Minutes
Operating Staff Council
July 7, 2016
Sky Room – 9:00 a.m.


Absent: Elizabeth Buck, Ellen Cabrera, Angie Gutierrez-Vargas, Jay Monteiro, Mary Wyzard

Guests: Joe Grush, Sarah Klaper, Greg Long, Rose Miller

I. Call to Order
President Holly Nicholson called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:08 a.m.

II. Roll Call
Attendance was recorded by Stacey Bivens

III. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Andree to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Raices and passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of June 2, 2016, minutes
A motion was made by Hulseberg to accept the June 2, 2016, minutes. The motion was seconded by Andree and passed by unanimous vote.

V. Treasurer’s Report
A motion was made by Liberty-Baczek to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Raices and passed by unanimous vote.

VI. Visiting Committees/Guests
Joe Grush from the Annuitants Association was invited to speak. He explained that there is the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) and the Northern Illinois University Annuitants Association (NIUAA). NIU’s chapter is the 2nd largest in the state with 1900 members. The Annuitants Association is an advocate for employees and retirees by offering a defense of encroachment on our benefits. Grush shared handouts at the meeting. He explained that five pension funds overseen by the state are $110 billion in arrears. Grush also pointed out that there have been two state Supreme Court victories. The first occurred in 2014 when the Court ruled that the State could not
charge retirees for health care premiums. The second victory came in 2015 when the Court ruled that the State could not reduce benefits of employees or retirees. Its role in these court cases cost the Annuitants Association around $500,000. Pending or possible legislation includes: limit raises to the rate of inflation, eliminate tuition waivers, reduce the 3% automatic COLAs (cost of living increases), and impose state income tax on all retirement income. Membership to NIUAA and SUAA is not limited to retirees. NIU employees can become members by using payroll deduction. The dues will pay for membership to both organizations. The form for membership can be found at the Annuitants Association’s page on NIU’s website:

http://www.niu.edu/annuitants/_pdf/DuesDeductiCurrentEmployees.pdf

Cindy Kozumplik, OSC member and Information Technology Services employee, gave a presentation on information technology governance committees. She explained there is the Computing Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC), which plays an advisory role to the Chief Information Officer regarding computing. Operating staff employee Rahul Thatte is a member of this committee. Other groups include the Information Technology Planning Council, Information Technology Steering Committee, and a People Soft Subcommittee. Long mentioned that there are potential software accessibility issues. Kozumplik stated that Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs) are part of the procurement process, so no software is purchased that is not accessible.

VII. Public Comment
No report

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence
Because this was the first official meeting with the OSC’s new members, all council members introduced themselves. Nicholson pointed out that the name card of each OSC voting member was marked with a round blue sticker. It was announced that the Public Relations/Activities Committee is sponsoring crochet and knitting workshops on July 12, 14, 19, and 21. One of the project choices is a sleeping mat for homeless students on campus. Raices announced that the new director of the Holmes Student Center is Ian Crane. Nicholson shared that Brad Hoey is no longer in Marketing and Communications and is now in Athletics. She also announced that the Web Team is no longer part of Creative Services and is now in Web & Internal Communications under the direction of Jennice O’Brien. Creative Services now reports to Abby Dean, director of University Marketing.

IX. President’s Reports
A. Board of Trustees
Met on June 16, 2016. The new furlough rules are in effect until October 2017. The Foundation had a great year! Funds were shifted from the reconstruction of parking lots P and PS to the Holmes Student Center renovation.
B. Faculty Senate
Long reported that a salary study on tenure track faculty is going to be conducted. It is hoped that this kind of study will be useful to the other employee groups on campus. He said he stopped by room 103 in Altgeld Hall, and was pleased to see that it has been turned into a comfortable and functional working space that now includes work stations for the Supportive Professional Staff Council and Operating Staff Council administrative aid and council presidents. There has been discussion about the University Advisory Committee. Nicholson and Long feel their presence there is not well-used; they are not asked for input or advice. They have an appointment to speak with President Baker. Long reported that the review of the governance documents is ongoing. The consolidation of the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual will lead to a better organized policy library.

C. Supportive Professional Staff Council (SPSC)
No report

D. University Council
No report

X. Committee Reports
A. Elections and Appointments
Elections were held for executive committee positions with the following results:
President: Holly Nicholson
Vice-President: Jay Monteiro
Secretary: Stacey Bivens
Treasurer: Zach Bohn
Parliamentarian: Nancy Brown

B. Employee Morale
No report

C. Legislative Committee
No report. There are questions about alternates voting. For example, do alternates vote? If they do vote, when an alternate is attending a meeting in place of another member, does the alternate vote as the member would or as the alternate wants to? Kozumplik asked who is contacted when an OSC member cannot attend a meeting. OSC members should contact the OSC secretary. When the administrative aid position is filled, members should contact that person to coordinate an alternate.

D. Public Relations
No report
E. StaffFest
Takes place Thursday, August 4. OSC members should be at the student center and ready to go at 9:30 a.m. There are going to be outside games: mini-golf, bean bags, and a dunk tank. RSVP tickets are due on Friday, July 15, and OSC members are needed to help count tickets on Thursday, July 21, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

F. Workplace Issues
No report

G. Administrative Professionals Advisory Council (APAC)
Miller reported that the Mentoring Program is up and running. Also, APAC has a full council now with the addition of Megan Sippel, Vicky Vosburgh, and Patricia Wielert.

H. Employee Advisory Committee (EAC)
No report

I. University Advisory Committee (UAC)
No report

XI. Old Business

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Bivens
Operating Staff Council Secretary