I. **Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by K. Wiemer, seconded by P. Braun, to adopt the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

II. **Announcements**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by J. Kot, seconded by K. Wiemer, to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2014 UCC meeting with some minor editorial changes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. **Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees**

A. **Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee**

Kolb recapped the minutes from the February meeting indicating the committee reviewed the Special and Early Education GPA justification and approved the change in GPA from 3.0 to 2.5. The committee updated the catalog language for Visiting Student information on the limits of credits that could be earned. A request from KNPE for a C or better in a series
of courses was sent back to the department for further information. The committee also approved a couple of requests from the College of Health and Human Sciences.

G. Aase made a motion to receive the minutes from the February 5, 2014 APASC meeting, seconded by C. Campbell. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education**

L. Matuszewski highlighted the activities from the February meeting indicating that the selection of the David Raymond Use of Technology in Teaching Award was selected. The recipient is Brianno Coller from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. She indicated the committee discussed making some adjustments to the criteria, particularly in relation to the transferability of the technology to other areas and/or venues - it was discussed that the weight given be increased. This will be something that will be discussed again next year before the call for nominations.

The committee also discussed their time table for reviewing the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Instruction awards.

L. Matuszewski made a motion, seconded by P. Braun to receive the minutes from the February 3, 2014 meeting of CIUE. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**C. Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment**

Kolb reported that the committee invited Denise Rode and Kelly Smith to present information about UNIV 101 and also to provide ideas of changes that may be incorporated. They explained the current pedagogy. Denise and Kelly also presented different models and changes that could be explored. The committee discussed the various merits of UNIV 101, whether or not it should be mandatory. They also discussed the increased involvement of tenure track faculty. They are continuing their discussion with the goal of preparing a document containing their recommendations.

Birberick added that there is quite a bit of discussion involving UNIV 101. The discussion revolves around how improvements can be made to UNIV 101 to further serve the needs of our students. Birberick indicated there will be changes - those are still being worked out at this time. She also indicated that there is a book and a standard syllabus with certain requirements for the course.

A. Keddie made a motion to receive the minutes from the February 11, 2014 CUAE meeting, seconded by K. Wiemer. **Motion passed unanimously.**
D. Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum

Aase recapped the minutes. He pointed out some new courses. He indicated they were still working on the APPM, bringing it up to date - Melissa is working with Donna on that.

G. Aase made a motion to receive the March 20, 2014 minutes of the CUC, seconded by J. Kot. Motion passed unanimously.

E. General Education Committee

C. Campbell reported a lot of time used talking about the HLC visit and General Education assessment or the lack thereof. Also talked about the PLUS task force models for revamping gen ed., some discussion of e-portfolios. Non Task Force members of the GEC will also review the models developed by the Task Force and provide feedback.

A motion to receive the GEC minutes from the February 20, 2014 meeting was made by P. Braun, seconded by A. Keddie. Motion passed unanimously.

F. University Honors Committee

Braun was presented at the meeting and said the minutes are self-explanatory and she had nothing further to add.

A motion was made by L. Matuszewski, seconded by P. Braun to receive the February 7, 2014 Honors Committee minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Other Reports

A. University Assessment Panel

M. Ayers reported that at the March 7, 2014 meeting they reviewed the assessment report from the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning. The report for the Masters of Science in Teaching was tabled. The report for the BS/BA in Environmental Studies was returned for additional data. Meredith reminded everyone that the Assessment Expo is tomorrow from 8:30 – 12 in the Skyroom.

V. Old Business

Course repeat policy – discussion continued

Rebecca Babel, Director of Student Financial Aid was present to discuss the impact of course repeat policy on student’s aid. Babel stated that there are two areas of federal regulation that impact repeated courses. One is whether a repeated course can even be
considered for financial aid eligibility at all. She said the purpose of financial aid is for students to make progress towards a degree. Financial aid is not used for non-credit courses or internships, etc. A course can be counted, for financial aid purposes (a repeated course) if it is the first time it has been taken since the course had been passed. In this case, pass means the student earned a D or higher OR a course for which credit is earned. There was also discussion regarding students being allowed to repeat any course in an attempt to better their grade. Babel indicated that was brought up in the congressional hearings and why the first attempt after a passing grade went through.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is the second area Babel spoke about. Both the state and federal governments have their own policies in regard to a student’s eligibility to receive funding. They have minimum standards that must be met: one is a minimum GPA requirement; one is a completion rate and one is maximum time frame (you can only have financial aid through attempting 150% of the credit hours required for a program). The GPA requirement is generally 2.0 (it does need to be consistent with the standards for graduation). The GPA for financial aid has to be at least as high for any academic purpose. The completion rate is in reference to a percentage of courses completed based on those attempted. It can be no less than 67% (completion rate is defined as cumulative hours attempted (every course - failed, withdrawal, etc.) divided by cumulative hours earned. Repeated courses fall into the attempted category each time it is taken but only fall into the hours earned once. At NIU the last attempt overrides the previous attempt even if the later is a worse grade.

Babel praised the academic advising staff of the university and their understanding of these issues. In her opinion they are phenomenal and said that if students seek advisement or are required to obtain advisement they receive the appropriate information.

Babel indicated that 71% of full-time students receive some type of aid that would fall under these policies. What Babel couldn’t provide was the number of students enrolled in non-eligible courses per semester, however she did say that if the grading policy were changed to include C- that would increase the likelihood that those numbers would go up as well.

Birberick pointed the committee to the information provided by Donna Smith which listed courses and programs which require a grade of C or better. She also pointed to the information obtained from Testing Services that Greg Barker provided which included D, F, W and I. It gives an idea of which courses are repeated most frequently. There was discussion regarding various components including accrediting bodies and the change of the grading scale or repeat policy. Department resource issues were also part of the discussion. Millis said he checked with institutions such as SIU, Eastern and Western. SIU has a two time repeat policy. Western has a similar policy to NIU’s.

Birberick suggested that a packet be put together of the information collected for members to take back to departments and colleges to continue the discussion (framing options).
She will have Greg Barker contact Aase to continue refining the data, etc. Braun also asked if Birberick could find out why no Nursing courses were listed within the C or better information.

VI Adjournment

J. Stafstrom made a motion, seconded by P. Braun to adjourn @ 2:32 p.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ratfield  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Provost