FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


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

Giles made the motion; Gallagher seconded. The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2006 FACULTY SENATE MEETING (Pages 3-7)

Giles made the motion; Gallagher seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Strategic Planning Task Force

B. Lusk updated the Senate on the Task Force’s progress. The Task Force is very representative, with over 40 members. There has been one meeting, coordinated by an outside consultant from The Learning Alliance (based at the University of Pennsylvania). Numerous discussions and meetings are planned over the next months. April is the envisioned date for a first draft of the report. Websites, both by NIU and The Learning Alliance, are being developed so the community can keep track of the task force’s progress.

D. Swanson, on behalf of all task force members, encouraged everyone to give their input to their representatives (B. Lusk, D. Swanson, and P. Stoddard for the Senate).

B. Computing Facilities Advisory Committee
P. Stoddard reported that ITS would like to make a decision as to which Personal Response System (classroom clicker) to support. Senate input to this process is coming from the Academic Affairs committee.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Daniel Kempton, Chair – report (Pages 8-10)

D. Kempton reported that the committee is following up on last year’s work regarding the personal response clickers and is monitoring the implementation of the NIU Connect System. Regarding the latter, a new issue is being considered - how long do students have to add/drop classes? A continuing issue concerns course repeats, i.e., which grade should count – the higher or the more recent?

D. Kempton moved recommending to the NIU Connect team that they adopt the standard of the most recent repeat being the one that would count toward calculation of GPA. The motion was seconded.

Pros and cons of the motion were debated by T. Sims, T. Griffith, D. Kempton, A. Tatum, N. Castle, D. Swanson, E. Miller, N. Churyk, L. Kamenitsa, and S. Wickman. The pros included disincentives for frivolous repeats, and keeping seats available for students who would likely be lower seniority for placement. Cons included the possibility of students losing course credit they had already earned.

The motion passed with some dissent.

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

P. Stoddard reminded the Senate that ESP had been charged with developing guidelines for potential pay increments.

A member of the committee reported that they decided in the following way: Any amount up to a living increase should be across the board; any amount after that could be discussed and maybe be divided equally by merit, by across the board or some other way.

The above recommendation was moved and seconded.

D. Kempton asked how often increments actually exceeded the cost of living rate. D. Swanson opined that it is necessary to give faculty doing their jobs cost-of-living increases, and that this motion offers a platform from which to raise the issue of how pay raises are inadequate.

N. Castle: moved to postpone the matter until the January 17 meeting. D. Kempton seconded.
The motion to postpone passed.

E. Miller indicated that members of last year’s committee might have data regarding increments and cost-of-living rates.

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

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

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Paul Stoddard - report (Pages 11-16)

P. Stoddard reported that the FAC met on the 17th at Illinois State. ISU’s legislative liaison discussed his feelings on how the election in Illinois portends for higher education in Illinois, specifically that a capital bill might finally be passed. In general, he said that universities play defense: they don’t propose legislation, but try to deflect the more onerous legislation and reshape other proposals. Rick Pearce, IBHE staff member, indicated that due to a new structuring at the IBHE, now might be a good time for faculty to get their foot in the door on various issues of interest.

Regarding the Teacher Preparation document from last time - one of the three major drafters is from the College of Ed, that’s Marie Donovan from DePaul University. There was a lot of concern raised about that document not just here but at other institutions as well. As a result, the FAC is going to try to meet with the deans of the Colleges of Ed and address some of the concerns that have been raised.

Another position paper that’s going to come up for discussion is on student debt.


F. Bryan reported that the main action item was a $3.3 million federal funding proposal to begin the formal planning of the Proton Therapy Treatment Center. They’re looking at the formal release of the request for proposal next month, with groundbreaking taking place in 2008, and treatments beginning in 2011.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song –
P. Stoddard reported the FFO committee approved a performance contract where a contractor comes provides new and more efficient windows or doors and so forth and NIU pays for the improvements out of the energy savings that these improvements create. The Housing for Students with Dependents has been officially named “Northern View Community.” Money was approved to remodel the Office of Financial Aid to provide privacy for students who are discussing their financial needs, and to improve Parking Lot W.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Rachel Turner and Bobbie Cesarek – report (Pages 20-21)

B. Cesarek reported that the only action item that was a presentation by Sharon Dowen, Director of our Internal Audit, which was voted on positively by the Board. The only major change was the addition of language concerning consulting services.

Information items dealt with university efforts to assimilate all of the various forms and policies of the university in one location such that that can be presented more readily, and a legislative summary from Springfield.

Lori Clark is the new Coordinator for Agency Relations and Research Park Initiatives.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

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 4:10 p.m.