FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2006, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


D. Gaebler attended for E. Arriola.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2006 FS MEETING – p. 3-7

The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Welcome/Orientation – p. 8-9

P. Stoddard welcomed the Senate to a new term, and offered a brief history of the Senate and its role on campus. He then asked Senators to bring to the full Senate any items of interest or concern that may arise.

B. Update on NIU Connect

P. Stoddard updated the Senate on the status of the NIU Connect project (the implementation of the Peoplesoft student package). Currently the “fit-gap” analysis has been completed. Gaps between policy dictates and software capabilities are now being addressed.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION
A. Selection of Vice President and Secretary of Faculty Senate

Kendall Thu was accepted as vice president of the Faculty Senate.

Nancy Castle was accepted as secretary of the Faculty Senate.

B. University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees

Bobbie Cesarek, Rachel Turner, Ferald Bryan, Joseph “Buck” Stephen, Paul Stoddard, and Xue-shu Song were accepted as members of the University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees.

C. Nominations for a representative to the Faculty Advisory Committee to the IBHE

Jody Newman-Ryan was accepted as Faculty Advisory Committee representative to the ISBE.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Faculty Senate Committee chairs and Faculty Senate committee composition for 2006-2007 – p. 10

B. Reassessment of Faculty Senate Committee Structures – refer to Rules and Governance

P. Stoddard described the rationale of a “consent agenda” and then asked committee chairs to introduce themselves. They are:

Dan Kempton, Academic Affairs
Earl Hanson, Elections and Legislative Oversight
Jan Holt, Faculty Rights and Responsibilities
Cason Snow, Economic Status of the Profession
Nancy Castle, Rules and Governance; and
C.T. Lin, Resource, Space, and Budget.

The consent agenda was approved with some staffing corrections.

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – no report


F. Bryan reported that Professor Virginia Naples of the Biological Sciences Department made a presentation to the committee on salary differentials between male and female professors in the Department of Biological Sciences, in which Dr. Naples found inequities in that department. Vice-Chair Murer assured her that these findings would be given consideration through proper
administrative channels. In regular business, recommendations for faculty promotions, tenure, and promotions with tenure for the academic year were approved. The new provost, new associate dean of the Graduate School, new chair of the Department of Computer Science, and new interim dean of the Libraries were also approved. Also approved were a new PhD program in Art Education, a new specialization in Sport and Exercise Psychology within the M.S. Ed. in Physical Education and a new series of specializations with the M.S. degree program in Nursing.

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 – Ferald Bryan – report – p. 11-12

F. Bryan reported that the full Board met on June 15, mentioned that the Board asks many good questions, and stressed that our Board is very sympathetic and always supportive of the tenure process. AASAP and FFO Committee recommendations were approved. There was a presentation from the project REAL (Rockford Education Alliance), a Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant that funds our work in partnership with Rock Valley College and Rockford Public School District 205.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Daniel Kempton, Chair

B. Economic Status of the Profession – Cason Snow, Chair

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

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Janet Holt, Chair

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

N. Castle reminded the Senate that to identify representatives to the Undergraduate Coordinating Council and the Graduate Council.

C. Snow offered to serve as representative to the UCC, and B. Lusk offered to represent the Senate at the Graduate Council.

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

1. Election of members of Faculty Grievance Committee

P. Stoddard explained the duties of the Faculty Grievance Committee.
James Johnson, Greg Barrett, Scott Whitman, Laurie Elish-Piper, William Baker, John Walton, Shin-Min Song, Reza Hashemian, Brigid Lusk, Brian Coller, Jody Newman-Ryan, Judy Hertz, Barbara Jaffee, Byron Anderson, Earl Hanson and Tony Tollerud were selected. The five alternates are going to be Lee Sido, Michael Morris, Nancy Castle, Linda Dersheid, and Paula Brown.

A. Rosenbaum, who is the new Faculty Personnel Advisor, had been selected, but the FPA would likely have conflicts of interest in grievance matters.

A motion was therefore made to remove the FPA from the Grievance Committee. The motion passed.

P. Stoddard offered a pep talk to those selected, pointing out that Grievance Committee work helps keep the university running smoothly by ensuring that people’s concerns will be dealt with by their peers.

2. Election of University Council alternates – ballots will be distributed at FS meeting. The election was held.

3. Nomination of two Faculty Senate members to serve on the Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee. Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School will choose one member from the two nominations to serve on the committee.

A motion to forward the names of J. Hertz and J. Stephen was approved.

P. Stoddard announced that the Senate needed to recommend to the President faculty members to serve on the Intellectual Property Committee. Sarah Marsh and Lynn Neeley, both from Business, had expressed willingness to serve on that body.

J. Stephen nominated Doug Bowman from the Math Department, who expressed his willingness to serve.

D. Kempton moved that the forward the names of Sarah Marsh, Lynn Neeley and Doug Bowman to the President.

The motion passed.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reclassification of Asst. Deans, Assoc. Deans, Directors of Centers as SPS.

P. Stoddard introduced some new business which deals with the classification of faculty in administrative roles, specifically whether they are Supportive Professional Staff or Faculty, and
how they are to be evaluated and assigned merit increments. Though some of the affected individuals expressed concern about possible loss of rank and tenure, no one loses either simply because they have administrative assignments.

J. Stephen pointed out that reclassifying Faculty as SPS could violate several rules and procedures. D. Kempton added that it is important to consider what duties people in this category actually have, and that there are state constraints and pressures on how people are classified. L. Kamenitsa pointed out that some of the people involved still have instruction as one of their main duties.

D. Haliczer explained that the increment problem was an unintended consequence of the SPS Council’s request for an across-the-board 3% raise since all administrators above the department chair level are in administrative positions which at Northern are considered Supportive Professional Staff. She reassured the Senate that all such people are still tenured professors; however, for purposes of classification through the IBHE, this group are classified as administrators. We’re talking about the difference between the person who holds tenure and the position which is an administrative position classified by the IBHE and by state offices in a particular way.

After more discussion by J. Stephen, L. Kamenitsa, D. Haliczer, P. Stoddard and D. Swanson, J. Stephen moved that the matter be referred this to Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. The motion was seconded and passed.

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 4:40 p.m.