FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008, 3:00 P.M.  
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as amended (addition of a resolution under New Business).

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2008 FS MEETING (Pages 3-5)

The minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. University Response to February 14

P. Stoddard recognized the administration personnel who worked so hard, in the aftermath of the February 14 events, to move the University back towards “normalcy.”

B. Response from other Faculty Senates and schools

P. Stoddard read two letters from the ten or so the Senate received - one from the chair of the Academic Senate at California State, Dominguez Hills, Kate Fawver (an NIU alumna), and another from Kerry J. Redican, President of the Faculty Senate at Virginia Tech.

C. Nominations for the Bob Lane Eternal Vigilance Faculty Spokesperson Award (Page 6)
P. Stoddard called for nominations for the above award.

D. NIU Connect Project

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hanson – no report

P. Stoddard noted that the FAC also sent a letter of support.

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 – no report

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

P. Stoddard: Standing committees – I don’t think we have many reports but I’ll read them off just to be sure. Academic Affairs?

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 – report (Pages 7-8)

N. Castle reported that the committee looked at ways to provide flexibility in the composition of the standing committees of the Faculty Senate. Currently, the way it stands we have at least one faculty senator from each college appointed to each of the standing committees, except that “a faculty senator representing University Libraries and a faculty senator representing the College of Law may be appointed upon their expression of interest.” Building on that idea, the
committee recommends the following language: “In the event that a college has too few representatives to assure a different faculty senator to each committee, appointments will be made on the basis of anticipated activity of the committee for the year and, as possible, per expressed interest of the senators. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee member from those colleges will serve, upon request, as the voting member of any committee needing representation from the college in question.”

N. Castle presented this as the first reading.

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

   1. Nominations for Executive Secretary of University Council/President of Faculty Senate – see list of University Council members eligible to be elected. (Page 9)

C. Snow: Opened the floor for nominations for the President of Faculty Senate and the Executive Secretary of the University Council.

N. Castle nominated P. Stoddard, who accepted.

L. Derscheid moved to close nominations. The motion passed. P. Stoddard is the only nomination forwarded.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Faculty response to student issues stemming from February 14.

P. Stoddard: commented that several people had raised the issue of faculty response to students’ needs following the trauma of February 14. Different people will react in different ways, and faculty should try to be flexible in accommodating students when issues, such as those related to emotional concerns, or the change in academic schedule arise.

L. Derscheid expressed concern that academic integrity not be sacrificed in this effort. C. Garcia and P. Stoddard agreed.

B. Reading Day

P. Stoddard said that with the disruptions to the calendar this semester, MWF classes had lost three sessions to holiday, weather, and tragedy. With that in mind, a proposal will be made to University Council to not have reading day at the end of this semester. P. Stoddard asked for faculty thoughts on this issue. A long discussion covering the pros and cons of the proposal ensued. At the end, an informal show of hands indicated that the Senate was fairly evenly split on whether or not to have reading day.

C. Cole Hall Resolution – walk-in
K. Thu introduced a resolution regarding the disposition of Cole Hall. After some amending, mostly to reflect changes in the situation after the resolution was initially drafted, the following resolution was approved:

Whereas the tragedy that struck the NIU campus on February 14, 2008 has resulted in the collective sense of loss and grieving by faculty, students, and staff;
Whereas the initial decision to raze Cole Hall, the site of the tragedy, was made only two weeks after the tragedy occurred;
Whereas the decision concerning the disposition of Cole Hall is connected to the campus community’s grief and recovery;
Whereas the NIU administration’s decisions and sympathetic approaches in dealing with the tragedy’s aftermath have been admirable and cultivated in the spirit of coming together and moving forward as a community;
Whereas Cole Hall has housed the anthropology museum collection since the building was first opened. The Anthropology Museum curates 10 – 15,000 ethnographic artifacts and 50,000 – 100,000 archaeological artifacts, and that according to the Anthropology Museum Director, it will take at least a year for artifacts to be appropriately inventoried, packaged, and transported following American Association of Museums regulations;
Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that any the decision regarding the final disposition of Cole Hall be made in a deliberate manner by the university community and that should the decision be made to raze Cole Hall, sufficient time will be allowed for the preparation and transportation of the Anthropology collection in accordance with AAM standards.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 P.M.