

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryan, Doederlein (for Haliczer), Falkoff, Gebo, Klaper, Long (for Small), Roberson (for Domke)

OTHERS ABSENT: Armstrong, Haliczer, Hathaway, Small, Smith, Streb, Thompson, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Rosenbaum: You are all very chatty today. It must be spring fever or something or the lovely weather right? All right, let’s come to order and get going on our meeting.

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A. Rosenbaum: The first item is, of course, the adoption of our agenda. We have two walk-in items. The first of the walk-in items is the report from Sonya Armstrong on the FAC to the IBHE meeting from March 21. There are two FAC IBHE meetings, one of them is a walk-in, the other one is in your agenda packet. The second walk-in is a letter of self-nomination from Paul Stoddard for the Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor position. We’ll talk a little bit about that later on. I need a motion to accept the agenda with the two walk-in items.

J. Kowalski: So moved.

R. Lopez: Second.

A. Rosenbaum: Any discussion of the agenda? All in favor say aye.

Members: Aye.
A. Rosenbaum: Opposed? Abstention? We have an agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2014 FS MEETING

A. Rosenbaum: Next item is the approval of the minutes from the February 19 meeting. We need a motion to accept the minutes.

J. Novak: So moved.

A. Rosenbaum: And second?

W. Pitney: Second.

A. Rosenbaum: Any corrections, changes, additions, subtractions, typo? All in favor of accepting the minutes say aye.

Members: Aye.

A. Rosenbaum: Opposed? Abstention? We approve the minutes.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, moving along, I have a couple of items. Some of them are of more interest than others. We’ll start with one of the lighter items, I guess, even though it might not be as light as I think. I don’t know how many of you noticed the article in NIU Today about the Goosinator. Did you see the Goosinator? Now this is basically there have been many complaints and I have to admit that I’m one of the complainants, that you can’t walk on the lawns, on many of the sidewalks, without stepping in goose excrement most of the spring and summer and fall. It’s also a health issue. Each of those lovely geese creates about three pounds of excrement per day that’s all going into the lagoon, next to my car, next to your car. On top of that, the geese have been known to bite students. I don’t even like to walk past them when they’re on the walk, they give you that look like you know. So there have been many suggestions that we somehow eliminate the geese. Those suggestions have been raised from adding goose to the menu at the student center to you mainly moving the geese to some other site. Our buildings and grounds people have looked into it and they have come up with the approved, safe, humane, mechanism for removal of the Canada geese and that method involves the Goosinator. This is the real name. I didn’t make this up. And the Goosinator is apparently a remote controlled vehicle that looks somewhat like a predator even though when you look at the picture it doesn’t look much like anything I’ve ever seen. It’s like orange and sort of looks like a very bad one of those, what do you call it at ballgames you have, the mascots. At any rate, it’s run by remote control and it just roves around and when the geese see it, they move. The idea is we have eight retaining ponds on campus and the idea is that these geese will move to another retaining pond where they will be less in the way for people that want to sit on the lawns or walk around or whatever. Okay, so this is the USDA approved humane mechanism for clearing the Canada geese to another location. Now I’ve been asked by the building and grounds person to sort of lend some support to them
and at least ask faculty to be supportive of the actions of the Goosinator. He originally thought that it might be a good idea for us to write a letter. I don’t know that we’re going to write a letter but I at least want to be able to tell him that we discussed it and that the faculty were supportive of a humane solution to the Canada geese problem. Does anyone have any thoughts or comments on this?

**M. Lenczewski:** I am the director for the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy. So we’ve been talking about the geese problems before and one of the other things that we’d like to do besides with the Goosinator is also lend support from a lot of faculty members on campus who have other suggestions on ways that we can kind of reduce the goose problems in that area. There are other things that we can do that we would like to do into the future and so besides just saying yes the Goosinator is great, it works wonderfully right now, but in the future there are other things that we can be doing from landscaping, and different options that we can actually provide for facilities. So I just wanted to let you know that there are other options and we’re willing to help them in order to explore some of these other options besides just using the Goosinator forever.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Well, again, I think what we’re just endorsing is the idea of doing this in a humane way that does harm the geese and so if there are other choices…

**M. Lenczewski:** And that’s fine but we don’t want to just say that all we want to do is yes the Goosinator is the only option, but we should also explore other options that could be potentially out there.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Okay, yes.

**W. Creamer:** Having seen the Goosinator in action, yes, it works fine but I believe that it is operated by a technician, somebody who’s trained to do this. So it looks like an adult operating a little electric car out all day so it is not, it really does require a live human being in order to make it work and so that’s why I second Melissa’s idea of people having other ideas particularly ones that are more passive than having an employee have to go out and run this guy around. Darling as he is, I’d like to see some other ways.

**A. Rosenbaum:** I think, though, they don’t do it all day do they? I think they just do it for a little bit of the day and maybe twice a day or something like that. So yeah I think that’s true, I mean if we could have a mechanism that sort of was less labor intensive, then that would be a great thing and I think they have actually looked into different mechanisms and I’m sure they’re open to ideas about other things that we can do. I heard that you can set these little light sticks up, strobe flash, and that supposedly makes it hard for them to sleep and they go away. There are other mechanisms.

**M. Lenczewski:** There are swans, there’s….

**A. Rosenbaum:** Well swans create problems in their own right because they’re not very friendly either.
M. Lenczewski: Yeah there’s a lot of other things.

R. Schneider: I understand Huskies are excellent…

A. Rosenbaum: Good idea. Okay so can I report – does anyone have an objection to my reporting our support for the idea of not necessarily the Goosinator but the idea of controlling the Canada geese problem in a humane, sensitive way?

M. Lenczewski: And then getting faculty support and input into this.

A. Rosenbaum: Fine, okay. Yes, Jeff.

J. Kowalski: I would endorse the idea of finding humane ways to encourage them to find another suitable area for habitat and a water source, but at the same time, I must say that my soul tends to swell a bit when I see a huge flock of Canada geese flying over me and I feel a kind of sense of oneness with something outside of myself so I do want to endorse humane ways of dealing with these creatures.

A. Rosenbaum: Absolutely and, when you hear that flock overhead, don’t look up with your mouth open. Okay any other comments on either the Goosinator, the humane treatment of…Yes, Virginia?

V. Naples: As a biologist, one of the things that I think might be a very good idea would be to try to educate the university community about the behavior and habits of animals like geese, because it’s not just something of interest to biologists who have and we are kind of in goose central being right next to the east side lagoon, but make people aware of the kinds of behaviors that would be better for them to avoid having difficult interactions with geese. And one of the problems that I find is that, if I’m walking around that part of campus, is that geese and also the ducks are very likely to come up to me because so many people feed them. And there are parking meters in the parking lot on Lincoln Avenue or right next to Lincoln Avenue by biology where people frequently park and bring old bread or whatever to feed the ducks and the geese and that gets them acclimated to the fact that whenever they see humans to approach them because there’s going to be food in the offing. And, if there’s no food offered, they sometimes get testy. Students and other people ought to be made aware of what to expect from goose behavior. I suspect that the Northern Star could write a series of articles about that. It would be interesting, entertaining and maybe informative.

A. Rosenbaum: Do we have our Star reporter here today? Is the Star here? Did you hear that comment? Perhaps you can suggest to someone that the senate would like them to look into that and they can talk to Dr. Naples about ideas. Good. Okay any other comments about the Canada geese? I think what you’re saying, I notice that in the national parks where they have a very active campaign about not feeding the wild animals. That’s always good advice.

V. Naples: It’s also bad for them nutritionally.
A. Rosenbaum: So, maybe we can sort of work on some of these other things as well, but my sense is that the senate is okay with my reporting back to the buildings and grounds people that the discussion that we’ve had about this. Yes? Any objections to that? Okay I’m not going to take a vote but I’ll do that.

Okay, other things that are going on: We completed the airport interviews for the provost search on Monday and Tuesday. So we just finished yesterday and a number of the committee members are here at this meeting as it happens. And it was a very successful search, I believe. And we have four strong candidates that will be coming to campus in the next couple of weeks. And so we will be having open forums for faculty and staff. There will be one specifically for faculty. This will be your main opportunity to talk to, ask questions of, scrutinize, the four candidates. So we will make the dates available as soon as we know them. We have selected a few dates, but we have not gotten anyone scheduled in just yet. So there’s a whole big process here that we have to go through and we’re creating the schedules, but the open forum for faculty will be most likely in the Sky Room, not definitely, we don’t know if the Sky Room will be available at that time so we’re looking into the room arrangements. They will be coming for two days. They will be coming in and spending two full days with us and will be meeting with all the different groups. There will be an opportunity for everybody who attends any of the forums or any of the other opportunities to meet with the candidates to complete an evaluation form and the evaluation forms will be collated and used by the president in trying to get the campus’s sense of which of these candidates has the most support. I really strongly encourage faculty to attend those open forums and there will be a number of different venues, so for example the presidential professors will have an opportunity, the students will have a forum, there will be one for staff and community members. So there are a lot of different groups that will all have an opportunity. But given the level of dissatisfaction when there were not open forums for the presidential search, I hope that faculty will really make an effort to get out and to ask good questions. I mean this is your chance. If you’re worried about something or if you want to know what kind of provost this person is going to be, now is your chance. When we do these forums, that’s your opportunity, put the candidates through their paces and then let’s find the best candidate that we can. If you have any questions, we’re going to advertise this as best we can. We’re going to make sure that the dates are in NIU Today, we’re going to post them on our Faculty Senate website, we’re going to get the word out as best we can. We’re hoping the Northern Star will also like the dates. We may or may not have the names associated with that. We may not publish the names because those can be easily Googled, but it will be candidate 1, 2, 3 and 4 and when you actually see them you will know the name. We’re not going to make them wear a disguise or anything like that. When you actually meet the candidates, you will know who they are and you can then go back and you can Google them and you find out whatever it is you want to about them. Okay. So any questions about the provost search? I cannot tell you names at this point because they have not been announced formally, but other questions I can answer, maybe. No? Okay so just be on the lookout. I’m guessing we’ll send a notice out to the faculty as we do for many other things that will tell you when and where the forums will be.

Next item: There is our fourth Faculty Club lunch coming up on April 9. We were doing really well and then I think the last one we fell down a little bit in terms of attendance so that was a little disappointing. I’m hoping that’s not a trend that people have eaten all they want to eat and now they’re done. Again this was in a way we’re sort of floating a trial balloon. If we can show
continued support for the Faculty Club lunches, which I’m hoping we can, then hopefully we can continue to increase the frequency of them and you know I really think they’re great. I’ve been to every one of them so far at least for a little while, most of them I’ve been there for the whole time, but the last one I had some other appointments, and they’ve been terrific. We have big tables, people are coming from all over. They’re meeting people they didn’t know and it’s been great. I really not only want to encourage you, but I want to encourage you to encourage your constituent groups in your department to come to the Faculty Club lunches. I’ve said this a million times, I’ll keep saying it, I can’t keep saying it for very long because I’m only going to be doing this for a little while longer, but we need to have a faculty that is united, that views itself as a single group and not, you know, the faculty of education or the faculty of music or the faculty of psychology or whatever. We must start thinking of ourselves as the same group and I think that is very important, not only for collaborations and interdisciplinary efforts which this is what’s coming down the track, people are talking about the importance of interdisciplinary collaborations, breaking down silos, thinking more about people in terms of what their mutual interests are not so much what department are they in. So if there are 20 people that are studying some aspect of genetics and they’re all in different departments, people are starting to think about that as a genetics group that can create interdisciplinary courses, that can collaborate on grant proposals, that can create novel types of programs and degree programs, and certificate programs. So this is where the action is going forward and so given that, we really need to start getting out, meeting our fellow faculty members, finding out who’s doing things that we’re doing and begin acting more like a university faculty and not like individual groups. The Faculty Club is one way of doing that. It’s not the only way, but it certainly is a good start. April 9, when is the deadline for … March 31. Next Monday is the deadline for making a reservation so please keep that in mind. Make reservations, tell your colleagues about it, let’s sort of build this. I really want to see this work. And the next one, this one is in the Chandelier room which gives us a little larger capacity and it’s really an all-you-can-eat buffet so you get more food and it’s a little bit more expensive, it’s a dollar more, but you get all the food you can eat for goodness sakes. It’s going to be great. And this time we have, it’s very interesting; we have a Caesar salad buffet which includes grilled chicken and marinated grilled meat and all the salad fixings and soup? It’s good stuff. It has dessert, beverages. At the Chandelier Room you can’t buy alcoholic beverages, but at Ellington’s you can, but the Chandelier Room you can’t so it’s all iced tea and coffee and water, lemonade maybe, I don’t know. That’s coming up. Make your reservations by March 31 and the lunch will be on April 9.

Okay. We have a new chief information officer. His name is Brett Coryell. He has, to my knowledge, started and so we now have a new CIO in place.

The last comment I have before we move on to the rest of our agenda is that people need to be aware, if they’re not already, of the changes that are coming up in the retirement plan. Many people, I’ve heard this from a number of faculty members, don’t really like to think about retirement, they’re not planning to retire. But, if you are anywhere close to retirement, you owe it to yourself to talk to the folks at SURS and find out what the implications are of the changes that are going to happen in June. And so the main thing that people are concerned about is there are many different ways of calculating your retirement benefit. One of them is called the money purchase option. The money purchase option uses a multiplier. That multiplier is going to drop by about two percent unless the courts stop them. The implications are severe. There are a
number of people I know in the room right now that have had this experience. They’ve been told if you don’t retire by such and such a date, it’s going to cost you a lot of money. And we’re talking, yeah Jeff, you want to talk about that?

**J. Kowalski:** May 31.

**A. Rosenbaum:** May 31, well yeah May 31, I said June 1?

**J. Kowalski:** Well, June 1 is the retirement date, May 31 last day of work.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Okay and so people have been told that it’s going to cost you a $1,000 a month, $800 a month, we’re talking a lot of money. So if anybody has not looked into this and you are able to retire, you should at least find out whether or not you are subject to the money purchase option or whether one of the other options works better for you. If one of the other options works better for you, then you don’t have to worry quite as much. If you’re on money purchase, you’ve got to find out. And again, I’m not just telling this to you, I’m telling you to spread the word in your departments. Many people know about this already. The university is anticipating a retirement rate of 20 percent. SURS is inundated. They just have gotten so many applications for retirements from all over the state because of this problem. They are doing some individual counseling meetings. Those are completely booked up. It’s almost impossible now to even get an appointment with a SURS representative because of the number of people that are affected by this. So please let people who have been here long enough that they are actually eligible to retire know that they really better look into this.

One more thing, the university also is having a problem because SURS does not have to notify the university that people are retiring until I think one month before and this is making it very hard for departments and deans to plan for next year. They cannot ask you to tell them whether you are planning to retire or not, but you can let them know and that would be a real courtesy to your colleagues, to your departments, to let them know that you’re going to be retiring and not just expect that SURS is going to pass the word because the individual departments are going to have to make plans to cover the courses. There’s going to be the need to hire adjuncts, maybe hire back retirees, but this is going to be a major disruption for the university so it’s important that people know whether or not this affects them and if they are planning to retire that they let their departments know so that they can plan reasonably for the fall semester. Yes?

**S. Klaper:** I just want to add to that to say I’m talking to people all over campus frequently now, at the Wellness Fair today, in my office, wherever. Even if you are mid- to late-fifties and you’re thinking there’s no way I’m planning on retiring for another ten years, it just doesn’t apply to me. It does apply to you, possibly. So please even if you are mid- to late-fifties and you’ve been here for a long time or been in the Illinois system for a long time, contact SURS or go to the estimator if it’s even up or whatever to look into it. At least be educated, make a good educated decision. And your colleagues who are of a similar age an experience level, encourage them as well because even if you’re thinking no I’m too young, I’m way too young, yeah but if you’ve been here long enough it applies to you and you’re possibly looking at losing a significant amount of money and it applies to staff as well.
Unidentified: What is long enough?

A. Rosenbaum: Well, if you have been here like 20, 25, 26 years, it could affect you. If you’ve been here 28 years, it definitely affects you. I’m not really sure where the cut off is but if you’ve been here 5, 10, 15 years, probably not but if you’re up there in the twenties, you should at least look into it. That’s good advice. Yes, George?

G. Slotsve: Given we’ve talked about this, Alan, I was going to mention a couple of things under the University Benefits Committee, but we’re here, I think the estimator is down.

A. Rosenbaum: April 1 it’s supposed to go back up.

G. Slotsve: It is supposed to go back up April 1, but right now it’s down. My understanding is all information from SURS on pensions now posts disclaimers. So there’s going to be disclaimers with everything. So everyone knows Human Resources is not allowed to consult any NIU employees about the pension situation but are told to refer employees to the SURS representative. So have patience if you go to HR because they’re under very strict guidelines that that’s got to go straight to SURS. There are potentially liability issues on HR’s part. HR hands to some degree are tied.

A. Rosenbaum: George, if I can just cut in for one second. One of the things that he’s talking about is this, the money purchase formula is supposed to be adjusted every five years. The Pension Reform Bill is what allowed them to adjust it every year. The Pension Reform Bill is being contested in court. So one of the things that could happen is let’s say they tell you okay if you don’t retire you’re going to lose 800 bucks so you retire and then in August or September, the State Supreme Court knocks down the Pension Reform Bill or throws out that particular element, well now you’re retired when you didn’t have to and you can’t come back and so that’s where they’re saying there’s a risk or that’s one of the areas where they’re saying there’s a risk because this might not be constitutional. But we won’t know it in time to enter it into the decision making about whether to retire and that’s one of the disclaimers that I think SURS is making. George.

G. Slotsve: And just one final point I’ll make here is SURS, as I understand, is also telling people they can retire on any date of the month and while that’s correct, there can be a problem with health insurance coverage depending upon exactly when in the month you do retire. If you retire real early in the month, you may not have health coverage. It’s my understanding you wouldn’t have health coverage for the rest of the month and that might have to come out of your pocket, so you want to be care on exactly, ask questions about your specific retirement date and healthcare coverage.

A. Rosenbaum: Right. Your retirement benefits begin the first day of the month following your last day of work. So if your last day of work in the 30th, then your benefits kick in the next day and you’re okay. But if you decide to retire on the fifth, then you don’t have those benefits for the next 26 days or 25 days depending on the length of the month. And so you are without health insurance, so you can either stay in bed and don’t touch anything for that length of time or don’t retire until the last day of the month. But also you got to watch those deadlines because, if you
miss a deadline, everything could be out the window. Be well informed as you look into this process. Yes, Paul?

**P. Carpenter:** Late last week the provost office issued some guidelines on the process for hiring back retirees as well as some guidelines about the new budget process that have been in place. I don’t want to quote from that because I don’t have it in front of me so I don’t want to misquote it, but we were given that information as part of the RSB, Resource, Space and Budget Committee that part of that conversation of that meeting with the president and provost on April 2. And so, hopefully, after that we’ll have more information to share. But that information was circulated to deans. I think in most colleges it’s now been circulated to department chairs so you may want to go ask your department chairs about what are the polices and processes in place with respect to retirees. As I said, I’d rather not try to remember from memory exactly what those details are, but there are some guidelines for that as well and that may be part of peoples considerations.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Okay, thanks. Any other thoughts or comments on this issue? We’re trying to keep on top of this. There are changes all the time. If you’re not a member of the Annuitants Association, you should certainly join. The SUAA sends out updates and bulletins all the time alerting us to things that are going on. We also, Steve Cunningham is still the university liaison around pension issues. I’ve not seen him recently but he is still supposedly our liaison so if I hear anything from him we’ll also pass that along. Okay, I don’t have any other items. I do? I have another item. Okay yes.

**E. Arriola:** So does anyone have some information on what is going on procedurally with the lawsuits, for example, in what court and the pending decisions or if any injunctions have been issued or an expected date? Would that be not available to us?

**A. Rosenbaum:** You know, I’ve not heard any updates. I’ve asked about injunctions because it seems completely unfair to force people to make decisions when, in fact, it may be unconstitutional, I’ll get to you in one second, but I was told that injunctions hadn’t been issued. But that is like not within the last week. So I don’t know if anything new has happened. Maybe George has something new?

**G. Slotsve:** It’s not anything that I can answer the specifics of your question on what court and where everything is. What I do know is that all the lawsuits have been consolidated into one. So it’s just going to be one lawsuit that’s going forward that’s the last good information I have on it.

**E. Arriola:** But you don’t know state or federal…

**G. Slotsve:** I’m not exactly sure exactly where it is.

**A. Rosenbaum:** Okay, but what you’ve pointed out is really what would be a good idea which would be to not hold people to anything until it’s decided but that hasn’t happened.

**E. Arriola:** My concern is coming from the standpoint of the uncertainty itself as being a kind of harm that itself is constitutionally problematic. That’s all. And that not having the information is
in some ways, especially when it’s having an effect on people making really important decisions, life decisions, that itself is a harm and that should be preventable. People should have more information. It’s just about accountability and notice to those who are affected by this very, very significant change that is about to happen.

A. Rosenbaum: Well do the folks in our law school, so you have some ideas as to what we might be able to do? I don’t see any of that coming from any other source right now.

E. Arriola: If we are represented in some way in this lawsuit, then someone that represents us, for example out of the, help me Mark, who would be the party I guess our own counsel for the university should be able to consult, I imagine, and just get some basic information. You see where I’m going, Mark?

M. Falcoff: Yes, the idea is that it would be nice if we could investigate with one of the lawyers who is bringing one of the consolidated suits, talk with them about the possibility of asking them for an injunction because, of course, we’re being forced to make, or many of us will be forced to make decisions in a vacuum of information with dire consequences one way or the other. So that is a position that an injunction is often appropriate or some kind of declaratory judgment. So it’s incredibly confusing. There’s no doubt about that but still one would hope that someone would have consulted with one of the lawyers about possibilities.

A. Rosenbaum: Now, can you make a suggestion as to how we might go about that? Is there something that could come forward from this body that would be helpful? Do we want to suggest something or ask for something? I’m looking for some guidance on how to proceed.

M. Falcoff: I guess the first question is: Do we know any of the lawyers who are on any of those lawsuits and, if we do, I don’t see what harm there would be in having a representative of this body contact them, talk about what our concerns are. I presume there are other bodies that have similar concerns that we have. Maybe they’ve already thought through these issues and decided they can not do something and there’s no reason we can’t contact those lawyers.

E. Arriola: And procedurally the way I would see it is any one of the sub-committees within each of the significant bodies, the Faculty Senate and University Council, that in some way is making these regular reports about all of this coming down and affecting faculty and staff, are in a position of being able to at least request of higher authorities, in this case people above us or the president, to simply ask the question. We are simply wanting to have more specific information of what is happening. We should not be making these important decisions without more information and it is really kind of a responsibility on the part of the university as a whole.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, so on behalf of this body do you want me to ask for the information about who it is that is doing these law – who the attorneys are those lawsuits?

E. Arriola: The attorneys and what is the expected litigation process? What are the dates when hearings are going to be held and when a decision is going to be made even at the level of simply the preliminary injunction which is simply about are there claims here worth going forward to
and are they presenting the possibility of some success and that’s all that happens. But it gives us some sense of what is happening and when to expect a decision.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, I’ll see if I can find that information and, if I find that information and I give it to you, will you do something with it?

E. Arriola: We could do something with it, yeah.

M. Falcoff: Yes.

E. Arriola: Yes, Mark and I for the law school we’ll do it.

A. Rosenbaum: All right. This is great. We have our own lawyers. We’ve never had that before. All right, so I will try to find out that information and if I’m running into trouble I will contact you and maybe together we can get to the bottom of it. Okay, good. Again, I guess I should ask I have the authority of the body to do this? Let’s take a vote. All in favor of us following this procedure say aye.

Members: Aye.

A. Rosenbaum: Any opposed? Any abstention? All right, we will proceed and see what we can find out about that. Very good.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report

1. February 21, 2014 – Page 4
2. March 21, 2014 – walk-in

A. Rosenbaum: Moving through the agenda. You have two reports from the FAC to the IBHE and again Sonya is on sabbatical. She’s not here. Those are written reports, one of them being the walk-in. If people do have questions, Sonya is on our e-mail system you can contact her and she’ll be happy to either call you or answer your questions by e-mail.

B. Student Association – report

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, we next have the Student Association report and giving the report is Sharonda.

S. Roberson: Hello everyone. This week we’re having Student Association’s executive elections. So far we had a great voter turnout. We had over 600 voters alone yesterday which is
more than all combined in last year’s election. We are encouraging all the faculty and staff to come out and vote. You guys have until 6 p.m. today to do so.

A. Rosenbaum: We get to vote for the Student Association?

S. Roberson: Yeah, that’s what he told me to tell you guys, so I’m just reading off his report.

A. Rosenbaum: The faculty get to vote or the students have until then?

S. Roberson: He told me to inform you guys that you guys will have time until 6 p.m. to vote. That’s what he told me.

A. Rosenbaum: Well, this is kind of news to us. I didn’t know that faculty and staff could vote for Student Association.

S. Roberson: Yeah, maybe he made a mistake. I’m not exactly sure.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, let’s not all run out to the voting booths until we find out.

S. Roberson: Let me just verify first.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay verify.

S. Roberson: We have two surveys going around. We have one for late night ride and one for the bus route. I know for a fact that you guys can do these surveys. He said it was an e-mail sent to you guys for the on-line link. I don’t know if you guys checked your e-mail but you still have time to do that.

A. Rosenbaum: I think I saw something about that.

S. Roberson: Yeah we’re working with the…the entire Student Association is working with the campus police department to accomplish fixing late night right because there’s a lot of problems with that.

A. Rosenbaum: Wait, wait, there’s a lot of buzzing. I think you’re all excited about being able to vote in the S.A. election. Let’s let Sharonda finish please.

S. Roberson: That’s about it that we have for this report. I’m open to any questions.

A. Rosenbaum: Any questions for Sharonda? Okay so there’s the late night ride survey and the bus route survey that we definitely can participate in and, if people have erased that accidentally is there another way to get a copy of it or is there another way to do it? Is there a website to go to?

S. Roberson: Yes, it’s a link in your e-mail address to go to that the do it. Also, we have some volunteers in the student center downstairs. They’re handing them out in person as well.
A. Rosenbaum: Downstairs?

S. Roberson: Yes and the recreation center and DuSable.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay and then we’re going to find out whether or not we can all vote in the Student Association elections but we’re not sure about that one. Okay, thank you, Sharonda.

C. University Benefits Committee – Deborah Haliczer, Chair;
   Therese Arado, FS-Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession Liaison
   – report – Page 5

A. Rosenbaum: Next up we have the University Benefits Committee but I think, George, you’ve already said pretty much what you wanted or you have other things?

G. Slotsve: There will be just one other thing is we were just talking on the lawsuits and that, I’ll bring that up with the University Benefits Committee. Our next meeting I believe is April 10 and see as a committee whether we can ask the administration as well just as another way of putting pressure on them.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, well we will try to get that information before then, but fine. Okay? Any other questions for George on the University Benefits Committee?

D. Computing Facilities Advisory Committee – George Slotsve – no report

A. Rosenbaum: The Computing Facilities Advisory Committee, we don’t have listed a report but George is going to tell us a little something anyway. George you must have had too much coffee today.

G. Slotsve: Yes, I have. On the February 28 we had a four-hour meeting of the CFAC committee. Just a couple of things I want to mention with it is they’re trying to start a catalog of software and data sets on campus so maybe there is some efficiencies that a lot of departments are using similar software rather than a department purchasing at maybe a broader university license for example might make sense. But they’re starting a process where we’re trying to collect that information. I also want to just note that the committee part of the reason that it was four hours is the committee broke into small groups to also talk about the direction of technology on campus here at NIU, specifically looking at an overview of technology strategy key processes and operations and implementation. A summary of this is available publically on the CFAC website and I think there’s a link to it on the Faculty Senate page. There I just want to note that communication was a persistent theme no matter which group you were part of here. And there was a feeling that we really do need to have faculty and staff be engaged in the process and the decision making process. So hopefully, as time evolves and with the new CIO we can get improved communication. I brought that up with the new CIO when he was on his campus visits and that so, hopefully, this is something we can work on and try to get faculty, staff, everyone more involved into exactly what’s going on with technology and the direction.
One final thing, I just want to note it’s a little bit to the side but it has to do with technology, is it’s underused right now but we do have some cluster computing facilities if you have very computationally intensive programs that you need to run. Each machine’s got 12 processors as I understand it, there’s a number of them that are together that are clustered together, and it’s my understanding, a colleague of mine and I were talking about it today, and he mentioned that this cluster almost made the list of one of the 500 fastest computers in the world this past year. So it’s a very good computing system if you’ve got something that’s computationally intensive. I don’t know whether people realize there is something available on campus right now that’s being underutilized. If you’re interested or have something that’s very computationally intensive, get a hold of me and I’ll try to put you in contact with the right people. Okay?

A. Rosenbaum: Now, George, did the new CIO attend the CFAC meeting or was that prior to his coming on board?

G. Slotsve: This was about the time he was coming on board, he wasn’t there as I recall.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, I also want to point out to you that we’ve added the CFAC minutes to the informational items. In your electronic agendas there will be a link. It’s item J and those are the minutes of the most recent Computing Facilities Advisory Committee meeting. That’s the committee that George is representing. We’re now going to be including them in the minutes from here on.

E. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Dan Gebo and Andy Small – report – Pages 6-8

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, next item is, what are we up to? We’re up to Board of Trustees meetings. So the Board of Trustees, we have a lot of reports because we have all the sub-committee meetings plus we have the Board of Trustee meetings; we have a couple of special meetings, so we have a lot of stuff here. The first one is the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee and, Dan, you’re going to present? Go ahead.

D. Gebo: Andy wrote the report but I’m here to give it. This was a business as usual meeting. Lots of informational items and a couple things were, for this body I think, were at the bottom of his report. I’d like to report that the transfer of tenure and tenure track locations from the Department of Literacy Education to the Department of Literacy and Elementary Education so it was a name change and a reorganization issue in the College of Ed. That went through without any problems and that was approved and voted on by the board in the sub-committee. And the other issue for all of us is the recommendation for faculty and staff sabbatical leaves were approved at this meeting as well. Those were the two, I think, important items for us.

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, any questions for Dan?

F BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum – report – Page 9

A. Rosenbaum: Next up is the Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee meeting which I covered. That’s always the committee that I cover. This was a kind of an interesting meeting and
what happened is the content of this meeting was then voted on in a special meeting of the Board of Trustees later on, so those two reports are very similar. The main objective for this one, it again, represents a change in the way the university is doing business under this administration. In the past, the university would deal with the various fees such as tuition, room and board, activities fees, would deal with those in separate pieces; and, in fact, the final tuition changes were often not known until the June Board of Trustees meetings. And so what this led to is students having to make decisions about attending NIU without knowing what it was going to cost. This did not make a lot of sense to our president and so he has initiated a new policy wherein he will consolidate all of these expenses into what he calls the costs of attendance or COA. And so the idea is that the students will know exactly what it is going to cost to attend NIU and they will have that information as early in the year as possible. So this was handled at the February meeting and going forward he’s going to continue to try and push this up as far ahead as possible so that students are aware of what it will cost for tuition, room and board, and fees at a time when they can still make decisions about attendance. And the president felt that this would serve a number of purposes including making it easier for students to decide to come to NIU. So hopefully this will help our enrollment issue. So this was the first time that the costs of attendance were handled as a block.

And the FFO recommended, the Finance Facilities and Operations Committee, recommended that or I should say that the university recommended to the FFO Committee that the tuition be increased two percent for the incoming class and that a corresponding drop in the room costs be made to offset that tuition increase for resident students. So students who are residing at the university will see no increase. In other words, for the incoming class, there will not be an increase over what the current rates are for resident students only. Students who choose not to live on campus will see that two percent tuition increase. I want to remind people that we have a Truth-in-Tuition law at NIU, actually in the state of Illinois it’s not an NIU regulation, it’s a regulation from the state that we are governed by, which prohibits the university from raising tuition for students once they come to the university for nine semesters. So when a student comes in as a freshman, they have nine semesters during which their tuition is frozen. This does not apply to room and board or to fees, but tuition is frozen. So a two percent increase for an incoming class really amounts to a half a percent per year for four years. And so this was the recommendation, a two percent increase accompanied by a reduction in the room costs to offset that increase. And the other clever thing about this, I think, was one of the problems that the university has is we have empty beds. So, at this point, I think we have close to 4,000 empty beds. This is a huge money loser for the university. We would like to fill those empty beds and by reducing the costs of room it may make those beds more attractive to students. And so this serves two purposes: It keeps costs balanced for students who are residents and therefore encourages students to room at the university, and at the same time it doesn’t result in a net increase to them. So that’s a very good thing. And it also gives that information to them early enough in the year that they can make their decision about what it’s going to cost to go to NIU.

So I thought this was a really good thing and this was approved by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee. I also want to point out that, although it was not one of the things that was discussed because it was placed into the consent agenda. The student health insurance was raised $211 per semester. So there was a substantial raise in student health insurance that was again dealt with in the consent agenda and not discussed.
There are also increases in fees. Those fee costs, excluding health insurance, represent a 2 percent increase for undergraduates and a 1.96 percent increase for graduate students and a .95 percent increase for law school students. It should also be pointed out that the law school students pay more fees to start off with. Those were essentially the items that were dealt with at this committee meeting. They were all approved by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee and passed on to the Board of Trustees. Any questions about these issues? Yes, Brad?

B. Sagarin: I know that one of the discussions that we’ve had on the Resource, Space and Budget Committee is the amount of fees and, in particular, one of the things we’ve discussed is the amount of graduate student fees because that ends up eating up a fair chunk of graduate stipends that we pay. And so, while I’m encouraged that it looks like President Baker had asked for a review of fees, at the same time, even after the review, there was a 1.96 percent increase in graduate student fees. Is there any discussion or thinking at the board level about the kind of overall level of fees and the concern that’s been expressed regarding the proportion of stipends that are being clawed back in fees?

A. Rosenbaum: I think the Board of Trustees has a general concern that expenses for students not be raised excessively. I don’t think that they have focused ever specifically on graduate student fees except when specific fees are brought to their attention. So the law school, for example, brought a request for a fee a number of years ago that the board considered and approved. I would say that the graduate students or some representative of the graduate students would have to put forward a specific request to the Board of Trustees or to the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee and request that the fees be reconsidered for graduate students or that they be done on an as-used basis. I know a lot of the graduate students have talked about not wanting to attend football games, not wanting to use the rec center and yet paying fees for those services and having asked if those could be sort of backed out of the fees that are assigned to graduate students. I have raised this issue with a number of different people over the last couple of years and I’m usually met with the idea that, or the answer that, it would not be possible to run certain of the resources and facilities if we were to do that. Were enough students to stop paying for the rec center, we would not be able to support the rec center which is underfunded as it is. Same goes for the bus. The bus service is a really big ticket item. If people were starting to back fees out, the question would be: How would that be paid for? I would think this would be something that the graduate students need to sort of organize around and make a recommendation that then could be considered by the chief financial officer, by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee, and ultimately by the board. But the answer is that none of those efforts have really gotten much traction. I agree with you, I think our grad students pay fees, not so much that they pay such tremendous fees because other schools sometimes charge more, but that they are paying fees for things that they really don’t use and it reduces their already marginal stipends even further. But they would need to bring something forward somewhere. Okay? Other questions, suggestions?

A. Rosenbaum: Next we have the Legislation and External Affairs Committee report and Rosita I think you’re giving the report?

R. Lopez: Yes, I am. Basically the meeting was a report presented by Kathy Buettner on marketing around campus and basically the most comprehensive report that we’ve had for a while on everything that’s being done to bring NIU to the forefront and why it should be the university of choice. So she went over multiple technological ways, technology methods to communicate and recruit students and you can see they are everything from radio, cable TV, and even phone calls as well and direct print to moms, dads and high school students. And you’ve also seen around campus the digital displays where the digital signage replacing all the bulletin boards which is another way of keeping everybody on top of everything that’s happening using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, the whole spiel. And so it was very interesting to just see some of the things that NIU is involved with in terms of their marketing and recruitment. The question by one of the Board of Trustees, actually Trustee Strauss, was how much did we spend? Kathy’s response was a million and that’s because we do most of our work in-house, not including, of course, staff and the resources and hours to do that. And she also, Kathy said this is all about recruitment, we’re not even talking about retention here. This is about bringing students in and so it was very interesting to see all the things that the university is involved with in getting the word out. And as you drive down 88 you can see the boards up there talking about open houses and things like that. It was very interesting.

And present at this particular meeting were Senator Edward Maloney and Dr. Johnson who are academic affairs workforce development community college board in Springfield connected with NIU as partners simply saying they’re happy to be working with us and representing us in Springfield. Overall it was a pretty upbeat meeting. I’m just wondering when we’re just going to consider this online more extensive, more intensively to bring students in. But anyway that’s the conclusion of my report. Any questions?

A. Rosenbaum: Questions for Rosita? I think we’re going to be seeing a new campaign coming out in the next couple of months. I think it’s the theme is “we got that.” Has anyone heard about this? It’s we got that, so whatever it is that people need, “we got that.”

R. Lopez: We got that actually it’s a way for students to answer, especially freshmen and sophomores questions that they have. It’s anything from A to Z to whatever, it’s you know for we got that, we’ll take care of that. It’s just a communication tool. It’s actually very, very successful.

A. Rosenbaum: Right, we are the everything-bagel of universities, we got that. Yes?

G. Chen: I do have a question about the recruitment of the students. Did NIU ever have data about the current state of NIU? What is the capacity of NIU that we are able to recruit the number of students? Is that the typical approach that the more the better? What is the capacity at NIU that’s the maximum students that we are able to recruit, that we are able to educate at a quality level or we don’t have any idea of this and oh we are just benchmarking whatever the historical data and when it is down we are panic and when it is up we are happy? I don’t know if this is a question or…
A. Rosenbaum: Well, I think you asked the question. The question I think you want to know is: What is our ideal enrollment? And I think the figures that I’ve heard is that we are about four or five thousand under our ideal enrollment. So we have the same staff now, roughly faculty and staff that we had at the time that we had 4,000 or 5,000 students I think are the figures that I’ve seen. So we’re that much under. So is that capacity? I’ve never heard people talk about capacity. I’ve heard just talk about what our ideal enrollment is. Okay so that’s where we are.

G. Chen: I am also curious about the ideal number. What’s the definition of the ideal number or it was the number that we had before or who defined this ideal number or in terms of the financial measures? I know quality of education is hard to be measured but we are down by 4,000 or 5,000 based on the ideal number, but what is the definition of the ideal number?

A. Rosenbaum: Well, you know, again, it’s hard for me to answer that. I don’t really know, but I would say it has to do with things like bed capacity, how many resident students we could house. It has to do with the number of, I guess, students that we’ve been able to handle with the basic number of faculty and staff that we have now. We’ve had more students in the past with this number, but I can’t really answer that in an infinitive way for you. Yes Sharonda?

S. Roberson: I was curious, would you happen to know anything regarding the Pandora commercials about NIU?

A. Rosenbaum: The what?

S. Roberson: Pandora, it’s like a music app.

A. Rosenbaum: Oh, I just didn’t hear what you said. I know what it is.

S. Roberson: Would you happen know anything about the commercials about NIU?

A. Rosenbaum: Nothing.

S. Roberson: I was just curious if it only plays around Illinois or if it goes around the whole U.S.

A. Rosenbaum: I don’t know.

S. Roberson: You have no clue?

A. Rosenbaum: I have no clue. Does anyone know that?


A. Rosenbaum: Okay, let’s move on. The next report is on the Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee. This was a very brief meeting where they received the external audit report for FY 2013. I think I mentioned this before, this is not the first time
we’ve heard reports on the external audit or the internal audit. We never seem to get details about this because they’ve not supposed to be talking about the details. So they just mention that they receive it but there’s nothing more to it that I can tell. I don’t know what else to say about that so I won’t say anything about it and I’m not going to ask for questions because I can’t answer them so I’ll move on to the next item.

I. BOT Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology Transfer – Greg Waas – report – Pages 13-14

A. Rosenbaum: The next item is the BOT Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology. This is a written report only. Greg is not here to give this report. I think one of the things that this committee is doing is to try and educate the board regarding research efforts at NIU and to let them know what’s involved in the research projects, what’s involved in funding and the logistics or having a research portfolio and all of that. And so one of the things that they did at this particular meeting is they heard a report on the Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault which was used as an exemplar for a research-based center at the university. And that center which is run I think as a collaborative effort with the Department of Psychology and has staff that are not from the department as well, from other department so it’s interdisciplinary and they have a really very good record of securing external funding. Brad, do you know any more about the details of that? No, okay. So at any rate, it’s more of an educational process and the meetings of that committee, it’s an ad hoc committee, they do not hold them on this campus, they hold them in Naperville. And so Greg goes out to Naperville for those meetings and his report is on page 13 and 14. Greg does pretty solid, thorough reports so I’m sure if you read that you’ll find everything you want to know about this particular committee meeting.

J. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – report

1. February 27, 2014 – Page 15

A. Rosenbaum: Next I have two reports on Board of Trustees meetings. One of them I’ve already told you about. That was the special meeting in which they dealt with the costs of attendance. I’m not going to reiterate all of that. It’s basically the same thing that went on at FFO, now it was approved by the full board.


A. Rosenbaum: The second meeting was in relation to the Higher Learning Commission site visit. This was the meeting at which the site visitors met with the Board of Trustees and asked the board questions. It was about an hour long and the board pretty much answered their questions, I thought, pretty efficiently. So this was simply a question and answer period for the board with HLC. There were very few people in attendance at that meeting other than those of us from the UAC that were just covering it to make sure that nothing exciting happened that we didn’t know about. Okay so you have those reports. There really is not much in them. There is a Board of Trustees, I believe, this Thursday so the normal March meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place this Thursday and I’ll have a report for you at our last meeting. Right,
the next meeting is our last meeting. Okay wow. So that’s that. Anyone have any questions about the Board of Trustees meetings? Okay.

**VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Richard Siegesmund, Chair – no report

B. Academic Affairs – Sarah McHone-Chase, Chair – no report

C. Economic Status of the Profession – George Slotsve, Chair – no report

D. Rules and Governance – Robert Schneider, Chair – no report

E. Resources, Space and Budgets – Jim Wilson, Liaison/Spokesperson – no report

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Stephen Tonks, Chair – report

1. Faculty & SPS Personnel Advisor
   Faculty Senate will vote at the April 23, 2014 meeting.
   
   **Paul Stoddard** – walk-in

_A. Rosenbaum:_ We have no reports from any of our committees with the exception of Elections and Legislative Oversight so, Steven?

_S. Tonks_: I just want to call attention to the two letters – one that Alan already mentioned, the walk-in item from Paul Stoddard, a self nomination for the Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor position. And the other is on page 17 in the packet. It’s a letter of acceptance of nomination for president of Faculty Senate and executive secretary of University Council from Bill Pitney. Both of these positions will be voted on April 23 at the meeting on April 23.

_A. Rosenbaum_: Okay, thank you and I should mention a couple of things here. One is that the other three nominees for executive secretary, president of the Faculty Senate declined the nomination. So we have only one nominee at this point and Bill is our sole nominee and it’s not at this point that’s it so Bill is our nominee for next executive secretary and we’re delighted that he accepted that nomination because, if he didn’t, we didn’t have any nominees. I don’t mean that’s not the only reason we’re excited. We’re thrilled that Bill is going to be the next executive secretary. So thank you, Bill.

And I’ll comment on the Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor. The issue with this was that we did not have any nominees that got their nominations in prior to the deadline for Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor. Following the executive committee meeting, I did get one nomination, self-nomination, from somebody. When I asked that person to write a letter, they declined to write a letter and instead withdrew the nomination. I should back track, I left out a little step. Since it was after the nomination, I was willing to accept other people’s nominations for that position. Paul Stoddard stepped forward and self-nominated and then the person who initially nominated
but then withdrew, withdrew. That left us with Paul. Paul Stoddard was a previous ESP so he was the executive secretary and president of the Faculty Senate prior to me and so Paul is pretty knowledgeable about the constitution and pretty active in university affairs so he’s a strong nominee and I’m glad that he has stepped forward and expressed willingness to assume this position. Any questions? Okay so you have those, we are going to vote on both of those at the next meeting but essentially they’re unopposed so it may not be the most exciting election that we’ve ever had.

2. Letter of acceptance of nomination for President of Faculty Senate/Executive Secretary of University Council; Faculty Senate will vote at the April 23, 2014 meeting.

William Pitney – Page 17

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Rosenbaum: Any comments or questions from the floor?

XII. 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, Computing Facilities Advisory Committee
K. Minutes, General Education Committee
L. Minutes, Honors Committee
M. Minutes, Operating Staff Council
N. Minutes, Supportive Professional Staff Council
O. Minutes, Undergraduate Coordinating Council
P. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
Q. Minutes, University Benefits Committee

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Rosenbaum: I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Don’t everyone scream out at once.
J. Wilson: So moved.

M. Lenczewski: Second.

A. Rosenbaum: All in favor say aye..

Members: Aye.

A. Rosenbaum: Opposed? Allright make sure you’re at the next meeting. It’s our last meeting of the year. We have elections to do and all kinds of good stuff.

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.