

10-2-2013

FS Minutes 2013-10-02

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Arriola, Azad, Bateni, Bisplinghoff, Briscoe, Bujarski, Chen, Clapp, Creamer, Cripe, Daniel, Deng, Downing, Fang, Feurer, Flynn (for Tonks), Frank, Gaillard, Gupta, Hunt, Koren, Kostic, Kowalski, Lenczewski, Long, Looney, Lopez, Martin, McHone-Chase, Millis, Moremen, Naples, Newman, Novak, Onyuksel, Patro, Rodgers, A. Rosenbaum, M. Rosenbaum, Saborio (for Nissen), Sagarin, Schneider, Siegesmund, Sirotkin, Wilson

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Carpenter, Chandler, Crowley (for Ryan), Farrell, Fredericks, Giese, Hamayatsu (sabbatical), Henning, Jones, Kapitan, Kolb, Lee, Liu, Mackie, Middleton, Mogren, Mohabbat, Munroe, Nissen, Pitney, Plonczynski, Rheineck, Rollman, Ryan (sabbatical), Slotsve, Thu, Tonks (sabbatical), VandeCreek, Walker, Ward (for Hamayatsu)

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Clark, Gebo, Haliczzer, Klaper, Streb, Tollerud

OTHERS ABSENT: Falkoff, Hathaway, Small, Smith, Thompson, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A. Rosenbaum noted two amendments to the agenda: 1) Steve Cunningham would not be reporting to the senate on pensions as he has no new information to present, and 2) the Resolution on Pensions emailed to senators Tuesday, October 1, is a walk-in item that will be discussed at IV. **B. J. Novak** moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by **T. Arado**, motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 FS MEETING

J. Kowalski moved to accept the minutes, seconded by **T. Arado**. The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Rosenbaum:

- Reminded the senators of the first Faculty Club lunch at Ellington's on October 24, and also of the inauguration of President Baker on November 13.
- Senators were asked for nominees of faculty members exemplifying engaged learning for possible inclusion in the inaugural video.

- Noted that there is an ongoing search for a new chief iInformation officer and that A. Rosenbaum is on the search committee.

A. Open Access Week – [handout](#)
Drew VandeCreek, Director of Digital Services, University Libraries

D. VandeCreek presented on the upcoming Open Access Week, October 22-25, and distributed a schedule of the activities. Events will wrap up on that Friday with remarks by Illinois State Senator Daniel Biss who is the author of the related senate bill. He is a former member of the faculty of mathematics at the University of Chicago. There will be a reception after his speech.

Senators were advised to visit the University Libraries home page for more information There’s a link featured prominently at the lower left, it says [Open Access Week](#).

B. [Resolution](#) on Pensions – walk-in

A. Rosenbaum: Introduced a resolution on pensions that comes from the Council of Illinois University Senates. At the Monday, September 30, meeting of CIUS, it became apparent that the representatives at all of the universities have the same set of concerns. The group decided to develop a joint statement coming from the faculty senates at the public universities with the hope that such a statement would carry more weight.

As a starting point the representative from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, offered the statement that his faculty senate had endorsed, which is the one that has been sent around to NIU Faculty Senate members with some minor changes.

My reading of it is that this is a document that essentially does not offer a plan but says: These are the things that the faculty feel are important and that should be considerations in any pension reform bill. This is not the same as the plan that was endorsed by the presidents. I’ll make the motion that we endorse this resolution.

R. Lopez: Second, Lopez.

A lively discussion followed in which the following points were raised:

- Several senators decried the short notice and the pressure that they were feeling to pass the resolution as is. It was suggested that we either table or postpone action on the resolution in order to allow a committee of the senate to vet it and also to allow senators to discuss the contents with their constituent groups. During the meeting, a motion to postpone was defeated.
- It was suggested that although the resolution didn’t specifically endorse any particular plan, the mere mention of the IGPA plan, coupled with the fact that several of the bullet points came from the IGPA report, might be seen as an endorsement. Several other plans (e.g., Cullerton’s plan and the We Are One

plan) were mentioned as alternatives that could have been either endorsed or at least mentioned in the resolution.

- Some senators objected to accepting any tiered plan seeing it as inequitable. Others noted that we already have a tiered plan and the resolution supported making improvements to that system.
- Some took exception to stating a 6.2 percent minimum contribution by the state, suggesting that we should push for a larger contribution rather than stating the minimum that we would accept.
- There was an objection to the shifting of any normal costs to the universities, thus making the acceptance of a nominal cost shift, phased in gradually, unacceptable.
- In the course of the meeting, several votes were held:
 - Motion to postpone: 15 Y, 20 N, 0 Abstain. Motion failed.
 - Original motion: 17 Y, 28 N, 0 Abstain. Motion failed.
 - Motion to adopt only the first three paragraphs of the original motion: 7 Y, 32 N, 2 Abstentions. Motion failed.
 - Motion to send the resolution to the Economic Status of the Profession Committee with the advice that they solicit comments on the motion from the faculty. As part of this motion, the senators agreed to bring the resolution to their departments and to either direct their constituents to forward any comments to George Slotsve or the Faculty Senate office (for transmission to George Slotsve). They are requested to bring the resolution and any amendments back to the senate at the October 30 meeting. The motion was made by **W. Creamer** and seconded by **V. Naples**. The motion passed by a vote of 37 Y, 6 N, 1 Abstain.

C. Selection of alternate to FAC to IBHE representative
The [Faculty Advisory Council](#) to the IBHE meets monthly on Fridays at various university locations across the state. Travel reimbursement is provided. The alternate would attend meetings only if NIU's representative, Sonya Armstrong, is unable to attend.

A. Rosenbaum explained the role of the alternate to the FAC with additional details provided by **S. Armstrong**. No senator volunteered. Senators were advised to solicit interest among the faculty and to have any interested parties contact **P. Erickson** in the Faculty Senate office.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – [report](#) – Page 4
Illinois Higher Education performance Funding [Model](#)

S. Armstrong: The last meeting was at UIUC. As you can see, most of the day was actually spent in a symposium. We had a great panel of speakers come in, you can see there. You can

actually follow that link and find some of the presentations as well. But a great panel of speakers talking about how higher education will be accessed and delivered within the next five years. Very interesting information. I urge you to follow that and look at some of those presentations.

The two important points that I think I'd make surrounding this meeting: One is that the Faculty Fellowship Program that I mentioned early last year is actually now in place. The first call for applications has closed. So we're looking into the fall now for folks who would be interested. Essentially this position is one where a faculty member, it doesn't have to be a senator, would do work or research with the IBHE and learn more about that group and bring a faculty voice to that group as well. So it's a very interesting possibility. I believe the next round of applications is coming up in March, but I can verify that at the next meeting.

And then the last thing is that NIU is hosting the FAC IBHE meeting on June 20. I would hope that we could have some participation at that meeting and I'll keep you posted on details as we get closer.

B. Student Association –
Rebecca Clark, Director of Governmental and Academic Affairs – report

R. Clark: Actually, I am the representative for the IBHE Student Advisory Board and we're hosting a meeting January 25, 2014. Everybody is welcome to come and we hope that it's a really good turnout as well. Recently we have newly-elected senators and Sunday we started our 45th session of the Student Senate. At the last senate meeting, they discussed the president's goals and where he wants to go with student career success and just catching everybody up on the workshops and everything. We hope to have the senators reaching out to the student body as soon as they can. Homecoming week is October 13 and the week prior. So basically our goal is just to get students who would not normally be engaged, engaged. I'm meeting with DeKalb and NIU officials to think up ideas for the John Street College Park area. They want to build economically out there and see how we can take that area and bring it closer the community and university together. And also currently right now the directors are meeting with local non-for-profit organizations throughout DeKalb and they want to get the not-for-profits working with the students and the service groups of that.

C. University Benefits Committee – Deborah Haliczzer, Chair – [report](#) – Page 5-6

A. Rosenbaum: This has been newly added to our agenda because of the increase in interest regarding our benefits. Deborah Haliczzer is the chair of that committee and will give us a report.

D. Haliczzer: Well, thank you for the opportunity to talk at Faculty Senate about an issue which is of burning concern to all of us who work here at the university. You have the written report which is a summary of what we've been talking about and I can say from the years that I have been on this committee, pensions are the number one issue that we always talk about and are the most frustrating of all of the issues that we address since there's often so little we can do about it. So I really applaud your efforts to discuss and to get your voice out there. I've been reading the letter that you had here and there are so many excellent points that are being made there and I cannot disagree with most of what's being said there.

The faculty is well represented on the committee. This year you're represented by George Slotsve, Therese Arado, Brian May from English. Sonya has been a past member. Some of the other people on the committee are retired faculty members so our annuitants' representative is a retired faculty member. Jim Lockard, who's the head of the NIU Annuitants Association and one of our two representatives to the SURS Members' Advisory Committee, usually comes and always sends information. So he serves as a very independent voice on the benefits committee since he can express reservations about official proposals by the university and he is in frequent dialog with other retiree groups around the state.

The dialog has been busy. Any support you give to proposals, suggestions that you make are welcome. Our next meeting is October 24, and it would be really advantageous if the committee and the Economic Status of the Profession is able to get some information to us to help in what we say. We do advise the president and University Council. You have a copy of my annual report. What's really depressing to me sometimes is that I've been talking about the impact of our pension programs on recruitment and retention of faculty and the impact on academic programs since I was the chair the first time in 1996. That's depressing. We're going to be looking at the Affordable Care Act, as well, because we sent out a communication to all employees, as we're obligated to do by law, and there's huge confusion around the country. What was gratifying is how many started calling yesterday and emailing the state yesterday about some of the insurance exchanges. Any questions you can always direct them to me any time.

- D. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Dan Gebo and Andy Small – no report
- E. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – no report
- F. BOT Legislation and External Affairs Committee – Deborah Haliczzer and Rosita Lopez – no report
- G. BOT Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee – Deborah Haliczzer and Alan Rosenbaum – no report
- H. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – [report](#) – Page 7

A. Rosenbaum: I'm reporting on the September 19 BOT meeting. You've got the written report in front of you.

The board approved the FY2014 budget. Of interest is the fact that this budget was \$58,000 lower and that was due to the piece of our budget that comes out of the performance-based funding initiative. The IBHE elected to go with a metric that is not favorable to NIU but rather is much more favorable to the flagship, UIUC. NIU is very unhappy with the way this was done. Basically, originally the intent was that universities would be judged against their own

performance and not against other universities. The IBHE apparently felt that that was way too complicated for them to handle and so they went with a metric that compares the publics to each other. This year, it only affected a half of one percent of our budget, however, that will most likely increase and, if those metrics are not changed in some way, we will continue to be negatively impacted. And we are essentially being negatively impacted because of our mission which is to serve underserved populations and first generation college students. Apparently the IBHE's feeling is that serving those populations should disadvantage you in the performance-based funding domain.

R. Feurer asked for more explanation.

A. Rosenbaum: You know, I don't understand it entirely, but I know that when they were thinking about what to use as metrics for performance-based funding, they were using things like the number of people that you graduate. And that's disadvantageous to schools that take a large number of students that may not have an easy time getting through either for financial reasons or academic reasons. Sonya, do you have a better idea of that?

S. Armstrong: I don't. Your sense is also my sense, but I don't know the details of the metric. However, I do have some information that I could share that I think attempts to break it down a little bit. I can send that to you?

A. Rosenbaum: Okay, you can send it to us and we can post it.
[Illinois Higher Education performance Funding [Model](#)]

The FY2015 budget guidelines were approved, and again we've asked for our increases that we always ask for. Very often these are then dismissed at the IBHE level or, if not at the IBHE level, then at higher levels. So we rarely get the increases that we're asking for. In fact, as you know, we'll be lucky to maintain level funding.

They also approved the FY2015 appropriated capital budget. The number one item on our list is the Computer Science, Health Informatics, and Technology Center followed by the Davis Hall renovation. The old number one was the Stevens Building renovation which was apparently on our list for something like 13 or 14 years.

We heard an update on the HLC accreditation process. The draft report was posted until yesterday. So if you haven't read it, read it yesterday.

And lastly Eric Weldy provided an update on our enrollment. Freshman enrollment was up .6 percent but transfers were down. The ACT and GPA averages for new incoming students remain the same. Eric Weldy will be coming to address the senate November 20 because we passed a resolution last spring asking that someone come and speak to us about the statistics for our classes over the last couple of years. But the bad news is total undergraduate enrollment was down 4.5 percent. There are problems with transfers which are way down. This is not strictly an NIU problem. There are many schools within the state that are having these problems. Apparently the number of students coming out of high school in Illinois is down. It continues to be on the decline. The president has tried to address this as one of our top priorities.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Brad Cripe, Chair – no report
- B. Academic Affairs – Sarah McHone-Chase, Chair – report
 - 1. Open Access [Resolution](#) – Page 8

S. McHone-Chase: We have a resolution from Academic Affairs. The dean of the University Libraries needs this resolution because he would like to join COAPI. It's the Coalition for Open Access Publications Initiative, I believe. And also it's a response to the Biss Bill that Governor Quinn passed recently that Drew was talking about at the beginning of our meeting today. So that's what this resolution is in response to and, as it stands now, I think it's a fairly neutral resolution. It's not saying that we need to only publish open access; it's just saying that, as a body, we are in favor of open access and I'll entertain any questions.

S. McHone-Chase moved the resolution; **G. Long** seconded. The motion passed by the following vote:

- 1 – YES – APPROVE THE RESOLUTION – 34
- 2 – NO – DEFEAT THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION – 1
- 3 – ABSTAIN – 2

- 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 – [report](#) – Pages 9-10

J. Wilson: Yes, we had our first meeting on the 13th and at that meeting Steve Cunningham introduced Michael Mann who is becoming the assistant vice president of budgeting and finance while Steve Cunningham, as most of us know, is the acting executive vice president and chief of operations.

We are mandated to meet with the president three or four times out of the year and currently we have two meetings lined up in October and in December with president.

We also discussed a number of financial items, budgetary items. Alan already discussed one with the carve-out for the performance measurement. We discussed that. The effect of declining enrollments, that translates into \$17 million in reduction revenue which is counting for tuition and ancillary services. I guess the numbers are down about 5,000 for long-term projections.

Steve Cunningham also expressed that the president has a desire to be a little more aggressive with IBHE for funding to expand. We also talked about capital funding. It does take, it was just

mentioned, approximately 10 to 15 years after approval to actually have the project happen on average I would say, maybe longer.

Paul Carpenter, the chair, did post some of the information that was given to us by Steve Cunningham on Blackboard. A number of campus projects were funded. \$20 million of internal funds and Build America bonds were used over the summer to shape up the campus.

And finally, \$216 million in bond rated debt is what NIU has right now towards new residence halls and athletics improvements. We have been downgraded by Moody's to A3 but I guess the upbeat note is that the other Illinois public universities were downgraded to B status (junk bonds).

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Joe Flynn, Chair – no report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. [Alternate Policy](#) – Page 11

A. Rosenbaum: The last item I want to call to your attention is on page 11 you have our alternate policy. Essentially it means that as faculty senators if you can't make a meeting you're supposed to ask someone in your department to stand in for you.

B. [Annual Report](#), Office of the Ombudsperson

C. [Annual Report](#), University Benefits Committee

D. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council

E. [Minutes](#), Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee

F. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board

G. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee

H. [Minutes](#), Committee on Advanced Professional Certification in Education

I. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education

J. [Minutes](#), Committee on Initial Teacher Certification

K. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Experience

L. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum

M. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee

N. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee

O. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council

P. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council

Q. [Minutes](#), Undergraduate Coordinating Council

R. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel

S. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

R. Schneider moved to adjourn, seconded by **J. Novak**, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.