
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 adopted with two additions. Novak made the motion; Thompson was the second.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2008 FS MEETING (Pages 3-6)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Nancy Castle – Progress report on Athletic Director search committee

N. Castle reported on the Athletic Director search, saying an outside search consultant is being used and that the goal is to have a new A.D. announced by the end of the semester.

B. Carolinda Douglass – Report on Strategic Planning Taskforce

N. Castle, filling in for C. Douglass, reported that the Strategic Planning Taskforce is divided into two subgroups that are further divided into sub-taskforce groups: one on student success (subcommittees include retention, impacted majors, campus climate, and Voluntary System of Accountability – the last of which is new to NIU and was designed by NASALGIC); and the other on Curriculum Innovation (subcommittees include expanded enhanced engaged learning, new approaches to general ed, capstone experiences, implementation of a themed year, honors programs, departmental honors programs, strategic imperatives, and university-wide curricula).
C. Greg Long – General Education discussion

G. Long described to the Senate a Strategic Plan proposal designed to begin a campus-wide dialog on General Education at NIU. Given the long and thoughtful discussion that followed, it looks as though that discussion (if the proposal is approved) will prove fruitful.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

P. Stoddard called for nominations to fill a slot for a Faculty Senate representative to the evaluation committee for the new BoT professorship award. None were immediately forthcoming. Information on the award can be found at www.NIU.edu/strategicplan/board/index.satml.

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 – report (Pages 7-8)

F. Bryan reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee approved all sabbatical requests. Two years ago Committee Chair Barbara Georgi Vella encouraged the Provost to have sabbatical presentations in front of this committee. This year, the committee heard from Professor Laurel Jeris from the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education and Presidential Research Professor Donald Richgels from the Department of Literacy Education.

The new Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Science in Teaching degrees were approved.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Nancy Castle – report (Pages 9-10)

N. Castle reported that student fees went up over 5%, in large part due to health insurance increases. The parking lot in front of the HR building is going to be repaved. The Proton Therapy Treatment Center received crucial approval from the State. Courses in the Master of Accounting Science program will see a $175/credit hour fee, increasing to $275/credit hour by 2012.


J. Monteiro reported that there was not a quorum for this meeting, but informational items were presented. HB1434 would allow community colleges to offer 4 year degrees. HB4621 would require universities to admit students from approved high schools if their grade point average is in the top 10% of that student’s high school graduating class. HB4625, which is an amendment
to the Illinois Veteran Grant, would include a reimbursement for 50% of the cost of textbooks. The Governor has suggested a 4% across the board reduction for FY09 but that does not include higher education. At the Federal level, an increase of $69 million, bringing the PELL Grants back up to FY07 levels, was approved. LEAP and Perkins Loan programs were eliminated but they are expected to be included in any budget that Congress approves later this year.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

P. Stoddard reported that the full Board, before approving all recommendations, in the person of Chair Murer, took the opportunity to comment on the events of Feb. 14, and on the university’s response to the events. Chair Murer asked for and received a moment of silence in memory of the victims of that day and then called for an internal review by the university whose report is due to the Board of Trustees by their September meeting.

Mallory Simpson from the Foundation updated the board regarding the February 14 scholarship fund and the True North Campaign.

A new Dean of the Libraries, Patrick Dawson, has been hired.

A question-and-answer/discussion period followed addressing the BoT-requested review, the fate of Cole Hall, and problems with the post 2-14 counseling.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Kendall Thu, Chair – report (Pages 12-13)

K. Thu reported on two questions charged to the committee: 1) “How are multiple section courses coordinated” generated 17 responses from the 44 department chairs and division heads-all the departments have some level of coordination, ranging from shared syllabi and requirements for certification to informal sharing of syllabi for Gen Ed courses that have similar content. 2) “How are student courses evaluations used in merit reviews across the university?” All 16 responses indicated that they used student evaluations in the merit reviews. The range of mechanisms used to incorporate student evaluations in the faculty reviews varied greatly.

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

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

L. Derscheid, filling in for C.T., reported the committee met with Associate Vice President Albanese, who talked about the Proton Therapy Center, energy costs being saved through the performance contracts, and capitol improvement projects – Stevens is still at the top of the priority and the hope is that the state legislature will finally recognize the importance of keeping our buildings safe for everyone.

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

E. Rules and Governance – Nancy Castle, Chair – report
N. Castle put on record that at the next meeting we’re supposed to ask our Grad Council rep and our UCC rep to report.

1. **Article 3 Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate – ACTION ITEM.**
   (Pages 14-15)

N. Castle moved to adopt the bylaw change recommended on page 14 of the packet, which has to do with how smaller colleges are represented on the numerous Faculty Senate committees.

The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Placement of **Statement** of Professional Ethics (Pages 16-17)

N. Castle reported that the committee had been tasked with placement of the faculty’s statement of professional ethics in official university documents, and on considering possible consequences of possible ethics violations. After consulting with Steve Cunningham in HR, they realized that many provisions of the statement (and consequences for violations) are already covered in various university documents.

During a discussion of this, N. Castle reminded the Senate President about his interest in reinstituting a faculty handbook (this time in electronic form) where all forms of important information for faculty could be centralized and easily accessed. Further discussion followed, after which

B. Miller moved to recommend to the University Council that the statement of professional ethics as laid out on page 17 and the consequences of violation of those ethics as laid out by the links provided on page 16, be included in the APPM.

The motion was seconded and carried with one opposing vote.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Earl Hansen, Chair – no report

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. **Letter** of Acceptance of Nomination from Paul Stoddard (Page 18)

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.