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UC Minutes 2012-09-12

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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 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, Bak, Bender, Block, Bohn, Carpenter, Cho, Coles, Daniel (for Walker), Dawson, Downing, Entzminger, Farrell, Feurer, Fredericks, Gregolunas, Gupta, Haliczzer (for Peska), Harris, Henning, Holly, Holly, Kapitan, Kowalski, Latham, Lee, LeFlore, Lenczewski, Lin, Long, Lopez, McCord, Mohabbat, Munroe, Naples, Neal, Peters, Plonczynski, Prock, Quick, Sagarin, Schoenbachler, Small, Slotsve (for Rosenbaum), Thu, VandeCreek, Vohra, VonEnde, Ward

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Bond, Houze, Kolb, Middleton, Mirman, Peska, Rollman, Rosato, Rosenbaum, Walker (on sabbatical)

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Blakemore, Bryan, Cunningham, Hofer, Klaper, Michael, Polzin, Stone (for Freeman), Williams

OTHERS ABSENT: Freedman, Freeman, Kaplan, Snow, Sunderlin, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

J. Peters: There are two walk-in items. One is the OSC report under VI.K., and the other is under the Consent Agenda where we add V.G., which will be read by **P. Erickson**.

P. Erickson: Regarding the Student Conduct Board membership, University Council is being asked to approve Kelli Bradley. Kelli is the professional development and operations coordinator in the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. She will be replacing Kris Coffin on the Student Conduct Board. Kelli Bradley is an operating staff employee and she is replacing an operating staff employee on that board.

A. Quick: moved approval of the agenda with the two walk-in items as described above.

P. Vohra: was second.

The agenda was approved as modified by the two walk-in items.

III. APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) OF THE MAY 2, 2012 MEETING (distributed electronically)

J. Peters: And we have the approval of the minutes of May 2, 2012 which were distributed electronically.

D. Munroe: On page 7 of the minutes, the report from the Academic Policy Committee. It was my recollection that the Academic Policy Committee referred this particular issue back to CUAE. However, at the end of that section, section F, it says that we voted to return the issue back to the Academic Policy Committee, like we sent it back to them again and I don't think that's what happened.

J. Peters: Does anybody remember this? Why don't we do this, why don't we approve the minutes, pending a possible correction on this item and then I am going to direct Pat to clarify with Alan.

J. Peters called for a vote on the minutes without either a motion or a second and the UC approved the minutes. Subsequent discussion with **A. Rosenbaum** confirmed that the minutes were in error. The decision was to send the issue of the "respect" question on the evaluation of instructor effectiveness back to CUAE, and not back to Academic Policy as originally stated. The minutes have been corrected and the issue has been sent back to CUAE through **C. Downing**.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – [Presentation](#) and [video](#)

J. Peters: Thank you. Alan said this was going to be easy. Well welcome back everyone. We have a light agenda today so I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on what's been happening.

J. Peters used a PowerPoint presentation and a video showing campus improvements to update the UC. The slides and video can be accessed from the links above and will not be summarized further in the minutes.

J. Peters: You noticed there was a mixture of capital projects in there as well and we're not done. We are going to keep doing this as long as the money holds out and our will holds out. I hope the local community understands that we have poured millions of dollars into the local economy and we never get credit for that. I wish we could fix everything up at once but we have \$300 million for maintenance and very little, if any, money from the state to do that, but I do like our priorities.

Lastly, stay tuned you're going to hear more from me. Next week I'm giving an update to the board on Vision 2020 and our metrics and then October 11, the State of the University and that's going to be a little different. I want to focus on the challenges to higher education, how we are meeting them and what the future may hold for higher education and how we can improve what we do in small ways by removing obstacles.

And I want to end by introducing the newest member of our group and that's our new ombudsperson, Sarah Klaper.

S. Klaper: Thank you very much. I know I have large shoes to fill with Tim Griffin. I've been making my way across campus to try to meet as many people as possible and I appreciate all of your hospitality and patience with me in making my way to many of your offices. As you know, the ombudsperson's office is a neutral office. We represent or work with every constituency on campus: faculty, staff, students, administrators, everybody. So we're a neutral office but, at the same time, we are an office that is confidential and we work to resolve conflict. If somebody comes to our office, we work to find out what the core of the problem is and help them figure out what are the best ways that they can advocate for themselves and at the same time I'm tracking trends to see if there are any issues that need to be addressed more systemically so I can make policy recommendations to whoever is the decision maker or decision makers on that issue. We have a wide variety of things that we are doing in our office but right now I'm focusing a lot on just getting out there and meeting people and understanding what all of you do in your different offices and so I appreciate all of your time that people have been devoting to talking with me.

We are having an open house. My office is on the sixth floor in Holmes Student Center, 601, and we are having an open house next week on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. so we welcome everybody to come on over and visit with me, the office manager, Karola Smith, who used to be at the School of Art, and two graduate assistants. Thank you.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. [University Council Standing Committees](#) – approve 2012-13 membership rosters – Pages 4-6
- B. [University Advisory Committee to BOT](#) – Approve 2012-13 membership roster and confirm Greg Waas for a new three-year term (2012-2015) – Page 7
- C. [Graduate Council Curriculum Committee](#) – Approve the addition of this council to the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Page 8
- D. [Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources Advisory Committee](#) – Approve the updating of this committee description in the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Pages 9-13
- E. [Intellectual Property Committee](#) – Approve the updating of a position title referred to in the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Page 14
- F. [University Outreach Advisory Committee](#) – Approve the updating of a position title and division name referred to in the “Committees of the University” section of the University Council Website – Page 15
- G. Student Conduct Board – Approve Kelli Bradley, Professional Development and Operations Coordinator, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, to

replace Kris Coffin on the Student Conduct Board. Kelly Bradley is an operating staff employee.

J. Peters: All right, the first item, Item V Consent Agenda, is there a motion to approve today's consent agenda?

R. Lopez: made the motion.

D. Munroe: was second.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report – [May 18, 2012](#) and [June 15, 2012](#) – Pages 16-19

S. Armstrong: Yes, I have two brief reports. There was the meeting in May which I attended at SIU Carbondale and then there was the June meeting which Earl Hanson attended at Blackhawk College. Those reports are in your packet. I would say across both of these meetings there are really three themes and I anticipate that those themes will continue into this year's meetings. One has to do with the MAP funding especially and in particular this group has been trying to think of ways to provide other requirements for students who are already or will be getting the MAP funding. So there were some suggestions on the table as far as providing motivational workshops for students who get MAP funding. MAP funding, who gets it and whether it continues, those are issues that we'll continue to discuss.

The other two issues are the turnover at the IBHE, that continues to be on the agenda at these meetings and second, that remediation or developmental education continues to be a topic. Are there any questions on the report?

J. Peters: On the legislative agenda this year we got three things. The MAP money, the other is there is a waiver task force that has to report by April. This is of concern because one of the targets for analysis is the waivers for dependents of university employees and this is an important contractual, employment benefit that has been in place for generations and it's ubiquitous in American higher education. I'm worried about that a little bit. The other, I should have mentioned, is pensions. Steve Cunningham is still point person for all of higher education along with Abhijit Gosh from U of I and I expect some action probably in a lame-duck session in January after the veto session. That's what all the pundits are saying and I know no more than they do, but that's the conventional wisdom. We watch that every day because it's of tremendous import to our annuitants, to all of our current employees, and the new ones we hope to recruit; they ask about benefits.

J. Kowalski: Regarding pensions, I just suggest that everyone try to take a look at it and perhaps Google the latest information regarding a pending constitutional amendment. It's constitutional amendment 49 because it directly deals with pension and it deals with language that would require three-fifths approval by each of the houses of the legislature to approve any new sorts of

benefits or emoluments and so forth for pensions and then there is a final paragraph that people are scratching their heads about but may have implications for the discussion for future COLA cuts or things of that sort. I bring that to your attention if you haven't heard about it.

J. Peters: Thank you.

- B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – [report](#) – Pages 20-24
- C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – [report](#) – Pages 25-26
- D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – [report](#) – Pages 27-28
- E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – [report](#) – Pages 29-30
- F. Academic Policy Committee – Sean Farrell, Chair – no report
- G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Paul Carpenter, Chair – no report
- H. Rules and Governance Committee – Melissa Lenczewski, Chair – no report
- I. University Affairs Committee – Kathleen Coles, Chair – no report
- J. Student Association – Delonte LeFlore, President, and Austin Quick, Speaker – [report](#) – Pages 31-32

J. Peters: The next report is the Student Association report. I believe Austin Quick is going to give that. Am I correct in that?

A. Quick: Yes sir. Thank you Mr. President. On behalf of the students of NIU and my colleagues here, I think the new improvements are a welcome starting point for our university to be competitive in a global market. Our university is definitely making strides to improve our facilities.

A.Quick made the following points:

1. The new restrictions on copies for students (300 pages, one-sided this year) is a concern for both undergraduate and graduate students. They would like faculty to be aware of these limits. They have been getting complaints from students about the limits as well as about the mechanics of implementing them (i.e., charging students incorrectly).
2. They will be continuing to push for a policy whereby students can file grievances against faculty and staff for bad behavior, disrespect of students, abusive behavior, etc.
3. Rec center facilities are inadequate for a campus of this size and population. The students are continuing to push for either renovation of the current facilities or the building of new facilities that will serve not only students but faculty and staff needs, as well.
4. Signs have been placed at the crosswalks but continued care is necessary as students

are now walking into the crosswalks assuming motor vehicles will stop. Safety remains a top priority for S.A.

5. Students would like better regulation of landlords renting to students. The university should work more closely with the City of DeKalb to enforce new laws and regulations on landlords.

J. Peters: The mayor and I had a great conversation this morning and we both agreed that relations between the university and the city, particularly in this matter, and the chiefs, has never been better. And we are meeting to discuss many of the things you just mentioned but I still urge students to be prudent and use common sense.

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

A. Small: There are three particular things that we're looking at: the tiered-parking proposal; senior employees who are able to accumulate vacation for retirement pension calculations. (salaried operating staff people can accumulate 56 days, hourly civil service operating staff people can accumulate 50 days); and supervisory training. I think that kind of works well with the Student Association issue as far the way we treat each other around campus.

And also, a recap of Staff Fest. For those of you that don't know, the administration provides lunch and we were able to feed approximately 900 staff employees this year in August, the first Thursday in August is always our event. We have a program called Giving Back and this year we gave back to a local organization called Feed 'em Soup. We were able to raise approximately \$550 and over several hundred items that we donated to their particular charity.

L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – report

T. Latham: The SPS Council met in July and we take this as an opportunity to conduct a new council orientation for our new members. During this time we typically address issues such as our constitution so our members are aware of our responsibilities. We address our council protocol. We review our annual report which is filed by me with information provided by our council. We had presentations by our committee chairs to basically update the new members and council on actions and pending issues. In July, I seem to have been inundated with a large amount of resignations. We received three to our council in July and two in August. This is an increase from last year. The SPS Council will be hosting a tailgate on September 29. This is also Faculty and SPS Appreciation Day at the sporting event. There is a football game that day.

In August, we decided that we'd host several guest speakers as we prepared for the upcoming semester. We had Dr. Toni Tollerud who is our faculty and SPS personnel advisor; Sarah Klaper, our new ombudsperson; Kelly Wesener Michael presented on behalf of student affairs and enrollment management to prepare our staff for Welcome Days. Alan Rosenbaum was one of our guests. He presented on the role of Faculty Senate and University Council.

We revisited the information that had gone on in respect to pensions and tuition waivers. And finally, we concluded our meeting with an update on benefits choice and the pending mandated reporting requirements that we would all have to comply with.

M. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair – no report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Peters: I want to announce that tonight begins the first in a series in the Presidential Speaker Series and its focus this year is on election 2012. There will be a series of four; three of them will be fairly academically oriented.

The first one is tonight in Altgeld at 7 p.m. It's on the impact of Citizens United. For those of you who are political junkies like me, know that that is the Supreme Court decision on the role of money in the 2012 election. It's going to be a debate between Richard Hanson from Cal-Irvine and Brad Smith from Capital University School of Law and they take opposite points of view.

It's going to be followed by one on the role of media in the campaign. The third one, close to the election, will be on prognostication. We have one of the country's leading political scientists. And then post-election, in Naperville, we're going to have former Speaker of the House and our alum, Denny Hastert, and former congressman Bill Lipinski, who has helped us tremendously at this university, tell us what happened and why.

I'm very excited about this. I want to thank Department of Political Science and College of Liberal Arts for helping sponsor this with my office.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. [Meeting schedule](#), 2012-2013 – Page 33
- B. [Annual Report](#), Academic Planning Council
- C. [Annual Report](#), Affirmative Action & Diversity resources Advisory Committee
- D. [Annual Report](#), Athletic Board
- E. [Annual Report](#), Campus Security & Environmental Quality Committee
- F. [Annual Report](#), Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
- G. [Annual Report](#), Faculty & SPS Personnel Advisor
- H. [Annual Report](#), Graduate Council
- I. [Annual Report](#), Office of the Ombudsman
- J. [Annual Report](#), Undergraduate Coordinating Council
- K. [Annual Report](#), University Assessment Panel
- L. [Annual Report](#), University Council Personnel Committee
- M. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- N. [Minutes](#), Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee
- O. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- P. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- Q. [Minutes](#), Committee on Advanced Professional Certification in Education

- R. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education
- S. [Minutes](#), Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
- T. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- U. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum
- V. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- W. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee
- X. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- Y. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- Z. [Minutes](#), Undergraduate Coordinating Council
- AA. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- BB. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.