FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

Disclaimer: These minutes should not be taken as a verbatim transcript but rather as a shortened summary that is intended to reflect the essence of statements made at the meeting. Many comments have been omitted and, in some cases, factual and grammatical errors corrected. The full verbatim transcript is available online at the University Council Web site under Faculty Senate / Agendas, Minutes & Transcripts.


OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Dawson, Haliczer, Klapier, Latham, LeFlore, Sunderlin, Tollerud

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Rosenbaum: called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A. Rosenbaum: There are two walk-in items. The first one is under VII. A. and that is the FAC to the IBHE report, and the second one is under VIII. F. This is the list of University Council members who are eligible for election as Executive Secretary of the University Council. The difference between the one that is in your folder and the one that is the walk-in is that the walk-in version includes the results of the most recent University Council election.

D. LeFlore: Made the motion. I. Abdel-Motaleb: was second.

The agenda was adopted with the two walk-in items without dissent or abstention.
III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2013 FS MEETING (distributed electronically)

I. Abdel-Motaleb: made the motion. R. Lopez: was second.

The minutes were approved as written, without dissent or abstention.

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Open Access Publishing and NIU Institutional Repository – Patrick Dawson, Dean, University Libraries

A. Rosenbaum: You may recall that in the fall term we began speaking about the issue of open access publishing and that is something that is being considered at many universities. It’s a timely topic. We have had some developments. Our Academic Affairs Committee is looking into it and they don’t have their report just yet, but there have been some interesting developments at NIU and I have invited Patrick Dawson, dean of the University Libraries, to bring us up to date.

P. Dawson: Made the following points:

- Open access publishing is getting a great deal of attention because it enables quicker transmission of scientific findings.
- It is less expensive to university libraries.
- Faculty retain the copyrights to their intellectual products.
- Many open access journals are reputable journals with quality editorial boards that are comparable to more traditional journals.
- There is the Open Access Scholarly Publication Association and also the Directory of Open Access Journals.
- Promotion and tenure committees will have to begin thinking about how to evaluate and count publications in open access journals.
- Open access journals pass on some publication costs to the authors and the University Libraries has set up a fund to help defray the costs to faculty at NIU.
- The library will pay up to $2000 per article for faculty to publish in open access journals that are members of the Open Access Scholarly Publication Association, the OASPA. And the journals have to be listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals.
- The library will also make sure you retain your distribution rights.
- The National Science Foundation has required that data that is generated from any funded, NSF-funded, research has to be made public. We have to have somewhere to park that data so it can be made public. That’s one of the purposes we have in creating an institutional repository.
- Illinois Senate Bill 1900 was introduced and the name of the bill is The Higher Ed Open Access Research bill. What it says is that any journal article that is produced in any public-funded institution of higher education in the state of Illinois has to be open access and it has to be parked in an institutional repository. And they’re asking that the copyright be made a public domain, so you lose copyright so that’s not a good deal.
There are a lot of problems with this bill, but the point is that politicians are getting involved in publication and in scholarly communication.

- If you’re interested in it, my name is Patrick Dawson. I’m in the directory, contact me and we’ll talk about how we can go about making sure that you can meet the criteria for publishing in an open access journal and then we will see about covering your upfront costs. I’m doing this as a pilot project. I cut money out of salary savings to be able to cover this but, if it’s successful, I’m hoping that the provost will take it over in the Provost’s Office and it will continue along that way.

- The NIU repository is called Huskie Commons.

- You will be interested to know that all dissertation and theses are submitted digitally now and all of those are reposing in Huskie Commons already. We are in the process of digitizing the old print dissertations and theses so they’re going to be available online as well and quite a few departments are starting to submit. Drew VandeCreek is spearheading this for the library, so you can contact Drew if you want to deposit anything into the commons.

A. Rosenbaum: Provided the senate with an update on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. We have more than 44 completed applications. On March 1, we are going to be meeting to decide on who to bring to the airport interviews and those airport interviews are going to take place on the 7th and 8th of March. And the expectation is that, following the interviews, we will have our short list to present to the Board of Trustees on March 8. At that point, it will be up to the Board of Trustees as to how to proceed. I should tell you that there seems to be some sentiment, especially coming from the search firm, that those interviews be conducted in a confidential manner and, therefore, it is not clear that there will be on-campus interviews that are open to anyone who wants to come to them. I would say the likelihood is that we will not have open interviews as we did when President Peters was hired.

A. Rosenbaum: Presented a brief overview of the tuition waiver situation.

There is also a special subcommittee of the Graduate Council that is looking into both graduate student stipends and also tuition waivers. It’s very likely that there are more changes coming for a number of reasons, both internal and external to the university. Once the legislature, of course, gets its teeth into something like tuition waivers, who knows where it’s going to end. We don’t know what the state is going to do. We don’t know what’s going to happen to employee tuition waivers and we don’t know what this internal committee is going to do either.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. The Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award – Page 4

No nominations were received and the award will not be given this year.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES
A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report – walk-in

B. Student Association – Delonte LeFlore, President, and James Zanayed, Speaker – report

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

1. Report – Pages 5-7

J. Wilson: We have two components here in the agenda. One is outlining about eight or so questions we put forth to the president and the provost at a meeting that we held on January 23 and I believe most of those are pretty evident what happened. Some highlights:

Point number 3 on page 5 discusses the turnover over the last three years. Thirty percent of the work force has left and approximately 60 percent due to mid-career moves and the remainder was due to retirement. That is point 3. a.

Point 3. c: We discussed some of this in the Executive Committee meeting, about that number. It might be a little puzzling to some of us, that salary increments have averaged about eight and a half percent between 2011 and 2012. We’re getting clarification on that.

Point 3. e: The president commented that a 4.6 percent cut was under discussion with the state.

2. Proposed Statement of Budget Priorities – Pages 8-9
J. Wilson: The next part deals with crafting a statement of budget priorities. A lot of this comes from previous meetings with the president and the provost kind of fed into this and we’re kind of shaping the language and we have put it up to the Faculty Senate for opinions and takes on it. So, if there are any questions or clarifications or things that may be needed.

A. Rosenbaum: Our role in the budgetary process, the shared governance aspect of that, is through our Resources Space and Budgets Committee which, as you know, is a joint committee of the senate and the University Council. That’s why we have Jim and also Paul. Paul is the chair of the University Council committee; Jim is our liaison or the defacto chair of our portion of this.

For the last couple of years now, we’ve been giving a statement of budget priorities, and this is our way of saying: These are the things that the faculty thinks should be focused on or protected or emphasized in the upcoming budget. This is the report that we are going to put forward to them this year. This is our statement of budget priorities. We should ask whatever questions and raise whatever issues you would like to raise because, when we are done with this, I want to get a vote so we can send this on to the University Council with the approval of the Faculty Senate. Then, at University Council, we will get the approval from the council and then send it to Eddie Williams and President Peters.

There was an extensive discussion of the statement. Jim Wilson agreed to edit the document to include the recommendations made by the senate and the document was approved by a vote of:

1-YES – 28
2-NO – 6
3-ABSTAIN – 1

A. Rosenbaum: So we agreed this will be essentially the core of our statement that will go to the University Council. Jim and Paul will wordsmith it trying to incorporate some of the sentiment that’s been expressed. We will post the final version of that on the website.

[Per the above discussion, the revised Statement of Budget Priorities was posted to the Faculty Senate Blackboard site on February 22 with e-mail notice sent to all faculty senators. It also was presented to University Council at its February 27 meeting.]

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Therese Arado, Chair

1. Nomination for Executive Secretary of University Council/President of Faculty Senate – See list of University Council members eligible for election – Page 10

See updated list of University Council members eligible for election – walk-in

Letters of acceptance are due in the University Council office by noon Friday, March 15, 2013, and will be included in the March 27 FS’ agenda packets. Election will take place at the April 24 FS meeting.
T. Arado: Asked for nominations for the position of Executive Secretary of the University Council/President of the Faculty Senate for the 2013-2014 Academic Year.

G. Slotsve: I’d like to nominate Alan Rosenbaum.

I. Abdel-Motaleb: I’d like to second the nomination of Alan.

There were no other nominations and the nominations were closed.

A. Rosenbaum: Thank you, Therese. And thank you, George and Ibrahim. I appreciate the nomination. I also should tell you that this coming year is my last year of eligibility, so whether I want to or whether you want me to, I cannot continue beyond June of 2014. And so we need to begin thinking about the next executive secretary. This coming year provides an opportunity for people who are interested to talk to me and find out a little bit about this process and what is involved in the job. If any of you have interest in the position and want to find out more about what it’s like, I would be more than happy to talk to you about it.

2. Nomination for FAC to IBHE representative – 4-year term
See excerpt from NIU Bylaws, Article 16 – Page 11

Letters of self-nomination are due in the University Council office by noon Friday, March 15, 2013 and will be included in the March 27 FS agenda packets. Election will take place at the March 27 FS meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

B. Sagarin: Thank you for projecting the agenda and materials. I think that’s very helpful. Do we need to request to no longer receive a paper copy?

A. Rosenbaum: You have to request to receive it, if we don’t hear from you, then this is the last time you’ll get it automatically. If you want a paper copy you have to let us know.

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, General Education Committee
K. Minutes, Graduate Council
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

J. Novak: made the motion to adjourn. I. Abdel-Motaleb: was second.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.