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UC Minutes 2013-11-06

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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Baker, Barry, Clark, Domke, Donovan, Downing, Downs, Farrell, Ferguson, Feurer, Fredericks, Freeman, Giese, Gupta, Haliczner, Hathaway (for Bond), Hecht (for Neal), Julion (for K. Smith), Kapitan, Kowalski, Lee, Lenczewski, Leonhardt, Long, R. Lopez, Marrufo (for Garcia), Martin (for Kolb), Mohabbat, Moremen, Munroe, Naples, Olson (for Dawson), Perkins, Pitney, Plonczynski, Roberts, Rollman, Rosato, Rosenbaum, Sagarin, Small, D. Smith, Thu, Towell (for Schoenbachler), VandeCreek, Vohra, Walker, Zanayed

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Arriola, Block, Bond, Carpenter, Dawson, Garcia, Holly, Kolb (on leave from UC), E. Lopez, McCord, Middleton, Mogren, Neal, Newman, Polzin, Schoenbachler, K. Smith, Theodore

OTHERS PRESENT: Brady, Bryan, Cunningham, Falkoff, Klaper, Nicklas, Thompson

OTHERS ABSENT: Armstrong, Blakemore, Gebo, Kaplan, McHone-Chase, Slotsve, Suttentfield, Waas, Weldy

I. CALL TO ORDER

D. Baker called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

S. Farrell moved to approve the agenda, seconded by **D. Smith**, motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2013 MEETING

P. Vohra moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **J. Zanayed**, motion passed. The minutes were approved as written.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

D. Baker:

1. Discussed his visit to Springfield with J. Barry, R. Clark and other student representatives, including a discussion with the governor about budgets and retention issues.
2. The FY 15 budget will be under pressure due to the legislative failure to enact pension reform and the expiration of the temporary income tax increase. The budget hit to all state agencies could be 8 percent or more.
3. We need to take control of our own destiny and one of the important pieces is enrollment

and retention of students. Discussions with community college presidents are ongoing, as well. Sixty percent of the students in higher education in Illinois are in community colleges.

4. Reviewed the changes in personnel he has made over the past few weeks, including the creation of the International Affairs Division, headed by Ray Alden.

R. Alden updated the UC on his trip to China with several deans, to explore potential collaborations. There are a lot of opportunities for short-term experiences for their students here and opportunities if our students want to go there. The main focus over the next month or so is looking at potential articulation of undergraduate and graduate programs so that our students can have exposure to students from their institution and with faculty-led study abroad and vice versa. We have a delegation from their institution coming the first week of December including their presidents, vice-presidents and all (or most) of their deans. Alden believes there will be some potential for getting students in as soon as next year and definitely we're talking about a short-term experience for summer.

D. Baker reported that there are a lot of details we'll have to work through, but he is very optimistic that we're going to end up having a very positive impact on our enrollments from this kind of relationship. Other changes included Lisa Freeman assuming the role of interim provost, Steve Cunningham taking over facilities and compliance, Nancy Suttentfield as interim CFO, Sean Frazier taking over management of the Convocation Center, and Kathy Buettner taking on marketing and communications. We are also searching for a new chief information officer.

A. Disability Training and Resources – [Tutorial](#) – Pages 3-27
Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities – [Website](#)
Students with Disabilities [Presentation](#) – Greg Long

G. Long presented to the UC on disability resources and some of the new training materials he and his group have been developing. There was a focus on how to educate faculty and staff to be more sensitive to disability issues and how to handle them in a professional and compassionate manner.

D. Baker noted that, when he talked about the various structural role changes he made in recent weeks, he did not mention that, when Lisa stepped into the interim role as provost and executive vice president, she left behind her role as vice president for research. So we had a search this week and today we're announcing Lesley Rigg as the interim.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – [report](#) – Pages 28-29

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Dan Gebo and Andy Small – no report

C. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum – no report

- D. BOT Legislation and External Affairs Committee – Deborah Haliczzer and Rosita Lopez – no report
- E. BOT Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee – Deborah Haliczzer and Alan Rosenbaum – no report
- F. BOT Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology Transfer – Greg Waas – no report
- G. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – no report
- H. Academic Policy Committee – Sean Farrell, Chair – no report
- I. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Paul Carpenter, Chair – [report](#) – Pages 30-31
- J. Rules and Governance Committee – Jeff Kowalski, Chair – no report
- K. University Affairs Committee – Bill Pitney, Chair – no report
- L. Student Association – Jack Barry, President – report

J. Barry expressed his excitement for this upcoming week including the inauguration followed by the Ball State football game. The S.A. office is gearing up for these events. Paul Julion, S.A. director of athletics, has been working closely with Barry, Sean Frazier and Brad Hoey regarding how we can increase the student attendance at these last two home football games.

Also S.A. is looking forward to working with Dr. Baker on student career success, including hosting faculty workshops where they can learn how they can get more engaged with student groups to advise them and direct them to different alumni and help them network so we can start building those relationships.

D. Baker noted that we held those ten [Bold Futures] workshops with almost 800 people over the last few weeks. His sense was they all had a lot of energy in them. He thanked those who served as facilitators. A lot of good ideas got out. One of the major themes in there, though, is if we see issues, let's take the bull by the horns, let's be unleashed. Let's go solve them ourselves. Let's form that coalition among ourselves and go solve the problems. We've got a lot of wisdom in this place and a lot of resources. Let's use it and move it forward. He was excited by the energy coming out of the workshops. He thanked those who participated, and encouraged the group to continue that momentum.

He congratulated NIU's undefeated football team earning us a spot on ESPN next Wednesday evening. With the whole country watching, wouldn't it be nice if it looked like the stands were full because they were? That's one of those rare opportunities where this university gets to be on a national stage and we're going to put on a great football showing. But we ought to put on a great crowd showing and show them the Huskie spirit. He encouraged everyone to get out there and do that.

And, of course, everyone is invited to the inauguration as well.

M. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – [report](#) – Page 32

A. Small: thanked the administration, on behalf of the operating staff, for the work put into the Bold Futures Workshops. He reported that the staff was very encouraged and showed it by their participation in those workshops. Small also reported that the staff is tremendously encouraged by the work of Dr. Cunningham, the group of human resources staff, and our ombudsperson working on supervisor training. If we want to increase staff morale, we need consistency and fairness. And supervisory training is a great place to start.

D. Baker reported that a lot of good, actionable ideas came out of the workshops, and he will share as many of those as he can with the leadership team and work them down. But the biggest thing, is the unleashing of potential – giving you the responsibility to actually go make those changes yourself, not wait for the president. If you see something that could be improved, get together the group of people affected by it, form a team, listen to them, come up with an implementation solution, go give it a try. If it doesn't work, then we'll back up and try something else. That's okay but, if it's not working, let's fix it. Or, if you see a way to make it even better, let's go fix it. His hope is cultural change. Let's go fix stuff. Let's change stuff. Let's make this the great place it can be because there are so many good ideas that came out of those workshops. Go Huskies. Unleash the Huskies.

N. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Deborah Haliczzer, President – [report](#) – Page 33

D. Haliczzer seconded Small's comments regarding the Bold Futures Workshops. It was really great for us to interact with all members of the NIU community. Research on employee morale in an organization shows that a valuable component is the voice involved in engagement. The opportunity to come together and to trade ideas about our university is appreciated.

Eric Weldy spoke at the last SPS Council meeting and he talked about the enrollment issues. He engaged the group in reflection on what they can do to help promote student recruitment and retention as well as help this institution be as healthy as we want it to be.

Haliczzer also reminded everyone that the deadline for Presidential SPS award nominations is December 2. Everyone was encouraged to think about SPS employees who should be nominated for that presidential award. The Operating Staff award nomination deadline will be coming up in January.

O. University Benefits Committee – Deborah Haliczzer, Chair and
Therese Arado, FS-Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession Liaison –
[report](#) – Page 34

D. Haliczzer reported that the University Benefits Committee first wants to express thanks and acknowledgement of the students who, in going downstate and talking with our legislators and governor, didn't just talk about student issues, but also talked about employee pensions and benefits. And, again, the theme we are all in this together and every time each of us speaks on behalf of the other members of our community, we're only stronger. The Benefits Committee has been very concerned about pensions and benefits and the argument that they've used for years is without having adequate salaries, benefits, pensions for faculty and staff, that jeopardizes the quality of our academic programs and so it affects the students. So they really are all in this

together.

Haliczer encouraged all active employees to join the Annuitants Association. It costs about \$29 a year and can be done through payroll deduction. As a member, one not only supports the lobbying benefits also gets the best source of information on a timely basis. Whether or not you accept everything that the Annuitants Association is saying, they're able to be freer in what they pass along to members than HR can be because HE has certain restrictions in what can be communicated.

On November 18 at Sandburg Auditorium and on November 19 in Naperville NIU campus, the committee will be hosting workshops through Central Management Services about retiree health insurance. This is an issue of burning concern to our retired colleagues because it affects the options that they have when they're on Medicare.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Syllabus Policy – [APPM Section III, Item 3, H.](#) – Pages 35-36

A. Rosenbaum presented the syllabus policy that was approved by the Faculty Senate and made the motion that the UC support the Faculty Senate statement requiring inclusion of the ADA statement and that we amend the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual item 3, letter H, accordingly.

J. Kowalski: was second.

D. Baker called for a hand vote. The motion was approved without dissent or abstention.

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Rosenbaum reported that, regarding the inauguration, there will be a number of events beginning on Monday. The inauguration itself is on Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Sandburg Auditorium in the Holmes Student Center. That will be followed immediately by a reception at the Chick Evans Field House. The committee wanted to make sure that people understood that this is not by invitation, but that the entire community is welcome to attend. President Baker has wanted this to be a celebration of NIU more so than of himself. We'll be hearing lots of things about NIU and what's good about NIU. There will be videos of students engaged in work with professors. There will be a really nice reception. There will be real food so we want to make sure that everyone gets the word out. And then people are, of course, encouraged afterwards to attend the football game and there will be busses available to escort people around in case there are parking issues. It's going to be terrific so please get the word out and make sure you all turn out as well.

D. Baker thanked Rosenbaum for the kind words, and he hopes to see everyone there. This is an opportunity for us to get the word out about what a great institution NIU is. A lot of media will

be there, and the governor is expected.

R. Clark made an announcement. For the November 26 game, AT&T will present an “It can wait” campaign which is anti-texting while driving. They hope to get students, faculty, staff, community members to sign this pledge to not text while driving.

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](#), 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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.