Operating Staff Council
Minutes – October 3, 2013


Excused:  Joe Lifshitz, Pamela Roesner

Guests:  NIU President Douglas Baker, Nikkita Carrington, Deborah Haliczer, Sara Klaper, Linda Odom, State Representative Robert Pritchard, Rahul Thatte, Rhonda Wybourn

I.  Call to Order

Prior to the October OSC meeting, the committee was given a tour of the newly renovated Gilbert Hall. Our guide was Gino Martinez. Afterward, President Andy Small called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:40 AM.

II.  Roll Call

Attendance was recorded by Stacey Bivens.

III.  Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Rachel Pierce to accept the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Gina Shannon and passed by vote.

IV.  Approval of September 5, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Patricia Liberty-Baczek to accept the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Karen Smith and passed by vote.

V.  Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer’s report was given by Elizabeth Buck. A motion was made by Rachel Pierce to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Victoria Nay and passed by vote.

VI.  Announcements/Correspondence

The Resource, Space and Budget Committee is discussing summer projects.


The flu shot clinic takes place October 23, 2013, and November 1, 2013.
The OSC received a thank you note from the Red Cross. A total of $61.00 was collected at StaffFest.

Patricia Liberty Baczek announced that the LGBTQ calendar for October is posted. She said that donations of clothing are being accepted for the Clothing Expo, which will take place October 8, 2013. Gently used every day and career clothing can be dropped off at the Women’s Resource Center.

VII. **President’s Reports**

A. Board of Trustees
   The Board of Trustees met September 19, 2013.

B. Faculty Senate
   Faculty Senate met October 2, 2013.

C. University Council
   University Council met September 18, 2013.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

A. Workplace Issues
   The committee looked at the Operating Staff job satisfaction survey. There were questions about tuition waivers, what is a “dependent,” and discussion regarding the NIU constitution bylaws. It was decided that Robin Anderson would look at the language in the survey. The committee tabled discussion about accounting issues until its October 16, 2013, meeting.

B. Elections and Appointments
   The Campus Parking Committee needed a new member. Patricia Liberty-Baczek volunteered. Heike Hofstetter motioned to accept Patricia’s appointment to the committee. The motion was seconded by Andy Small.

C. Public Relations
   The committee went through and completed an updated OSC handbook. Copies will be e-mailed to OSC members for discussion.

D. SPS Council
   SPS has created a VIBE site. It’s used by Novell users and is similar to Blackboard. Documents can be added to the site, as well as minutes of SPS subcommittees.

   For tailgating prior to the NIU Homecoming football game, SPS is
offering a buffet and ticket to the game for $30. The cost is $15 for food only.

E. Visiting Committees/Guests

Visitor Rahul Thatte, who serves on the Computing Facilities Advisory Committee, spoke to OSC about the IT department’s search for a new director. They’re looking specifically for someone to fill the role as a Chief Information Officer, and Mr. Thatte was seeking input from the departments the OSC members represent.

NIU president, Dr. Baker, came to the meeting and shared some of his impressions since becoming president in July. During the first week in July, Dr. Baker met with many groups to find out what expectations there were of NIU. He’s very committed to the goal of preparing NIU students to be successful in life. Alumni can play a role by mentoring students. Dr. Baker spoke with 15 first year students, who were more concerned about practical issues; Dr. Baker wants to unleash the potential in our students. Dr. Baker shared with OSC that 1/3 of last year’s freshman class didn’t return. One thing that could reverse this is social attachment; having an instructor, professor or supervisor who cares about the student. Most of the students who left were in good academic standing. Dr. Baker wants NIU to demonstrate ethically inspired leadership and a sustainable budget model.

Representative Pritchard shared updates regarding what was happening legislatively in Springfield. According to him, there will be no pension bill moving this year. He also spoke about MAP grants and how the money could be distributed more equitably. Representative Pritchard believes universities need to look at retention. Also, with virtual learning, there won’t be a need for as many classrooms are there now. There is now a new director at the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Also under discussion in Springfield are conceal/carry and dependent tuition waivers, however the bill concerning the waivers is not moving.

F. EAC

EAC’s next meeting will be held on October 17, 2013.

G. UAC

UAC had the opportunity to meet with President Baker without an appointment.

H. APAC
Linda Odom shared that the subcommittee working on the Pat Siebrasse Administrative Professionals Award for Excellence is close to finalizing the criteria for selection for the award.

IX. **Old Business**

Discussion regarding Supervisor Training and Parking issues was tabled until OSC’s November 7, 2013, meeting.

X. **New Business**

Discussion regarding Accounting was tabled until OSC’s November 7, 2013, meeting.

XI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.