FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM

PRESENT: Bisplinghoff, Burch, Burrell, Cappell, Castle, Cesarek, Chown, Churyk, Derscheid, Garcia, Goldblum, Kamenitsa, Kowalski, Lusk, Martin, Millhorm, Mirman, Mohabbat, Monteiro, Morris, Newman, Novak, Onyuksel, Rosenbaum, Schneider, Snow, Sons, Swanson, Thompson, Thu, Tolhurst, Valle, Wade, Zahay

T. Fisher attended for S. Wickman.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2007 FACULTY SENATE MEETING (Pages 3-5)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard announced that the university will be conducting a survey of the campus climate. We will be issuing a survey to the students getting their perceptions on life at NIU, academic, social and otherwise.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hanson – no report

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 Nancy Castle – no report

D. BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – no report

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

B. Cesarek reported on the December Board of Trustees meeting. All of the resolutions relating to the proton therapy center were passed. The trustees thanked Joe Novak for his service to the institution. The BOT professorships that will be put in place for the faculty as part of the Strategic Planning Initiative were approved. Execution Session minutes that are no longer subject to confidentiality will be released. The Board approved NIU’s Ph.D. in Art Education.

F. Bryan asked if it was known when and how the Executive Session minutes will be released. B. Cesarek said that was not mentioned in the meeting. B. Lusk asked if any mention was made regarding the Proton Therapy Treatment Center at Central DuPage Hospital. B. Cesarek responded in the negative.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Kendall Thu, Chair – no report

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

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

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Alan Rosenbaum, Chair – no report

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

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Earl Hansen, Chair

1. Selection of a committee for the Evaluation of the Executive Secretary of University Council and President of Faculty Senate – see Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 7

D. Mathesius announced the results: Carol Thompson, Jeffrey Chown, and Amy Newman (alternate) will be the University Council members. The Faculty Senate members will be Lara Luetkehans, Jack Marchewka, and Kerry Burch (alternate). The students will be Erin Hunson and Merjana Pulaveni (alternate).

2. Selection of a committee for the Evaluation of the Faculty Personnel Advisor – see Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 7 (Page 6)
The committee to evaluate the Faculty Personnel Advisor will be Maribel Valle, Jim Millhorn, Linda Derscheid, and the alternate is Jay Stravers.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Increments (Page 7)

P. Stoddard asked for a salary increment recommendation from the Senate, saying that the Provost had requested clarification as to whether the Senate wanted to stay with last year’s recommendation.

After some discussion, mostly clarifying procedure and specifics, D. Swanson moved that we continue the 2007/2008 recommendation for faculty salary increments.

The motion was seconded and approved, with one dissenting vote.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. University Closure on December 10, 2007

P. Stoddard opened the floor for comments regarding the university closure on December 10, 2007.

L. Kamenitsa related that several faculty members were concerned with the administration posting faculty options in a place where students had access as students took the faculty options to be student options. Several senators echoed this sentiment.

D. Swanson said that while she felt the immediate response was excellent, she would like to see more done in terms of fostering a campus-wide discussion on racial issues.

In response to comments about the lack of follow-up on the status of the investigation, P. Stoddard commented that a task force looking at Virginia Tech’s recommendations in the aftermath of their tragedy is recommending that such follow-up be undertaken in a regular and timely manner.

W. Tolhurst stressed that communication, such as from the university police, is essential in situations like this.

L. Kamenitsa felt that procedures for dealing with closures during exam week should be worked out in advance, since closings due to weather and other causes are not uncommon.

F. Bryan asked 1) if the university has considered academic studies in crisis response and national standards for such situations, and 2) since we hopefully learned something from this, are we sure it’s not going to happen again?

C. Garcia suggested that the campus be better trained for such events.
M. Valle would have liked some help in dealing with families.

D. Swanson expressed concern about students having to leave the residence halls within 48 hours of their last exam. M. Morris opined that this policy may be for the benefit of those students still studying for exams.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 P.M.