



## Northern Illinois University

**Sarah McGill, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
& Chief Financial Officer**

**Monthly Leadership Meeting**

**March 20, 2018**

## Administration and Finance – Who we are . . . . .



Over 530 Civil Service and SPS Staff Members

Service Areas Represented:

- Finance & Budget
- Facilities Management & Campus Services
- Risk Management
- Operations
- Information Technology (effective April 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Administration and Finance Annual Budget: \$22M

DoIT Annual Budget: \$25M

Size of Campus:

Total Building Space – 78,000 sq. feet (75,000 sq. feet DeKalb Campus)  
Ground Area – 930 acres (760 acres DeKalb Campus)

## Role of the CFO



- Stewardship Responsibility
  - Provide strategic financial leadership
  - Develop a strategic, systematic, transparent, budget process
- Build and sustain a culture of service delivery and alignment with university trajectory and priorities
- Change Management
  - Provide leadership
  - Enhance efficiency
  - Promote best practices and process improvement
  - Institutionalizing the value of program prioritization
- Collaborate with Campus Community in a true spirit of partnership

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## My First 60(ish) Days



- Meeting with Colleagues in Administration and Finance
- Launch FY19 Budget Process
- Advocating for NIU
  - Higher Education Working Group
  - Senate Appropriations Hearing
  - Illinois Board of Higher Education Board Meeting
- One Cycle of Board Committee/Board of Trustee Meetings
- Over 50 Introductory Meetings with Deans, Vice Presidents, Administration and Finance Leaders and Staff, Shared Governance Leadership and Trustees

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## What I heard . . . . .



- How do we move on from “Not Mission Critical”?
- Operational and technology challenges with budget process puts pressure on divisions
- Partnership with Procurement is essential to entrepreneurial and routine business needs
- The need for trusted and engaged partners

**The quality of our performance directly impacts the ability of units across NIU to achieve successful outcomes.**

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## Priorities for Administration and Finance



- Build Credibility
- Evolve to support NIU Priorities
  - Alignment
- Foster Culture of Engagement
  - Service delivery
  - Collaboration/partnership
  - Communication
- Establish *OUR* Standard
  - Focused execution
  - Responsiveness
  - Transparency

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## Areas of Focus



- Budget Process and Financial Reporting – FY19 and Beyond
- Capital Projects and Space Planning – FY19 and Beyond
- Coordination of University Priorities
- Responsive to and Supportive of Academic and Research Agendas
- Coordinated Approach across Administration and Finance
- Engagement with Campus Community
- Balance compliance with moving NIU forward
- Introduction of KPI's

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## Assistance from Campus



- Inform us of challenges
  - Sarah McGill – Divisional Lead ([smcgill1@niu.edu](mailto:smcgill1@niu.edu))
  - John Heckmann – Facilities Services ([jheckmann@niu.edu](mailto:jheckmann@niu.edu))
  - La Vonne Neal – Process Reengineering ([lneal1@niu.edu](mailto:lneal1@niu.edu))
  - Matt Parks – Information Technology ([mparks2@niu.edu](mailto:mparks2@niu.edu))
  - Larry Pinkelton – Budget and Finance ([lpinkelton@niu.edu](mailto:lpinkelton@niu.edu))
- Financial position remains tenuous, need to remain diligent and thoughtful even as we look toward the future
- Processes have evolved over time – will need some time to move forward thoughtfully
- Exciting new initiatives under consideration, we will need your collaboration to design
- Communicate your priorities in advance of need
- Constructive criticism and feedback as partners

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# QUESTIONS?

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