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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 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, Bender, Block, Bohn, Bond, Carpenter, Cho, Dawson, Downing, Duerkes, Entzminger, Farrell, Fox (for Neal), Fredericks, Gregolunas, Gupta, Haliczer, Henning, Hofer, Holly, Houze, Koren (for Plonczynski), Latham, LeFlore, Long, Middleton, Mirman, Mohabbat, Naples, Peddle (for McCord), Peters, Porter, Richard, Rosenbaum, Sagarin, Small, Smith, Theodore, Thu, Towell (for Schoenbachler), VandeCreek, Vohra, Walker, Zahay-Blatz (for Lee), Zanayed

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Coles, Daniel, Feurer, Guerrero, Harris, Kapitan, Kolb, Kowalski (on fellowship) Lee (on sabbatical), Lenczewski, Lin, Lopez, McCord, Munroe, Neal, Plonczynski, Prock, Rollman, Rosato, Schoenbachler, Von Ende, Ward

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Caldwell (for Wesener), Cunningham (for Williams), Freeman, Klaper, Sunderlin

OTHERS ABSENT: Blakemore, Freedman, Kaplan, Wesener, Prawitz, Slotsve, Snow, Waas, Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

J. Peters: called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

J. Peters: Our first item is adoption of the agenda. There is one walk-in item at your desk. It goes under VI. G. 2. and it's a statement of priorities from Space Budget.

Z. Bohn: made the motion. **D. LeFlore:** was second.

The agenda was approved with one walk-in item without dissent or abstention.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2013 UC MEETING
(distributed electronically)

A. Small: made the motion. **D. LeFlore:** was second.

The minutes were approved as written without dissent or abstention.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Peters: covered the following items:

- University closing procedures related to weather.
- Our hearings on the budget have not been scheduled but should be held next week.
- The governor has recommended a cut in our appropriations of 4.62 percent and we are preparing for a budget cut of at least that much.
- **E. Williams** and **K. Wesener-Michael** are in Springfield testifying about truth-in-tuition and textbook costs.
- Employee tuition waivers and MAP funding are also being discussed by legislators.
- Cross and Nekritz have jointly sponsored a pension reform bill (HB 3411) which may have some traction because it is a bipartisan effort. It essentially would reduce COLA coverage and limit pensionable income for tier one participants and make some other changes in terms of age to retirement. We are monitoring the situation through Steve Cunningham, our expert on these issues.
- House Bill 3411 would enact these changes for current employees as well as future employees and the COLA limitations would apply to personnel who have already retired as well, according to **S. Cunningham**. It's a very substantial reduction in benefits.
- **L. Freeman** updated the council on concerns about the impact of the sequestration on our research dollars.
- The National Science Foundation, where we have a much larger portfolio, has indicated they will not issue new grants this year, but incremental funding is safe for at least FY 13. We have 67 proposals pending with the federal agencies totaling \$36 million and that's largely NSF, NIH and the Department of Education. And that doesn't count subcontracts and flow-through that we have when we partner with other institutions. That has the potential to be a very large impact in FY 13.
- We are a student-centered university, but we're an engaged university. Our value-added is we get our undergraduate students involved in research and other activities of our faculty, and we are a vibrant graduate and professional institution. We are a research institution. We're a research institution that takes advantage of that at the undergraduate level. That is what makes us distinct.

J. Peters: Asked A. Rosenbaum to update the council on the presidential search.

A. Rosenbaum: Before I talk about the search, I just want to point out that, as you can see, we're now projecting the agenda on the screen with our newly acquired projector and also that this will be the last month that you will get a printed agenda in the mail unless you send an e-mail to Pat

and tell her that you want a printed agenda. But if you don't do that, you will get the agenda electronically, including all its attachments. We are encouraging people to download it to iPads and laptops.

The search committee. We are at the final stages of the search. This Friday we will have our meeting where we select those people who are going to be invited for airport interviews. We currently have 48 completed applications and it will be the job of the search committee to pare those down to eight, plus-or-minus, people who will be invited to come to the airport interviews next Thursday and Friday, the 7th and 8th of March. And at the conclusion of the airport interviews, the search committee will complete its work on the evening of March 8 and we will turn over to the Board of Trustees a short list that will have four, plus-or-minus, finalists. Once we give them that short list, the PSAC will have completed its work.

Although the Board of Trustees has not, at this point, finalized the process that they will engage in from that point on, the expectation is that there will be a confidential vetting process to which different interest groups in the university will be invited.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – [report](#) – Page 3
- B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – no report
- C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – no report
- D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – no report
- E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – no report
- F. Academic Policy Committee – Sean Farrell, Chair – no report
- G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Paul Carpenter, Chair
 - 1. [Report](#) – Pages 4-6

[Based on Steve Cunningham's clarification during the discussion on item 3.c in the report, the original report was [revised](#) and re-submitted by RSB Chair Paul Carpenter.]

- 2. Proposed [Statement](#) of Budget Priorities – walk-in

P. Carpenter: made the motion to approve the recommendations as brought forward by the Committee for Resources, Space and Budgets. **T. Latham:** was second.

Based upon those meetings and input from the members of the committee, we formulated these recommendations. They've been presented to the Faculty Senate Steering [Executive] Committee and some suggestions were made from that body and also from the University Council Steering Committee and then last week it was presented to Faculty Senate. They, too, made some suggestions and the document you have in front of you now has incorporated all that feedback.

A. Rosenbaum: And I should add that the Faculty Senate endorsed this. To just give a little perspective on this, this is the way that we engage in shared governance around the budgetary issues. The various employee constituent groups don't create the budget, but we try to give a sense of what we feel the budget priorities should be. We're asking the University Council to give its approval to this as well.

There was a discussion of the priorities and several changes were suggested and accepted by the maker of the motion, P. Carpenter, who will revise the document as suggested. The motion (pending the accepted changes) was approved by a vote of:

- 1 – YES – 33
- 2 – NO – 10
- 3 – ABSTAIN – 2

And will be forwarded to President Peters and **E. Williams.**

J. Peters: Thank you, committee. By the way, just let me say that this year the Space and Resource Budget committee, we've met several times and we have had just really fundamentally good meetings. They are serving you well. They are asking tough questions and contributing. I appreciate that. We appreciate this set of priorities as well.

- 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 James Zanayed, Speaker – report
- K. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – [report](#) – Page 7
- L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – [report](#) – Page 8

D. Haliczzer: I'm reporting for Todd. SPS Council's report is attached in your packet. We wanted to highlight our intense concern at efforts to eliminate the dependent tuition waiver. This is a benefit that Faculty Senate and the university worked on back in the '90s, I think '95, '96, when I was chair of University Benefits Committee then and we worked very hard to extend that so that you could go to other universities. This benefits many of our employees, but I may say it is our

less highly compensated employees who are most likely to use that benefit. And, Steve, correct me if I am wrong, but this is a benefit that is of great interest to all employees and anything that we can do to preserve that benefit is really important to many of our colleagues.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Proposed [revisions](#) to NIU Bylaws, Article 14.6.4 Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum – **SECOND READING – ACTION ITEM** – Pages 9-10

A. Rosenbaum: made the motion. **S. Farrell:** was second.

Being a revision of the bylaws, this required a 2/3 vote of all voting UC members in order to pass. A sufficient number of voting UC members was not present, so the vote was postponed until the next meeting. It was not voted down but rather is being considered a non-vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. 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](#), Graduate Council
- L. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee
- M. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- N. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- O. [Minutes](#), Undergraduate Coordinating Council
- P. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- Q. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.