

Supportive Professional Staff Council

Thursday, August 11, 2022
Teams and In Person AL 203
10:00 a.m.

Approved September 8, 2022

Call to Order: President Bohanon called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Roll Call: Lupe Flores called roll and confirmed a quorum present.

Members Present: Eric Armstrong, Felicia Bohanon, LaBrian Carrington, Melanie Costello, Lupe Flores, Liz Guess, Dara Little, Joe Lovelace, Jennifer Manning, Margaret Myles, Scott Mooberry, Tom O'Grady, Jesse Perez, Anthony Preston, Andrew Rogers, Ronald Smith, Christina Sutcliffe, Jason Underwood, Dan Wolfe, Megan Woodruff

Guests: Patricia Erickson, Holly Nicholson

Approval of Agenda: Properly motioned and seconded, (Rogers/Mooberry) all in favor, none opposed. Agenda approved by voice vote.

Approval of July 14 Minutes: Properly motioned and seconded, (Rogers/Sutcliffe) all in favor, none opposed. July 14 minutes approved by voice vote.

Guest Speaker: Jessica Nunez, Campus Parking Services

Jessica Nunez thanked the Council for the opportunity to come and talk about the new parking permit system. Nunez addressed the more important aspects of the new system. All permits are virtual. The University has moved to a license plate recognition technology where parking patrols use cameras to scan license plates. No more \$5 fines for forgetting your hang-tag.

You may have two vehicles registered but both vehicles may not be on campus at the same time. If your vehicle has only one license plate, it is very important to park so that the plate can be photographed by the parking patrol cameras. Another big change is the installation of AMP mobile pay parking. The Visitor's Lot, Gilbert Drive and 25 spaces by the Physical Plant and some at Literacy and Wellness. You can pay \$1.20 per hour or \$6 per day using your smartphone to pay after downloading the free app. You can also go to the website and pay. This system allows contactless pay for parking. It is easy and convenient for those who may not have a computer at home, but do have a smartphone.

Guest Speaker: Sandra Cox, NIU Ombudsperson

At President Bohanon's request, Ms. Cox recalled her visit to NIU as part of a team after the February 14, 2008 tragedy. One of Ms. Cox's specialties is trauma informed care.¹ Back in 2008 She arrived with a team and ended up staying almost five weeks helping employees and students transition back into life after the tragedy. During that time Ms. Cox developed a deep understanding and appreciation of NIU's resiliency and kindness. She sees NIU as a special place and expressed her honor to be a small part of Northern.

Cox views her office as being both preventative and reactive. She hopes to get more on the preventive side, to do some training. Her goal is to have collaborations across campus working together. Getting to know people has been first and foremost for her these first weeks. In closing, Cox expressed her appreciation for the warmth and kindness she has experienced. Welcome Sandra Cox.

¹ Trauma-informed specialists work with doctors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and teachers to help treat victims of trauma.

Shared Governance Reports:

University Council: No report. The Council meets August 31st.

Student Government Association: No report.

Operating Staff Council: Holly Nicholson, President, reported both good and bad news.

The bad news is administrative professional positions are down 35%. The OSC Workplace Guidance Committee has resumed conversations about a process to deal with the negative impact on existing workers, i.e., making sure people have additional pay for taking on the additional work of unfilled positions.

The good news is the Council has gotten some great publicity for our Civil Service Emergency Fund in NIU Today. As a result, donations have increased exponentially. The committee will be announcing the resumption of grants in the near future.

Faculty Senate: No report. Next meeting, September 7th.

Board of Trustees Committees meet Thursday, August 18, (8:30 a.m. – Noon)

Board of Trustees meet Thursday, August 18 at 12:45 p.m.

Vice President's Report:

Only one committee report this month. The Parking Appeals Committee heard 10 appeals, two approved, four denied and four reduced.

Old Business:

(a) University Committee Nominations: Scott Mooberry nominated for the Student Fee Advisory Group. President Bohanon to send a survey for university committee interest.

(b) Election of Secretary: no action

(c) Getting to Know More About You : Everyone present at the meeting was asked to share three things about themselves: something personal, professional and peculiar.

President Bohanon asked members to think about what is the single most important issue that the SPS Council should address this year? She will also be including this question on the coming committee survey.

New Business:

(a) Discussion of Survey Results: Felicia's survey is being re-sent.

(b) SPS Committees: Only two people have signed up via SharePoint: Tom O'Grady agreed to chair or co-chair the Constitution & Elections Committee; Heath Duncan has volunteered to be a member of the SPS Dependent Scholarship Fund. During this meeting the following notes were made:

Megan Woodruff & Jennifer Manning /Awards;

Tom O'Grady, Chair/ Constitution & Elections;

Lupe Flores/Chair, Professional Development

Eric Armstrong & Heath Duncan, Co-Chairs/SPS Dependent Scholarship Fund

Christina Sutcliffe/Events

President Bohanon is sending the committee survey again where members may sign up for more than one committee and may indicate interest in chairing a committee.

President Bohanon asked, "Are there [internal] committees that we no longer need, do we need to revamp our committee structure?"

Announcements:

Clint-Michael Reneau, Vice President for Student Affairs will be our guest speaker in September.

Christina Sutcliffe reminded members that the Corn Classic is needing volunteers. The race is trying to recruit 1000 runners and lots of support volunteers. If you are willing to help with that race, Christina can get you in touch with the volunteer organizers. The Corn Classic race is Sunday, September 25.

Adjournment: President Bohanon asked for a motion to adjourn, a motion was properly made and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Representatives: Please contact our SPSC Secretary, Lupe Flores, and SPSC Administrative aide, Frances Mitchell if you are unable to attend a meeting. They will identify an Alternate for you.

Alternates: You are invited to attend all meetings.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lupe Flores, SPSC Secretary*