student takes a clicker at the beginning of the class. We have two free-standing sets. ??? textbooks and we buy them out of student fees so the student doesn’t have any charge for them.

**P. Stoddard**: Can you take attendance and do things like that with them then?

**Brigid ???**: No, they’re mainly for teaching. For answering quizzes, to make sure that everyone is answering something that’s put up on the board.

**P. Stoddard**: But you can’t grade them based on – you have no way of identifying which student is using which clicker.

**Brigid ???**: You do. I’ve personally not used it but you do – you can figure out who is not answering something and you can wait until that person answers and that sort of thing.

**P. Stoddard**: Yeah. It looks like we have discussion and our parliamentarian tells me a motion would be in order so I think we should – is there a motion to refer this to ---

**J. Stephen**: I make a motion to refer this matter to Academic Affairs.

**P. Stoddard**: All right. We can either vote on it or give Academic Affairs more suggestions or we can continue discussion, however ---

**C. Smith**: I will second that motion but I was just going to say that it is possible to assign a number to students. They have a numbered clicker so you can take attendance and you can grade.

**P. Stoddard**: Would this then work ??? – it works for our system but it wouldn’t necessarily work if you had a tie in with a certain textbook or something.

**C. Smith**: I’m not certain about that.

**P. Stoddard**: Something to be looked at.

**W. Tolhurst**: Could I suggest that those who know what this is about and I am not among them forward any information, suggestions, questions to the chair of the committee to which this will be referred once we get to vote on it.

**P. Stoddard**: Okay. It looks like that committee will be Academic Affairs and it’s Kendall Thu. He’s in Anthropology and he is the chair of the committee. Okay, I hear an informal call to question. All in favor of referring this to Academic Affairs, Kendall Thu chairing, please signify by saying aye. Opposed? All right, so we’ll pass this on to Kendall and let him know he’s got some work.
The motion to refer to the Academic Affairs Committee passed.

X. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sharon Holmes – no report

P. Stoddard: Okay, reports from standing committees, we do not at the moment have a report from FAC. I think they just met very recently so Sharon hasn’t had a chance to put anything together yet.


P. Stoddard: We have a very brief report from the BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee which met this morning.

J. Stephen: It is just a verbal report. Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee and the Board of Trustees met this morning at 9:00 a.m. All of the following items were addressed and they were all endorsed and the President will forward them to the Board of Trustees on March 23 for formal approval. In general, it’s sort of pro forma for the things I’m going to announce.

First of all, all faculty and SPS sabbatical requests were endorsed by this subcommittee and the members of the Board of Trustees expressed an understanding of the importance of sabbaticals for faculty development and the fact that it’s an important component of our lives as life-long learners. Both Provost Legg and President Peters spoke about their personal experiences in reaching features that a sabbatical brings you and Parliamentarian Bryant and myself both thanked the Board of Trustees for their understanding of the importance of the sabbatical to our mission and I’d like to point out that they’re fairly universally supported by the Board of Trustees including our new members. So I think we can continue to expect them to support these and we have quite a few of them, almost 60 this coming year.

The second feature is that they unanimously endorsed Denise Schoenbachler to become appointed the new dean of the College of Business. This was followed by some very laudatory comments by both President Peters and Provost Legg and received applause from the crowd. A full report will be in the next packet but those are the highlights in case somebody asks you about, you know, what happened with my sabbatical. It’s on its on way. March 23 is when they’ll decide for final approval.

P. Stoddard: Any questions for Buck? I’ll just add to that this particular subcommittee contains the two new members of the Board and they both expressed their approval of sabbaticals there and their commitment to sabbaticals so it looks like our Board remains very committed to our sabbatical program which is an encouraging sign.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – report
P. Stoddard: Next is a very brief report from me on Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee of the Board of Trustees. They also met this morning and again, they make recommendations to the full Board so these are just recommendations but they recommended approval of various fee and contract proposals by the university the most significant of which is the student fee recommendation. Student fees for things that the university can control will go up a little bit less than 4%; health and the bus system will go up 13% and 9% respectively so the total fee package will be up about 7% or 8%. That was basically it. You will be happy to know that they did approve the copy paper purchases for next year as well. That’s very important to all of us. College Avenue bridge reconstruction was approved. Various other – Zulauf will get a new elevator finally and so on. Again, I will have a more complete report in the next packet as well. Any questions on those. All right.

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

P. Stoddard: I believe we do actually have a walk-in report from Rachael and Shey on the Legislative, Audit, and External Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

S. Lowman: I’ll keep this real brief. In the second paragraph I just wanted to clarify; Paul had already brought it up about there’s a 1.2 % increase in the – it’s earmarked for personnel services, it’s Senate Bill 3146 and this is the first time we’ve gotten any raise for personnel services from the state in four years. They gave us no indication as to what 1.2% is going actually end being in the way of an increment and we were told that they’re 90% sure that this will actually happen.

The other item which is five paragraphs down on textbook pricing is because that came up earlier in the meeting. It’s House Bill 4867 for having textbook rentals as a recommendation and they don’t think that’s going to pass.

P. Stoddard: Okay, thank you Shey. Any questions? Yes, Pat?

P. Henry: I just wondered about the matter of the sale of assets of ISAC. That’s in the second paragraph too and that the university presidents are cautiously supporting. That’s not the same thing as the loan collection, is it?

P. Stoddard: Yes.

P. Henry: It is? And they are supporting that?

S. Lowman: Cautiously.

P. Stoddard: They have a list of 7 or 8 caveats and conditions and if they’re all met then the presidents won’t argue against it and my understanding this is kind of a compromise to help ensure that the 1.2% increase comes and that that isn’t counterbalanced by the 90 to 100 million dollars necessary for the tuition tax credit.
S. Lowman: And the major caveat is that if they actually derive more revenues from selling off those student loans that those will be earmarked to come back to higher education and not go into the general fund which I think I stated.

P. Stoddard: Other questions?

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

P. Stoddard: Any comments and questions for the good of the order?

J. Stephen: I see Deb Haliczer is here. Steve’s not here is he? Okay, three people over the last two days asked me about the new Roth 401K/403B which, if some of you don’t know about this, allows you to basically create a retirement account in the vein of the 401K/403B plan except you contribute to it with after tax contributions and then there’s no tax on the payout and there’s better transferability of the benefits and also more flexibility for when you choose it to be paid out. All three of these people are very interested in it and this must have happened recently because somebody asked about it within two days; three people in two days and the question was was such a feature going to be available through the state because it has to be supported by the employer which would be, I guess, either managed by CMS or SURNS or something like that. Do you know anything about that?

D. Haliczer: Geez Buck, put me on the spot. I didn’t prepare for this one. Okay, yes, we became aware of this and we were briefed on this in December. It became effective in January and a committee in Human Resources is looking at implementation of this. I met about a couple of hours ago with some representatives of one of our current 403B companies and they were explained in more detail so I can’t say that I yet can explain the details of it but we are looking favorably at implementing this and sponsoring it from Northern so we’ll keep you posted and Radha will probably be one of your spokesperson as a representative on the Benefits Committee. So I’ll have more to say later but I’m glad to hear that there’s interest.

J. Stephen: Very favorable interest I repeat. They very much want this. They want it yesterday.

D. Haliczer: I can’t tell you how enthusiastic the 403B representatives were today talking about how people are going to love this so it looks like more work for me.

J. Stephen: Well, these people were definitely excited.

D. Haliczer: They sound like they have some real advantages. They are different from both the 403B and 457 so they do look desirable.

P. Stoddard: Thank you Deb.
D. Haliczer: You’re welcome.

P. Stoddard: Any more questions or comments from the floor? Okay, seeing none would anybody like to move that we adjourn? Okay. All in favor get up and go home.

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 4:32 p.m.