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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, May 1, 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, Coles, Cripe (for Lee), Dawson, Downing, Duerkes, Entzminger, Farrell, Feurer, Fredericks, Gregolunas, Guerrero, Gupta, Haliczzer, Henning, Hofer, Holly, Houze, Kapitan, Koren (for Plonczynski), Latham, LeFlore, Lin, Long, McCord, Middleton, Mirman, Mohabbat, Munroe, Naples, Peters, Richard, Rosenbaum, Sagarin, Small, D. Smith (for Latham), M C. Smith, Theodore, Thu, VandeCreek, Vohra, Von Ende, Zanayed

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Harris, Kolb, Kowalski (fellowship), Lee (sabbatical), Lenczewski, Lopez, Neal, Plonczynski, Porter, Prock, Rollman, Rosato, Schoenbachler, Walker, Ward

OTHERS PRESENT: Birberick, Bryan, Cunningham, Klaper, Polzin, Sunderlin, Wesener

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

S. Farrell: made the motion. **ME Koren:** seconded.

The agenda was approved as written without dissent or abstention.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2013 UC MEETING
(distributed electronically)

D. Haliczzer: made the motion. **D. Munroe:** seconded.

The minutes were approved as written without dissent or abstention.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. Peters: All right now, we have to go into executive session for the purpose of evaluating the President of the Faculty Senate/Executive Secretary of the University Council and to receive a report of the ombudsperson.

A. Gupta: made the motion. **P.Vohra** was second.

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

V. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Peters: All right, we are back in session, the president's announcements. Well, let me just say this is my last meeting with you. Thirteen years, how many times a year do we meet, you can do the math. I've missed very few and I've come to enjoy it and I wish you well. I like the way shared governance works here. I think we've done some good work and tackled some tough issues.

Last week our new president, Douglas Baker, was on campus with an intensive schedule of meetings with a lot of people. He has an impressive energy level and I spent a lot of time with him with transition issues and I feel very good about his grasp of the important issues in American higher education, the role of shared governance and the role of students. I'm very, very impressed with him.

We have completed the interview process on vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. We had a good committee which gave us three excellent candidates and evaluations are being collected now. President Baker and I discussed this at great length and we see things very similarly. And he will be making the ultimate choice even though I sign the paperwork to make it official. I want to thank everybody who participated with that.

I guess the bottom line is: I think the transition is going very, very well and I'm feeling very, very good about that, that we have a president who understands the academy and is really beginning to understand us.

A. [Recognition](#) of University Council members whose terms are completed, who have been re-elected, and who are newly elected – Page 4

J. Peters: Well thank you everyone for your service.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – [report](#) – Pages 5-6

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](#) on meeting with president and provost – Pages 7-10
 - 2. Year End [Summary](#) – Page 11

P. Carpenter: The committee felt that, reflecting upon the year, there were a number of issues that had arisen for them that they felt made it very difficult for them to do their job in a timely and informed manner. It was felt that much of the information we got was a matter of report. We felt we didn't get a lot of opportunity to actually be in on the front end of some of these conversations and discussions. We also felt there was no effective feedback to determine whether the recommendations we made were actually being taking into consideration and the committee thought it would like to be better informed as to how those recommendations were used. This led the committee to put together a resolution which is the third thing that you see in the packet of information.

- 3. [Resolution](#) concerning the shared governance role of Resources, Space and Budgets Committee in setting recommendations for budget priorities – Pages 12-13

P. Carpenter: moved the resolution. **G. Long:** was second.

A. Rosenbaum: I would also like to point out that this resolution was passed by Faculty Senate.

J. Peters: The Resource, Space and Budgets Committee really didn't operate at all up until the last two or three years. And so we are sort of feeling our way through what the committee wants and so forth, so I think this is a reasonable attempt to codify the way we operate and what you would like.

The resolution was passed by the following vote:

- 1 – YES – 44
- 2 – NO – 2
- 3 – ABSTAIN – 0

J. Peters: Thanks for your work this year.

- H. Rules and Governance Committee – Melissa Lenczewski, Chair – no report
- I. University Affairs Committee – Kathleen Coles, Chair
 - 1. Student grievance policy status [report](#) – Pages 14-23
- J. Student Association – Delonte LeFlore, President, and James Zanayed, Speaker – report
- K. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – [report](#) – Pages 24-28

A. Small: Thank you, President Peters. I draw your attention to our report on page 24. I won't go into any of the details there. The one thing I would like to mention, though, on the public relations part, we are very proud of the fact that we have an operating staff scholarship and we had two winners recently announced: Evan Wittke and Jacqueline Zimmerman. So congratulations to those two students that we were able to support financially with our scholarship.

As we well know, the four-day work schedule in the summer is a somewhat controversial program. It's been in place for a long time. It has helped a lot of staff people over the years. We are truly appreciative of that. We acknowledge that there is a need to be on campus for a five-day work week. We also acknowledge the fact that the unfortunate short notification made it an interesting scenario this particular year and backing off on that schedule increased the morale of operating staff. I hope it increased the morale of the campus, in general, and, on behalf of the operating staff, we want to thank all of the administration for that particular decision.

In regard to that, the operating staff would request that we take a serious look at December 23 on this particular calendar coming up. That is a Monday that falls right before Christmas Eve. It would be an awkward day to have to come in and work. If we're going to have to take a vacation day, we'd like advanced notice so people can accumulate vacation for that.

J. Peters: Steve you have any forward thinking for that yet?

S. Cunningham: As Andy indicated it's a good opportunity to have a vacation day on our schedule because it's only one day. Sometimes when it's two or three days, it's difficult for staff but just with the one day, it's probably a great opportunity to expand the winter break.

J. Peters: Well make sure that the new president makes that decision.

- L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – no report
- M. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair
 - 1. University Council election of 2013-2014
Executive Secretary of 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.

S. Farrell: Seconded.

A. Rosenbaum was re-elected by the following vote:

YES – 42

NO – 3

ABSTAIN – 2

J. Peters: That looks like a yes to me. Thank you. Good luck. Great job. Let's hear it for his service. I so enjoyed working with you. You see how he prepares me. The president's hopping around doing this and that, it's important that you get a good working relationship with the executive secretary and I've really appreciated that over the past years. It's really been very, very helpful for shared governance.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Reconsideration of proposed [revisions](#) to NIU Bylaws, Article 14.6.4, Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum – **ACTION ITEM** – Page 29

J. Peters: All of these votes, A., B., and C., are going to require a two-thirds vote (40). The first is reconsideration of the proposed revisions to NIU Bylaws Article 14.6.4. This comes from the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum. The action item is on page 29.

A. Rosenbaum: This is the item that we voted on at the last meeting, but there were so few University Council members that it failed by just one vote. The only way this could get it back on the agenda for reconsideration was an appeal to President Peters. Melissa Lenczewski handled the collection of signatures and brought those to President Peters who has agreed to uphold the appeal and put this back on the agenda. This is that same item that we just barely missed approving last time.

K. Thu: made the motion. **D. Smith:** was second.

The motion passed by the following vote and exceeded the required two-thirds of voting members:

YES – 45

NO – 2

ABSTAIN – 0

B. Proposed [revisions](#) to NIU Bylaws, Article 5: The Academic Personnel Process, and to the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual, Section II, Item 30: Joint Appointment Policy – **SECOND READING** – **ACTION ITEM** – Pages 30-35

J. Peters: This is a second reading so we already have a motion and a second. The motion passed by a vote of:

YES – 41
NO – 3
ABSTAIN – 2

- C. Proposed [revisions](#) to NIU Bylaws, Article 19.4: Annual Evaluation of Ombudsperson – **SECOND READING – ACTION ITEM** – Pages 36-37

J. Peters: This is a second reading.

A. Rosenbaum: I'd also like to point out that the last time we did this there were some comments and that Kathleen has revised this somewhat from the last time. There were friendly amendments that were accepted, so this is not exactly the one we heard at the first reading and reflects changes that were made in response to comments made at that meeting.

K. Cole: If you recall, the concern was over new hires, that moving to a mid-term evaluation wouldn't enable university members to spot and identify problems early. We discussed it and we proposed an amendment where there would be annual evaluations during the first three-year term of an ombudsperson and then mid-term evaluations after that until a new person is hired.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

YES – 41
NO – 1
ABSTAIN – 4

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Comments from the Executive Secretary

J. Peters: Now we move to new business. Comments from the Executive Secretary.

A. Rosenbaum: Thanked the body for their vote and presented John Peters with a gift from the University Council.

A. Rosenbaum: For four years, it's really been my privilege to sit beside John at the UC meetings. In that time I've come to know him as a champion of public education. As a first generation college student, he's devoted himself to the idea that everyone, rich or poor, has a right to a college education and he has dedicated NIU to that mission. For 13 years, he's been the face of NIU and the strong shoulders that have carried us through the most difficult times. We'll miss his good humor and his enthralling presidential remarks at the start of each council meeting.

Now, as he joins the ranks of the annuitants, we wish him a long and healthy retirement. And, John, you better stay healthy because you're not going to have health benefits very much longer.

We've heard you have a fondness for antique maps and so what we have here are two maps. The one on the right is a map of DeKalb that was made in 1905 and the one on the left was from 1897 and it is a plan showing the proposed location of Altgeld Hall. On behalf of the University Council, I want to present you with this token of our respect, appreciation and affection.

J. Peters: You don't know how meaningful that is. Wow. Thank you. Thank you very much. That is true, I love old maps and prints. I think they tell us so much. I am going to miss all of you tremendously. Best wishes to all of you. You're really just a great group of people and, remember, what I think is so true, public higher education so important to this country. Try to imagine this country, this state without public higher education, without universities. We have trained generations of poets and scientists and artists and practitioners and teachers. Of course, this is the place to do it. You want to have a nice place to raise a family and work? This has been a good place. Let's hope that our public officials don't muck it up.

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](#), 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
- R. [Meeting Schedule](#) – 2013-14 – Page 38

XII. ADJOURNMENT

J. Peters: For the last time this semester, we stand adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.