FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM

PRESENT: Aurand, Barrett, Bisplinghoff, Castle, Cesarek, Churyk, Derscheid, Elish-Piper, Gallagher, Giles, Hamlet, Hertz, Holt, Hubbard, Kempton, Kowalski, Lin, MacFarlane, Marchewka, Martin, Millhorn, Moraga, Morris, Newman, Newman-Ryan, Onyuksel, Pierce, Rosenbaum, Sims, Snow, Stravers, Swanson, Tatum, Wolfskill

L. Gregory attended for B. Jaffee.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Giles motioned; Gallagher seconded, the agenda was adopted as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2007 FACULTY SENATE MEETING (walk-in)

Giles motioned; Kempton seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard had no announcements.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Daniel Kempton, Chair – report
D. Kempton, on behalf of the committee, moved to recommend the University adopt the e-Instruction personal response system. Faculty will still be free to use any system they choose, but the University will only supply support for e-Instruction.

The motion passed.

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Cason Snow, Chair – no report

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

C. T. Lin reported that the committee met with Dr. Bose, Dean of the Graduate School and V.P. for Research who in turn reported that the GS’s $4.5 million deficit has been eliminated. As a result, last year the Graduate School was able to fund 40 Research and Artistry Grants to faculty and will increase the stipend for faculty who get such funding. Additionally, more money will be available for travel to conferences. Furthermore, he also indicated that he was able to put some money for the library for the WebScience.

Dr. Bose has initiated an investment in research program that provides money to a department for faculty time to write research proposals. Last year, eight or nine proposals were submitted from which six were chosen. Dr. Bose is also looking for new doctoral program opportunities.

After additional comments from J. Stravers, C. T. Lin, J. Giles, R. Sims, and D. Swanson regarding the origin of the $4.5 million deficit, and the disposition of indirect costs associated with grants, the Senate moved to invite Dr. Bose to a future meeting. The motion passed.

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Janet Holt, Chair – no report

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

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Earl Hansen, Chair - no report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Salary Increments – see handout from Steve Cunningham

The Senate debated how potential salary increments should be divided between across-the-board cost of living adjustments (COLA) and merit reward. Several senators (I. Onyuksel, D. Swanson, G. Barrett, et al.) argued that since most faculty are satisfactorily performing their duties fairness dictates they receive cost of living adjustments if the increment pool is large enough, with any extra going towards merit. Others (most notably, J. Wolfskill) held that merit should be the top priority, with left-over increment money going towards cost of living adjustments.

C. Snow moved that the Senate recommend 50% of the increment funds be used as an across the board increase and 50% be devoted to merit. K. Gallagher seconded. R. Sims proposed a
friendly amendment, to wit, to limit the COLA to the lesser of 50% of the increment or the actual cost of living increase. C. Snow and K. Gallagher agreed to the amendment.

J. Wolfskill asked if increments related to promotion were considered before other merit and COLA. P. Stoddard responded that were, and that the current proposal would take this into account.

The motion passed 23 to 5 with 1 abstention. The recommendation will be forwarded to the University Council Personnel Committee.

In a related discussion, C. T. Lin and J. Holt pointed out that faculty salaries are behind those at comparable institutions and with the current Strategic Planning Initiative, this would be a good time to make that point known.

L. Derscheid moved to refer the matter to the Economic Status of the Profession committee. K. Gallagher seconded.

The motion passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

X. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Jody Newman-Ryan – report

J. Newman-Ryan reported on the January 19 meeting. Northeastern President, Dr. Salme Harju Steinberg addressed the group regarding the Illinois Higher Board of Education’s emphasis on tying funding to time-to-graduation rates. The group also heard about the State Ethics Act, specifically penalties for those who finished the exam too quickly, and about a recommendation to the Governor regarding some very substantive changes in funding of higher education in Illinois.

K. Gallagher pointed out that there is a difference between a degree being finished in four years and being able to be finished in four years, and that this difference needs to be noted by the IBHE.

M. Morris asked about the IBHE’s position on textbook rental. J. Newman-Ryan responded that is an ongoing issue. The FAC has prepared reports on that to the IBHE before. P. Stoddard added that NIU has looked into the possibility and determined that it would not be cost effective here, even though it has worked at some other campuses. D. Swanson offered that the real problem is the rising cost of textbooks, which does need to be addressed. P. Stoddard mentioned that NIU has looked at this, and suggested faculty insist (when appropriate) on de-bundling the textbook from other materials that are not used. He also indicated that alternatives
such as e-publishing, should be considered. K. Gallagher added that black-and-white texts can save money as well. J. Newman-Ryan offered to see what the latest report on this said.

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 – Rachel Turner and Bobbie Cesarek – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Wolfskill asked about the nature of ITS support for the personal response systems. D. Kempton responded that the support would be technical, not financial.

J. Giles, showing no concern at all for Robert’s Rules of Order, noted that despite his voting to approve the minutes, he was listed as absent but in fact had been present.

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.