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UC Minutes 2012-05-02

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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, May 2, 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 Agendas, Minutes & Transcripts.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Alden, Barth, Bender, Bond, Bozikis, Brandt, Dawson, Downing, Farrell, Foss, Gaebler (for Rosato), Gerbie, Gupta, Haliczzer, Heller, Holt, Johnston-Rodriguez, Kapitan, Kowalski, Latham, Lee, LeFlore, Lenczewski, Lin, Lindvall, Long, Lopez, McCord, Mogren, Mohabbat, Munroe, Peters, Pritchard, Quick, Rollman, Rosenbaum, Sagarin, Shortridge, Small, Smith, Theodore, Thu, Towell (for Schoenbachler), VandeCreek, Vohra, Von Ende, Walker, Willis

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Coles, Corwin, Echols, Elish-Piper, Greene, Holly, Houze, Hurt, Kreitzer, Middleton, Mirman, Neal, Rosato, Rossi, Schoenbachler, Steadman, Sunderlin, Venaas

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Finley, Freedman, Griffin, Hansen, Hemphill, Kaplan, Sunderlin, Williams

OTHERS ABSENT: Cunningham, Freeman, Prawitz, Slotsve, Snow, Waas

NEW MEMBERS PRESENT: Henning, Naples, Plonczynski, Ward

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Peters: called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

J. Peters: The first order of business is adoption of today's agenda. There is a walk-in item under VII.K.

A. Quick: Made the motion. **N. Lindvall:** was second.

The agenda was approved without dissent or abstention.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2012 UC MEETING
(distributed electronically)

D. Haliczzer: Made the motion. **R. Lopez:** was second.

The minutes were approved without dissent or abstention.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. Peters: We now need to go into executive session for the purpose of hearing the report of the Committee to Evaluate the President of the Faculty Senate, Executive Secretary of the University Council. That requires a motion and a vote, and if that is successful, then only those who are voting members stay. The rest vacate. So, we need a motion to go into executive session.

A. Quick: So moved. **N. Lindvall:** was second.

The motion was approved without dissent or abstention. The council went into executive session.

- A. Report from the Committee to Evaluate the President of Faculty Senate/
Executive Secretary of University Council

V. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Peters: Okay, I call you back to order. Thank you, Evaluation Committee. This will serve as a brief end-of-year report to you. I always take the opportunity to thank the faculty and the staff for good work in tough times, but I guess that's every year is tough times these days. We've had a lot of highs and successes, we've had a lot of challenges, a few things to deal with, we've dealt with them well. I congratulate the students, their performance, this year has been excellent. So, it is that time of year where, we're not there yet, we're near the finish line and I know the students have papers and finals to take and professors have projects and grading to finish, but I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone.

We're driven by our mandate and our role and mission and probably one of the most important things we do is going to occur in two weeks, and that is graduation ceremonies. On Friday, May 11, our graduate ceremonies will be held, and we're expecting to grant 750 graduate degrees. Then, on Saturday, we have three undergraduate ceremonies, and we will graduate almost 2,600 students. Think about that, that's a lot of educated Illinois citizens getting the benefit of a good NIU degree.

Next week on Thursday is the meeting of the Board of Trustees and, among other things, they are going to set tuition rates for next year. And, important to the faculty, they will be receiving from me recommendations for tenure and promotion of our faculty. This year, we will be bringing forth 21 promotions only, and 38 promotion and tenure recommendations. And our board has historically been very supportive of our recommendations through our rigorous process. For me, that's always a very good day as well.

In addition to that, there are a lot of economic decisions that are going to be made and I just want to draw your attention to one. We're accelerating our movement toward a wireless campus and we'll be seeking authorization to spend about \$1.8 million in accelerating our attempt to wire the campus. We want to be 100 percent wireless by 2015 and this will move us significantly forward. We have a priority system where academic buildings and spaces get wired first. In addition to that, there's money in there, if I'm not mistaken, Dr. Williams and Ray, to enhance our cloud computing capacity, our storage capacity, everyone is going to benefit from that.

Let me give you a little bit of an update on the budget and the legislature. Where we are right now with this year's budget is, we are still owed \$41 million on our \$100 million GR base. We have received some payments recently. It was like \$57 million a few weeks ago, \$53 million, so we're hopeful, By their own action, they have to pay us what they owe us by December 31, but still it creates a situation of cash flow. We've learned to live with that as long as we believe the check will be in the mail.

Now, in addition to that, we have received full payment for our spring monetary award transfer payment, which is \$11 or \$12 million so that's good, check that off.

Now the setting of the general revenue budget for fiscal '13 is still up in the air and let me tell you where we are with that. You may remember that the governor has proposed, for higher education, a flat budget. So on our \$100 million GR, remember our total budget is \$438 million. It's becoming a more minor part of our budget but \$100 million in state revenue is extremely important for the university. We have to hold on to that and enhance it as much as we can. Anyway, the governor had proposed a flat budget. We went through hearings and then the House Appropriations Committee was given a target by the house that required them to adjust their budget with a 5.29 percent decrease to our base budget. Then recently, that has been augmented to 6.14 percent and we had to file yesterday a generic statement of what budget categories we would take it from. We did that. It doesn't mean we are going to get that cut, because now the house has to act on that and the Higher Ed Appropriations Committee hasn't acted on that yet. They may act on that tomorrow. Then, if that's passed, it goes to the senate where it may be that some of that is put back. Theoretically, it could be a deeper cut. In any event, we are preparing for an opening GR condition of reducing our base GR budget by about 6.14 percent. That's the prudent thing to do right now. Given the fact that most state agencies are being cut by ten percent, this is understandable given the budget situation that the state is in, but we are involved in making argument about how this will hurt, and it will hurt.

On the legislative side, today passing out of the Senate Executive Committee, was a bill that would eliminate the General Assembly scholarship program; that's the one where local state representatives and senators can give two basically tuition-free scholarships to constituents and those can be used at any public university. That's come under some political attack as you know. It looks as if, the house did pass that, and it looks as if the senate now will take action because the executive committee acted on it. However, the president of the senate, Senator Cullerton, wants a study done this summer of all university tuition waivers. We will be participating in that. You can expect to hear some of that this summer.

We are involved every day with listing and getting ready to make our case. Every day the prognostications change. Today the view is there will be a pension bill of some sort in this spring session and not held over to the fall. I don't know, but we are there making the case. Steve Cunningham is not here today because he's been assigned to monitor that situation. It's a serious one. Stay tuned to our Web site. I've tried to make the case. The governors' statement or proposal, which really was a statement, it wasn't a bill, was very wrong-headed and I think we tried to point that out. We still are committed to the principles that are contained in the Institute for Illinois Government and Public Affairs paper. It's very hard for people to understand this very complex issue but we understand it and we understand its implications. We'll keep you informed on the pension issue. I think it's a better than 50/50 chance you'll see some legislation on that. It may not get all the way there this term, but they are going to do something. I think the political pressure is too great for them not to act.

All right, the other thing I want to end with is last year, because of Vision 2020 and because of the groundswell that we have heard about doing something to beautify the campus, we have another summer program, and it will address a list of priority things that are going to be done this summer. And you need to know in case your building might be impacted or your sidewalk. But I'm going to just kind of tick off the magnitude of this. We've got bridge repair projects going and building tuck pointing; our housing projects are really moving along quite well. The new first-year residence is on schedule, maybe ahead of schedule, and will open in August. We have some of the other projects, you'll notice that we're moving earth over by Gilbert, which is a very massive project and it's going to be a great project. There are lighting upgrades going on. We have several parking projects, several roof projects. And you'll notice, if you ride by the lagoon, that we added a water feature, a fountain. We are going to put water features in every ditch we can find, I guess. A lot of pedestrian walk improvements. A lot of landscape improvements are going to go on. Wirtz is going to get new windows and doors. The outdoor rec fields and center to the north of the Convocation Center is part of the bonding we did through America Build Bonds. We are going to begin this rather massive recreation project with student fields, turf, buildings, lighting, a big track to walk around the whole perimeter. It's going to be spectacular. It's a 22-acre plot. It's going to be fantastic. We are going to post all of this on a map by type of project and where, probably the schedule of when it's going to happen in case we block a street off or something, and that will be going up soon on its own Web site. With that, we do have a rather full agenda today, but before we get into that agenda, Alan and I have some presentations to make.

A. Recognition of University Council members whose terms are completed, who have been re-elected, and who are newly elected – Pages 3-4

J. Peters: As your name is called, we are thanking people who have given yeoman service to the University Council with a certificate this year.

A. Rosenbaum: This was a tradition in the past that has not been done for a number of years and it was actually suggested to us by Austin who thought it would be nice to recognize the students who have served. And we thought it would be nice to also recognize other people, and I also want to recognize Pat Erickson who designed and produced these really nice certificates. The first group are the faculty who have completed their service.

The list of individuals receiving certificates is appended.

J. Peters: For the last at least four years, NIU and all of us have been ably served by Earl Hansen who is the faculty representative to the IBHE. He's kept us informed, kept me informed and he's just been a great citizen, so this is for Earl Hansen. Wish it was a check.

A. Rosenbaum: So does he. Thank you all for your service.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Earl Hansen – report – Page 5

J. Peters: Okay, let's move into our reports. Our first report is not from Earl, but from our new representative to the IBHE for the faculty, Sonya Armstrong.

S. Armstrong: This will actually be a short report. The April 10 meeting was held at Truman College in Chicago and it was a joint meeting. In the morning, the FAC, the Faculty Advisory Council met and then in the afternoon, we joined the IBHE folks for their meeting. The first part of the day, the morning session with the FAC, was solely focused on identifying particular topics to discuss with the IBHE staff. We did have lunch with the IBHE staff and we raised these issues with them. The four issues that we raised with them were: 1) the MAP Grants – MAP funding; 2) college readiness issues with a particular emphasis on perhaps trying to develop better communication between the IBHE and the ISBE; 3) faculty fellowship opportunity, which I think was kind of a cool idea, to have faculty who are on sabbatical apply to the IBHE to work on projects with the IBHE staff; and 4) quality issues, which continues to be an issue. All four of these topics were well received. The IBHE staff seemed very supportive and excited about them and since this meeting we've actually gotten several requests for faculty involvement on various committees and meetings.

The IBHE meeting, I can tell you from the place I was sitting way far in the back where I couldn't hear a thing, that there were two major presentations: 1) was on the public agenda and just an update and strategic planning for next year; and 2) was a presentation for the data quality campaign basically about how to best collect and manage data gathered for the P-20 longitudinal education data system. So those were the two major presentations. I have not gotten minutes from either the FAC or the IBHE so this is pretty much all the information I have at this point.

There were no questions for Sonya and **A. Rosenbaum** asked for a moment to correct a previous omission.

A. Rosenbaum: Yes, we always invite the newly-elected members of the University Council who are beginning their three-year term, to come to this meeting so that we can introduce them and then I forgot to introduce them. So before we get to the next item I just want to first of all mention the faculty who have been re-elected and they are: Jeff Kowalski from Art, Melissa Lenczewski from Geology and Environmental Geo Sciences, Khan Mohabbat from Economics; and newly-elected members: Paul Carpenter, Rosemary Feurer, Marybeth Henning, Michael

Kolb, Virginia Naples, Donna Plonczynski and Artemus Ward. They will be joining the University Council or staying on the University Council into next term.

J. Peters: Thank you.

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – [report](#) – Pages 6-7

K. Freedman: The meeting this time didn't really have anything controversial in it, so the report stands as it is. The committee took action to support promotion and tenure candidates. There were two new degree programs and two new emphases, actually both were in geography. One that was considered a new emphasis was actually the old program but they were adding a new emphasis in geomatics so they are calling both streams a new emphasis. There was an update by Virginia Cassidy about the Higher Learning Commission and accreditation status and I just want to stress that anyone who is here who would like to volunteer to be on one of the self-study committees, please do. That's pretty much it. There were presentations about capstone projects which the board committee found very interesting and I believe we're going to hear more about capstone projects in the future.

J. Peters: Let me add one thing on the Higher Learning Commission re-accreditation. We will be taking next week to the board for their approval the re-done mission statement. We had a committee, came up with a statement, went through our process, took it for comment to the board in March. They gave comments, the committee went back, reworked it, and now it's going for approval next week and we're hopeful that they will embrace it as is, but there was good work done by the faculty on that.

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – [report](#) – Pages 8-9

A. Rosenbaum: You have the report in the agenda. There were very few items that were of note. As the president mentioned earlier, the setting of tuition was held off until the next meeting because the university is waiting until we have at least a reasonable chance of finding out what our budget is going to be like for next year. Despite not knowing what the budget is, by state statute, the Board of Trustees was required to approve the internal operating budget for the next fiscal year and they did approve that without knowing exactly what it is. Hopefully by the full board meeting we will know exactly what that amount is. The other item of interest was that the FFO subcommittee recommended approval of the money for the wireless Wi-Fi access initiative.

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – [report](#) – Pages 10-11

T. Latham: Okay, President Peters touched upon most of these so I am just going to highlight a few. In our presentation there are two main issues that the state is looking at regarding burden upon the state to pay. Those are basically Medicare and pensions. You can see that the state was looking to make \$2.7 billion in cuts. To date, they have found about \$1.76 billion. Regarding some of the other areas that we touched upon, the MAP payments, I do want to report that our controller, Keith Jackson, was looking for ways to recommend and approve controls for our financial reporting. He went on to explain those to us at that particular meeting. NIU has

included a checklist that they'll use now before the auditor sets foot on the campus. The next presentation was by Vice President Cunningham and our general counsel, Jerry Blakemore, in which the trustees received the presentation about compliance or risk management. Some of those areas were written policy, ethics training, communication, standards, internal compliance, monitoring systems for detection of offenses and periodic risk assessment. The intent of that was to eliminate the "I was not aware" clause that sometimes people use. And then Dr. Cunningham went on to talk about the comprehensive institutional compliance program. Some of those areas were ethics and whistle blower protection and most of those are administered by our human resource area.

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – no report

F. Academic Policy Committee – Karen Brandt, Chair – report

K. Brandt: Just to refresh your memory, last month Academic Policy was charged with taking a look at the recommendation from CUAE committee regarding inclusion of the question "the instructor respects students" as part of the instructor evaluation. Our committee did look at that in some depth and, at this point, AP does not recommend changes to the policy on instructor effectiveness as recommended by CUAE. We do, however, agree with the spirit of the recommendation and we ask that this return to that committee for further discussion. Our recommendation is that they take a look at the wording of that particular phraseology in light of the entire policy on instructor effectiveness.

J. Peters: So you are recommending it be referred back to?

K. Brandt: The original committee.

J. Peters: Do we need an action on that?

A. Rosenbaum: Yes, so that would be your motion.

J. Peters: That's the motion then.

A. Rosenbaum: We need a second.

A. Quick: Second.

The council voted to return the issue to the Academic Policy committee.

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Laurie Elish-Piper, Chair – no report

H. Rules and Governance Committee – Suzanne Willis, Chair – report

1. [Proposed revision](#) of NIU Bylaws Article 13, University Faculty Senate – Page 12

S. Willis: If you will turn to page 12 in your packet, there is a recommended amendment to bylaw 13.2.2.1. The intention of this is to clarify that faculty members, who have been elected to

the University Council and who, therefore, are also members of the Faculty Senate by default, are distinct from members of the Faculty Senate who are elected by their departments to represent that department at the Faculty Senate. We have always assumed that, but there was apparently not any explicit statement in the bylaws that clarified that. And so the proposal is to add the sentence that you see in italics, to 13.2.2.1 which says that members of the University Council may not serve as the elected Faculty Senate representative of an academic department. The Rules and Governance Committee did not meet in person, but I did poll the committee electronically, and we all agreed that this was a relatively uncontroversial change. The committee agreed with bringing it forward at this meeting and so I would move that we amend the bylaws in this fashion.

J. Peters: All right. Now this is a first reading.

S. Willis: I would also like to move that we waive the first reading so that we can vote on this now rather than waiting until September.

J. Peters: I think technically you waive the second reading.

S. Willis: Waive the second, waive whichever reading it is that we waive so we only have one.

F. Bryan: That's three-fourths vote just to let you know.

J. Peters: All right, so the motion on the floor is to waive the second reading which would require three-fourths of those present, and go right to a vote.

J. Kowalski: Seconded the motion to waive the second reading.

J. Peters: If there is no discussion, take your clicker in hand and 1 is yes, 2 is no, to waive the second reading, because then we are going have to vote on the main motion. So you are voting to waive the second reading. 1 yes, 2 no

#1 – YES – 46

#2 – NO – 2

#3 – ABSTAIN – 1

J. Peters: Second reading is waived.

J. Peters: We have the original motion. Discussion on the main motion. Hearing none, take your clicker, 1 is yes for the motion, 2 is no, 3 is abstain.

A. Rosenbaum: And we need two-thirds of all voting members which is 41.

#1 – YES – 47

#2 – NO – 1

#3 – ABSTAIN – 0

J. Peters: The bylaw is amended.

J. Peters: Thanks for your good work always on that, Rules and Governance Committee.

I. University Affairs Committee – Richard Greene, Chair – no report

J. Student Association – Austin Quick, Speaker – [report](#) – Pages 13-14

A. Quick: I want to let everyone know that we did pass the Student Association budget which was about \$1.5 million which, as you know, that affects also faculty and staff with campus childcare, rec services and health enhancement, among other departments that we provided funding for.

Also, recently in an effort to raise the bar within student leaders here, the Student Association Senate recently passed a bill that raises the GPA requirement now to work and serve on the Student Association from a 2.0 to a 2.3. The argument was to bring it to a 3.5 but that didn't go as far. But we definitely want to show that we are holding each other accountable and expecting more.

Next, I've been working with Lori Clark and we're going to be continuing to work this summer to continue the MAP Grant Finding Initiative and to get Faces of MAP Grant, which was one of the things we started, down to Springfield to show them. I think this is one of those things where we have to realize this is not a when it comes up talk about it thing, it's a constant reminding the legislators that this is something important to us and specifically with our students, something that they count on.

Next, I want to personally thank Dr. Peters, Dr. Williams and Dr. Hemphill, and numerous other members of the staff and the university administration to the recent addition to off-campus policing to our Greek Row and other areas. This is an area I have gotten more phone calls from both the Northern Star, the Daily Chronicle, constant feedback from students. I have been out to Greek Row a couple of times in the last week to just watch what's going on and this is one of those things, and I've said this time and time again, I've never believed that we have a safety problem, we have an issue with the idea that there is a safety issue. And I am so impressed with the police force that we have here and the abilities that they have shown to get out there and the members of Greek Row. Actually I visited one fraternity and they had a knock at the door and it was two police officers, NIU police, just saying "Hey, is everything going okay? Is there anything we can do to help you?" It's that type of behavior that we need.

I was fortunate enough to sit on the police chief search committee for DeKalb, and I do believe the guy that it looks like we are going to get is going to be a great partner for our university and, hopefully, will continue to build that relationship. But, again, I thank the three of you because we were all in that meeting and it takes a lot of initiative and forward thinking to do something like that and it's very much appreciated from a student's perspective. And it sends a message to the people in that area who don't have our best interest that enough is enough and we're not putting up with it.

Next semester we will continue to work towards the student grievance policy. I've worked with Dr. Rosenbaum and the rest of the University Council student committee to insure that we don't drop that and it does continue. At the beginning of this year, I pushed it and said I wanted it done

by the end of the year. As I've learned, some things don't happen that quickly and we want to insure that it is done correctly when it does begin.

The last thing I'd like to bring up at this point is we started this year, and it will be this Sunday at our last senate meeting, Student Advocacy Award where we are going to pick a faculty member and a staff member of the university, every year, who advocate on students' behalf and just to thank them. Because it's one of the things that I've been very much in awe of are the faculty and staff of this university. Those that really give of their time and take that extra initiative, go above and beyond their job and I think it's important for us as students, we keep take, take, take, we want, want, want, but to take that time to thank people. I'm proud to announce that the two people that are getting this year are actually members of this body as well. I don't think they realize they are getting this, so I'm kind of letting the cat out of the bag, but here it is. Todd Latham is one of those members and Dr. Chuck Downing is also the faculty representative. There are a few honorable mentions as well. Andy Small and Dr. Bill Nicklas is also one of them. It's a great privilege and I speak on behalf of all the students sitting here and the ones that are at home studying for finals or, hopefully, in classes right now, I thank all of you. It's a great honor for us to be here every month and to bring our issues and it means a lot to us that we have a voice on this council now. And I thank Dr. Rosenbaum for his leadership in allowing this and I look forward to another year.

I think we have a lot going on for us. I keep hearing, at the beginning of the year we heard a lot of complaints. We don't have this, this is run-down, this is run-down. Just seeing the dirt flying and seeing all the improvements on campus is definitely helping. It's a great place to be right now and I'm excited to see what happens in the future and I think our students are excited to understand that, even though it's not going to be something that will be ready for them, but it's something for the future generations to make it a place that they really can be proud when they look at their office and see that diploma from Northern Illinois University and I think it's a great testament to the leadership and the faculty and the staff of this campus. Thank you.

K. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – [report](#) – walk-in

A. Small: We truly appreciate all the input from the Student Association. And also in that vein, I do believe that this is Dr. Tim Griffin's last meeting with us. I believe that he mentioned that he was at 186 University Council meetings, give or take one that he slept through possibly. But, noting that effort, on behalf of the operating staff and certainly I speak for the rest of the university that you have helped in any way, shape or form here, thank you so much for your service. We truly appreciate it.

I do have a walk-in item today. I would take some comments but I know that the hour is moving on here and we want to go and eat. What I have in front of you here in the walk-in item is the new civil service evaluation form. And it is proposed at this particular time. Our emphasis behind this is to get more people involved with doing evaluations on a timely basis and as such we have revised this form. I leave it for you today to comment on. I'm certainly open to some comments now but you have my e-mail certainly on campus here and if you see anything. I believe we are going to try and get this into the system for the fall so you still have some time to comment on this if you see anything that you would like to either have included or explanation of. This has gone through the HR committee so it has been massaged thoroughly at this point as they say and if unless there is any type of real disgruntlement with this particular evaluation form this will

probably be in place in the fall. I'll take questions now if you have any.

N. Lindvall: I've seen a very similar form to this before except it included on the bottom a space for the employee to actually make a comment after they had been shown their evaluation. I didn't know if that was something that you thought of?

A. Small: I was not on the committee with this particular form, but I will note that comment. I think that's a good comment. I believe that the previous form did have the opportunity for the employee to comment along with the supervisor's comments so I'll make that suggestion.

R. Alden: Andy, one of the things that I have suggested several times and now that we have a form with a lot more places for comments, it's becoming particularly important, it would be nice to get these in electronic format that you can download as a supervisor and type in instead of having to do handwritten comments because, up until now, all of these forms have been sent in hard copy and then we either have to scan them in or have someone try and read our handwriting. And I think that it would just be a matter of convenience if we're changing the form anyway, just to have it provided in a format that you can actually enter the comments in typing. You can keep it confidential and you can download a hard copy if you absolutely have to. It doesn't have to be an entirely electronic transmittal process but just receiving it electronically would help a lot.

A. Small: I don't believe that that would be a problem at all.

J. Peters: If you have other comments get them to Andy or HR this summer as we move toward an implementation of something like this in the fall.

L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – [report](#) – Page 15

T. Latham: Once a year the council invites Dr. Peters to our meeting. It's really a chance for us to have a frank conversation with him, to get updates from him, and we also use the opportunity to address some of our council concerns. This year, just to highlight some of those for you, we, of course, addressed our pension reform issues that we are all facing. We also talked about the inequities of shared governance in response to representation and funding. We talked about the retirement contingency plan that we're all concerned about, Vision 2020, just to get an idea of where we are at and how we're doing and how the supportive professional staff can continue to support that initiative. Mandatory supervisor training, for us it's a very important area. It falls on the next item which is our metric that deals with compensation for merit. Those two kind of go hand-in-hand in our opinion. And the last thing, we always are concerned like everybody else about our campus and we just had some general questions about the maintenance and upkeep. Our announcements always include some type of benefits choice or some other type of annuitants or SURS so we had that as the council had some discussions about those timings and when we had to respond and participate.

We have an SPS newsletter which we send out, it's fairly new, to kind of communicate with our constituents and let them know what we're doing as a council. It gives them a chance to give some input. We attended the Wellness Fair. We think everyone should attend that. We collected a lot of information from our constituents about what they are looking for from our council and how we might respond to them. We discussed the faculty and SPS personnel advisor position. We had that as a discussion about those candidates who put their name. Then the last item of

action is we put in Debbie Haliczzer as our representative for the ombudsperson search committee.

M. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair

1. University Council election of 2012-2013
Executive Secretary of University Council

J. Peters: All right, now I want to turn the agenda to Professor Gupta who is going to run the election for next year's executive secretary for the University Council.

A. Gupta: Pursuant to Article 3.2 of the NIU Constitution and Article 2.1 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws, I call your attention to the nominee for the office of executive secretary of the University Council, Professor Alan Rosenbaum. I make the motion to accept his nomination, to close the nominations, and to approve his election to this position.

J. Holt: Second.

J. Peters: Take your clicker, 1 is Rosenbaum, 2 is no.

#1 – YES – 41

#2 – NO - 3

J. Peters: 43 – 3. Alan Rosenbaum is elected for the 2012-2013 FY.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. [Online](#) Evaluation of Instruction Effectiveness – Page 16

J. Peters: I call on Alan Rosenbaum who is going to present the item on new business that is the online evaluation of instruction effectiveness issue.

A. Rosenbaum: First, I'd like to thank the three of you who tried to protect me from this position for another year. Seriously, thank you for your vote. I appreciate it.

The item that I'm bringing to you is from the Faculty Senate and you saw a version of this in the agenda. The issue is that online evaluation of teaching effectiveness was approved by the University Council, I believe the year before last. Essentially the University Council said that it was permissible to do online evaluation, but did not require online evaluation.

Several of the colleges have made online evaluation mandatory and many faculty members have been concerned that student response to the online evaluation has been very sparse. And so faculty are being evaluated for tenure and promotion, as well as merit, based on very few votes. Those faculty members that have raised this were concerned that this is unfair to faculty members and this was given to our Academic Affairs Committee in the Faculty Senate.

That committee came back with a very involved report. They looked into research on online evaluation. What they found is that online evaluation can be used effectively, but you have to do things in order to increase response rates. The senate voted to pass the following motion the decision to use – or not use – online methods for assessing teacher effectiveness is at the discretion of the faculty in each department or unit. While individual departments or units are permitted to use online assessments of teacher effectiveness if they so choose, they cannot be required to do so. This would be a change to the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual. I'm going to make a motion that we send this to our Academic Policy Committee and that we bring this forward next fall. We will not really need an immediate decision on that since the evaluations for this term have already been done and we should be able to handle this in time for the evaluations for the fall teaching term.

J. Peters: Is there a second?

A. Quick: Second.

J. Kowalski: I think I heard you say just now, Alan, that reading this over, I think you said that it would involve the faculty would determine whether the department or unit decides to use online assessments or not, and as it's written here it's a little ambiguous. It simply says the decision to use or not to use online methods for assessing teacher effectiveness is at the discretion of the department or unit. So I like putting in "at the discretion of the faculty of the department or unit" to make that quite clear.

A. Rosenbaum: Well, Jeff the motion that was in the agenda packet had to be prepared before we had the transcript from the Faculty Senate meeting. Once I had the transcript, I was able to see the language and, although we don't have the exact wording, it was very clear that the intent was that it be the faculty in the departments that have control over that. So it cannot be imposed on a department say by a chair.

J. Kowalski: And I would just like to add that at the Faculty Senate meeting, if I recall correctly, another general point of discussion, based on the outcome of some of the studies that have been done on online evaluations, is that when they've done comparisons between the results of the online process versus the in-class evaluations, that often the results give a significantly more negative evaluation for the online method which is, of course, a concern to faculty who find this being at least one component of evidence for tenure and promotion and merit decisions.

A. Rosenbaum: And, in fact the Academic Affairs Committee put together a very thorough report, carefully referenced, and we will provide that to our Academic Policy Committee so that they will have the benefit of that work as well.

J. Peters: All right, so we have a motion and a second. So take your clicker up. 1 is you're voting to send this to the committee, 2 no, 3 abstain.

The motion to send this to the Academic Policy Committee passed by a vote of:

#1 – YES – 37

#2 – NO – 6

#3 – ABSTAIN – 1

X. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XI. 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](#), Honors Committee
- L. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- M. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- N. [Minutes](#), Undergraduate Coordinating Council
- O. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- P. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee
- Q. [Meeting Schedule](#) – 2012-13 – Page 17

J. Peters: I draw your attention under Information Items to Q., the meeting schedule for next year on page 17. Get it in your planners for those of you who are continuing. And let me remind you that immediately following our adjournment, everyone is welcome – new, old, whether you submitted your RSVP or not – to attend the reception in the university suite on the second floor immediately following the meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.