
S. Tonks attending for K. Burch; J. Zhang attended for H. Jeffrey

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.


I. CALL TO ORDER

P. Stoddard: Okay, order, order. Jan, are you in order? Please be in order. Thank you all. Welcome to the November 19 Faculty Senate Meeting. I think unless I’m dramatically wrong, this should be a short meeting.

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

P. Stoddard: First off, we need to adopt the agenda. Anybody want to get us started? Thank you Alan. Thank you Nancy. Okay, any additions/comments on the agenda? All right, all in favor of approval say aye. Thank you.

Rosenbaum made the motion; Castle was second. The agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2008 FS MEETING (will be emailed on Tuesday, November 18)

P. Stoddard: Can I get a motion to approve the minutes? Thank you. Anybody like to second that? Than you Nancy. Any comments on the minutes? Okay. All in favor of approving the minutes say aye. Thank you.

Sons made the motion; Castle was second. The minutes were approved as written.
IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Stoddard: Under President’s Announcements (that’s me), I was at a CFAC’s meeting, that’s Computer Facilities Advisory Committee, and the thing that was most interesting was a reminder that the way we file final grades this semester will be different than we’ve ever done before. It has to be done online. I haven’t actually looked at the process but I’ve been told it’s very simple and should be self-explanatory we hope. Keep in mind it was written by computer tech types but nevertheless, the thing that I do want to point out is that there’s no longer an NR option so if you do not file the grades on time, all your students will get F’s. So, if you don’t want that to happen, we need to get them in on time. You also need to file a grade for every single student; you can’t leave any blank. If you leave any blank, it doesn’t let you post any of them at all. So you might just want to be aware of that. I think we’re going to try to get Brent Gage or Gip Seaver to the University Council Meeting to make sure that this gets announced again. If you have questions, you’re always welcome — those of you who are not Council members — you’re always welcome of course to any Council meeting. But if you have questions about it, I would suggest coming. That would be the Wednesday after Thanksgiving, December 3 as it turns out.

The other issue that we’ve talked about in here and was widely reported on is the parking issue. I did have a brief discussion with Chief Grady about it and I might have been a little harsh on them last time. Basically, they are looking at it. I mean, they do things very methodically over in Public Safety. That has worked for them with most of the things they do. They are well-respected by people who deal with them for being thorough. That’s what they’re doing now; being thorough. The Chief assures me it will not take 17 months; he said a 2 or 3 month time frame. I’m not sure when that started but if we give them — I mean, it’s been a couple of months already — maybe we should give them the benefit of the doubt although I would still encourage you if you are having problems finding places to park, to not let them forget that that’s what is going on. If they stop hearing from us they might assume that we’ve all found other accommodations and are living happily ever after. They are doing the best job they can. I mean, part of the problem is they hired somebody new, brand new, to lead parking services and they want to give her a little time to get acclimated to the system and they’ve got other things going on over there as well. So that’s what’s going on with parking, with grades. That’s all I really have. Any questions on any of those issues? Yes?

M. Kostic: Kostic from Engineering. If I heard you right you said if I don’t grade students on time they will be receiving F’s?

P. Stoddard: That is what you heard.

M. Kostic: I don’t know whether it’s legal. I mean, grades are giving by the instructor and if I do not grade, it’s not failing grade. Would you check whether it’s even legal to begin with?

P. Stoddard: I can check the legality. It has gone through APAS and the Undergraduate Coordinating Council. Those are the main curricular bodies on campus so I’m thinking if they’ve passed these things, then they say this is what they do.
M. Kostic: But it’s really strange isn’t it. I’ve never heard that students could actually this term ??? that he’s getting a failing grade when I did not even record the grade to begin with.

P. Stoddard: I understand.

M. Kostic: And then the deadlines are unrealistic and short and it means somebody is pressuring me to make it or, you know, somebody will be penalized. I don’t see any logic to it but I also think it’s not right.

P. Stoddard: I understand what you’re saying and I’m very sympathetic to that. The incomplete option is available if there’s a student who just hasn’t finished all the work yet so you still can do that. But yes, and we’ve talked in here; we talked last time. We referred it I believe – did we do it in here or did we do it in Council? We referred the issues of schedules, both establishing class schedules at the beginning of the semester before the, you know, before we actually have to teach and then also the grading issue, about having to have the grades in so quickly after the end of the course. So there is a group that is looking at that to see if we can’t try to set some more reasonable time frames in there. So, that’s the best I can tell you at the moment. I agree, in principle, with what you’re saying though. Pat?

P. Henry: What about a change of grade system?

P. Stoddard: You can change grades and once they get the F’s, you can go back and fill in all the little papers and ---

P. Henry: But how soon can you do that?

P. Stoddard: You have I think about half-way through the next semester.

P. Henry: I mean, if you wanted – let’s just say hypothetically, that I didn’t get my grades in, could I then the next day fill out change of grade forms for all those students?

P. Stoddard: Certainly.

P. Henry: And?

P. Stoddard: I don’t know what they’ll end up seeing. They’ll probably get an initial report card that says F and then follow up a week later because I’m sure it will take them time to process the hand written ones and a letter that says the F has been changed to an A+.

P. Henry: Yeah, it’s not even so much, you know, giving the students heart attacks as it is getting them in trouble in terms of probation or whatever.

P. Stoddard: And part of the issue, to get back to Kostic’s point and yours, is a lot of this is being driven by financial aid concerns and other things. NR is “no record” and if there’s no record of the student having taken the course which is what happens when you don’t file the grades, then the students start getting into trouble for not having enough credit hours. So I don’t
think this was purely some evil overlord’s idea of what to do to tweak faculty and students. I do think there was a rationale behind it in terms of – mostly in terms of financial aid considerations. Again, and I think does indicate that they’ve taken the course; they haven’t just quite finished it yet and I think that might be a safer option for the students than the F which is going to – do you have something to say Tim? Okay. Interesting. Kostic?

M. Kostic: ???. Again, I think in old times if you don’t grade, they got incomplete grade and then you change to letter grade. I again believe that happens in my department. I again believe that the instructor the authority to assign a grade to students. It cannot be done by any administrator, including the President and then something is wrong here I believe. If somebody is giving my students F without me signing it, something is really wrong with my class and I think you should be checking on that.

P. Stoddard: Okay. Jay?

J. Monteiro: I think the F is assigned as a default grade. It’s not someone assigning it to that person.

P. Stoddard: But it is a grade being assigned without the instructor’s approval, but by a piece of software, not even a human being. Alan, did you? Hold on. Any other comments or questions about – yes, Linda?

L. Sons: I just want to caution against a lot of incompletes though because the classic thing that happens with incompletes is they turn to F’s ultimately, meaning if the student is doing fairly well and there is some reasonable reason for an incomplete, that’s one thing. But if we’re just trying to avoid something or other being written as an F which is going to be an F anyway, it doesn’t make a lot of sense to give them an incomplete for which you then spend the major amount of time with the idea that the student could conceivably yet do something or other and so you have a misleading kind of thing going on or you suggest something that is totally such that they can’t register for the course again for the next semester because they still have it pending when what they should be doing is actually repeating the course. A lot of incompletes are not a good idea.

P. Stoddard: Right, and it’s not good even if they’re legitimate, obviously then the students are taking on an additional load for the following semester. And I would point out that currently incompletes do automatically through computer software, transfer to F’s so we already have the precedent on campus that F’s are being given without the express written consent of major league baseball or faculty members. Okay. Any other questions or comments about grading? All right, Alan?

A. Rosenbaum: I’m not sure that I can tell you exactly what this is but there was a memo that came around the other day that was referring to some kind of change to the mailing system and it was a little difficult to understand what that was about so I was wondering if you know about this or perhaps somebody on the Senate knows what it is, what we have to do and whether we’re going to stop getting mail or our mail is not going to go out or what’s it all about.
**P. Stoddard:** It didn’t ask you for a password or your mother’s maiden name did it?

**A. Rosenbaum:** No.

**P. Stoddard:** I haven’t heard anything about that. I suspect if there was anything – I’ll defer to anybody who knows. Do you know Linda?

**L. Sons:** No, but I know another thing that has come up and that is I’ve been contacted by one of my professional organizations saying that the post office will no longer deliver mail to departments in universities. They will only deliver mail to some official address that is viewed as – you know, like 1325 Lincoln Highway or something of that sort so this may be part of what the problem is. The post office may have some kind of rule and regulation and that has now come out that is subject to a different point of view. I mean I haven’t responded to this in my professional organization because I thought it was a lot of hooey but maybe I’m wrong. You know.

**P. Stoddard:** This is actual paper mail; this isn’t e-mail that you’re talking about right?

**L. Sons:** Yeah, actual paper mail. Right. Yeah.

**P. Stoddard:** Okay, I’m sorry. I was thinking – we do that still.

**L. Sons:** You know, when you get a journal from a professional organization and they say that the post office will not deliver that unless it is given an address that represents a kind of address that would be a city address and they don’t view Math Department at NIU as a city address.

**P. Stoddard:** So it would have to be the Math Building. All right. I’m not very familiar with that. I can look into it if people want. Brigid?

**B. Lusk:** I think I know what Alan is referring to. I got a similar paper mail memo that said something about all generated lists, lists of automatic mailings that you sent out are going to be put through a system to check whether they’re real live addresses. It was an unbelievably confusing memo and what I did with it was I gave it to somebody in my office and said please help me understand what this means and I haven’t had it back yet.

**P. Stoddard:** Okay, I will contact probably Steve Cunningham or somebody in his office. In the back?

**T. Fisher:** Teresa Fisher in CAHE. The same issue to maybe help clarify it was very confusing but the term they use is called “move update” so maybe if you can refer to that.

**P. Stoddard:** Move update. I think actually I did see this and it made so little sense that I didn’t even decide to try to decipher it. Yeah. Okay. I will look into that for everybody. Any other issues or questions?

**V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION**
VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report (Page 3)

P. Stoddard: Okay, moving on. We do have in your packet a report from Earl Hansen on the FAC to IBHE. Earl’s unable to be here today so take a look at it. If you have questions I think he should be at the University Council meeting so either forward your questions to me and I will address them to Earl or so forth.

Moving on, the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee and the Board of Trustees Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee meetings were cancelled last week for lack of agendas basically. This did not stop them apparently from meeting for three hours in the BOT Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee. Meeting that long requires a lengthy report and I’m not sure that Jay or Bobbi who can’t be here today – Bobbie can’t, Jay is – they haven’t had a chance to put that all together yet so stay tuned and we will get back to you with that information.

The full Board meetings I believe – well, probably not next Thursday but the week after that in December. It should be December anyways; they meet in December.

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 Xueshu Song – no report

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

E. BOT – Paul Stoddard – no report

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs – Mari Valle, Chair – report

P. Stoddard: Moving on. Academic Affairs. I think they have been doing a little bit of work. We were going to get an update from them but unfortunately Mari had an emergency situation where she couldn’t be here today. Is there anyone from the committee who would like to update us? Yes?

C. Cappell: Charles Cappell from Sociology. I’m on the committee saying when can we meet so it is on our agenda but as far as I know, we haven’t taken any discussion or action on it yet.
P. Stoddard: Okay, thank you for the update. Any questions for Charles on the update? All right.

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

P. Stoddard: Economic Status. I don’t believe we have anything.

C. Resource, Space and Budget – Michael Morris, Chair – report (Page 4)

P. Stoddard: Resource, Space and Budget. Michael?

M. Morris: At the meeting from the discussion of the report of the meeting, if you’ve attended meetings of the Senate faithfully over the last year or two, there shouldn’t really be any great surprises. State appropriations have declined precipitously over the course of the last several years and so NIU is becoming more and more dependent upon tuition. We know about the cut in the permanent improvement line and so as a result, we have assessed an additional fee to students for permanent improvements to the university’s physical plant. There are a number of capital funding issues. Stevens, Wirtz and Cole have all been unfunded for at least five years. One thing of which I was not aware personally, was that we can now add the Art Building and Montgomery Hall to the other buildings which are also in need of repairs for which we have not been given any money for capital improvements from the state. At the meeting there was also some discussion of the loss of studios with the closure of Kishwaukee Hall and the School of Arts budget has been tapped for the purposes of renovating classrooms into studios in order to compensate for that loss. Finally, the central chiller plant, we also talked it. The benefit of the central chiller plant once it’s completed is that it will enable the university to save additional money even as it has severely exacerbated the parking issues on campus which have been discussed over and over and over again at the meetings of the Senate. There are still discussions for a parking garage near Anderson Hall in order to alleviate these parking issues but at this point they are simply at the discussion stage and to the best of my knowledge, there hasn’t been anything beyond that.

P. Stoddard: Okay, thank you. Any questions? Yes, Barb? Would you please use a microphone?

B. Jaffee: Barbara Jaffee from the School of Art. I’d actually just like to add that when I asked Dr. Williams directly about why the money for renovating those classrooms into studios had to come out of the School of Art budget, he responded “that is an academic matter”. I don’t know. I found that to be a strange response, as if to say it was somehow capricious or willful of us to want to run studio classes and therefore have to retrofit rooms to accommodate specific artistic media.

P. Stoddard: Okay, I have no insight to give you there but I thank you for that. Pat?

P. Henry: I just sort of wanted to keep or to remind this committee that we, I think, passed on something to you about looking into making the campus more bicycle friendly and even thought it’s too cold to bicycle now, I’m still interested.
P. Stoddard: Right. I encourage you, when you talk about that bicycle friendliness issue, to also consider contacting the county, the local township and so forth. It’s not just bicycle paths on campus by themselves aren’t going to do any good, or much good. It’s also bike paths to and from campus. I know there was an article in the paper yesterday about the high school wanting to be involved in getting bike paths there and so forth so there’s a lot of interest in this. I know at the county level there’s interest I think for at least one person on the County Board who’s very interested in this and I think there’s probably others. So it’s something, you know, to think off campus as well when you look in to this.

M. Morris: Oh, sorry. If there are people who are interested in that topic, please e-mail me. I have to say that I’m not really current about those topics; I’m a runner not a biker but I’ll certainly carry your water for you in the subcommittee but I’d like to know what specific recommendations you might have.

P. Stoddard: Okay, yeah?

D. Goldman: David Goldman, Geography. I’m also on the environmental – it’s the Campus Security Environmental Quality Committee. We met today and discussed Normal Road and Lucinda and bicycle paths along there and perhaps – we actually formed a subcommittee to actually discuss what to do about Normal whether we close it for certain times of the day or limit access so that’s going to be discussed on my committee. There were a lot of strong feelings about that in this committee so that should be coming out in the next couple of semesters but I think there was a general consensus that we need to do something about students safety, bicycle access and also pedestrian safety on campus.

P. Stoddard: Very good. Okay, it sounds promises. Any other comments or questions for Resource, Space and Budget or bicycles? All right. Moving on, I believe we don’t have anything from Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. Is that correct? Rose? Okay.

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

E. Rules and Governance – Nancy Castle, Chair – report ACTION ITEM (Page 5)

P. Stoddard: I see a microphone moving in the general director of Professor Castle so I’m going to assume that you have something for us?

N. Castle: For Rules and Governance, this is for Second Reading. Remember we were asked a couple of meetings ago to consider including as a member of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Athletics Representative which is a specific position. It came out of committee and we made the recommendation at the last meeting First Reading. Second Reading is today and that is to amend our bylaws on membership to what is shown in your handout so we would take 1.24 which is currently about Supportive Professional Staff and bump it down to 1.25 and then make 1.24 consistent with 1.22 and 1.23 to say “if not otherwise a member of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Athletics Representative shall be an ex officio nonvoting member”. So I move that we – what are we doing Paul – recommending this to the University Council?
P. Stoddard: This is a Faculty Senate bylaw so we are approving the bylaw change here in the Faculty Senate.

N. Castle: I move that we approve the bylaw change to the Faculty Senate.


Castle made the motion; Henry was second.

P. Stoddard: While we’re here, I just happened to be noticing that 1.25 says “the Supportive Professional Staff member of the University Council”, correct me if I’m wrong but aren’t there two of those? No? Does SPS have two people on Council or no? Right, because this bylaw says – I understand – but the bylaw says the “member of the University Council shall serve” but there’s two so we should probably say one of the SPS members. So, can I get a motion to refer that to Rules and Governance? Thank you Pat. Thank you for seconding Linda. All in favor?

N. Castle: Seriously, can we just make a friendly amendment here as opposed to the First and Second Reading?

P. Stoddard: I think that’s fine. Can we do that parliamentarian? If three-fourths agree to that that would essentially wave the First Reading. So are you moving that – well, you can’t. Pat will move it. Okay. Do you as the original motion maker Nancy accept that? Okay.

???: One of the SPS members shall serve as.

P. Stoddard: All in favor say aye. All opposed. In the opinion of the chair there is at least a three-fourths majority. We’re done. It was accepted as a friendly amendment so there’s no motion required. Okay, thank you.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Cason Snow, Chair – no report

P. Stoddard: I don’t believe we have a report form Elections and Legislative Oversight other than to point out that Barack Obama won the election in case you missed that news.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

P. Stoddard: We don’t have any Unfinished Business. Is there any New Business anybody would like to bring forward.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
**P. Stoddard:** Under Comments and Questions from the Floor since we had a couple of comments during President’s Announcements, I’m going to make a couple of comments that I forgot to make previously and these are very brief.

Earlier in the semester we talked about a suggestion box. That is outside. A nice fancy one that Donna did up so just to caution you, it’s next to the trash can so just make sure that the suggestions and the trash find their correct spots. There’s a flyer outside there from the Biology Department about Free Trade Coffee and I’ve been asked by a couple of people about the salary equity study and the fact that this would be posted online. I spoke to Joe Grush today who is kind of in charge of that and they are editing it and getting it into a form where they feel comfortable posting it. They are working on it. They do want to do this. He’s made three revisions to it and it goes to somebody who says change this. He says he hopes the last one was the last one – the most recent one was the last one so keep looking for it. As soon as it’s up I’ll get a website to you so you can take a look at it in greater detail if you’d like.

With that said, are there any other questions or comments from the floor?

**XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**P. Stoddard:** If not, I’ll entertain a motion to adjourn. All right, let the record show a general nodding of heads followed by a subsequent leaving of seats. We are adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 P.M.