

Operating Staff Council Meeting
Minutes 05/07/2009
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

Present: Elizabeth Buck, Donald Butler, Gay Campbell, Sara Clayton, Marcia Dick, Glenda Jones, Jay Monteiro, Danell Nixon, Pamela Rosenberg, Carlos Raices, Andy Small, Alan Smith, Brenda Smith, Karen Smith, and Jesse Tellez

Excused Absence: Linda Jennings

Guests: Tim Griffin, Jodi Tyrrell and Bobbi Cesarek

I. Call to Order

President Jay Monteiro called the regular meeting of the Operating Staff Council (OSC) to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was given by Brenda Smith.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

IV. Approval of April 2, 2009, minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

V. Treasurer's Report

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

OSC received a thank you card from the Wellness Fair that was held Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Next year's Wellness Fair will be held Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

Benefits Choice period started May 1, 2009, and will go thru May 31, 2009.

VII. President's Reports:

A. Board of Trustees

No report

B. Faculty Senate

Monteiro gave report on evaluation of Faculty Senate President Paul Stoddard.

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A report was given on SPS Faculty Personnel Advisor evaluation for Alan Rosenbaum.

A report was given on academic progress eligibility. NIU Volleyball rates in the top percentile.

An election was held, the new Faculty/Senate President is Allen Rosenbaum, SPS Advisor, David Wade, Representative IBHE, Earl Hanson.

C. SPS Council

- *Tom Krepel spoke about the NCAA recertification progress
- *Ken Zender discussed the State and University Budgets
- *Proposal to combine all retirement systems in Illinois will not go through
- *Work place issues included: tuition waver directions do not match HR directions on web site and there is a pilot program for salaried employees.

D. University Council

President Peters mentioned:

- *Swine Flu
- *Announcement of new members
- * Parking: 398 reserved spaces, 10% Faculty, Parking Garage has 1140 parking spaces with 349 faculty spaces
- * Policy on relationship between employees and students

E. APAC

The Administrative Professionals Advisory Council (APAC) met on Wednesday, April 8, 2009. They discussed the minimum wage which will be increased to \$8.00/hour effective July 1, 2009. People who hire extra help or student employees need to be aware of this change.

If you're interested in learning how to plan a "green" meeting, you may be interested in attending the "How Green Really Works" Conference at the Holmes Student Center on Wednesday, July 29, 2009.

First Aid session will be offered on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Human Resources Building.

CPR session will be offered on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Human Resources Building. For more information please contact Dee Malm at 753-2515 or dmalm@niu.edu

VIII. Committee reports

A. Personnel/Staff Developments/Benefits

Personnel/Staff Developments/Benefits committee discussed the pension proposals for FY 2010.

B. Elections and Appointments

The recent OSC election results are:

Jay Monteiro
Elizabeth Buck
Andy Small
Jesse Tellez
Stacy Bivens

Vacancies for positions on University Committee/Commissions are:

Campus Parking – 2 openings
Campus Security and Environmental Quality – 1 opening
Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities- 1 opening
Unity in Diversity Steering Committee – 1 opening
University Benefits Committee – 1 opening

C. Public Relations

Don Butler reported on the April 30, 2009, meeting of the Public Relations Committee. The Committee reviewed and discussed a new OSC logo.

D. Visiting Committees/Guests Steve Cunningham

Steve Cunningham spoke about his petition for nomination to run for SURS Trustee. Governor Patrick Quinn and state government have passed a law dismissing all Boards appointed by Governors Ryan and Blagojevich. A new SURS Board will be elected with positions that include two annuitants and four trustees.

Mr. Cunningham mentioned the proposed changes to our pensions and health insurance:

- *Contributions to SURS: Governor proposes bumping up amount that employees contribute to SURS by 2%. This would be from 8% to 10% and the extra 2% would not be matched by the state.
- * Retirement age to match Social Security age
- * Retirement to be averaged over the last eight years worked, rather than the last four years
- *Pension payable only if you're alive. No survivor benefits to be paid
- * Cost of living for retirees 3% based on original retirement amount not compounded or 1/2 of inflation whichever is smaller.

*New employees would contribute 7% instead of 8%. Fewer contributions would mean the state would have to contribute less.

A new SURS fact sheet will be coming out soon. The last time the state matched our 8% pension contribution was during the Edgar administration. The state has matched only 60% of required matching funds. The deadline goal to contact legislators will be May 31, 2009.

Mr. Cunningham mentioned the proposed FY2010 State Employee Health Insurance Status:

Employees, under the Governor's FY2010 budget proposal, would pay higher premiums if they participate in the Quality Care Health Plan (QCHP). Currently, an employee in the QCHP pays an average of \$89.57/month. If the Governor's proposals are approved, employee's monthly premiums will rise to \$309.56 a month. This would be a raise of 245.5% and a non-Medicare retiree would see their premiums increase from \$12.98 a month on average to \$582.71 a month, this would be a raise of 4,389%. An estimated 123,680 participants would be affected.

E. EAC

The EAC meeting was held at NIU at the Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center on April 16 & April 17, 2009. President Peters and Steve Cunningham welcomed EAC members to NIU.

Cunningham mentioned he would be running for the SURS Board. EAC members mentioned others from the UIUC campus Greg Knott and UIC campus Mark Donovan were also running for the SURS Board positions.

System's Office gave updates on:

- *Eligible registers
- *Leave of Absences
- *Learner/Trainee appointments
- *Budget for SUCSS
- *Audit Program update
- *Legal updates: 31 written charges; 7 requested hearings, 2 resigned, 1 pending, 1 withdrew before hearing; 1 settle, 2 discharged.

F. UAC

No report

G. Special Events Committee

Staff Fest is going to be held. Date will be released at a later time. The stipulation is that OSC has to cut the budget by 10% and OSC cannot buy door prizes from their accounts. Door prizes will need to come from donations.

H. Baccalaureate Review

No report

I. Foundations of Excellence

Andy Small distributed a Foundations of Excellence Faculty/Staff Survey Summary that compares NIU with six other universities that are similar to NIU. These are Ball State, Central Michigan University, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, University of Toledo, West Virginia University, and Wichita State University.

IX. Old Business

Benefits Choice Fair was held on Thursday, April 30, 2009, at the HSC Regency Room from 10:30a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There were 200 attendees at the Fair. The 50/50 prize winner from the OSC booth was Gene Myer who won \$25.00.

X. New Business

A Pensions and Health Insurance flyer was distributed and a discussion followed. The flyer contained the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail address for Illinois state Senators and State Representatives. OSC is encouraging staff to contact their state elected officials and tell them their thoughts about all the proposed changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Smith

OSC Secretary