Minutes
Operating Staff Council
January 7, 2021
Teams – 9:00 a.m.
Approved February 4, 2021


Guests: Brad Beyer, Sarah Carli, Renata Catlett, Cathy Doederlein, Pat Erickson, Evan Forbes, Liz Guess, John Hulseberg, Jory Keller, Sarah Klaper, Lauren Kurpius, Rebecca Leneau, Rolf Oxnevad, Daksha Patel, Miriah Ranken, Pulchratia Smith, Matt Streb, Kendall Thu, Rachel Xidis

I. Call to Order
President Johnson called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. Roll Call
Attendance was recorded by Bivens.

III. Approval of Agenda
Kozumplik made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ayres and passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of December 3, 2020, Minutes
Nicholson moved to accept the December 3, 2020, minutes. The motion was seconded by Schlagel and passed by unanimous vote.

V. Treasurer’s Report
Yates reported. The budget balance is currently $9,462.54 with no expenditures this month. She reported that Robin Kenney had notified her that the dispensable income for the Dependent Endowed Scholarship Fund was $3,260.04 for FY21 and $1,800.87 for FY22. There will be $38.04 remaining for FY 21. Yates was asked if the nametags for the new members will be available soon. Mitchell said that she has these and can mail them out. At the December OSC meeting, the visiting presenters joined the meeting and the Treasurer’s report was not approved.
Monteiro moved to accept both the December and January Treasurer’s reports. The motion was seconded by Ayres and passed by unanimous vote.

VI. Visiting Presenter
Matt Streb addressed several topics and answered questions. He said that COVID efforts in spring semester will focus on testing and vaccines. Students will be required to be tested for COVID before receiving their room keys. NIU is using a saliva test to test for the virus. Results are usually available in 24 hours. NIU is working with the Illinois Department of Public Health. On January 10, 11, and 12 there will be free public COVID testing held in the parking lot of the Convocation Center. Residence hall residents undergo surveillance testing every four weeks. Streb shared that Dr. Barry Bode has been testing wastewater for the presence of COVID. He is testing not just residence halls, but also neighborhoods adjacent to campus. Also, NIU has little control over who gets the COVID vaccine and when. NIU will not require faculty and staff to get the vaccine, but it will be strongly recommended. Streb advised that if employees can get the vaccine through their own physicians, they should go ahead and do that rather than wait for NIU to offer it. Questions were asked about working remotely. What will campus look like this summer and fall? Will people still be working from home? Could certain positions be made remote permanently? Streb’s answer to the last question was yes. The COVID relief bill provided no help for state or local entities. NIU was asked to prepare a budget with a 5% cut. NIU does not owe money, but it has budget challenges. The university will have to make some difficult decisions. Streb does not anticipate furloughs in FY 2021. Lastly, Streb announced that the university is extending the 125th Anniversary celebration, but no more money is being spent to do this.

VII. Public Comment
Kozumplik shared that LinkedIn learning has been extended through the end of the year.

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence

A. Natasha Johnson: President’s Announcements
Johnson shared the information that there will be public COVID testing conducted at the Convocation Center on January 10, 11 and 12. A Graduate Assistant wrote out a template for requesting donations for the Civil Service Emergency Fund.

B. Pulchratia Smith: Human Resource Services (HRS)
Pulchratia reported that the university is still hiring. HRS is working to get rates up to $11.00. HRS is aware of salary compaction and is working to raise full-time employees’ pay to this wage. Testing is still ongoing. Physical fitness testing for police applicants takes place Monday, January 11. Royce remarked that civil service salaries at NIU always seem to be near the bottom. Smith replied that they try to get the best comparison possible. They look at salaries at universities with doctoral programs and a comparable number of students. Also, updated salary ranges are listed on posted vacancies.

C. Cindy Kozumplik: NIU 125th Anniversary Committee
No report. However, Kozumplik reported that there will be some anniversary activities in 2021.

IX. Shared Governance Reports
A. Board of Trustees
Thus reported. The December meeting was packed. The budget request to the state was flat. The board approved $1.2 million for COVID testing. The cost of each test has gone from $80 to $25.

B. Faculty Senate
No report

C. Supportive Professional Staff Council (SPSC)
The SPS Council will be having its monthly game lunch. This activity is not exclusive to SPS employees.

D. Student Government Association (SGA)
Beyer reported. He is in his last semester. The Student Affairs budget will be reforming how the SGA budget is distributed. The SGA will be holding its elections and Beyer will introduce his successor to the Shared Governance groups. Johnson asked if the SGA monitors the percent of budgets used by groups.

E. University Council (UC)
No report

X. Committee Reports
A. Elections and Appointments
Monteiro reported. The committee is testing out the voting system on Microsoft Forms. Monteiro also brought up the topic of OSC members for the University
Council. He would like the Legislative Committee to look at how to choose five OSC members for these positions.

B. Legislative Committee
Nicholson reported. The committee conducted the first reading of Article 3 at the OSC meeting.

C. Public Relations/Activities
No report

D. Workplace Guidance
The committee discussed streamlining. Royce asked about this. Teso-Warner will report on it.

E. Administrative Professionals Advisory Council (APAC)
Ranken reported. APAC is working on the same initiatives. She will have an update in February regarding the Operating Staff Service Awards.

F. Employee Advisory Committee (EAC)
Hulseberg reported. EAC meets on January 28, 2020. There will be new EAC members from Eastern Illinois University, University of Illinois and University of Illinois at Chicago. There is no Merit Board meeting scheduled.

XI. Prior Business
A. OSC Plaques

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjournment
Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kozumplik and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Bivens, Secretary
Operating Staff Council