FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009. 3:00 P.M.
HOLMES STUDENT CENTER SKY ROOM


R. Blecksmith attended for D. Bowman; S. Arnett attended for J. Johnson-Hillery.

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 P.M.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Snow made the motion; Baker was second. The agenda was approved with the addition of several walk-in items.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2009 FS MEETING (will be sent to you electronically)

Kowalski made the motion; Rosenbaum was second. The minutes passed as amended.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tom Krepel will attend meeting to discuss the NCAA Recertification

T. Krepel described the process by which the NCAA recertification self-study document was prepared, and announced several open fora at which interested parties could ask questions or raise concerns.

P. Stoddard took the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Krepel on his new appointment, and to thank him for his years of service to NIU.
**P. Stoddard** announced that the benefits choice period will be May 1 through May 31. There will be a benefits fair on April 30. The biggest change will be that the prescription drug deductible will be going up to $75.

**J. Rintala** reported that the Athletics Department has undergone a review and updating of its strategic plan, which is posted up on the Athletics website. Also, at the conclusion of the fall semester, the student athletes at NIU completed their 7th consecutive semester where their cumulative GPA was over 3.0.

**P. Stoddard** updated the Senate on the latest budgetary doings in Springfield. The Governor has issued his proposed budget, which includes a modest increase in the operating budget for higher education, but also includes several provisions that would reduce pension benefits. It was not immediately clear which, if any, of these would affect current employees, or would only apply to new hires.

**A. Rosenbaum** stated that the Annuitants Association, SARS and the teachers’ system have taken very strong positions against the combination of the state retirement plans, and that in light of the proposed changes, we should all be going to our departments and suggesting that they join and notify their senators as well to try to do our bit to try to prevent this from happening.

**V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION**

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report – walk-in

**E. Hansen** called for faculty with concerns related to higher education in Illinois to relay those to him.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Joseph “Buck” Stephen and Ferald Bryan – report (Pages 3-4)

**F. Bryan** reported that the committee heard from Professors Pamela McFarlane (PHED) and Leslie Rigg (GEOG) about the results of their sabbaticals. The committee approved the 52 recommendations for sabbaticals for next year, and also approved the recommendation of the new Dean for the Law School. A new Doctoral in Physical Therapy was approved, along with new emphases, specializations and minors.

**B. Jaffe** asked how sabbatical reports to the BoT were chosen. After some discussion, it was agreed that more information was needed.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Paul Stoddard and Cleresida Garcia – report – walk-in
P. Stoddard noted that the report is one of the walk-in items.

D. BOT Legislative, Audit and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro and Bobbie Cesarek – report (Pages 5-7)

J. Monteiro reported that Steve Cunningham talked about the updates to the Board Regulations regarding FMLA, and that Ken Zehnder highlighted a number of House and Senate Bills that if passed could affect NIU, specifically Senate Bill 244, which would enable Harper College’s Board of Trustees to offer a pilot program offering bachelor’s degrees in two fields of study. In addition, there are some benefit changes for veterans.

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – report

P. Stoddard reported on the full Board meeting. There was a public comment from Adam Andrejewski, Republican running for Governor of Illinois. He was a big fan of the Proton Therapy Center that Northern is developing but he was concerned that a lot of money was being approved for the Center in non-transparent ways according to his reading of the situation. The President gave a lot of remarks regarding budget issues, including capital issues. The Trustees approved the student fee and room and board fee recommendations for next year. They’re doing more of their energy infrastructure improvements.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Mari Valle, Chair – no report

B. Economic Status of the Profession – C. T. Lin, Chair – no report

C. Resource, Space and Budget – Michael Morris, Chair – report

M. Morris: The Resource, Space and Budget Subcommittee did meet with Eddie Williams on the 17th of March to discuss the situation regarding parking for faculty on campus, especially as related to the chiller plant construction. 28 parking spaces near Anderson Hall were converted from brown to blue as of January 2009. They are investigating the possibility of suspending red/blue parking since many of the red/blue spaces sit unused for large stretches of most days. Long-term parking solutions are an expensive proposition.

P. Henry asked about a shuttle bus that would take people from remote parking to central campus.

M. Morris responded that there is a Huskie bus that does go from the Convocation Center lot to central campus.

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Rosemary Feurer, Chair – no report

E. Rules and Governance – Nancy Castle, Chair – no report
F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Cason Snow, Chair

P. Stoddard called for nominations for the FAC position and the Faculty/SPS Personnel Advisor position, and said that letters of interest need to be at the University Council/Senate office by Wednesday, the 15th of April. The University Council last week did pass a bylaw change so that the FAC rep need not be a member of the Council.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

G. Bennardo asked why NIU and the DeKalb/Sycamore public schools couldn’t coordinate their schedules so that Spring Break for each would fall during the same week. After a general discussion, P. Stoddard said he would raise the issue with the President and Provost.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Letters of Acceptance of Nomination from Alan Rosenbaum and Kendall Thu (Pages 8-11)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.