FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007
HOMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM
3:00 P.M.


T. Aurand attended for D. Zahay.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2007 FS MEETING (Pages 3-8)

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard gave a brief introduction and orientation to the Faculty Senate before introducing Provost Alden.

R. Alden updated the Senate on the Strategic Plan, highlighting the history of the process, and summarizing the results; and gave some ideas on how the implementation of the plan would proceed from here. He also addressed university efforts with regards to improving security in light of last semester’s tragedy at Virginia Tech.

J. Kowalski asked if, in light of the “resolution” of the budget debate in Springfield, there was any information about a possible salary increment. R. Alden, citing a lack of a formal decision
by the university administration, declined to give any details. In response to questions from **J. Stephen, D. Swanson, and C. Garcia, P. Stoddard** reminded the body of the Senate’s recommendations regarding increments, and reported that he had indicated those recommendations to the Provost and President personally; however, he had not done so in writing to the UCPC, but that he would do so immediately.

**E. Miller** expressed concern about communication between faculty and the Student Affairs office in light of the security issues raised by the Provost. This initiated a lengthy discussion of campus security issues, student mental health issues, availability of counseling services, privacy concerns, the Virginia Tech report, and the Provost’s Emergency Operating Plan Task Force (upon which the Senate will have representation). Participating were **R. Alden, J. Stephen, A. Rosenbaum, L. Sons, E. Hansen, N. Churyk, D. Swanson, and W. Tolhurst**.

**J. Stephen** noted that a Loyola University Masters’ project studying different forms of governance of universities was entitled “Northern Illinois University – Shared Governance at Its Best.” (It received a high grade.)

**V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION**

A. Selection of Vice President and Secretary of Faculty Senate

**N. Castle** nominated Kendall Thu for Vice President of the Faculty Senate.

**K. Thu** nominated Nancy Castle for Secretary of the Faculty Senate.

**E. Hansen** moved to close nominations. **C. Snow** seconded. The motion passed.

B. University Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees

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

**P. Stoddard** described the positions of representative to the UAC and representative to the FAC, and asked for volunteers/nominations.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Student Evaluation use in the Merit Process – refer to Academic Affairs.

B. Look into desirability of uniform syllabi in multiple section courses – refer to Academic Affairs

C. Proper placement of “Statement of Professional Ethics” – refer to Rules and Governance

D. Approval of Faculty Senate Committees (Page 9)

The consent agenda was approved.
VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – no report


J. Stephen reported the committee approved some offsite offerings and several minors. All sabbaticals put forward were approved. The BOT asked for presentations by two faculty members about their activities during their previous year’s sabbatical. Again, the Board of Trustees came out with very strong support for the need of sabbaticals in the academic community and expressed quite a reasonable understanding of their importance.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Xueshu Song – report

P. Stoddard reported that the Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee met and made boilerplate recommendations.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monterio and Bobbie Cesarek – report – walk-in

B. Cesarek reported there were many legislative issues pending that could be of importance to NIU. Information on the Proton Therapy Treatment Facility contained repeat findings which were not pleasing to the institution and there was some discussion relative to how to ensure that that doesn’t happen again.

K. Thu asked about, and B. Cesarek clarified that NIU had four findings in the compliance report, which is second lowest out of all of the state institutions. That’s a good thing.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

P. Stoddard reported that the full Board met in June. They approved everything that the subcommittees approved.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Kendall Thu, Chair

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

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

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Alan Rosenbaum, Chair
E. Rules and Governance – Nancy Castle, Chair

N. Castle reported that the committee has business that carried over from last year, to wit, the request to look at committee structures for the Faculty Senate.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Earl Hansen, Chair

P. Stoddard introduced the election of the Hearing Panel and described the function of the Panel.

F. Bryan suggested that those selected for the hearing panel read Article 7 of the University Constitution and Bylaws which outlines this whole process of appeals, appeal procedures for personnel decisions.

E. Hansen oversaw the balloting for University Council alternates and for UCPC.

E. Hansen selected, at random, the following names to serve on the Grievance Committee: Earl Hansen, James Johnson, Jack Marchewka, Barbara Jaffee, David Wade, Diane Docking, Scott Whitman, Sean Farrell, Moses Mutuku, Amy Newman, Dr. Hashemian, Charles Cappell, Chris Hubbard, Richard Greene, and Christopher Markle.

P. Stoddard stressed the importance of having a faculty grievance pool and expressed gratitude to those selected for their willingness (however grudgingly) to serve.

Doug Bowman and Beth Miller were nominated to serve on the Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

P. Stoddard introduced the Faculty Personnel Advisor, Alan Rosenbaum.

A. Rosenbaum, P. Stoddard and J. Stephen discussed the procedure for forwarding Senate salary increment recommendations to the UCPC.

J. Stephen noted two important curricular issues 1) the expiration date or the stale date for an incomplete is now 200 days instead of 10 weeks. 2) Backdating graduation paperwork will no longer be allowed.
XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Academic Planning Council minutes
2. Athletic Board minutes
3. Campus Security and Environmental Quality minutes
4. Committee on Initial Teacher Certification minutes
5. Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum minutes
6. Graduate Council minutes
7. University Assessment Panel minutes
8. University Benefits Committee minutes
9. Undergraduate Coordinating Council minutes
10. 2007-2008 Meeting Schedule (Page 10)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.