
Absent: Cindy Kozumplik, Rave Meyer

Guests: John Butler, Jon Chapman, Art Hall, Sarah Klaper, Celeste Latham, Rolf Oxnevad, Pulchratia Smith

I. Call to Order
President Nicholson called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call
Attendance was recorded by Stacey Bivens.

III. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Marjetic to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Berg and passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of January 10, 2019, minutes
A motion was made by Hulseberg to accept the January 10, 2019, minutes. The motion was seconded by Cabrera and passed by unanimous vote.

V. Treasurer’s Report
The report was presented by Wielert. She reported that Gigi Beaird is restoring $7-8,000 to the OSC’s budget to cover expenses for the Civil Service Celebration. A motion was made by Hulseberg to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Berg and passed by unanimous vote.

VI. Visiting Committees/Guests
A. John Butler, NIU’s trustee on the Merit Board at the State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS), was the guest at the February meeting. He explained the
Merit Board has one trustee for each university, except for University of Illinois which has three. Currently the position of chair of the Merit Board is open, but is temporarily filled. Trustee Butler explained that he works for the Painters Labor Unit – labor unions and unions are his background. He served on the Board of Regents as a student regent. He explained that the Merit Board gives universities another place to go in terms of dismissals and policies. Currently, SUCSS is trying to properly classify Supportive Professional Staff (SPS) positions. Butler has spoken to the SPS Council, and is trying to get a sense of how the conversion is affecting SPS and Civil Service employees.

There were several questions regarding the Merit Board. Can employees reach out to the Merit Board with concerns and questions? It was advised that workers call the systems office first. Hulseberg, the Operating Staff Personnel Advisor is also a good contact. There are not alternates on the Merit Board, which has caused some quorum issues. The SPS to Civil Service transition issue has stressed the importance of members who can attend Merit Board meetings regularly. There have been discussions regarding people who have SPS classified jobs that relate to research that are not Civil Service.

Hulseberg mentioned the letter sent to campus regarding the budget and the 2023 Strategic Enrollment Plan. There will be a presentation given in March to the university administration discussing +/- 4% budget scenarios. Klaper commented that the letter was interpreted as gutting departments and furloughing employees.

Trustee Butler asked how Civil Service employees are experiencing the SPS to Civil Service process. It was mentioned that there are employees in both classes who are very worried about seniority. Also, the process seems to be taking quite a long time. Latham explained that there are hundreds of jobs to be converted and only four people in Human Resource Services (HRS) who can do the work. She also said that there is no exact deadline, and that they just need to show they are making progress. HRS is still waiting for notification for NIU’s audit. To clarify, there are two types of audits. One is an audit of a university to make sure it is following policies, while the other is an audit of a job description (desk audit).

VII. Public Comment
None

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence
A. NIU 125th Anniversary Activities
No report
B. Operating Staff Council website
Significant points in the OSC website have been changed.

IX. Shared Governance Reports
A. Board of Trustees
Meeting today (February 7, 2019)

B. Faculty Senate
Did not meet

C. Supportive Professional Staff Council (SPSC)
No report

D. University Council
Meeting canceled

E. University Advisory Committee (UAC)
Met January 8, 2019

X. Committee Reports
A. Elections and Appointments
Did not meet.

B. Employee Morale
Did not meet. Next meeting scheduled for February 19, 2019.

C. Legislative Committee
Did not meet. Marjetic remarked that the Workplace Issues and Employee Morale committees have been talking about merging for a long time, and she wanted to know when that is going to happen. It was decided to have a council vote on this matter at the March meeting.

D. Public Relations/Activities
Discussed the OSC’s budget and its effect on the ability to print copies of the Northern Staff News. Kerwin has scheduled a Bowling Night on April 4, 2019, at Mardi Gras Lanes. The applications for the Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship were due January 31, 2019. Continued talking about the Civil Service Celebration.
E. Workplace Issues
Did not meet. Will continue to discuss merging with the Employee Morale Committee.

F. Administrative Professionals Advisory Council (APAC)
Wielert reported. APAC continues to wait for a representative from Human Resource Services. The Administrative Professionals Day Breakfast will take place Wednesday, April 24.

G. Employee Advisory Committee (EAC)
Did not meet. Hulseberg asked that any staff members who have questions regarding the transition of Supportive Professional Staff employees to Civil Service contact either him or Merit Board Trustee John Butler.

XI. Prior Business

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjournment
A motion was made by Wielert to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Monteiro and passed by unanimous vote.
The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Bivens, Secretary
Operating Staff Council