I. CALL TO ORDER

P. Stoddard: Okay, I think the sooner we get started, the sooner we can go play in the snow so consider yourselves called to order. Oh, there you are.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

P. Stoddard: A motion to adopt the agenda? Thank you Kent and thank you Jim for seconding. Any corrections or comments about the agenda? All in favor of adopting the agenda say aye. Opposed? Thank you.

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2007 FACULTY SENATE MEETING (Pages 3-6)

P. Stoddard: How about a motion to approve the minutes? Okay, Jim and Kent have moved and seconded. Any comments on the minutes? Seeing none, all in favor of approving the minutes say aye. Opposed? We have minutes.

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Homeland Security Certificates

P. Stoddard: Under announcements we’ve got a few things. I met with Ellen ??? and Mary Pritchard. They wanted to talk to me about the Homeland Security Certificates we’re given out. We have a nice little pamphlet which I can give anybody who’s interested. This is an area - I know Engineering and Engineering Technology have been doing a lot in this area. There are other areas as well in terms or prevention and mitigation should something nasty happen someplace on the homeland. The idea of these certificates; it’s not a new program, it doesn’t have to be approved by the Trustees or anybody like that, but these are also going to be part of a cooperative effort across the state. We’re trying to get all the state institutions involved. The idea is you might be able to take a course from a different university that will count towards credit for this certificate. Obviously, homeland security, you know, nobody’s got a department in homeland security. There are a lot of different features that could go into that from biohazards and computer hacking and, again, disaster mitigation of some sort or clean up so we’ve got a lot of different things and there’s a lot of expertise throughout the state so the idea was to make it easier for students to concentrate in this area. So anyway, that’s just to let you know it’s coming; that’s something that’s being worked on.
Before I get to “B”, also there was a meeting of the Computer Facilities Advisory Committee last Friday, Friday before last. They went over several things. One of the things we talked about at my request was the spam issue. I don’t know if you’ve noticed but there seems to be a lot more spam coming at us through Groupwise and other e-mail venues. They’ve managed it. They say that university is rejecting three to five times as much spam as we were last year. That’s even before it gets to our mailboxes. They tried a Bayesian filter earlier in the year where they’re actually looking for certain key words in the messages and would block things that look to be spam based on those words among other things. But that it was found was actually filtering out some legitimate mail and so they turned the Bayesian filter off. Part of the consequence of that is that we are getting a bit more than we would otherwise. They are implementing – well, there are two streams currently available to faculty. You can tag and deliver your mail so you can see all the spam that comes to you and assure that none of it is stuff that you really want. You can also just have the spam filter, if you’re on Groupwise which most people are, just cancel anything, block anything it determines as spam. That depends on what you’ve got. I’ve seen things of mine that come through as spam that are things I said I wanted although in reality they’re pretty spammy. But there are ways, of course, if you go to the Canlt-Pro web page, that’s our spam filter, to specifically allow certain websites or certain domains to e-mail you regardless of how spammy it looks. Also, I think at some point in the near future, they are going to initiate a Bayesian filter that is individually based so you can decide to turn the Bayesian filter on and that will help decrease some of the spam you’re getting. Again, you have to be careful with that that you might be getting stuff that you don’t want. Even with the Bayesian filter, spammers are getting more clever. Instead of sending text files, they’re sending image files that are images of the text they want you to read and there’s no way that filters can see what’s in those image files and prevent them from getting through if they are spam rather than real content. So they’re – you know, every time the spam filter comes up with a solution, the spammers seem to come up with a work around so it’s a constant battle. Anyway, they’ve not given up the fight. They’re still working on trying to cut down as much as they possibly can but it does seem like it’s a pretty impressive battle they have to fight.

We forwarded our recommendations of E-Instruction, the remote personal response system. That was in agreement with all the other recommendations anybody had seen so E-Instruction will be the official NIU system. Again, that does not mean you have to use it but if you don’t, you’ll have to worry about getting it installed and you’ll have to worry about maintenance and help and all the other things. They think that the E-Instruction will be all installed by summer.

Most of ITS is moving out to Monsanto. The switchboard which employs mostly students is not moving out there. Document Services is staying where they are; out by the football field. The Help Desk phones are moving; the people manning the phones are going to be out by Monsanto but the walk-in on site Help Desk will still be on the main campus here.

Finally, the Chronicle of Higher Education, we now have an e-subscription to that which is available at the library’s website so that might be nice. That, I think, should get us all the same content that the paper subscription gets us?

Any questions on either the homeland security or computer facilities?
B. Nominations for The Bob Lane Eternal Vigilance Faculty Spokesperson Award (Page 7)

**P. Stoddard:** The remaining thing under my announcements is the nominations for The Bob Lane Eternal Vigilance Faculty Spokesperson Award. We might want to institute a faulty spokesperson award too; that’s for another time however. Anyway, Jim might have a better feel for this than I do but the Bob Lane Vigilance Award, it used to be called the “Dealing from the Bottom of the Deck Award” or something like that. Bob Lane, it was before my time, but apparently was somebody who liked to keep the administration honest and anytime he saw them doing something that had even the faintest whiff of underhandedness, he would call them on it. Excuse me? A great man, according to Jim and so anyway, we honor him – is he still – he’s not still with the university – is he still with the planet or is he – no, okay. So we honor his memory with an award that we like to give to the faculty member who has most kept up his spirit and kept the administration on their toes. Anyway, we’ll accept nominations for that. The winner gets a very spiffy certificate suitable for framing, a hardy handshake – oh, we frame it, not even suitable, we frame it suitable for hanging on your wall where any administrative type can see it immediately upon entering your office. Anyway, we award that so I will take either here or by e-mail or anyway you choose, any nominations for that. Some past winners have been Buck Stephen and Beth Miller. For those of you who remember Herb Rueben, he’s won it; Sherm Stanage has won it and I think you get a feel for the type of folks who the administrators least like to see raise their hand. So, does anybody have any nominations right now? All right, if not I’ll accept any afterwards or by e-mail or however it occurs to you.

Okay, that’s all I’ve got for announcements.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

**P. Stoddard:** Moving on, we’ve got nothing to consider or consent to. This could be a fairly quick meeting.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Daniel Kempton, Chair – no report

**P. Stoddard:** Dan Kempton, Academic Affairs has no report which is just as well since he’s not here.

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

**P. Stoddard:** The same is true of Cason Snow from Economic Status of the Profession.

C. Resource, Space and Budget – C. T. Lin, Chair – no report
P. Stoddard: C. T., I don’t think you – nothing this time. No report from Resource, Space and Budget.

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

P. Stoddard: Jan Holt – Jan is not here; I don’t think they had a report for us anyway.

E. Rules and Governance – Nancy Castle, Chair – report

P. Stoddard: That brings us to Rules and Governance which does have a report for us.

N. Castle: Which you all have as a walk-in. You have two items that have to do with the Faculty Personnel Advisor position. The first one is you recall last fall when we were drawing names for the Faculty Grievance Committee, we drew the name of the person who currently is the Faculty Personnel Advisor. We had some great discussion about whether that would be acceptable but potentially reduces by one the number of people to draw from for this committee. My committee was asked to make a recommendation and you’ll see that the recommendation we’ve made is to insert a sentence into the Bylaws in Section 10.3 that would say “The Faculty Personnel Advisor shall not be included in the lot.” (that would be the lot of names drawn from). Do you want me to do them one at a time or just give you both Paul?

P. Stoddard: Why don’t we just go ahead and do them one at a time.

N. Castle: All right. So I move that we amend the Bylaws to include the sentence as ---

P. Stoddard: I think you want to move to forward the recommendation to the University Council.

N. Castle: I would like to do whatever it is Paul says I need to do which is technically what ---

P. Stoddard: Right, we don’t have the power to change the Bylaws. The University Council needs to do that.

N. Castle: Forwarding it to the University Council.

P. Stoddard: Is there a second? Thank you. Any discussion? Okay, all in favor of the motion say aye. Opposed? We will forward that to the University Council. Thank you.

N. Castle: Okay, the second item we would like to forward to the University Council also has to do with the Faculty Personnel Advisor and this one has to do with the evaluation of that position. Last year you will recall, those of you who were on the Faculty Senate, that we had some discussion about whether or not SPS were a part of the evaluation process and so our committee looked at that this year. You’ll have in your handout discussion points. One being that there are some SPS who do, in fact, avail themselves of the services of the Faculty Personnel Advisor and appropriately so and two, we were asked to make a recommendation about the process but not to micro-manage the process and so what we’re recommending is that a sentence or part of a
sentence be included in the Bylaws that indicates that the committee that evaluates the Faculty Personnel Advisor “shall assure that input is solicited from all who have availed themselves of the services of the Advisor during the time of being evaluated”. Solicited could be that they do an e-mail saying please download this form and print it and fill it out and send it in anonymously. Soliciting could be that the Faculty Personnel Advisor would be asked to provide a survey to people that she or he has worked with for the year and it’s up to them to return it. We can’t force people to respond but we have to be sure that we solicit the input from everybody who would be appropriately solicited. So what we are recommending be moved on to the University Council is that we just a part of a sentence that says that everybody needs to be solicited.

P. Stoddard: Is that a motion?

N. Castle: Yes.

P. Stoddard: Okay, do we have a second? Thank you Jim. Any discussion on that? Yes, Bill?

W. Tolhurst: Am I to understand that what’s being forwarded is not ---

P. Stoddard: We need to record it for posterity. Your words are important.

W. Tolhurst: I'll remind my wife.

P. Stoddard: It’s in the minutes now so you can ???.

W. Tolhurst: So what’s being forwarded is just a statement that everybody should be solicited and how that happens is to be decided at the University Council level?

N. Castle: ???

P. Stoddard: There is recommended language in the walk-in. The University Council can choose to accept that or modify it.

W. Tolhurst: Yeah, because I’m not sure whether – I don’t know what committee it would go to but ---

P. Stoddard: I suspect I do. I suspect you do too.

W. Tolhurst: I mean, there might be discussion about whether or not it’s appropriate to charge the individual being evaluated with soliciting those who will evaluate him or her.

N. Castle: It’s not. What this is saying is the first part of that section in the Bylaws, I’m sorry, says that three people from Faculty Senate shall constitute the committee. Those three people, that committee, should be sure that it’s solicited.

W. Tolhurst: Okay, so it will be the Faculty Senate that solicits.
N. Castle: That’s responsible for devising the procedure that would be used year to year.

W. Tolhurst: Okay, and that’s something that the Faculty Senate can do for itself. It doesn’t need to go to the University Council? All right. Forget I opened my mouth.

P. Stoddard: Can’t do that but we can move on. Any other comments or questions about the motion or recommendation? If not, all in favor say aye. Opposed? Okay, thank you very much.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Earl Hansen, Chair - report


E. Hansen: The first time I’ve heard that in years. We need to nominate the Executive Secretary for the University Council/President of the Faculty Senate. On page 8 is a list of all eligible people that are eligible for this position. Do you ask for nominations, do I or do we just do what we do here?

P. Stoddard: Go ahead and ask.

E. Hansen: The floor is now open for nominations for the position.


E. Hansen: I move nominations cease.

P. Stoddard: Okay, we’ve got a second. All in favor of closing nominations say aye. Okay, so we’ll forward one name to the University Council. That would be my name by the way. Okay, thank you very much. I appreciate your vote of confidence and collective sigh of relief that none of you are doing it. Actually, it’s not a bad job; it’s very interesting in its way.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

P. Stoddard: Moving on then, no unfinished business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

P. Stoddard: We don’t have any new business slated so we’ll listen to a report I presume? We don’t have it with us. See, I’m telling you this after you’ve nominated me. I forgot to forward on to Donna so we don’t have a copy of it to look at in front of us but Jody nonetheless has an oral report for us on the FAC.

X. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Jody Newman-Ryan – report
J. Newman-Ryan: I do. I don’t have to chastise you nor do I have to apologize for not having it. I won’t read all of it to you. We had a meeting of Faculty Advisory Council last Friday. This is the group that tries to monitor the Illinois Board of Higher Ed activities. Our first speaker was someone who came to academia late and left it so, anyway, she’s now running University Professionals of Illinois and so talked about marketing activities and sort of a state- move to try to, as she put it, put one simple message forth to the legislature. So she’s trying to organize university administrators, faculty, students, and other interested people into – organize them into such a way that they will lobby with one message and so her current theme that she advocated is that “put a face on higher ed” which wasn’t a big hit with the faculty who were there so I don’t know if she’ll come up with another one or not but that was her theme that she wants to use for lobbying and marketing and all of that. If you have another one, feel free to tell me but that one was not a big hit. She did mention that lobby day is April 25 and some of you may know that from other professions that you’re involved with and other things that you do. Just a reminder, if you do contact legislators for any reason be sure to not use NIU stationery and don’t use NIU postage so not a problem for those of us who don’t have that in our department. Anyway, just a reminder.

On February 22, the day before this meeting, there was a Board of Higher Ed meeting and so we had preliminary information about the budget and obviously I am not Eddie Williams so I cannot interpret that budget information for you very well but if any of you are so inclined to look at what’s available, there’s statewide budget information on the IBHE.org website and it’s under the February 22 agenda and there’s some Power Point and some itemized information there and I assume we’ll hear more from the administration here. It’s basically a 1.5% increase that they’ve asked for statewide and then obviously some special funding for certain things at different universities. So, I think that’s it.

Oh, and for those of you interested in monitoring the Ethics Examination and progress, President Al Bauman from Illinois State University sent a letter to the Office of the Executive Inspector General and I won’t read it all to you but I’ll quickly read two sentences you might find amusing. He stated that he along with employees of his academic community “am offended that one would be penalized for the ability to read and comprehend information quickly when the same skills are a necessity to succeed in an environment of higher learning”, so – he also said that in his twenty-eight years as a professor, he has never given a failing grade to a student for taking an exam too quickly. So, anyway, we’ll wait and see if we get a response from that. Thank you.

P. Stoddard: Any questions for Jody? All right, thank you very much. Again, I apologize for not having that report for you. It will be with the next packet.

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

P. Stoddard: The Board of Trustees has not met since last we did. Their sub-committees will be meeting Tuesday and next Thursday so next time around, we will have something to say. Other than that, I’ll entertain any questions or comments from the floor or from anybody sitting in any chairs on the floor. Yes, Jody?

J. Newman-Ryan: I’m sorry, I forgot to add that somebody had asked, I think at our last meeting, perhaps it was Council, sorry I can’t remember – about getting a copy of the textbook report from this group and since the website still doesn’t work I don’t have that available to send but I can send a paper copy. So would you like to try to make copies available to people or – I can’t remember who asked.

P. Stoddard: If you like you can let us have a copy of it and anybody who’s interested can contact us and we can get a copy out to them.

J. Newman-Ryan: I will do that. Thank you.

D. Swanson: Hi, Dianna Swanson. Is there any further – has anything further happened about the salary increment issue and the recommendation we forwarded last time.

P. Stoddard: No, that goes to the UC/PC and they haven’t gotten back to me on anything yet. Any other questions or comments.

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

P. Stoddard: Let the record show Nancy Castle moves we adjourn and it was seconded by somebody to her right. All in favor say bye. We are adjourned.