UC Agenda 2012-12-05

Northern Illinois University
I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2012 UC MEETING
(distributed electronically)

IV. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. HLC Self-Study Process
   Doris Macdonald, HLC Accreditation Steering Committee Chair

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report – Pages 3-4

B. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee – Kerry Freedman and Andy Small – report – Pages 5-6

C. BOT Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee – Alan Rosenbaum and Greg Waas – report – Pages 7-8

D. BOT Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee – Todd Latham and Rosita Lopez – report – Page 9

E. BOT – Alan Rosenbaum – report – Page 10

F. Academic Policy Committee – Sean Farrell, Chair – report
   1. Online student evaluation of instruction – walk-in

G. Resources, Space and Budgets Committee – Paul Carpenter, Chair – report – Page 11

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
K. Operating Staff Council – Andy Small, President – no report

L. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Todd Latham, President – report – Page 12

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Student appeal of the University Council’s declination to veto the Undergraduate Coordinating Council’s grading policy change – Pages 13-15

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
Report on the FAC-IBHE Meeting, November 16, 2012

The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) met on November 16, 2012, at Lewis University. The meeting began with the introduction of Dr. Jeanette Mines, Academic Associate to the Provost, who provided a history of the institution. Substantial program areas include nursing, criminal justice, and aviation.

IBHE Updates

FAC Chair Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC) announced that the FAC will meet with the IBHE staff at the December meeting in Springfield. It is hoped that either Governor Edgar or Representative Biss will attend that meeting. Ocheng Jany (IBHE) added that Interim Executive Director Harry Berman may attend (previous Executive Director G.W. Reid recently resigned). Other updates:

- There are two candidates (both women) left in the search for the Deputy Director for Academic Affairs.
- The new IBHE division, Private Business and Vocational Schools will be self-supporting; fees will be charged for approvals, renewals, changes, etc.
- The FAC proposal to establish a faculty fellow program at IBHE may be delayed by the change in executive directors; however, Abbas will pursue the faculty fellowship idea with the interim Executive Director.
- Allan Karnes (SIUC) indicated that for the Executive Director position, pending approval, a national search firm will be used. The time frame is 4-6 months with the goal of having someone in place by July 1. A question was raised as to whether FAC will be represented on the search committee, and a motion was approved to have Abbas draft a letter to Carrie Hightman offering the FAC’s help in the search for an Executive Director.

MAP Task Force

Steve Rock (WIU) gave a brief update on the MAP Task Force, which met the day before. They are still trying to find consensus and running scenarios. They are supposed to finish their report by the end of the year. The MAP deadline may be going away.

Legislator Visit

Alan Phillips (IBHE Deputy Director of Planning and Budgeting) presented “The Future of Higher Education: Issue, Policy, and Trends.” This was a sobering look at the current situation and possible future in the field of higher education.

In response to a question on Performance-Based Funding (PBF), Phillips said that he doesn’t expect major changes in performance based funding for FY14. The committee is currently gathering data. Amounts will be kept small until the longitudinal data system is up. This year’s amount was ½ of 1%; it might be 1% for FY14. They are trying to make sure that the legislature doesn’t impose their own allocation method. Current criteria will remain; some others may be added.
Public Four-Year Caucus Updates

The Public Caucus is looking at the value of higher education and the synergy between higher education and society. A policy paper is currently being drafted that aims to respond to the question of how we in higher education can show the benefits and make the public understand them.

The minutes from November 16th were approved. Meeting minutes are posted to the FAC-IBHE website (once approved) for public viewing. These can be accessed at http://www.ibhe-fac.org/Meetings.html

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya L. Armstrong
Assistant Professor in the Department of Literacy Education
NIU Representative to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council
The AASAPC of the BOT met at 9:00 a.m. Committee Chair, Trustee Coleman, opened the meeting, stating that three action items and three information items were on the agenda as part of the University Report.

Action Item: Appointments with Rank and Tenure

The first item on the action agenda was a request for Committee support for final approval of rank and tenure for new faculty hired into administrative positions. This was the first time such rank and tenure appointments have been brought before the Committee in Fall semester; previously, they have been handled later in the academic year. However, the earlier schedule will help to facilitate the hiring process.

Four new administrators were included in the considerations: Chair of the Department of Literacy Education; Chair of the School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences; Associate Dean of Public Services, University Libraries; and Chair of the School of Nursing and Health Studies. All requests for rank and tenure were passed forward to the full Board of Trustees.

Action Item: Requests for New School and New Department

As a result of an academic and administrative reorganization, a new School of Public and Global Affairs has been created and department status was requested for a new Department of Public Administration. The members of the Committee agreed that these are good examples of interdisciplinary programming within the University and saw new grant opportunities as a result of the reorganization. Also, these units will enable increased service in the not-for-profit sector. A strong service learning component is included in the public administration program, which reflects an emerging discipline focused on connections between government and not-for-profit management. President Peters confirmed that Political Science will continue as a department and not be hurt by the reorganization. The Committee agreed to forward these requests.

Action Item: Request to Delete the Masters of Physical Therapy

A request was made to eliminate the Masters of Physical Therapy (MPT) degree. Currently, the terminal degree in this field is a doctorate (DPT), which students may now enter following their undergraduate work. All of the students previously in the MPT program have now graduated. The Committee agreed to forward this request.

Information Item: Online Learning Support Services RFP
University upper administration has taken steps to increase online learning courses and programs through NIU by developing contracts with external support service providers. A request for proposals is being used for competitive selection of external digital infrastructure vendors. The RFP contracts will last up to seven years. The new vendors will provide services such as the following: analysis of marketing needs, enrollment services, marketing to US and international students, and providing up-front capital for program start-up. According to the Committee Chair, an online program such as this “pays for itself.” These vendors are also expected to provide the following: course design and development, faculty training and support, and assistance with course staffing.

The academic effect of these contracts is as yet unclear. However, Provost Alden emphasized that the online programs will be conducted under the guidance of current faculty. He stated that the faculty will be responsible for the curriculum and that graduate faculty will continue to teach and supervise graduate programs. Trustee Murer asked about any potential changes in the quality of NIU academic programs that might result from the use of these service providers. Provost Alden stated that quality will be maintained and credentialing will be protected.

Information Item: Oversight of Academic Programs

The University review of academic programs was discussed. Each program in the University is reviewed every eight years. At four years, programs conduct a mid-term review. An external review of doctoral programs is also conducted.

Information Item: Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Update

The Higher Learning Commission site-team visit will be conducted March 3-5, 2014. The accreditation process is intended to promote public assurance, compile evidence of institutional quality and is an opportunity for self-study and self-analysis. The review includes all university functions and facilities. All faculty and staff are asked to familiarize themselves with the five, major review criteria:

1. Mission
2. Integrity
3. Teaching and learning: Quality, resources, and support
4. Teaching and learning: Evaluation and improvement
5. Resources, planning, and institutional effectiveness

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee will be held in Spring 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Freedman
UAC Representative
The Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee of the NIU Board of Trustees met on Thursday, November 8, 2012. The meeting was chaired by Trustee Robert Boey. The agenda included 6 action items and 3 informational items.

1. Action Items. The following action items were reviewed and approved by the Committee:

- The FY 2014 mass transit contract. The total approved was $4 million. Funds come entirely from student activities fees.
- The cable television programming package. Expenditure authority not to exceed $320,000 was approved. Students are charged for cable television service and were consulted regarding what they wanted to have included in the package.
- The College of Engineering and Engineering Technologies received a grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and requested expenditure authority for $425,000 in order to allow them to disburse monies to subcontractors at UAB.
- The Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences was approved for expenditure authority in the amount of $675,681 in order to increase a subcontract with Deep Ocean Engineering and Research (DOER) in conjunction with their ongoing federally funded WISSARD project.
- Northern Illinois Research Foundation (NIRF) was approved for increased expenditure authority in the amount of $465,000 from local funds (institutional). The monies are to be used to expand NIRF services to NIU. The expanded services will include initiatives to increase the commercialization of intellectual property and to facilitate the research productivity of recently hired, early career faculty members at NIU.
- Online Learning Support Services RFP. In order to expand NIU’s distributed learning efforts, Provost Alden intends to explore possible collaborations with existing entities that are already providing online education. Over the next year, the intent is to identify potentially beneficial partnerships, issue RFPs, and possibly sign contracts with these entities. Since such efforts will require BOT approval and since the BOT meets only four times per year, a more immediate vehicle for approval was requested. After an extended discussion, the FFO subcommittee approved a plan by which the Executive Committee, which has the ability to conduct on-line votes, will be the approval agent on behalf of the BOT. In order to include all BOT members that have interest in this process, the Executive Committee will allow the participation of any interested trustee in the Executive Committee deliberations and vote, for this business only. This recommendation, as is true of all the action items, will have to be approved by the full BOT at the December 6th meeting.
The informational items included the semi-annual progress report of active capital projects; the quarterly summary of transactions in excess of $100,000 (of which there were 15); and the periodic report on investments (on which the average annualized rate of return is 0.29%).

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Rosenbaum, Ph.D.
University Advisory Committee
Legislation, Audit, External Affairs and Compliance Committee
November 8, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anthony Iosco at 11:25 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Banks-Wilkins conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, John Butler, Wheeler Coleman, Robert Marshall, BOT Chair Cherilyn Murer, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Elliot Echols and Chair Iosco. Also present were President John Peters, Committee Liaison Kathryn Buettner, and General Counsel Jerry Blakemore.

Danielle Schultz, Internal Audit Director, presented an internal audit update for fiscal year 2012. The audit plan originally included 17 audits on areas with a focus on operational and compliance audits. The audit topics are as follows: operational (1), compliance (3), financial (2), information systems (1), fraud detection (1), and prevention (8). One audit was cancelled.

Kathy Buettner reported on the fall 2012 recruitment and marketing program for university relations. NIU advertises in multiple high population markets: Rockford, Springfield, Champaign, Peoria, and Joliet. A combination of media is used to share the NIU message specifically through advertisements, digital billboards, TV programming, and radio. Pandora radio is also another initiative that has been successful. Listeners have clicked in via this venue and as a result over 17,000 visits to the NIU web have been recorded. Social media has also worked out very well to send the message of NIU. To date we continue towards the goal and reach of 1.8 million viewers to the NIU Facebook page. NIU has partnered with the DeKalb county visitors and convention bureau to provide NIU, the community and IHSA competitions. The banners used at the Soldier Field Showdown have returned to campus and are on display throughout campus. The campus bridge connecting Founders and Law Library further promotes NIU.

Trustee Strauss asked about the cost of these initiatives. Kathy responded that the ballpark figure is $800,000.00 including the printed materials. Trustee Strauss requested that this be revisited by the BOT. Trustee Butler asked about the absence of Chicago and the Hispanic community in the presentation. Kathy reported that NIU is promoted on Spanish radio in Aurora and other large Hispanic population areas. Chicago is expensive to buy advertisement time but NIU does focus on the Chicago land area.

Lori Clark, Director of State and Federal Relations, presented a preliminary report on federal and state mandated reports. The cycle of the recent elections is something that all are eager to hear about. The constitutional amendment that appeared on the ballot required a 3/5 majority for pension decisions. That did not pass and in effect has died. Now we are looking at January as the lame duck session where more will follow. Dr. Cunningham will keep us apprised of pension negotiations. The governor’s role will be important given that he can veto. NIU will continue to be represented by Bob Pritchard; he ran unopposed. Senator Syverson will now represent NIU; in alignment with Rockford. In terms of congress, the House will still be controlled by the republicans and the Senate by the democrats. In congress we will be working with Senator Adam Kinzinger. NIU will be welcoming our new elected officials to visit and tour campus.

Next meeting for the BOT is scheduled for December 6, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Rosita Lopez and Todd Latham
Report on the NIU Board of Trustees Special Meeting
November 8, 2012

The NIU Board of Trustees met on Thursday, November 8 at DeKalb. The purpose of the meeting was the authorization of the search to find a successor to President John Peters who has announced his intention to retire on June 30, 2013. Chair Murer began by praising the contributions of President Peters and the importance of identifying a strong individual to lead the university forward. The BOT approved the hiring of Parker Executive as the search firm. NIU has worked with Parker Executive several times in the recent past, and has great confidence in their experience in conducting presidential searches. The BOT also authorized and charged the search committee which will be chaired by Trustee Robert Boey and co-chaired by the Executive Secretary of the University Council, Alan Rosenbaum. The committee includes 28 members, representative of the major constituencies in the university and selected, in large part, by each of those constituent groups. The search committee will meet with the trustees following the December 6 BOT meeting in order to discuss the position profile and job description. The BOT hopes the search can be concluded in time for the new president to be in place on July 1, 2013. There was some discussion among trustees regarding the time-line for the search with the concern being raised that the BOT should not be rushed in selecting a president. The counterpoint to that was that the July 1st target date is realistic and conveys the urgency the BOT feels regarding the selection of a president. All trustees agreed that the BOT would not hire an unqualified candidate solely to meet the July 1 target but that it was a reasonable date for which to aim in conducting our search.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Rosenbaum
UAC Representative
Committee on Resources, Space and Budget

Summary of Meeting on 11/9/12

1. The committee was welcomed to the meeting.
2. The primary focus of the meeting was reviewing the session with President Peters and Provost Alden.
   a. Given the report provided, the university has clearly made great strides in addressing campus safety and has, and continues to do so, invest in making the campus safer.
   b. The committee felt that the focus on safety had yielded some positive outcomes in terms of raising awareness and the dissemination of information to the university on campus safety. Based on some issues raised by the committee action had been taken to improve safety.
   c. Some areas for improvement were noted (e.g., meeting demand for the Night Ride, coordination of patrols, undertaking a strategic preventive analysis) and Dr. Williams encouraged the committee members to work with their constituents and identify any additional concerns and then to raise these with him through the committee.
   d. Some challenges were also identified such as highly qualified officers using their NIU training to move to other positions and the complexities of jurisdiction.
3. A discussion followed regarding the committee’s focus for the remainder of the year.
   a. Ensure that information presented is disseminated back to the constituents the committee members represent.
   b. Seek input from our constituents as to the key issues that need to be on the table.
   c. Seek input from the Provost on his priorities and revisit the priorities outlined in Vision 2020.
   d. Two key issues that emerged were enrollments and pensions and their potential impact on future budgets.
4. Dr. Eddie Williams provided a brief update on the amount the state owes NIU. For fiscal 12 this stands at $6.5M and for fiscal 13 it stands at $56M.
5. Meeting adjourned.
Council Action
President Latham provided SPS Council an update of the Presidential Advisory Search Committee. The SPS Council presented a unified statement of attributes through their PASC representative.

A joint meeting of SPS and HR will be held on November 27 to prepare a final draft of the Personnel Policies and Procedures for SPS.

Council discussed morale issues on campus and President Peters’ letter.

An APAC and OSC tiered parking proposal was discussed. President Latham attended the Campus Parking committees meeting at their request on the matter.

Committees
The Awards Committee is accepting nominations of SPS for the Presidential Award for Excellence. The deadline is December 3, 2012.

The Communication Committee solicited feedback on the Fall 2012 SPS Newsletter.

Constitution and Elections committee approved the following council appointments.

Division 2: Anne Hardy to Representative
    Sheila Milan to Alternate to replace Hardy
    Chrissy Tluczek as Alternate to replace Milan

Division 4: Marti Jernberg to Representative
    Karinne Bredberg to Alternate to replace Jernberg
    Megan Gerken to Alternate to replace Bredberg

Division 6: Kiera Miller to Representative
    Christina Sutcliffe to Alternate to replace Miller

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Latham, President
Supportive Professional Staff Council
Explanation of VII. Unfinished Business

At the October 10th meeting of the University Council, the UC supported a student motion to send the grading policy (plus/minus) that had been approved by the Undergraduate Coordinating Council back to the UCC with the reason being that they had not adequately considered student input. The UCC exercised its constitutional option to send the policy back to the UC unmodified with an explanation of its action. The explanation was that they felt that student input had been appropriately considered and the vote to send it back to the UC unchanged was unanimous (including the student member in attendance). This came back to the UC at its November 7th meeting. At that meeting, students made a motion for the UC to veto the policy, which, according to the bylaws requires a vote of two-thirds of all eligible voting members of the UC. The motion failed to carry.

Under Bylaws article 3.5: Action of the University Council on matters affecting policy may be appealed by written petition of five percent or 500 members, whichever is smaller, of any constituency (faculty, student, supportive professional staff, operating staff) represented by a voting member of the University Council. Such petition shall be made to the president within 10 days of the official publication of the action.

Student representatives on the UC filed such a petition to appeal the action of the UC “to not veto the ‘plus/minus’ policy approved by the Undergraduate Coordinating Council.” The opinion of General Counsel, Jerry Blakemore, is that the declination of the UC to veto the policy of the UCC represents a tacit approval and is therefore an appealable action under article 3.5. As such, article 3.5 requires the President to place the reconsideration of the veto on the agenda and, therefore, it has been placed under unfinished business.

Two votes will be required. First a motion for reconsideration will have to be made, seconded, and approved by a majority of members present. Second, if the reconsideration motion passes, the motion to veto will require the approval of two-thirds of all eligible voting members of the UC in order to carry.

This attachment includes the letter from the student leaders articulating the appeal and the petition that purportedly accompanied the signature pages that students were asked to sign.
President Peters,

As per the Bylaws of Northern Illinois University, Article III. 3.5, the student representatives of University Council hereby appeal the decision made on 7 November 2012 to not veto the "plus/minus" policy approved by the Undergraduate Coordinating Council. Enclosed are petitions from 1,096 undergraduate students who feel that student input was not adequately taken into consideration. It is our opinion that when given the time to properly survey the opinion of the student body, the Undergraduate coordinating Council and University Council will be more capable of making an informed decision about changing our grading policy.

The evidence we have gathered in this short amount of time reflects this sentiment. You will find that of the 1,096 signatures, a mere twenty two were in favor of "plus/minus" and five were unsure. Also, the referendum that students voted on in the spring of 2011 showed that 707 students out of 1064 were opposed to the implementation of a "plus/minus" grading system.

It is imperative that we, as student leaders, have the opportunity to keep bringing this issue to our constituency. We feel that as student input is gathered and recorded, it will show students are overwhelmingly opposed to changing our grading system. Therefore, we also believe that the Undergraduate Coordinating Council did not adequately address the issue of student input in making such an important change in policy. University Council has the responsibility to make sure committees such as UCC make well-informed decisions on policies that affect the entire student and faculty population.

We respectfully ask that this appeal be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of University Council to reconsider the vote taken at the 7 November 2012 meeting.

Respectfully,

Kyle Bak
Director of Academic Affairs

Michael Theodore
Speaker-Designate

CC: Speaker Austin M. D. Quick
President Delonte LeFlore

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2828 / 815-753-0483
Northern Illinois University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.
The University Council on Meeting of November 7, 2012 approved the Undergraduate Coordinating Council’s Minutes, thereby establishing the policy of a “Plus/Minus” grading scale.

The scale looks as follows

A   A-  B+  B  B-  C+  C  D  F

I, as a current undergraduate student of Northern Illinois University disagree with the decision for the University Council to approve the Undergraduate Coordinating Council’s approval of a “Plus/Minus” grading system because, I feel that student input was not adequately taken into consideration, nor do I think student input was inquired about after it was vetoed earlier this academic year.

I am signing this petition, as a student in good standing, to challenge the action of the University Council.

By authority according to the University Bylaws Article III, Operating Procedures of the University Council, Section 3.5, Procedure for Implementing and Appealing University Council Actions:

“Any action approved by the University Council shall go into effect immediately or at a date specified. In the event that the approval of the Board of Trustees is required or deemed necessary, the action of the University Council shall not be effective until appropriate action is taken by the Board. Action of the University Council on matters affecting policy may be appealed by written petition of five percent or 500 members, whichever is smaller, of any constituency [faculty, student, supportive professional staff, operating staff] represented by a voting member of the University Council. Such petition shall be made to the president within 10 days of the official publication of the action. The president shall, if necessary, call a special meeting of the University Council or, in accordance with Section 2.1.3.4 of these bylaws, place the appeal on the agenda of the next regular meeting to require the University Council to reconsider the vote on the action taken.”

This petition for appeal will have names, signatures, ZIDs, and a check box asking “are you against the “+/-” system on subsequent pages.