FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2007, 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


S. Chen attended for R. Moraga.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Baker made the motion; Smith seconded. The agenda was approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 FS MEETING

The minutes were approved.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

A. Rosenbaum described the function of the FPA, his philosophy towards the position, and how to contact him. He encouraged senators to relay the information to their departments. In response to, and in conjunction with several senators, he talked at some length about confidentiality issues, whether or not the FPA should serve as an advocate, funding of the position, and the recent history of the FPA.

P. Stoddard announced the results of last meeting’s elections.
V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Graduate Student compensation

P. Stoddard reported that the issue of graduate student compensation arose in the Executive Committee meeting last week. With the True North capital campaign and other potential new funding streams, it was thought that some discussion of quality and quantity of graduate assistantships would be timely. K. Thu added that the lack of organized representation of graduate students at the university was also discussed.

B. Miller said that G.A.s at NIU lack many rights. J. Stephen reminded the Senate that he still needs to prepare a final draft of the student grievance procedure. A. Rosenbaum noted that Graduate Student Advisory Committee to the Graduate School was the only grad student organization that he was able to find out about.

D. Swanson moved that the issue of graduate assistant pay be referred to the Economic Status of the Profession Committee and the issue of graduate assistant rights, responsibilities and representation be referred to the Rights and Responsibilities Committee. J. Stephen seconded.

J. Chown added that student fees have gone up, perhaps disproportionately to raises, and suggested they should be included in the discussion.

The motion passed.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda.

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Paul Stoddard – report – walk-in

P. Stoddard reported on the recent Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Ed meeting, held on the 21st of September in Altgeld Hall. President Peters came and talked about the university and gave his impressions of where higher education stands in relation to the State Legislature priorities. We then met with the DeKalb representative to the Illinois State House, Bob Pritchard, who talked about his role in putting together a bipartisan/bicameral caucus in the Legislature to discuss higher education issues. We also met with Senator Burzynski from this region who repeated Representative Pritchard’s sentiment that we might have to look at raising the income tax to help pay for higher education.

P. Stoddard also pointed out that there is a new FAC position paper, this one on college students’ mental health, included in the packet. J. Stephen commented on turnover in the psychiatric services for NIU students last year caused by the reduction of time of exposure that the psychiatrist could pay to the student, and that part of the problem with mental health with students is worrying about debt.
Earl Hansen has offered to take over the role of Faculty Advisory Council representative for NIU and will be giving these reports in the future.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – report (Pages 7-8)

F. Bryan reported that the latest meeting of the AASAP committee focused on the progress of teaching, and research, and awards to faculty and staff. The major action item was the formal recognition for the Northern Illinois Center for Accelerator Detector Development (NICADD). Also, we have been reaccredited through 2014 and the university was specifically commended for its design and implementation of an assessment system that provides meaningful date for improving student learning. Provost Alden recognized twenty-seven individuals who received faculty emeritus designation. Dean Bose reported on external funding. Finally, President Peters and Provost Alden gave an overview of the new university Strategic Plan.

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

N. Castle reported that the FFO committee reviewed capital improvement and budget requests. She noted that one thing of interest was the renewal of the Academic Program Enhancement and Structural Technology Surcharge that the Board of Trustees first adopted in 2003. Currently, we are charging $100 a semester; however, in 2003 the Board of Trustees approved $100 with the flexibility of going up to $250 a semester and determined that they may need to go up to $250 by fall of 2008.

D. Swanson noted that the students again are paying for what the Legislature won’t do.

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

B. Cesarek reported that Ken Zehnder reviewed a number of bills that were presented and passed by the House and Senate. There were no textbook bills that made it to the Governor’s desk. Kathy Buettner informed the committee about the Congressional Budget Hearings. She highlighted four items which continue funding for projects that are already ongoing at NIU. Steve Cunningham shared with the committee the Employee Contact Accountability and Ethics in the Workplace Reference Guide. Ken Davidson took a few minutes to talk about our trademark registration. The final item for discussion was the university report on the Federal Direct Lending Program.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report – walk-in

P. Stoddard reported that the full Board met last week and approved everything that Academic Affairs and Finance and Facilities had recommended. In addition, they approved the proposed salary increment, for faculty and staff, which will average 4%. There is an additional half
percent increment envisioned in January, which is intended to address salary equity considerations.

In response to questions, P. Stoddard clarified, based on his understanding, how the increment is to be apportioned (merit brackets, across the board, etc.) and noted that the increment will be retroactive, and that the November 15 paycheck should reflect both the new salary, and the retroactive lump sum.

K. Thu asked if the same rate applies for graduate students as well.

D. Goldblum said that we were told that it would be 4% and that we should count on that starting in January for all the students on grants.

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 – no report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. True North – Nancy Castle

N. Castle: announced that she is putting together a committee to involve faculty more in the True North capital campaign. She asked for people in leadership positions or who have interactions with alumni to consider joining the committee. Food would be involved.

B. Cesarek: pointed out that this is a way to help that doesn’t involve opening your pocketbook.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no comments or questions from the floor.
XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Alternate List 2007-2008

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.