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UC Minutes 2014-04-30

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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center, Sky Room

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Arriola, Baker, Barry, Block, Bond, Carpenter, Clark, Cripe (for Downing), Dawson, Domke, Donovan, Downs, Farrell, Feurer, Fredericks, Freeman, Giese, Grace, Gupta, Haliczzer, Henning, Holly, Julion, Kapitan, Kowalski, Lee, Lenczewski, Long, R. Lopez, Martin (for Kolb), McCord, Middleton, Mogren, Mohabbat, Moremen, Newman, Perkins, Pitney, Plonczynski, Polzin, Roberts, Rollman, Rosato, Rosenbaum, Sagarin, Schoenbachler, Small, Smith, Theodore, Thu, VandeCreek, Vohra

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Downing (PTP leave), Ferguson, Garcia, Kolb, Leonhardt, E.Lopez, Munroe, Naples, Neal, Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryan, Chakraborty (newly-elected), Chen (newly-elected), Doederlein, Falkoff, Hardy, Hathaway, Klaper, Latham, Nicklas, Weldy

OTHERS ABSENT: Armstrong (sabbatical), Blakemore, Gebo, Kaplan, McHone-Chase, Slotsve, Suttentfield, Thompson, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

D. Baker called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

D. Baker noted one walk-in item, the pension reform statement, to be considered under New Business. **R. Lopez** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **S. Farrell**, motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2014 MEETING

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

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

D. Smith moved to go into executive session, seconded by **D. Plonczynski**, motion passed.

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

B. Report from the UC-University Affairs Committee on the evaluation of the
Ombudsperson

D. Smith: moved to come out of executive session, seconded by an unidentified member, motion passed.

V. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. [Recognition](#) of University Council members whose terms are completed, who have been re-elected and who are newly elected – Pages 4-5

D. Baker:

- Thanked the UC for its hard work and dedication this year.
- Noted the continued challenging environment in which we operate and the fact that we do not yet have a budget for next year. Budget hearings will be held over the next few weeks.
- Reported that we anticipate another drop in enrollment this fall, partially due to the size of our graduating class relative to our incoming class.

L. Freeman: I want the faculty and staff to know that they have been extremely well representative by their deans in the budget building process. It's been very heartwarming to see the NIU community come together and think about things in a new way and as a team.

D. Baker:

- Discussed the second round of Bold Futures workshops and the ideas that have come out of them. Thanked participants for their efforts.
- Made a presentation to the outgoing executive secretary.

A. Rosenbaum thanked the president and the council and acknowledged the contributions of Pat Erickson, Ferald Bryan, and others who have been supportive.

A. Rosenbaum and D.Baker recognized and presented certificates to members of the UC completing their terms.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – [report](#) – Page 6
- 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 7-9

P. Carpenter thanked the committee members for their work this year, and thanked the president, provost and CFO for their openness in terms of the budget process. The committee appreciated the ability to be involved and engaged in the budget conversation this year.

D. Baker expressed appreciation for Carpenter’s and the committee’s collaboration this year. He thinks they’ve provided great feedback, been a good sounding board, and brought wonderful advice.

P. Carpenter thanked the president on behalf of the committee.

- 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 that it’s been an honor to serve in the role of S.A. president. It was a unique year for NIU with the budget. He is happy to see the direction that we’re going. NIU has its challenges ahead but he feels the right people are in place to address those challenges.

D. Baker thanked Jack and the other students for their leadership. He noted it’s been a great partnership from the fun retreat to discuss attendance and football games on through really substantive issues around academics and the support of the institution.

- M. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – [report](#) – Page 10

D. Baker thanked Small for his leadership this year.

- N. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Deborah Haliczzer, President – [report](#) – Page 11

- O. University Benefits Committee – Deborah Haliczzer, Chair;
Therese Arado, FS-Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession Liaison –
[report](#) – Pages 12-13

D. Haliczzer reported that the University Benefits Committee has had an agonizing year looking at the issues confronting faculty and staff. The most significant has been pensions. We had a busy event last week with about 450 faculty and staff who came to the SURS forum explaining pension reform. About another 450 individual hookups happened on the streaming function. Hookups I say because we have no way of knowing how many people watched all of those.

Benefits choice will run May 1-31. Everyone will receive a notice. Not too much in the way of changes but our letter will tell you to be mindful, cautious, if you are in the open access plan because the out-of-pocket expense is going up considerably. HR will be available to help.

D. Baker thanked Deborah for her leadership this year.

- P. Elections and Legislative Oversight Committee – Abhijit Gupta, Chair
1. University Council election of 2014-15
Executive Secretary of University Council

William Pitney was elected executive secretary of the University Council by a vote of:

45 – Yes
2 – No
2 - Abstain

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D. Baker:

- Provided an update on the provost search. Three candidates have visited campus; those who have met the candidates are encouraged to provide comments. The search produced an interesting pool and we'll see if we can get a great candidate to join us.
- Acknowledged Alan Rosenbaum for chairing the committee and expressed appreciation for his and the committee's hard work.
- Thanked Lisa Freeman, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost. She started in the fall and has taken on a lot of hard tasks. She's worked well with others in the administration, deans, faculty and staff.
- Thanked Bill Nicklas, Vice President for Operations and Community Relations.
- Thanked Eric Weldy, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

- A. [Review](#) of Guidelines for Online Courses Carrying Undergraduate Credit Offered by NIU, APPM Section III, Item 23 – Sean Farrell – Pages 14-15

D. Baker called for a motion to approve the Review of Guidelines for Online Courses Carrying Undergraduate Credit.

S. Farrell made the motion. **J. Kowalski** was second.

S. Farrell thanked Jeff Kowalski, Kendall Thu and Greg Long for raising questions and providing feedback and the Steering Committee for going over the particulars of the changes and thoughts behind it.

This is the first time in 13 years that the review has been completed. The first goal was to update embarrassing outdated language on NIU’s website and in the APPM. The second aim was to, in acknowledgement of the fast-moving field of online education, to retain flexibility so that we don’t hamstring ourselves in the future. And finally it was to bring our policies into alignment with HLC standards, and federal law.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

43 – Yes
5 – No
1 – Abstain

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Pension [Statement](#) – Marc Falkoff – walk-in

M. Falkoff introduced the motion that had been approved by the Faculty Senate at its April 23 meeting and which expressed support for an injunction to prevent the state from implementing the pension reform bill until the courts have had an opportunity to rule on its constitutionality.

A. Gupta made the motion. **E. Arriola** was second.

M. Falkoff noted that this document expresses no views on behalf of this body about whether the entire pension law is or is not constitutional. And it was purposely written not to do that. It asks for the status quo to be maintained so that the university does not suffer these retirements.

The motion carried by the following vote:

39 – Yes
3 – No
3 – Abstain

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](#), Computing Facilities Advisory Committee
- K. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- 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](#) – 2014-15 – Page 16
- S. [Policies](#) Pertaining to Graduate Assistantships – Pages 17-42

D. Baker: called attention to the meeting schedule for next year on page 16 and also to the last item, Policies Pertaining to Graduate Assistantships.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

D. Baker invited the body to attend the end of year reception following the meeting.

P. Julion moved to adjourn, seconded by **M. Theodore**, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.