

Minutes
Operating Staff Council
October 4, 2018
Sky Room – 9:00 a. m.
Approved November 1, 2018

Present: Rebekka Ayres, Dave Berg, Stacey Bivens, Ellen Cabrera, Angelica Gutierrez-Vargas, Natasha Johnson, Renee Kerwin, Cindy Kozumplik, Rave Meyer, Jay Monteiro, Holly Nicholson, Jeffrey Royce, Nancy Skelley, Karen Smith, Patricia Wielert, Debbie Williams

Absent: John Hulseberg, Katja Marjetic, Jesse Tellez

Guests: Cathy Doederlein, Sarah Klaper, Frances Mitchell, Bruce Reid, Pulchratia Smith

I. Call to Order

President Nicholson called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Attendance was recorded by Stacey Bivens.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Kozumplik to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ayres and passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of August 2, 2018, minutes

A motion was made by Wielert to accept the September 6, 2018, minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Gutierrez-Vargas and passed by unanimous vote.

V. Treasurer's Report

Wielert reported. Meyer pointed out a typo in a date on the report. A motion was made by Meyer to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Berg and passed by unanimous vote.

VI. Visiting Committees/Guests

None

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence

A. P. Smith reported. Human Resource Services is close to filling all its vacancies. There is still one more position which is at the front desk at the Swen Parson branch. There is still no contract between Health Services and Northwestern, but everything is proceeding as if the transaction is going through. Northwestern will begin January 7, 2019, however they are not going to do several things until they get a contract. Northwestern will post positions for our campus. Human Resource Services will be offering résumé help and holding mock interviews to assist employees affected by the switchover. The Board of Trustees will be discussing the changeover.

B. Kozumplik reported that the planning committee for NIU's 125th anniversary will meet next on October 12, 2018. There will be five subcommittees, and January 2020 is the kick-off for the celebration. The planning committee wants themes for the anniversary and the campus will vote on these. Kozumplik also announced that campus will be live Monday, October 8, 2018, with online requisitions. Everyone will be trained how to use this system.

C. Sarah McGill, NIU's Chief Financial Officer, will be the guest at the OSC's November 1, 2018, meeting. Any questions for McGill should be given to Nicholson by Friday, October 12, 2018.

D. Monteiro announced that the Stevens Building reopening will be held on Friday, October 12, 2018, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

IX. Shared Governance Reports

A. Board of Trustees

The Board appointed Dr. Lisa Freeman as the next president of NIU. It also approved a national search for the position of Executive Vice President and Provost.

B. Faculty Senate

Appointed some attendees to committees. Discussed wage standardization which would be extended to faculty only. It is hoped that this will eventually be offered campus-wide.

C. Supportive Professional Staff Council (SPSC)

Doederlein reported. Call to Merit Board members to serve apart from their universities. A white paper was written and sent to Merit Board representatives

asking that instead of October 1, 2018, that January 1, 2019, be the start of the 16-month period when “flagged” SPS/AP positions must be transitioned to Civil Service positions. Board of Trustees member John Butler and EAC Representative Hulseberg are trying to find ways to improve implementation of the transition. Trustee Butler will be attending the SPS Council meeting on October 11, 2018.

D. University Council

No report

E. University Advisory Committee

No report

X. Committee Reports

A. Elections and Appointments

Royce reported. The committee did not meet, and there are still OSC committee positions to fill. The possibility was discussed of putting together a flyer, which could be put in break rooms and generate employee interest in joining these committees.

B. Employee Morale

Met. Discussed the idea of merging/meeting with the Workplace Issues Committee. K. Smith said that one committee would be made ad hoc. The spring luncheon was also discussed. It was noted that this event has gone through many changes over the years. It is important to find out how the staff want to be recognized.

C. Legislative Committee

Did not meet. Nicholson asked Mitchell to convene this committee.

D. Public Relations/Activities

Ayres reported. The committee decided to name three subcommittees: Civil Service Celebration, the Civil Service Dependent Scholarship Award, and the *Northern Staff News*. The committee brainstormed article ideas, and one was Huskie history, which will dovetail very well with NIU’s upcoming anniversary celebration.

E. Workplace Issues

Meyer reported. The committee discussed how to find issues, because most people don’t want to be “that guy,” who points out problem situations or difficult people. It was decided that each member of the committee will seek out

division and department heads and ask for feedback. When it comes to campus divisions, how will it be determined who to talk to? Some union matters could arise, and the question is how will these be handled. Situations that Workplace Issues will handle will have to be non-union in nature. Cabrera mentioned that the committee probably should not worry about whether people who give input are union or non-union. This committee's goal is to make workplace conditions better for everyone. Nicholson asked if Workplace Issues is planning to conduct a campus-wide survey of operating staff job satisfaction. Meyer replied that they are, and see this as a great way to get to people who can provide situation information. Meyer also said that Workplace Issues is amenable to joining with the Employee Morale Committee.

F. Administrative Professionals Advisory Council (APAC)

No report

G. Employee Advisory Committee (EAC)

No report. Hulseberg is in Urbana-Champaign for an EAC meeting.

XI. Prior Business

XII. New Business

A. Executive Vice President/Provost Search Committee

The Board of Trustees has approved a national search to fill this position, and asked that the OSC select someone from the council to be on the search committee. Johnson, Meyer, and Wielert self-nominated for consideration. Johnson withdrew upon finding out the large time commitment involved with this search committee. The OSC held a vote with Meyer and Wielert as candidates. Wielert was selected as the OSC representative for the Executive Vice President/Provost Search Committee.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Kozumplik to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Williams and passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Bivens, Secretary
Operating Staff Council