

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arriola, Baker, Bateni, Block, Campbell, Chakraborty, Chen, Deng, Doederlein, Domke, Donovan, Feurer, Frascello, Fredericks, A. Freeman, L. Freeman, Giese, Hardy (for Haliczzer), Hathaway, Hedin, Henning, Holly, Jaffee, Khoury, Lee, Liu, Long, Macdonald, Mason, McCord, Monteiro, Moremen, Naples, Olson (for Dawson), Pitney, Plonczynski, Riley, Sagarin, Shannon, Summers, Ueckert, Vohra

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Bond, Brubaker, Chavez, Chmaissem, Dawson, Farrell, Haliczzer, Harris, Kamholz, Lenczewski, Martin, Mogren, Mohabbat, Neal, Perea, Phillips, Schoenbachler, Schwartz-Bechet, Starofsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Cheney, Coronado, Klaper, Stafstrom, Weldy

OTHERS ABSENT: Coryell, Falkoff, Kaplan, Stoddard

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:07 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion from the floor to adopt the agenda. **G. Long** seconded. Agenda was approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2014 MEETING

Motion and second from the floor to approve the minutes. Minutes approved.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIU Smoke Free Campus Task Force [draft policy](#) – Derryl Block, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences, Chair of NIU Smoke Free Campus Task Force – Page 4. **D. Block** provided an overview of the draft Smoke Free Campus policy.

S. Klaper alerted council members about the new promotional materials for the Ombudsperson's office.

D. Baker announced that tomorrow afternoon two town hall meetings will take place. Provost Freeman, Vice Provost Birberick and President Baker will present on the budget, student retention efforts, and program prioritization. **L. Freeman** noted that there are two action items that people should be thinking about relative to the program prioritization process for this semester. Shortly after the town hall and the web site is up, a survey will be distributed to obtain broad community feedback on criteria that might be adopted for program prioritization.

Secondly, a nomination process for prioritization task force members will soon be rolled out to campus members. **D. Domke** asked about student representation on the task forces. **L. Freeman** identified that being on the task force requires a permanence at the university, a long range look.

D. Baker provided a preview of his budget updates for tomorrow's town hall meeting.

Recruitment and retention – Eric Weldy, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

E. Weldy provided an update related to the use of Lipman Hearne's activity. Lipman Hearne is working for NIU as it relates to assisting in the recruitment and retention efforts by providing both strategic and operational direction. Quite recently the firm helped to reach out to about 90,000 prospective students identified by NIU. Forty-four of those individuals applied to NIU and 24 enrolled from the spring semester. As far as enrollment for the spring semester, the 2014 fall semester new freshman cohort group retention numbers were 87 percent from fall to spring retention, representing a 1.2 percent decline from last year's new freshman cohort group. Last year NIU was at 88.2 percent with the fall to spring retention. Eighty-seven percent is exactly NIU's average over the past five years.

NIU's enrollment for spring 2015 is 19,000 students. In comparison to last spring, we are down 507 students; in spring 2014 we had 19,507 students and so that is a decline of 2.6 percentage points. Our on campus graduate students were up this spring. We were up 85 students which is a 2.6 percent increase in comparison to last spring. And so we have a total of 3,388 graduate students that are on campus. Last spring we had 3,303 and so there are some improvements there. Other improvements are with our total graduate student numbers in regard to spring enrollment. We were up 45 students and this was roughly a one percent increase from last spring. Our current number is 4,836 graduate students that are enrolled for this spring and last spring it was 4,791.

E. Weldy also provided an update on student registration hold processes that have recently been examined.

D. Baker noted that Katherine Squires was announced as the Vice President for Development taking over Mike Malone's position when he retires. Earlier this week Ray Alden announced his resignation effective April 1.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report
[December 12, 2014](#) – Pages 5-6
[January 16, 2015](#) – Page 7

S. Armstrong noted her reports along with some personnel changes at the IBHE and offered to answer any questions related to her written reports.

- B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee –

Dan Gebo and William Pitney – no report

- C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Jay Monteiro and Rebecca Shortridge – no report
- D. BOT Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee – Deborah Haliczzer and Dan Gebo – no report
- E. BOT Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee – Deborah Haliczzer and Greg Waas – no report
- F. BOT Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee – Bill Pitney – [report](#) – Page 8

W. Pitney noted that the ad hoc committee meeting on enrollment was the second time that they had met. This was largely an information gathering meeting. The members received reports from Michael Mann on such things as in-state tuition pricing and our history here at NIU and how that compares to other state institutions. They also examined our fees, pricing history, tuition and fees combined history, Illinois higher ed appropriations, general funds, etc. as well as data comparing NIU to other state institutions as well as comparable institutions, for example, in the Mid America Conference as well as some other institutions in the general region that would compare to NIU. They also received reports from Eric Weldy on NIU's financial aid packaging and how that works in terms of how a student's academic achievement relates to the type of scholarship package that they're eligible for to gain an understanding of that. The trustees had some questions about student debt load and wanting to learn a little bit more about those sorts of things, but again it was largely informational.

- G. BOT Governance Ad Hoc Committee – Bill Pitney – [report](#) – Page 9

W. Pitney noted that the BOT is taking time to examine its current regulations with the direction of Jerry Blakemore, NIU General Counsel, and Greg Brady, Deputy General Counsel.

- H. BOT – William Pitney and Greg Waas – [report](#) – Pages 10-11

W. Pitney highlighted that the Board of Trustees approved the administration's recommendation for the fiscal year 2016 tuition, fee, room and board costs. It also approved the Lipman Hearne contract.

- I. Academic Policy Committee – Virginia Naples, Chair – no report
- J. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb, Chair – [report](#) – Pages 12-20

W. Pitney presented this report for Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb. This particular report came about from a series of questions that our Resource, Space and Budget Committee posed to the administration in order to get a full picture of how some of the finances were distributed across the university. Pitney pointed out that, with the projected salaries with our senior administration coming on board, you're looking at about a \$300,000 decrease from fiscal year 2013 into 2016,

according to the data on page 20.

- K. Rules and Governance Committee – Jana Brubaker, Chair – no report
- L. University Affairs Committee – Greg Long, Chair – no report
- M. Student Association – Joe Frascello, President – report

J. Frascello shared that the SA has set an agenda that will help guide them over the next few months with several initiatives, including campus sexual assault. Comprehensive efforts must be made in order to prevent future assaults, provide serious and sensitive resources for survivors, and strengthen disciplinary measures to hold perpetrators accountable. And at the same time it is important to remember other forms of gender-based violence that also affect students such as domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. And this is directly from NCLC. The SA, therefore, is committed to the “It’s On Us” campaign next semester. The SA looks to be proactive with Health Enhancement and other agencies such as Safe Passage, work with the residence halls, off campus housing, including the Greek houses as well as other locations where students live.

The SA will start an initiative related to mental health, based on the NCLC. Mental health issues impact one in four Americans with the estimate as high as 27 percent of young adults. And suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students. The SA will support NIU’s mental health services in any way, including reaching out to counseling services, health enhancement victim advocacy center. Frascello noted they are concerned about making sure that our counseling centers have enough people and enough resources there for students. He noted that what keeps happening is that we find that our students are going there and they have to kind of take a number and the last thing you want to do is take a number if you’re contemplating something like suicide.

The third SA initiative is college affordability. This is supported by Generation Progress. They state that the United States must reinvest in higher education and give students a chance to decrease their student loan debt. With states cutting back their direct investment in colleges and universities, the affordability of higher education is in serious jeopardy. Also, student loan debt may prevent individuals from professional mobility in obtaining buying power, not to mention saving for retirement. Other significant projects of the SA administration include Huskie Link and campus renovations.

D. Domke stated that the Student Association executive elections will be coming up in March. The legislative branch is looking at reforming the elections. They are also working with Better Together at NIU to help establish an Interfaith Resource Center here on campus. Domke noted that the morale for faculty and staff may be low, so members of the Student Senate are going to be looking into starting an annual award, or multiple awards, for faculty and staff as they really do appreciate all of the things that are done for students.

B. Donovan updated council about the bar entry age in Dekalb. The Student Association is undertaking the project to lower the bar entry age in town from 21 to 20. The motivation for this is student input and benchmarking other university communities, most notably U of I in Urbana

Champaign, Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and Western Illinois University in Macomb. A statement was delivered to the City Council recently.

E. Weldy provided a point of clarification that, in regard to the Counseling and Student Development Center, if a student is contemplating suicide and if they go to the counseling center, there is a staff member who is on call for those emergency type situations. Obviously depending on the situation, it may be more appropriate to call 911, but I wanted to stress that.

N. Operating Staff Council – Jay Monteiro, President – report
[December 4, 2014](#) – Pages 21-22
[January 8, 2015](#) – Pages 23-24

J. Monteiro noted that the Operating Staff Outstanding Service Award is coming up at the end of February.

O. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Deborah Haliczzer, President

A. Hardy presented for D. Haliczzer and thanked Provost Lisa Freeman for coming to the SPS Council meeting on January 15 to discuss the program prioritization.

P. University Benefits Committee – Brian Mackie, FS Liaison to UBC – no report

Q. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Mary Beth Henning, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

D. Baker noted that the annual report from the Undergraduate Coordinating Council is in the information items along with the substantive change to the NIU general education program on pages 25 to 31. He also note that he enjoyed his participation with students following the MLK march **A. Summers** commented that the students perspective was that it was unfair that black history or cultural history of other ethnicities was an elective and then American History, which in their words was primarily European history derived, was part of the general education requirements. **L. Freeman** noted that there has been follow-up on that issue.

- A. [Annual Report](#), Undergraduate Coordinating Council
- B. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- C. [Minutes](#), Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee
- D. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- E. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- F. [Minutes](#), Committee on Advanced Professional Certification in Education
- G. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education

- H. [Minutes](#), Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
- I. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- J. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum
- 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
- R. [Substantive change](#) to NIU General Education Program – Pages 25-31

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.