
VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Allori, Azad, Bisplinghoff, Byrd-Calvo, Carpenter, Chandler, Coles, Farrell, Feurer, Fredericks, Goldblum (on sabbatical), Houze, Jones, Kapitan, Kolb, Lee, Lopez, Middleton, Mirman, Mohabbat, Munroe, Nissen, Pitney, Plonczynski, Poole, Rheineck, Rollman, Thu, Von Ende, Walker (on sabbatical)

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Haliczer (for Peska), Harris (for Quick), Klaper, Latham, Sunderlin

OTHERS ABSENT: Freedman, Peska, Prawitz, Small, Snow, Streb, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, let’s get started. We have a bit of important business today as you are aware. Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A. Rosenbaum: The first item is the adoption of the agenda. We have one walk-in item. The walk-in item goes under VIII. E. and it is the report from our Resources, Space and Budgets Committee. I need a motion to adopt the agenda with one walk-in item.

J. Kowalski: Moved.

A. Rosenbaum: I need a second.


A. Rosenbaum: Any changes to the agenda? I want to point out to you that in today’s agenda we have an executive session under Item IX. and that’s a little unusual for us. And that is because we are going to be discussing personnel issues that relate to the presidential search and also to the composition of the faculty representation on the search committee. These are very important
issues and we need to be in executive session to discuss those issues. All in favor of the agenda being adopted as it is with the one walk-in item say aye.

Senators: Aye.

A. Rosenbaum: Any opposition? Any abstentions? Okay the agenda is adopted.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2012 FS MEETING (distributed electronically)

A. Rosenbaum: Next item is the approval of the minutes of the October 3 Faculty Senate meeting. These were distributed electronically to you. First we will take a motion to accept the minutes. Remember to say your name in the microphone in case I can’t see you.

G. Slotsve: Moved.

A. Rosenbaum: I need a second.

J. Kowalski: Second.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, Jeff Kowalski; any corrections, changes, omissions; things that ought to be omitted? Okay all in favor of approving the minutes as written signify by saying aye.

Senators: Aye.

A. Rosenbaum: Opposed? Abstention? Okay the minutes are approved.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Rosenbaum: I am going to keep my announcements relatively short today, actually very short because I want to leave as much time as possible for our activities.

The one thing I do want to call your attention to is that on this year’s ballot there is an item that’s identified as HJRCA 49. This is a constitutional amendment. We are sort of an apolitical body so I can’t tell you how to vote for it. I can tell you that the Annuittants Association and people who are working within our retirement system seem to be opposed to this constitutional amendment. What it apparently does, and we posted this on blackboard so if those of you want to read the material, please look at blackboard. Did we put it under legislation? So if you look at your agenda informational item Q, if you look at it online it’s a link. If you try to press it on the paper it won’t work. If you go to the online, electronic agenda, you’ll have a link there to this HJRCA 49. Essentially what this does is it requires a three-fifths vote of the legislature to increase or improve the retirement benefits. So it doesn’t say anything about decreasing them I don’t think, it’s just if they want to improve the retirement benefits, then it takes a three-fifths vote as to what it is now which I believe is a simple majority. If I misspeak, someone please correct me if you know better. I’m not an expert on this. At any rate, this is seen by some of the people who are looking out for our interests as not a good thing. So that being said, yes, Jeff?
J. Kowalski: I am not a lawyer but by my reading of the last section of that amendment, it’s a bit ambiguous language, but it seems that it’s basically intended to give a green light to the legislature to make future changes to the nature of our pension and/or sort of supplemental types of compensation, healthcare, etc. or COLA adjustments, that type of thing. It’s a little bit unclear but that seemed to be to me the implication of that last section.

A. Rosenbaum: The other thing that people seem to be concerned about is, we now have a two-tiered retirement system as you know. So this second tiered system that affected employees that are really more recent to the university is really not a very favorable plan and the hope would be at some point that could be improved or changed. This will also make it that much harder to improve or change the tier two retirement plan for those employees of the university and elsewhere in the state that came in under that different system. So, I would encourage you to read this for yourselves and decide whether or not you think this is a good idea. I’ve been told that it’s going to take somewhere around 1,700,000 “no” votes to kill this thing and we don’t have enough of the votes among all our employees and annuitants, so we’re going to have to get a few of the other people in the state to vote “no” or at least maybe not vote on it or whatever. I don’t know what the tendency is for people to vote “yes” on those things if they don’t know anything about it. I hope it’s not, at any rate, enough said about that. But please pay attention to this constitutional amendment and let it be known to your constituents and whoever else you have any influence over that this might or might not be a good thing for us. That’s my main item.

We are starting to experiment a little with this paperless thing that we talked about the last time, so we have the agenda up on the screen there. That’s not why the screen is here, by the way, but since the screen was here and since we had to pay an exorbitant amount for the projector, we figured we’d give it a try and see whether this works. Can people read this from the back there? That’s visible? Good, and you don’t have the whole thing but we will move it as we go along here. So, this our first foray into sort of playing around with the paperless agenda and packets.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report – Page 3
MAP 102 (also posted to FS Blackboard)

A. Rosenbaum: Next we are going to go to the reports of our advisory committees. We don’t have a lot of reports. The first one is from Sonya Armstrong and it’s a report on the FAC to the IBHE. Sonya.

S. Armstrong: This one will actually be pretty short because there wasn’t a lot of content to this last meeting. Really no updates beyond last month’s from IBHE staffing angle. They are still working on replacing Blankenburger. There was one new item from IBHE and that is this addition of certificates for short programs. I’m not entirely clear on whether and how that will
effect us at the four-year institutions, but IBHE is now taking over those one-year certificate programs. So I’ll keep you updated as to the implications for us. There’s also the MAP 102 PowerPoint which is posted on the Blackboard site. That was just a continuation of discussion about MAP funding, where it’s going, and the need, in this particular PowerPoint, the need for MAP funding in order to meet the 60 x 25 goal that’s been set by the state. The rest of the time really we talked a lot about the Amendment 49 which has already been raised and if anyone is interested in additional details about what was said, I do have more detailed minutes from the FAC to IBHE, I’d be happy to share those. I just kind of condensed everything. I think everything else was really just kind of conversational so I’ll entertain any questions.

A. Rosenbaum: Any questions for Sonya? So it sounds like we have a little bit more material on the HJRCA 49 and I guess if you read all the material you might find some good things about it or you might find a lot of bad things about it. So you might want to read up on it. Next report if there are no questions for Sonya.

B. Student Association – Delonte LeFlore, President, and Austin Quick, Speaker – report

A. Rosenbaum: Next report is from the Student Association. We will have a brief report from Chad Harris who is reporting in place of Austin who is apparently not here today, so Chad?

C. Harris: Okay, I just want to touch on two policies: the grievance policy and the plus/minus policy. Where we’re at with the grievance policy as far as I know is we’re researching through other school systems to get their input and how the system that they’ve put in place, that’s where we’re at right now with that.

The plus/minus system: I brought in a resolution that we just passed in senate this past Sunday, SAR44025, I believe, if you look on the Student Association website it should be up there as well. And that’s pretty much the students of the senate urging the university to stop their actions towards going forward with plus/minus system. That was something that we passed on Sunday and Mike Theodore wrote that and that was just the student input on the plus/minus system being implemented and we just want you guys to take that into note when you’re redoing the system. That’s all.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, that’s it? Anybody have any questions for Chad?

C. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – no report

D. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – no report

E. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – no report

F. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – no report
VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Brad Cripe, Chair – no report

B. Academic Affairs – Charles Cappell, Chair – no report

C. Economic Status of the Profession – Debra Zahay-Blatz, Chair – no report

D. Rules and Governance – Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb, Chair – no report

E. Resources, Space and Budgets – Jim Wilson, Liaison/Spokesperson – report – October 12, 2012 meeting and October 18, 2012 meeting – walk-in

A. Rosenbaum: Next I think we only have one more report, that’s good, and that would be Jim Wilson’s report on Resources, Space and Budget. Jim.

J. Wilson: Yes, real briefly, two documents here: The first one reflects our actual meeting on the 12th and I would draw your attention to item 5 which gives a breakdown of monies owed to NIU; $12 million from the past year, $30 million for the current fiscal year. Also owed are $9.5 million from MAP funding and this represents a $51 million shortfall which is actually an improvement apparently from last year at this time.

Next, just to highlight a couple of things with our meeting with President Peters and Provost Alden. Among our concerns are sort of revolving concerns with the committee, the RSB committee, we thought we’d take a closer look at the issue of security and safety and that was our main purpose in meeting this time with President Peters. And he pretty much delimited what our scope of interest should be. Basically focusing on resources rather policy and he gave quite a lengthy list of various things where resources were allocated to all types of things like policing and private security since 2/14; new safety measures implemented in the new residence halls and additional security to late night ride program and so on. You can see the list there and he also reiterated the $51 million monies owed to us. The budget does take into account $20 million shortfall due to lower enrollment. That was planned for. We are still looking for the number of retirements so we can do some planning on that end, and funding for capital projects will be more likely to rebound rather than the general revenue funding. So those are some of the highlights from that meeting and that’s all I have to say.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, does anyone any questions for Jim? Any questions about Resources, Space and Budget? Jim, it’s correct to say that the president is optimistic about us receiving the funding by December 31 is that accurate?

J. Wilson: Yes.

A. Rosenbaum: So he’s expecting that we will be able to get through this little financial snafu so to speak?

J. Wilson: Yes.
IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, if there are not other questions, the next item is we are going to need a motion to go into executive session. I need a motion.

G. Slotsve: Moved.


A. Rosenbaum: All in favor say aye.

Senators: Aye.

A. Rosenbaum: Opposed? Abstention? Okay, we are going into executive session. We have to ask all non-voting members of the senate to leave and then we are going to lock the doors and until we come to some agreement and send some white smoke up the chimney, here we stay. Okay just to be perfectly clear, Northern Star is out? No I just want to make sure that you knew that you are not a voting member. Let me be careful what I say. Could we get the doors?

A. Presidential Search

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee
C. Minutes, Athletic Board
D. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
E. Minutes, Committee on Advanced Professional Certification in Education
F. Minutes, Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education
G. Minutes, Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
H. Minutes, Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Experience
I. Minutes, Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum
J. Minutes, General Education Committee
K. Minutes, Honors Committee
L. Minutes, Operating Staff Council
M. Minutes, Supportive Professional Staff Council
N. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Rosenbaum: If there are no other comments, we will consider us adjourned and look at blackboard and we will try and put all this stuff up that people have asked for. We’ll put this list up and thanks for your input. We’re adjourned.