



Operating
Staff
Council



Northern Staff News

March 2003

www.niu.edu/osc



From the President of the Operating Staff Council (OSC)

What is OSC? Serves as an advisory group to the administration regarding the welfare of nonacademic employees.

Who we are: Sixteen NIU employees elected by the approximately 1700 civil services employees at NIU. Representatives are from the four different divisions within the university. Term of office is three years and we are expected to serve on at least one OSC committee.

What we have done in the last year: OSC's Outstanding Service Award Committee has been in effect since 1983 (four members are recipients yearly). OSC co-sponsored the Staff Appreciation Day on August 1, 2002; there were approximately 1200 current and retired civil service employees in attendance. In October, several members of the OSC attended the 4th Annual Council of Council meeting at University of Illinois at Chicago. In November OSC gave two scholarships to NIU Civil Service Employees' children in the amount of \$500. This year's recipients were: Kerig Anthenat and Brandon Welch.

If you would like to attend an OSC meeting, please be our guest. The Council meets the second Thursday of every month at 8:30 a.m., usually in the Holmes Student Center.

If you have concerns that would you like OSC to investigate or a benefit you would like to have us bring forth, please contact one of our members.

If you are interested in running for the Council, election materials will be coming out shortly.

Please feel free to let us know of any campus activities or information relevant to operating staff personnel at NIU that you would like included or addressed in future issues of *Northern Staff News*. Send this information to Jay Monteiro at jmonteiro@niu.edu or contact any Operating Staff Council member whose names and e-mail addresses are available at www.niu.edu/osc.

Sara Clayton, President
Operating Staff Council 2002-03



NORTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

(Left-Right) Front: LaRonda Thuestad, Marcia Dick, President Sara Clayton, Secretary Gay Campbell.

Second Row: Theresa Kinniry, Linda Jennings, Ada Hetland, Jay Monteiro, Treasurer Elizabeth Buck.

Back Row: Joe Koch, Andy Small, Dena Olson, Donna Smith, Ombudsman Tim Griffin.

Not Pictured: Vice President Michele Crase and Glenda Jones.

Operating Staff Council Meeting December 12, 2002 — HSC 406

Jodi Tyrrell reported on the first meeting of the Human Resources Directors Advisory Committee at the State Universities Civil Service System office. Director Morelock presented a very ambitious agenda of items for discussion regarding current SUCSS issues including concerns with the new secretarial exams, proposed changes in a number of SUCSS reporting requirements, business processes, and statute and rules interpretations, in an effort to allow the universities/agencies the opportunity to assist in the overall modernization of the entire CS system. The HR Directors Advisory Committee will meet periodically to review and discuss the proposed changes, and Jodi Tyrrell will keep the Council informed as she receives updates.

Civil Service Pilot Program for hiring interested and qualified candidates in a timely manner is working very well at Northern Illinois University. It has been used in a search at Founders Library and went smoothly.

LaRonda Thuestad distributed handouts of information on the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee.

Kerig Anthenat, Operating Staff Dependent Award winner, with her father Robert Anthenat of Dining Services, is recognized by the Operating Staff Council represented by Joe Koch and Linda Jennings.



Personnel/Staff Development/Benefits

Ada Hetland has contacted Scott Mooberry, Civil Service representative on the University Benefits Committee, to find out if LaRhonda Thuestad could serve as the OSC representative on the Ad Hoc Committee. That committee will put together a survey to be sent to university employees regarding dental benefits.

University Council

Joe Koch reported that this was a very short meeting and that President Peters was out of town lobbying for NIU. The Provost gave an overview of his past 18 months on campus and on living in Student Housing. The Provost felt student housing was a positive on this campus. He also commented on the Shared Governance system in place at Northern Illinois University and how impressive it is compared to the other three universities where he has worked.

No committees had reports to give, but it was announced that the President's Committee on Sexual Orientation has been changed to the President's Commission on Sexual Orientation. A discussion occurred on the possibility of a Fall Break and on having an academic closure for NIU on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, but was sent back to committee.

Old Business—IEA-NEA Union Status

Marcia Dick and Judy Burgess reported on the organizing meeting held November 20, 2002, at Pagliai's Restaurant in DeKalb. They attended the meeting to help keep the Council members informed of the process of possible unionization. Education is this union's only focus and it is the largest union representing education in the United States.

The Council discussed each handout and again felt that as a governance group, it is important for OS Council members to get information and stay as educated as possible on this issue. The Operating Staff Council serves as an advisory council for Civil Service employees, just as a Union would do, and needs to be of help to employees that come for direction and/or resolution.

Administrative Update on Wages and Benefits

The Operating Staff Council is continuing to work closely with the NIU administration during the current state budget crisis. While other universities are looking at strikes and layoffs, the OSC does not believe that this is the time to panic or to factionalize the work force. We feel it is important to stick together, and weather this storm together.

We also know that wage and benefits issues are still extremely important to the NIU staff. In an attempt to keep staff members updated on these issues, the OSC asked Anne Kaplan, vice president for administration and university outreach, to comment on the current status of NIU's wages and benefits.

Regarding benefits, Kaplan explained, "These issues are controlled by Central Management Services for NIU employees and for all other public university employees. We can of course join in any efforts to lobby CMS about aspects of our health insurance, but the outcome will affect all university employees across the state in the same way."

On wages, Kaplan said, "I think it's fair to say that NIU has consistently provided increments well in excess of the cost of living increases, especially to clerical employees. This fiscal year is a unique and, we certainly hope, a short-term event. Once we get past the current fiscal crisis, meaningful salary incrementation is absolutely the university's top priority."



Brendon Welch was honored as an Operating Staff Dependent Award winner. He is pictured with his parents, Chris Welch of the Provost's Office, and Bill Welch of the Procurement Office. Joe Koch and Linda Jennings represented the Operating Staff Council. The awards of \$250 per semester are funded by the generosity of the operating staff and through the 50-50 raffle held at the Staff Appreciation Lunch in August. Donations for this fund may be made directly to the NIU Foundation or through payroll deduction. For more information contact any member of the Operating Staff Council.

State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS) Update

Effective July 1, 2002, Lewis T. (Tom) Morelock became the new Executive Director of the State Universities Civil Service System. Many of you remember Tom as the Director of Operations in Human Resource Services here at NIU. Already under Morelock's direction there have been some positive changes to business processes at the System's Office and there is a definite focus on communication with each university, affiliated agency and employee group. To promote communication, SUCSS has developed a quarterly publication entitled *The System News*. This publication can be accessed at www.state.il.us/sucss/ and provides a valuable medium to keep employers as well as employees updated on the changes taking place and new program initiatives at SUCSS.

Employment Changes

December 2002

Welcome New NIU Employees:

Ellen D. Henderson, Graduate Placement Officer - Career Planning & Placement
Karen L. Smith, Applications Analyst Senior - Information Services
Tamera Ann Lawson, Printing Production Assistant - Document Services
Vishnuwardhan Thatikonda, Microcomputer Support Specialist II - Media Services
Erika Janeth Tavizon, Secretary IV - Mathematical Sciences

Changes:

Janet S. Danekas to Kitchen Helper - Student Housing & Dining Serv
William C. Vickers to Electronics Technician Senior - Physics
Judy Flores to Admissions/Records Specialist I - Registration & Records
Clare Andres to Secretary Staff - College of Business
Lisa E. Carter to Secretary IV - English

Name Change:

Kathleen Rettig Koch, Administrative Aide - General Counsel
To Susan Kathleen Rettig

Separations:

Robert John Carlson, Bowling & Billiard Center Attendant - Holmes Center Game Rooms
Jose Manuel Davalos, Housekeeper - NIU, Hoffman Estates

January 2003

Welcome New NIU Employees:

Darcy M. Clarke, Secretary III - Student Support Service
Judy Faye Daugherty, Cooks Helper - Student Housing & Dining Services
Tamika Marie Harding, Survey Interview Supervisor - Public Opinion Lab
Sonja Renee Herington, Secretary IV - Foreign Language & Literature
Jason E. Hiland, Storekeeper I - Materials Management
Mary A. Kain, Secretary IV - Industrial Engineering
Ann M Kenney, Secretary III - LA&S External Programming
Angela C. Listy, Secretary III - Accountancy
Pattyann Lynette McMullin, Secretary III - Giorgi Law Clinic
Elaine A. Murray, Secretary III - Educational Tech Res & Assesment
Debbie Ann Reingardt, Account Technician I - Intercollegiate Athletics
Jeremy H. Shearon, Parking Services Agent I - Public Safety
Susanna Mary Smith, Secretary IV - Family, Consumer & Nutrition
Jennifer Lynn Stein, Interpreter Hearing Impaired - Center for Access-Ability

Frances Louise Vincent, Cooks Helper - Holmes Center Food Services
Maria L. Winclawski, Secretary IV - Art
Karen Dawn Woodworth, Clerk Chief - Registration & Records

Changes:

Colleen D. Bowers to Secretary Staff - Sociology
Heather Marie Butts to Kitchen Helper - Student Housing & Dining Services
Ronald L. Childers to Building Service Worker - Building Services
Daniel L. Dirker to Building Service Worker - Building Services
Robert D. Gahlbeck to Building Service Worker - Building Services
Cheryl R. Henert to Program Administrative Asst - Intercollegiate Athletics
Mark O. Kahn to Building Service Worker - Building Services
Katherine E. Kallembach to Account Technician II - Public Opinion Lab
Adam A. Klassen to Building Service Worker - Building Services
Julie B. Lindeen to Building Service Worker - Building Services
Brian T. McCarthy to Kitchen Laborer - Student Housing & Dining Services
Michael David McNeil to Building Service Worker - Building Services
Toni P. Osborne to Kitchen Helper - Student Housing & Dining Services
Kristi K. Rhodes to Storekeeper II - Biological Sciences
Curtis D. Suddeth to Building Service Worker - Building Services

Name Change:

Renae Diane Anderson, Medical Transcriptionist II - Health Services
To Renae Diane Pumfrey

Separations:

Edith R. Schroeder, Secretary Admin - Psychology
Eric Utsey, Microcomputer Support Spec I - College of Health & Human Science
Dawn M. Bosio, Secretary III - Accountancy

Retirements:

Thomas E. Anderson, Grounds Superintendent - Grounds
Carol L. Denton, Secretary IV - Accountancy
Virgil B. Lee, Building Service Worker - Building Services
Madel C. Aguilar, Cashier III - Campus Parking
Barbara H. Buell, Secretary Staff - Sociology
Robert D. Johnson, Carpenter - Physical Plant
Sandra L. Motsinger, Media Distribution System Supervisor - Media Services

February 2003

Retirements:

John T. Berkshire, Refrigeration Mechanic Foreman - Physical Plant
Lynore M. Pinne, Bursar Assistant - Bursar
Allan L. Prestegaard, Building Service Foreman - Building Services
Betty M. Rissman, Cook - Student Housing & Dining Services
Janet J. Romanski, Secretary III - Nursing
Phyllis M. Roush, Food Service Administrator IV - Holmes Center Food Service
Robert L. Senne, Broadcasting Engineer - Northern Public Radio
Joyce C. Trahan, Ambulatory Care Aide II - Health Services

Separations:

Susan A. Sturm, Patient Unit Clerk II - Health Services

Service Awards

December 2002

5 Year Award

Alice Clark - College of Eng & Eng Tech
Laurie Sodaro - Communications - Journalism
Thomas Scheu Jr - Document Services
Nina Slack - Geology And Environmental Geosci
Karen Aurand - Neptune Central Food (Ddd)

10 Year Award

Mary Shipman - Neptune Central Food (Ldd)
Eric Hradecky - Northern Public Radio

25 Year Award

Sandra Sosnowski - Health Services
Elizabeth Pottenger - Libraries
William Welch - Procurement Services

January 2003

5 Year Award

Bernard Bute - Holmes Student Center
Annalisa Rainwater - Holmes Student Center
Le Baie - College of Law
Kent Flewellin - Grounds
Connie Conway - Health Services
Lori Sprague - Health Services
Robert White - Materials Management
Juanita Bahr - NIU - Rockford
Denise McRoberts - Furniture Repair
Jeffery Rhodes - Heating Plant

10 Year Award

Albert Blaser - Holmes Student Center
Thomas Brickner - Holmes Student Center
Barbara Manning - College of Law
Armelia Sullivan - School Of Bus Mgmt- IASBO
Nancy Kramer - Holmes Student Center
Matthew Kiederlen - Public Safety



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DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2854

15 Year Award

Lynne Smith - College of Law Library
Donna James - Payroll and Compensation
Elizabeth Buck - Mathematical Sciences
Julia Fauci - University Press

20 Year Award

Gerald Halverson - Plumbing Shop
Clarence Dewey Jr. - Building Services
Richard Meier - Holmes Student Center
Linda Babcock - Accounting
Robert Roof - Heating Plant

35 Year Award

George Baird - Materials Management

February 2003

5 Year Award

Karen Bailey - Health Services
David Breed - Biological Sciences
Lon Clark - Media Services
Penny Downing - Lorado Taft
Maria Garcia - NIU, Hoffman Estates
Raymond Greenfield - Building Services
Nicole Kossaris - Registration & Records
Transcripts
Linda Leifheit - NIUTEL, Telecomm Services
Lori Peterson - NIUTEL, Telecomm Services
Terry Pottinger - Building Services
Teresa Rogers - Lorado Taft
Wendy Thompson - Document Services

10 Year Award

Daniel Anthenat - Building Services
Justin Bend - Heating Plant
Carol Johnson - Neptune Central Food (Sn)
Lynne Meyer - Foreign Language & Literature
Daniel Stankiewicz - Customer Support
Services

15 Year Award

Marcia Bradlee - Libraries
Brenda Smith - Building Services
Edward Tonry - Libraries

20 Year Award

Kenn Klages - Transportation
Shelia Sweger - Graduate School

25 Year Award

Rebecca Morey - Housing (Ne)

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Sandy Little, Jodi Tyrrell, and Joe Koch

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