# Minutes Operating Staff Council

February 6, 2025 Hybrid/Virtual (Teams) – 9:00 A.M.

***Present*:** Angie Gutierrez-Vargas, Cindy Kozumplik, Natasha Johnson, Mandy Kreitzer, Frances Mitchell/Admin. Aide, Cindy Robinson, Jay Monteiro, Kathy Mosher, Rob Kerschke, Patty Wallace, Jessie Alex, Tamara Boston, Jim Slagstad, Sam Hawkins (1st alternate – voting), Rave Meyer, Sara Richter, Tiffany Morris

***Non-members present:*** Sandra Cox, Ombudsperson, Hillary Neibert, Karen Smith Cathy Doederlein, Linda Srygler, Chris Doe, Caroline Kosmel, April Startzel, Gigi Beaird, Christopher Gilber, Ja’kobe Jones, Mark Pietrowski, Renata Catlett, Jeanie Sparacino, Joseph Thomas

***Absent:*** Tracey Ward, Tawanda Paul (2nd alternate), David Rapp.

# Call to Order

President Johnson called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:01 AM

# Roll Call

Attendance was called by Mandy (Kreitzer) Thompson. Met the minimum quorum of 9.

# Approval of Agenda

Meyer made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kozumplik and passed by vote.

# Approval of Minutes

Kozumplik made a motion to accept January 9, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Wallace and passed by vote.

# Treasurer’s Report

Report on file read by Mosher. $15,972.17 in our Operating Staff General Fund. We have $285.11 in the Civil Service Emergency Fund. Our scholarship fund has $743.4 remaining for Fiscal Year 25. Motion by Robinson. Seconded by Alex. Motion carried.

# Visiting Committees/Guests

* 1. Sandra Cox, Ombudsperson came to share about the office and her support of faculty, staff, and students across campus.

# Public Comment

* 1. None

# Announcements/Correspondence

1. **President’s Report –** Considering everything that is going on, if you find yourself frustrated, irritable, more than normal, consider going to Employee Wellbeing to talk with someone. Thank you to Nicole Adams for her hard work and dedication to the University and Operating Staff Council. Due to this resignation Jessie Alex will be a permanent on OSC.
2. **VIII. Human Resources Update –** Cathy Doederlein came to share that the plan is for her to typically attend going forward for Human Resources. Cathy talked about the partnership with the Ombudsperson, Employee Wellbeing, union representatives, etc. Staff awards are currently up for nomination and the deadline is February 14th. If you are asked to do a letter of support for one of the nominations, the deadline is February 17th. Cathy encouraged everyone to nominate colleagues for the great work they’re doing.

# Shared Governance Reports

* 1. Board of Trustees – Natasha Johnson reported the announcement of the Mountain West Conference. March 20th is the next meeting.
  2. University Council – Natasha Johnson reported there was a discussion on Staff Fest and that it will continue.
  3. Faculty Senate – Jim Slagstad reported that there was a presentation and announcement on the move to the Mountain West Conference.
  4. Supportive Professional Staff Council (SPSC) – No report.

# Operating Staff Council Committee Reports

* 1. Elections and Appointments –Jay Monteiro reported that the committee did not meet. Jay reported that Debbie Williams retired from the Graduate School February 1st and was our representative on the Parking Appeals Committee, so we need someone to take their place. Her term is set to end June 30, 2025. Patty Wallace volunteered and will finish out the term through June 30, 2025.
  2. Legislative Committee – Kozumplik reported that the committee did meet but they don’t have

anything to present for this meeting.

* 1. Public Relations/Activities – Sam Hawkins reported that they went over the responses from the newsletter pole. An email went out to those on the subcommittee to review the OSC scholarship applications. The deadline is February 28th for the next newsletter.

1. Workplace Guidance –The committee is looking for a Chair of the committee and Tamara Boston is considering Chairing. Francis will be substitute Chair of the committee until it is decided.
2. Civil Service Emergency Fund – Tamara Boston reported. The crowdfunding page goes live on Friday, February 7th and will conclude on March 14th. We have some ideas about Staff Fest and building awareness for payroll deductions as well as for Crowd Funding. Tamara will be attending University Council and Faculty Senate to share regarding the Crowd Funding page but also emphasize the payroll deduction in hopes of getting the fund sustainable.
3. Celebration Committee – Cindy Kozumplik reported. There will be three spots for the dependent scholarship fund, the civil service emergency fund, and entry. The layout will look a little different this year and those tables will be front and center. 302 people have responded, 266 of them are Operating Staff, 275 are SPS attending. President Freeman will be there from 12:00- 1:00. Staff Fest is March 12th 11:00am – 2:00PM in the Duke Ellington Ballroom. RSVP is required and closes February 27th at 4:30pm.
4. Scholarship update – No report.
5. EAC – Chris Doe reported that they had their first meeting of 2025. Residency requirement for civil service is being discussed and EAC submitted a Position Statement to the Merit Board on our position in regard to the residency requirement. University of Illinois has reinitiated the conversation around continuous testing. Chris highlighted that NIU does a really good job with testing. There is discussion on potentially opening the ability to receive more referrals beyond the top three score bands and there is conversation on if this changes the landscape of the referrals now that the testing process has changed a little bit and more classifications are now

what’s called credentials assessment. There will be some joining meetings with the HRD Director Advisory Committee which will open many discussions on what they need and what we need to report to the Merit Board.

* 1. Council of Councils will be October 24th at Governor State University.

# Prior Business – None

1. **New Business** – None

# Adjournment

Mosher moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Boston and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10. a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy (Kreitzer) Thompson, Secretary Operating Staff Council