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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 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 website under Faculty Senate/ Agendas, Minutes & Transcripts.

Present: Bishop, Bowers, Bozikis, Brandt, Bryan, Brubaker, Butler, Calmeyer, Cassidy, Coles, Corwin, Cummings, Cunningham, Elish-Piper, Freedman, Freeman, Greene, Gupta, Haliczzer, Hansen, Hemphill, Henry, Holly, Houze, Kite, Kowalski, Latham, Lee, Lenczewski, McCord, Mohabbat, Monteiro, Neal, Newman, Peters, Robertson, Rosenbaum, Sagarin, Seaver, Shortridge, Small, C. Smith, R. Smith, Vohra, Von Ende, Willis, Yamagata-Lynch

Parliamentarian Ferald Bryan was present.

Absent: Alden, Bennardo, Castle, Dawson, Jaffee, Kaplan, Lash, Lusk, Mirman, Mogren, Prawitz, Richmond, Rosato, Schoenbachler, Snow, Thu, Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Peters: called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF [AGENDA](#)

President Peters: The first item of business is adoption of the agenda. There is one walk-in, Jay Monteiro's report, which should go under VI, C.

Moved and seconded by two unidentified members. The agenda was adopted as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) OF THE APRIL 28, 2010 UC MEETING (page 3)

The motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peters: welcomed everyone back and introduced the new administrative assistant to the University Council, Patricia Erickson.

A. Rosenbaum: reminded the Council to state their names before they speak in order to make it easier for Pat and the transcriber to get the names correctly.

President Peters: discussed his State of the University Address and the [Vision 2020 initiative](#). He stated that this initiative was born out of the financial crises of the past year and the fact that we will be facing recession of the state contributions to our budget for the foreseeable future. He stated that across this

country state funding for public higher education is very unstable and declining as a percent of total university budgets. He feels that NIU needs to take control of its own destiny and the Vision 2020 initiative provides an opportunity for us to examine our strengths and objectives, and develop a 10-year plan for the university. He also discussed the need to develop benchmarks which will not only serve as a set of goals but also as a measure of progress toward those goals. He has some ideas but asked the UC to help in the development and setting of those benchmarks. He will chair the effort himself as a demonstration of how strongly he feels about the importance of this effort.

He noted the importance of the Academics for Teaching plans, the baccalaureate review, and the enrollment management and retention task force. He also focused on the Great Journey Strategic Plan and its role in guiding the development of the Vision 2020 initiative. Goals and benchmarks will be derived, in large part, from the strategic plan. Among the issues to be considered are the targets for enrollment both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the appropriate mix of new and transfer students from the community colleges, the honors programs and its role in attracting the most qualified applicants, and our admission standards.

He also focused on the funding of higher education and the fact that it is becoming productivity-driven with an emphasis on course completion, retention, and graduation rates. He emphasized the need to examine our performance in these areas and develop strategies to improve our numbers. NIU will need to become more efficient and develop alternative sources of revenue. This initiative will also need to consider the adequacy of our facilities and our future needs in this regard. He stated that he will appoint a steering committee which he expects will break down into several task forces. This committee will include, among others, representatives from recent major initiatives, students, alumni, and individuals from outside the university.

President Peters: concluded by expressing his belief that the time is right for this initiative, his optimism regarding the future of NIU, and his determination to get this initiative started and completed within a reasonable time frame. We're going to be successful because I know this place and I know you. There's nothing we can't do if we put our minds to it.

P. Henry: asked if the names of the steering committee will be made public and **President Peters** responded that it will be an open process.

J. Kite: inquired about student involvement on this steering committee and **President Peters** responded that the Student Association would have representatives. Also, he expects to have representation from the resident halls because of the importance of the "living, learning" component.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve [University Council Standing Committees for 2010-2011](#). (page 11)
- B. Approve [University Advisory Committee to BOT](#), confirmation of Kerry Freedman to a three-year term (2010-2013) (page 12)

The motion was made and seconded by two unidentified students. The Consent Agenda was approved as written.

VI. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report

E. Hansen presented on three meetings of the FAC to the IBHE.

E. Hansen: stated that the topic of conversation for the last two years has been the financial demise of the state of Illinois. The issues that have been discussed were that most of the state institutions were having trouble getting new faculty members involved in committee work and we might want to look at what is keeping them from participating on committees. Another issue was the two seats on the Illinois Board of Higher Education which are designated, by law, for faculty yet they remained vacant as of the most recent meeting.

President Peters: The Executive Director, Judy Erwin, retired abruptly on August 15 so Don Sevener is the interim and a search has begun for a new Executive Director so we'll be watching that.

1. [May 14, 2010](#) (page 13)
2. [June 21, 2010](#) (page 18)
3. [July 26, 2010](#) (page 20)

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Ferald Bryan, Kerry Freedman – [report](#) (page 27)

K. Freedman: The two points that were probably most important were that University Libraries Dean Dawson focused on his ideas about updating the library, particularly increasing the digital collections. People on the Faculty Senate know that there was an issue last year as the result of lack of communication with the faculty so he and the Provost addressed that. There's going to be a meeting on September 17 when the Provost will recharge the Dean to address this issue, and develop a process for communicating with the faculty regarding changes, because apparently the changes are going to be fairly dramatic.

Lisa Freeman gave a presentation on incoming grants. In the last year we had quite a substantial increase in grants to the university most of which came from the ARRA.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum, Greg Waas – [report](#) (page 29)

President Peters: Now that was B1. B2 is the BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee report of August 26 and Alan Rosenbaum is going to give that one I understand.

A. Rosenbaum: The major items here are the appropriated capital budget requests and also the non-appropriated capital budget, and what we learned at this meeting was that there is a difference between academic buildings and non-academic buildings regarding whether the university can pay for repairs out of the budget or whether we have to issue revenue bonds to pay for it. The other item of interest was item H which refers to the first-year residence hall project in which we're partnering with the Collegiate Housing Foundation, a non-for-profit organization, to construct the first-year residence hall, which will be a thousand-bed facility. This is very important to us because of the age of our housing. I think our newest dorm was built about 40 years ago and, in terms of what students are mentioning when they talk about whether or not they

want to come to NIU, the residential facilities do not high marks. This will be a state-of-the-art housing complex.

P. Henry: I'm all in favor of the new residence hall but the need for classroom and office space on campus is something that I never see mentioned.

President Peters: Well, we are moving ahead with Cole Hall. The engineering designs are in place. The bids go out in November, probably break ground in January. Number two, Stevens is moving forward, as are the plans for the Computer Science and Technology Building which is a major, major educational classroom building. The issue with academic buildings is that it has to be approved as a state capital project or you have to raise private money the way we did for Barsema Hall. You can't issue revenue bonds because there is no revenue stream, whereas for residence halls, there's a revenue stream, which is room and board. But you raise a good point, and this will be part of Vision 2020.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Jay Monteiro, Todd Latham – [report](#) (page 31) and August 26, 2010 [report](#) (walk-in)

J. Monteiro: I will report on just the August 26 meeting.

Senate Bill 642 was to allow state universities to borrow against expected tuition receipts. And Ken commented at this point NIU had not had to do this and that the state was now current with NIU in regards to payments from the state in regards to FY2010. He also mentioned HR919 which resolves the Board of Higher Education to establish a commission to study the Illinois procurement code so that purchases by public universities can be completed more efficiently.

Lori Clark, the Director of Federal Relations reported that NIU sent five Congressional interns to Washington D.C. this past summer and the Congressional Office was very impressed with our NIU students and hoped that we would send more students next year.

There was an update on the Internet/Internet 2 Video Technology that has come through the School of Music. Dr. Bauer reported that NIU is being seen in 50 states, Washington D.C., three dozen countries and on five continents. These archived concerts from the School of Music are posted on NIU's YouTube station and, since January 2009 when they set up the YouTube, they've had more than 70,000 people viewing our videos so that's quite impressive. He also described a new program called "Music in Hospitals," a combined program with NIU School of Music and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra where live concerts will be performed at Sherman Hospital. This program will also include a new TV channel through the hospital where these concerts will be shown. It is hoped that, in the future, Sherman Hospital will add more non-music NIU channels to its programming. Also, it is hoped that this concept will be expanded and might go to some of the 80 other hospitals serviced by NIUNet and its Illinois Rural HealthNet program.

Kathy Buettner, Vice President of University Relations, gave an update on the status of many marketing and branding efforts. She reported on the new "advisory link" where you can sign up for non-emergency alerts distributed via e-mail. New NIU billboards are going up in the Chicago-land area. NIU is now on Facebook, Twitter and a number of other social networks. Also, NIU is creating PSAs (Public Service Announcements) for radio and television.

Steven Cunningham, Vice-President Human Resources and Compliance provided a follow-up report on NIU's domestic partner provisions which concluded that NIU's programs and policies are consistent with our peer universities here in the area and in the MAC.

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – [report](#) (page 33)

A. Rosenbaum: summarized the meeting: the BOT held its elections for the upcoming year and the results were that Trustee Strauss was re-elected as Chair of the Board; Trustee Butler was elected Vice Chair; Trustee Boey was elected Secretary; and Trustee Murer was elected fourth member of the Executive Committee. There was also a report on the final results of the True North Campaign with the final total exceeding the goal and coming in at somewhere between \$160 and \$165 million.

The Board approved 17 action items which included 54 recommendations for promotions, tenure, and tenure with promotions; the appointment of La Vonne Neal as Dean of the College of Education effective July 1, 2010; the 2011 tuition recommendation which included a 9.5 percent increase in tuition costs; and the approval of the interim FY2011 internal budget.

The final item on this May 13 meeting agenda was a resolution passed by the Board honoring President Peters for ten years of exemplary leadership as President of NIU, including a very nice retrospective of President Peters' accomplishments and we all want to congratulate him on that as well.

On June 23 there was a special meeting of the Board of Trustees. The primary reason for this meeting was the approval of the ground lease for the aforementioned freshman housing complex. Because this is not being built by the university, we have to lease the land to the Collegiate Housing Foundation and so the Board needed to approve that. The Board also approved the limited reorganization of the office of Human Resources and Compliance and the promotion of Steven Cunningham to the position of Vice President for Human Resources and Compliance.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

President Peters: We have no reports from Standing Committees.

- A. Academic Policy Committee – Kerry Freedman, Chair
- B. Resources, Space, and Budgets Committee – Laurie Elish-Piper, Chair
- C. Rules and Governance Committee – Suzanne Willis, Chair
- D. University Affairs Committee – M Cecil Smith, Chair
- E. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Article 11: [Grievance Procedures](#) for Faculty and Staff – Todd Latham (page 35)

President Peters: called upon Todd Latham to present the next item.

T. Latham: placed before University Council a request to consider proposed changes to Article 11 of the Grievance Procedures for Faculty and Staff. The SPS Council realized the need for a more concise, streamlined and updated document that addresses the grievance procedure for the SPS appointment category. As such, the Council formed an ad hoc committee comprised of Tim Griffin, Deborah Haliczler, Linda Perkins, and Michael Spires. They were charged with the responsibility to review all existing documents, existing procedure and report back to the SPS Council. Included with that was a four-page rationale of changes that reflect the document you have before you that was requested by the UC Steering Committee. The document was drafted by Deborah Haliczler and explains the need for the changes being proposed to University Council. We also consulted with the Ombudsman and the Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor. The SPS Council approved this document.

President Peters: So the idea then is to give this to the Rules and Governance?

T. Latham: I believe that was the recommendation from the Steering Committee, and we're satisfied with that.

President Peters: There was a motion and a second to refer this item to the Rules and Governance committee and it passed without opposition.

X. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

President Peters: introduced Lisa Freeman, the Vice-President for Research, who came to NIU from Kansas State and is a veterinarian by training and a pharmacologist. She also headed the Innovation Center in Olathe. Dean of the College of Education, La Vonne Neal came to NIU from Colorado Springs and we welcome her, as well. Finally, it was announced this week that after a 40-year legal career and many years at NIU, Ken Davidson, our General Counsel, is filing his last briefs. Ken, thank you for keeping us safe. We will be launching a national search to find a replacement.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

President Peters: You'll notice that there are several information items under XI for your perusal.

- A. [2010-2011 meeting schedule](#) (p. 70)
- B. [Academic Planning Council meeting minutes, April 26, 2010](#)
- C. [Athletic Board meeting minutes, April 21, 2010](#)
- D. [Operating Staff Council meeting minutes, May 6, 2010](#)
- E. [Operating Staff Council meeting minutes, June 3, 2010](#)
- F. [Operating Staff Council meeting minutes, July 1, 2010](#)
- G. [Operating Staff Council meeting minutes, August 23, 2010](#)
- H. [Undergraduate Coordinating Council meeting minutes, April 1, 2010](#)

- I. [Annual Report – Academic Planning Council](#)
- J. [Annual Report – Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee](#)
- K. [Annual Report – Committee on Initial Teacher Certification](#)
- L. [Annual Report – Graduate Council](#)
- M. [Annual Report – Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor](#)
- N. [Annual Report – University Assessment Panel](#)
- O. [Annual Report – University Council Personnel Committee](#)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Peters: Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.