I. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by K. Wiemer, seconded by J. Stafstrom, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Announcements

A. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by A. Keddie, seconded by M. Lilly, the minutes of the March 7, 2013 meeting were approved. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees

A. Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee

Keddie reported they had several presentations at that meeting. The first was by Kurt Thurmaier, Division of Public Administration. He spoke about a new certificate they want to offer in Public Sector Leadership. The certificate would be for mid-level professionals who do not have a bachelor's degree but are working towards it and who are recognized by their supervisors as having leadership potential. It was brought to APASC because they want to set the cumulative GPA at 3.0 which they
recognize as leadership potential. A “C” is not recognized as exhibiting leadership potential. After Thurmaier’s departure and committee discussion – the certificate and requested GPA were approved.

Keddie stated the second presentation was the same presentation that UCC saw regarding the NSSE data.

Keddie said that Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, Mary Pritchard and Associate Dean of the College of Education, Connie Fox were also present at the meeting. They came to discuss the joint degree in Early Childhood Studies. They came to make a case for the entrance GPA requirement from 2.75 to 2.50 (which was originally not approved by APASC). They indicated that GPA was not the most relevant standard for the program. The Test of Academic Performance (TAP) required for teacher certification is the relevant standard. Additionally Keddie said Pritchard indicated that the students in the program typically average GPAs of 3.35 and graduate with 3.55 GPAs. In addition she said Pritchard said the limited admissions was more of a resource issue rather than a standards issue. The limited resource issue is no longer a concern. After further discussion, the request was approved.

Keddie also mentioned that FCNS provided additional information for justification for a requirement of one of the five internships offered. This also passed after discussion.

Stafstrom questioned the 29% pass rate on the TAP. There was a brief discussion and it was pointed out that NIU’s pass rate is comparable to U of I and UIC. In addition, the number of students pursuing teaching is decreasing.

A. Keddie made a motion to receive the minutes from the February 6, 2013 meeting of the APASC committee, seconded by K. Wiemer. **Motion passed unanimously.**

B. **Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education**

J. Stafstrom indicated that CIUE also listened to the NSSE data presentation by J. Spears and G. Barker.

He mentioned that they went over the guidelines for assessing the nominations for the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Instruction awards.

J. Stafstrom made a motion to receive the minutes from the February 18th meeting of CIUE, seconded by S. Deskis. **Motion passed unanimously.**
C. Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment

M. Lilly reported during the November meeting they had two speakers. Denise Hayman from the CHANCE program was one of the speakers. She gave an overview of CHANCE, its programs and students as well as the summer scholars program. Denise Rode and Gip Seaver also gave a presentation on the Foundations of Excellence report. There are opportunities for CUAE to take on different areas within the Foundations of Excellence as part of their mission.

M. Lilly made a motion to receive the minutes of the CUAE meeting held November 13, 2012, seconded by K. Wiemer. **Motion passed unanimously.**

M. Lilly reported that they heard the NSSE data report at the meeting. In addition there was further discussion about their mission/purpose. Part of that conversation involved combining with CIUE which is currently on hold with a review of the curricular committee structures and bylaws.

M. Lilly made a motion to receive the minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting of CUAE, seconded by C. VanderSchee. **Motion passed unanimously.**

D. Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum

No report.

E. General Education Committee

K. Wiemer recapped the February meeting indicating there were some resubmissions that went through and some were sent back for various reasons. Some due to the assessment component especially in preparation for the HLC site visit. The committee is still working on improving clarity and communication related to the resubmissions. There was also an update on the General Education Visioning task force meeting; they are making progress.

Wiemer talked about two new courses added by the College of Education to the Humanities and Arts area of General Education that GEC approved in September. She said that the committee had approved a catalog wording change that removed “with at least one course taken in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and one in the College of Visual & Performing Arts.” The wording was changed to ensure that courses need to be taken in multiple areas. Unexpected concerns have arisen from this decision. Dean Doederlein and Dean Holly sent emails regarding the change in language and pointed out that with the change a student could potentially graduate without taking a course from either LA&S or VP&A and they requested that the former language be restored. The committee said they would consider their request but with the timeline it could not be considered until Fall. In addition, the matter of the catalog being online also came into discussion. It was also pointed out that the
GEC minutes were brought to UCC and all constituents were present at the meetings. The concern on the part of Doederlein and Holly is that the change would continue to affect students for a period of six years. Their request is that UCC send the issue back to GEC to reconsider and change the catalog language to its previous content.

Snow indicated that Birberick wanted the committee to know the following about the two courses. One is a 300 level (requiring sophomore standing) the other a 400 level (requiring junior standing). Both of them are offered in a very small number of sections and in her opinion would have a very limited impact on the student body at large. In addition she told him that the minutes from the GEC came to UCC on November 1st and were sent to UC for their November 7th meeting. He pointed out that Dean Doederlein felt this was a substantive change and UC should have been formally notified. Snow said that Birberick noted that at both the GEC and UCC meetings representatives from the respective colleges were present and no dissent was voiced.

Goldenberg mentioned that Dean Holly’s email indicated the change may have effects on program accreditation if students do not take courses in these areas. Goldenberg added that it is important for students to have courses in these areas. S. Deskis indicated she had spoken with David Gorman and he indicated to her that this was not intended; it was an attempt to streamline language. In addition she said that traditionally humanities and the visual & performing arts are the core of that part of the general education requirements. Bottenberg pointed out that he believed the problem involves the possibility of students fulfilling the Humanities & Arts requirement without taking a fine arts course. The small number of sections isn’t consequential at this time; however as time progresses it would become more of an issue. Goldenberg stated he thinks it is important for students to have a broad exposure to many different areas. Deskis stated there is an obligation to provide more than career training.

Conklin suggested that since the GEC members felt their decision had created some unintended consequences UCC should send this back to them for reconsideration. VanderSchee indicated that it is also an issue of faculty governance. There was discussion regarding substantive change vs. minor change. Also discussion about how broad an impact the language change could have. In addition, Stafstrom pointed out that with establishment of the general education task force that all the policies were going to be examined and this issue may end up being a moot point.

K. Wiemer reported that the GEC bylaw changes that were suggested are tabled for now due to their contradiction to the UCC bylaws.
A motion was made by K. Wiemer to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2013 meeting of GEC, seconded by M. Lilly. **11 voted against, 3 abstentions. Motion failed.**

A motion was made by Goldenberg, seconded by Conklin, to accept the minutes of the GEC expect for Item V letter A under New Business (the Humanities & Arts issue). **11 voted in favor, 3 abstentions – motion passed.**

**F. University Honors Committee**

Goldenberg reported that the Honors program is giving more support to stand alone honors courses rather than honors students being in regular sections of courses and doing additional work. Honors courses are more rigorous.

He mentioned the Honors short-term Study Abroad programs for this summer. The first one is a week in Montreal which Birberick is leading. The second is in the Hague entitled *Peace, Justice and the International Community: The International Criminal Courts.*

Goldenberg also mentioned that Chris Jones is leaving Honors; he has taken a job elsewhere.

Goldenberg reported that as of February 1st there are 936 honors students. Last fall 276 honor students achieved a 4.0 GPA.

In addition they are working on an Honors faculty status designation. Goldenberg indicated some other universities have such designation.

There was a brief discussion regarding scholarship funding for Honors students; whether the funds are NIU budget or from outside sources. Snow pointed out that Goode reported he is working on obtaining outside funding sources for high achieving students.

**A motion to accept the Honors Committee minutes from February 1, 2013 was made by W. Goldenberg, seconded by V. Demir. Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. Other Reports**

**A. University Assessment Panel**

Snow indicated that these notes were informational only and they indicated the panel heard many status reports and in J. Isabel’s absence no further information could be provided.
V. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Stafstrom, seconded by Keddie, the meeting was adjourned @ 2:01 p.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jeanne E. Ratfield*