

**Supportive Professional Staff Council
Working Draft – General Meeting**

March 14, 2024

Teams/In Person Hybrid Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Approved April 11, 2024

Call to Order: President Bohanon called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Roll Call: Administrative Aide called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Members Present: Felicia Bohanon, Bill Braksick, Cody Carter, Heath Duncan, Joe Lovelace, Margaret Myles, Tom O’Grady, Liz Guess, Jesse Perez, Michelle Pickett, Anthony Preston, Ronald Smith, Shannon Stoker, Christina Sutcliffe, Dan Wolfe, Manuel Valdez, Benjamin Creed

Members Excused: Andrew Rogers, Candice Olagunju, Lauren Teso-Warner

Guests: President Lise Freeman, Liz Wright , Ben Creed

Approval of Agenda: Properly motioned and seconded (Preston/Stoker); all in favor, none opposed, Agenda accepted by voice vote.

Approval of February 2024 Minutes: Properly motioned and seconded (Preston/Valdez) all in favor, none opposed, February 2024 minutes approved by voice vote.

Discussion with President Freeman

Springfield and Washington D.C Discussion: State legislation in session, specifically, related to higher education. Illinois State Officials spoke about wanting equitable adequate funding from state towards higher education institutions. HEFT [Higher Education Futures Table] Series of convening group from Governor Pritzker that ensure that measures are not being taken that are counter to Illinois state legislation (i.e., recent Supreme Court rulings) and institutions are serving students well. NIU Leadership Team met State legislation for annual discussion related to as to whether community college can offer Bachelor’s degrees.

University Committee Reports

Board of Trustees: Meets February 15, 2024

Faculty Senate and University Council: Ben Creed, President, Faculty Senate reporting: Same update from President Freeman regarding increase in tuition fees, in addition to conversations related to approving sabbatical for faculty and staff and the impact of the sabbaticals. New state budget from Governor Pritzker will alleviate structural deficit. Discussion regarding the closure of normal road to try to find communication plans for campus so that we have a chance to proactively understand what's going on with that.

Senate Social Justice Committee looks for barriers and challenges related to racism and structural inequities. Various efforts being take to identify barriers across campus and hope to have topics for discussion based on observations going into the upcoming academic year.

Student Government Association: No report.

Operating Staff Council: No report

Vice President's Report: None

Human Resource Services: None

Committee Updates:

Advocacy: None

Awards: Dan Wolfe announced that awardees have been selected from candidates for SPS.

Constitution & Elections: President Bohanon for O'Grady: Elections are moving forward to take place in April 2024.

Events: Our next event is on April 3 bringing together Supportive Professional Staff employees in general. Award winners will be notified. Huskie High 5 and scholarship announcements will also be taking place during events.

SPSC Dependent Scholarship: None

Professional Development: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Name badges are in Altgeld 103 for all SPS members to pick up. Contact Frances Mitchell for drop-off requests.

Announcements: Higher Learning Commission having open forum and all SPS should attend if possible.

Adjournment: Having no further business, President Bohanon adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Representatives: Please contact our SPSC Secretary, Manuel Valdez, (mvaldez2@niu.edu) and SPSC Administrative Aide, Frances Mitchell, (fmitchell@niu.edu) if you are unable to attend a meeting. An Alternate will be contacted for you.

Alternates: You are invited to attend all meetings.

*Respectfully submitted by
Manuel Valdez, Secretary
Supportive Professional Staff Council*