2009-2010 Annual Report to the SPS Council

This report shall serve as a summary of committee/board activity from SPS that are elected, appointed or recommended by the SPS Council.

**SPS Council committees**

**Awards**  Co-Chairs: Deborah Haliczer and Missy Gillis

In 2009-2010, the Awards Committee accomplished its annual responsibilities:

- Coordinated the SPS Presidential Award for Excellence, which was presented to four individuals: Bobbie Cesarek, Jes Cisneros, Patrick Gorman, and Mike Stang.
- Certificates of Recognition were presented to thirty SPS from across all six divisions.
- The Committee coordinated the selection of recipients of the SPS Council Service Award, which was presented to Donna Smith and Rachel Xidis.
- The Committee coordinated presentations and plaque to outgoing President, Bobbie Cesarek. (Plaque, and small plaque on the Richard Durfee perpetual plaque for SPSC presidents. And, of course, the chocolate gavel, to President Cesarek, daughter of professional confectioners!)
- The Committee was not able to coordinate SPS/Faculty Development grants in either semester. This year, funds were not available for these grants due to budgetary constraints across the university.
- SPSC Awards Committee procedures in process, to be completed during summer.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Haliczer

**Communications Committee Report**: Chair: Rachel Xidis

During 2009-2010, the Supportive Professional Staff Council Communications Committee carried out the ongoing tasks of monitoring the SPSC email box, maintaining and posting items to the SPSC website, and coordinating with other SPSC committees to create and distribute both printed and electronic mailings pertaining to SPS events and relevant campus issues. The Committee also worked on redeveloping the SPSC wordmark (for print and on the web) to be more aligned with the current university branding.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Xidis

**Constitution and Elections**  Co-Chairs: Al Mueller(Elections) Michael Stang (Constitution)

With technical help from Jon Ostenburg, and assistance from Norden Gilbert, the election of representatives, alternates and the president are underway. Following the completion of the regular election, there will be further elections for various committee openings. It is anticipated that the election to committees will carry over into the next fiscal year.

The election committee completed a review of the SPS divisional apportionment and recommended no changes for the coming year.

During the year, Information Technology Services committed to provide the necessary technical backup to sustain the ongoing election processing through automated means. Constitution had no activity this year.

Respectfully submitted by Al Mueller and Michael Stang

**Events**: Chair: Bobbie Cesarek

The council held several event functions for SPS during the council year to include:

- Oct SPS Luncheon with Jeff Reynolds on Economic Conditions
- Nov. SPS Luncheon with Jim Lockard on SURS
- April SPS Luncheon with Ken Zehnder on the Status of Illinois
NIU Wellness Fair

SPS Awards

Respectfully submitted by Todd Latham

**Legislative Committee** - Chair: Scott Peska

The legislative committee had more active members this year than in the previous year. The legislative committee met periodically to discuss committee charge, and legislative issues and concerns relative to SPS employees. The committee divided responsibilities for who would monitor which legislative entities (i.e., local, state, federal governing bodies). After the initial couple meetings interest waned throughout the year and this committee largely became a report from the Chair about the state of legislation that impacts higher education or SPS employees directly.

Specifically, this year there were more concerns regarding SPS employee pensions, benefits, and budget appropriations for the University. Unfortunately these concerns will likely be carried over into the next fiscal year as the State of Illinois has yet to create a workable solution to ensure higher education receives the necessary funding. Assisting with the SPS Council Event Planning committee, the Legislative committee helped host the April luncheon with Ken Zehnder to learn about the current state of affairs in Springfield and how it is impacting SPS employees. Additionally, the President of NIU attended the council meeting to address many concerns and questions that were legislative by nature.

It is advised that the committee continue to provide updates regarding the changes to legislation and keep a keen eye on the state of affairs. Additionally, more can be done to help provide SPS employees with contact information for local and state representatives and provide “examples” of letters SPS employees can write (on their own time) to address pressing legislative issues that may impact all SPS employees.

Respectfully submitted by Scott Peska

**Work Place Issues Committee** - Co-Chairs: Jen Clark and Cliff Bottigliero

Upon the commencement of the 2009-2010 school year, our committee met and decided the topics that most needed attention to be the following: Temporary SPS status, work load, compensation, title change from SPS to PS, supervisory training and targeted information to be shared with all SPS. The continued budget issues were also a topic of much debate.

The supervisory training issue was discussed and tabled after review of the draft for mandatory supervisory training was brought forth by Deborah Halicz. The discussion of 360 degree evaluations stemmed from the supervisory training issue as a possible solution to identifying those that are in need of further training. Discussion of Dr. Cunningham's visit to the council provided many questions to be put forward by the council.

At this point, the committee is waiting for the results of the SPS survey to move forward with any further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by Jen Clark

**Reports by SPS Member on Committees or Boards of the University**

**Athletic Board**

The Athletic Board acknowledged the outstanding academic achievements of NIU student athletes (nine consecutive semesters with a cumulative GPA over 3.0). Committee work on student welfare included reviews of a missed class policy for athletes.

This year’s initiative included NCAA certification review and approval. The board approved proposed changes (reduction and repackaging) to the previous year ticket prices for athletic events. The NIU Football participated in the 2010 International Bowl in Toronto, Canada.

The following coaches were appointed: Eric Luzzi as Head Men’s Soccer Coach, Patrick Fisher as Head Men’s Tennis Coach, Tom Porten as Head Men’s Golf Coach and Kathi Bennett as Head Women’s Basketball Coach.
Respectfully submitted by Todd Latham

**Judicial Affairs Hearing Board**
I was called to serve four times for judicial hearings. The board convened only twice in all with the other two hearings being canceled.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Schoenfeld

**Campus Parking Committee**
This past year Parking Services experienced several changes.

Chief Grady from Public Safety was in charge of the Parking Services Division and the Parking Director reported to him. That authority was transferred to Bob Albanese of Finance and Facilities.

A study on Parking Services procedures, policies and rates was conducted and a report was drafted that the Campus Parking Committee reviewed. Most parking rates were standardized for easier accounting and fairness in the collection process.

Parking rates for the coming year were frozen at 2009 levels.

Discussions on various lot improvements and parking spaces were conducted throughout the year.

A scholarship for hardship cases was adopted where any Faculty/Staff with financial needs can petition Parking Services for a fee reduction.

Committee members discussed move out day temporary changes in parking zones for Stevenson.

The topic of Motorcycle parking and Scooters was discussed in terms of ample parking for both and potential separation from each other.

Finance and Facilities Bob Albanese talked about progress on a “Campus Master Plan”

A long term parking plan was assessed by the Parking Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Phil Young

**Computing Facilities Advisory Committee**

**Topics discussed during the year included:**

- Participation in I Tune's U, Campus Apple Server
- Iphone/Ipod Developer licenses
- Faculty requirement for resources (email quotas, BB quotas)
- Helpdesk Central / Help Desk web page
- Computer Lab support, printing
- GroupWise upgrades
- Blackboard Updates, e-Portfolios, use of Wikis
- ITS Data Center, decommission of MVS, virtualized servers
- Wireless, new wireless rates
- New web content management system

- Status of Subcommittees; at the April meeting members agreed to disband the current sub-committees and create new committees based on need / “hot topics”
PRESENTATIONS / GUESTS

NIUNet - Herb Kuryliw, ITS

Novell TEAMING – Jack Maconaghy and John Kearsing, ITS

PeopleSoft conversion and Tools (including Portal) – Sally Betz, ITS

Technology Accessibility Concerns – Jenifer Montag, CAAR

Blog/Wiki Blackboard - Jason Rhode, Dan Ihm and Ruperto Herrera, ITS

PeopleSoft Portal “Collaborative Workspace”, compare to Novell Teaming – Sally Betz, ITS

UPDATES:

The Division of Administration and University Outreach was awarded a $7.5 million grant for NIU to spearhead a statewide initiative to make electronic health records standard in physician’s offices in Illinois.

The governor and DeKalb County BTOP received a $14.5 million grant for fiber from BTOP funds. The plan was engineered by NIUNet. NIU will receive a half million dollars and fiber with the grant for all of DeKalb and LaSalle Counties, which is a major extension of NIUNet.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Gerenstein

Multicultural Transformational Institute:

The primary charge of the MCTI is to prepare for the Multicultural Institute held every other year. We spent the first part of the year going over feedback from the previous MCTI. I was chair of the student panel and was pleased that this was well received. As a committee we spent most of the fall taking into consideration the feedback from participants and from Provost Alden. This was an “off year” but we spent a productive year working on assessment and planning for the Institute next year. We are still in the process of securing a keynote speaker, but have narrowed down our options. We will have applications ready for the 2011 Institute available in October. My contributions to the committee included some assessment work regarding specific curriculum objectives and assessment. I missed the final meeting of the semester due to a conflict off campus at NIU Naperville. I have served my 3 years on this committee.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Santacaterina

Parking Appeals Committee:

The Parking Appeals Committee was made up of a combination of SPS, OS, faculty and students. The committee met every week throughout the majority of the semester to review appeals. To sustain this schedule, board members were split into 2 groups with each group meeting every other week (on alternating weeks). Weekly meetings generally lasted 1 hour but would vary depending upon the number of appeals submitted. On the last Tuesday of the month the entire committee met for a full afternoon to hear in-person 2nd appeals.

Respectfully submitted by Dana Gautcher

Presidential Commission on the Status of Women:

I was delighted to work with this committee. This was my first year on PCSW. I served as the awards committee chair. I am happy to report that this year we were able to increase the nominations for Outstanding Woman Awards by over 40%. I served on the selection committee and as the narrator for the awards ceremony. We are hoping to continue to increase awareness and
nominations for the awards. At the present time I am working on a “procedures manual” for the awards committee. I was able to make every meeting this semester except our last meeting during finals week. I thoroughly enjoyed my service to this committee and hope to continue as chair of the awards committee.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Santacaterina

This report has been compiled and submitted to council by Todd Latham.