

Minutes
Operating Staff Council
April 4, 2024
Virtual Meeting Only (Teams) – 9:00 A.M.
Approved May 2, 2024

Present: Nicole Adams, Rob Kerschke, Cindy Kozumplik, Natasha Johnson, Mandy Kreitzer, Rave Meyer, Frances Mitchell/Admin. Aide, Kathy Mosher, Sara Richter, Mary Schlagel, Tracey Ward, Tiffany Morris, Tawanda Paul, Cindy Robinson, Jim Slagstad, Sam Hawkins, Angie Gutierrez-Vargas, Jay Monteiro, David Rapp

Non-members present: Arezou Soto, Chris Doe, George Middlemist, Krystyna Kamka, Renata Catlett, Wes Jones, Caroline Kosmel, Karen Smith, Lauren Kurpius, Ben Creed, Lisa Pitney, Cathy Doederlein, Felicia Bohanon, John Hulseberg, Patricia Ericksen, Christopher Gilbert

Absent: Mark Pietrowski

I. Call to Order

President Johnson called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:00 AM

II. Roll Call

Attendance was recorded by Mandy Kreitzer online.

III. Approval of Agenda

Robinson made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Richter and passed by vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Kozumplik made a motion to accept the March 7, 2024, minutes. The motion was seconded by Meyer and passed by vote.

V. Treasurer's Report Mosher reported.

- a) OSC balance – \$11,096.33. However, because we don't share our personal payments with our two paid employees for OSC, the actual budget balance is \$8,387.97. There is an overage on the budget and actuals and obligations of \$2,708.36, so our running budget is \$8,387.97. The operating staff dependent scholarship won't be updated until late next week.
- b) Civil Service Emergency Fund ending balance – \$1,377.86.
- c) Kozumplik moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Slagstad and passed by vote.

VI. Visiting Committees/Guests

- A. CFO George Middlemist
 - a) CFO Middlemist shared that we are tracking at about \$28M deficit with expectation to grow but is projecting to be less than the budgeted deficit of around \$34M. Growing revenue or reducing expenses was discussed and shared that senior round table has been involved in discussing ideas on what are possible including strategies surrounding scholarships.
 - b) CFO Middlemist discussed shared governance in decision-making and transparency including the business managers group.

- c) It was encouraged to have John Heckman join the Operating Staff Council to answer specific questions surrounding facilities and mechanisms that will allow us to better leverage our space.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Cindy Kozumplik noted the DoIT Tuesday tech tip classes are filling up and if anyone has ideas to reach out.

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence

- A. Human Resource Services Update – Cathy Doederlein reported that they will likely have a position posting soon on the payroll team. Staff Award recipients have been notified.

IX. Shared Governance Reports

- A. Board of Trustees – Ben Creed reported.
 - a. There was a finalization of the remaining tuition and fee increases.
 - b. The Board of Trustees regulations were updated, particularly related to financial reporting. The reporting was increased to be aligned, still stricter than many institutions, but nothing below \$500,000 for certain purchases was needed.
 - c. The Board approved Laurie Elish-Piper to the position of Executive Vice President and Provost.
- B. University Council – Ben Creed reported.
 - a. President Freeman shared a report on FASFA and the rollout along with how NIU is doing everything we can to help support students.
 - b. Education financing in Illinois and expectations around legislative actions are unlikely to happen this session.
 - c. We heard a report or a presentation from General Counsel Bryan Perry about the Supreme Court case around Affirmative Action around using race within admissions, and then he gave us some updates on other court cases that are coming up that are relevant to it, as well as how it impacts NIU.
- C. Faculty Senate – Ben Creed reported.
 - a. Focus on open scholarship and what that means.
 - b. We weren't able to take up any new business or any sort of votes or anything like that because we didn't reach 2/3 voting members there and weren't able to take up any new business or any sort of votes or anything like that because we didn't reach 2/3 voting members there.
- D. Supportive Professional Staff Council (SPSC) – Felicia Bohanan reported.
 - a. The annual SPS awards and luncheon was a great event.
 - b. Upcoming elections
 - c. Getting out an SPS survey and would like to have an event before the academic year.

X. Operating Staff Council Committee Reports

- A. Elections and Appointments – Jay reported.
 - a. Reminder that if your term is up to respond to the data sheet that was emailed out.
 - b. University Committees passed by vote.
 - i. Campus Parking Committee – Angie Gutierrez-Vargas and Dave Rapp passed by vote.
 - ii. Parking Appeals - Sara Richter.

- iii. University Benefits Committee – Bridget
 - iv. University Council – Kozumplik made the motion to table elections until after the general elections. Seconded by Slagstad. Motion passed.
- B. Legislative Committee – Kozumplik reported.
 - a. First reading of the Operating Staff Council Handbook.
 - b. Second reading will be in May.
- C. Public Relations/Activities – Sam Hawkins reported.
 - a. There was a survey in the last newsletter for feedback on where interest is with outings.
 - b. Brown bag style of events, lunch and learn style program, bowling, karaoke.
- D. Workplace Guidance –Jim Slagstad reported.
 - a. Discussed the new Illinois paid leave, FLSA change, and service spots.
- E. Civil Service Emergency Fund – Mandy Kreitzer reported.
 - a. 2 applications, 2 payments will be issued.
- F. Scholarship update – Karen Smith reported.
 - a. Angelica Samuel – parent is Ronna Sonia from the College of Engineering.
 - b. Mackenzie Condon, parent is Patrick Condon from Grounds.
 - c. Darby McGowan, parent is Mark McGowan and Institutional Communications
 - d. Maya Portscheller and her parent is Danita Portscheller.
- G. President’s Report –
- H. Council of Councils Ad Hoc Committee – No report
- I. Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) – Chris Doe reported. UIC is going to be planning Council of Council. The last merit board meeting discussed the “rule of three” for civil service. But the big item was the recommendation for the University of Illinois System Office to become a separate entity. They put in a position statement stating that they did not think that that was a good idea to have that happen. It would be like our outreach centers and how they're handled as far as bumping and right and the ability to apply to. It would be promotional, and the recommendation was that that do not take place.

XI. Prior Business - None

XII. New Business - None

XIII. Adjournment

Kozumplik moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Morris and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mandy Kreitzer, Secretary
Operating Staff Council