

Supportive Professional Staff Council Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Campus Life Building – Room 100

Approved February 13, 2020

Present: Botterman, Burchard, Click, Davis, Doederlein, Dymond, Gipson, Guess, Kazmierczak, Mewhirter, Myer, Miesbauer, Myles, Reid, Xidis

Excused: Ballard, Bohanon, Boughton, Hochstatter, O’Grady, Sutcliffe

Absent: Goode, McKee

Regular Guests & Visitors: Chris Dawe, Sarah Klaper, Frances Mitchell, Sabrina Self

I. Call to Order: President Doederlein called the first meeting of 2020 to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda, motioned and seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, none opposed.

Motion: Burchard

Second: Davis

Approval of December 12, 2019 Minutes motioned and seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, none opposed.

Motion: Kazmierczak

Second: Meyer

II. Announcements:

a.) STEM Café-Legalization of Cannabis: Council members held an extended discussion about the impact of legalization on campus from legal, health and economic perspectives. The Office of Student Conduct message is the same: cannabis will be treated very similarly to tobacco.

b.) Blue Lights issue: Matt Streb re-asserted the lights were not going away entirely. Some shifting to better locations and some phased out.

c.) Huskies Give Back: NIU President Dr. Lisa Freeman announced the program during her State of the University address in October; employees can take advantage of the program beginning Jan. 1, 2020. Organizations in need of volunteers can apply to be part of the program and are encouraged to register online at <https://hrs.niu.edu/apps/huskies-give-back/vol-org>. to date, roughly, 20 organizations have registered.

<https://www.niutoday.info/2019/12/02/employees-encouraged-to-volunteer-through-huskies-give-back/>

d.) Policy Library: The no smoking policy has been amended.

e.) Huskie Den: Alcohol will be sold M-F after 4:00 p.m.

f.) Election: Doederlein is a Deputy Registrar and can get people registered to vote in the upcoming 2020 election.

III. Committee Reports

Awards: The Call for Nominations for the Presidential awards and the SPS Staff Awards were published. Please encourage people to nominate themselves or colleagues. Keep in mind the Gary Gray award for a council member who has contributed above and

beyond for the SPS Council. Also, Certificates of Recognition are awarded for accomplishments such as the publication of books or articles; papers presented; leadership in professional associations; honors and recognitions; advanced academic degrees or professional certifications and extraordinary service to the NIU community and its students. The tentative date for the awards ceremony is Thursday, April 16, 1-3 p.m. This year the SPSC and OSC award ceremonies are combined.

Communication & Technology: Xidis reported helping to get the message out about the upcoming awards deadline and the scholarship deadline. Tedra and her committee also have the SPS Community Engagement Survey ready, but we are going to hold off to distribute it until after the award deadlines have passed.

Constitution & Elections: Myles reported the committee is presently gearing up for elections. This is also a presidential election year.

Events: Miller reported the December 17 Holiday Social offered a lot of food but the event was sparsely attended –20-25 throughout.

Regional Community Relations: Mewhirter reported there are ten questions on the survey they have been working on and it is now pending Rachel's approval.

SPS Dependent Scholarship Fund: Reid reported the application period deadline is January 31. As of now there have been zero applicants. We are going to talk to Rachel about advertising for the \$1000 scholarship. While the scholarship is NIU specific, the definition of "dependent" is very broad: biological, adopted, foster, step or legal guardianship. The student can be an incoming freshman. Dependents of SPS employees are eligible until the employee transitions to Civil Service.

IV. Vice President's Report: Tawanda Gipson reported on behalf of the Committee for Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence that Vernese Edghill-Walden is coming to our February meeting. She will be presenting and soliciting feedback on NIU's equity statement which is being presented to all of NIU's governing councils.

Anne Edwards reported on behalf of the Faculty Development & Instructional Design Advisory Committee. A call for nominations for 2020 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards. Each academic unit may nominate two teaching assistants. Deadline for nominations is Friday, February 28, 2020.

<https://www.niu.edu/facdev/ta/taaward.shtml>

V. Unfinished Business:

a.) Search Committee Updates: Meyer reported Student Conduct is searching for a Director of Counselling. A psychologist with higher education experience is preferred. If you know any counsellor-psychologists in the field of higher education, please let me know.

b.) Pulchratia, Brian Smith and Liz Guess now report to the Provost but they are still resource people for questions. If you need help contacting someone in HR, get in touch with Catherine.

c.) 125th Birthday Committee Update: January 30 is Kick-Off at 3:00-5:00 p.m., Remarks at 4:00 p.m.

d.) University Council/Faculty Senate Reorganization: The University Council and Faculty Senate are in discussions and processes of transferring academic authority from University Council to Faculty Senate. Doederlein reminded the Council that it is really important to reach out to colleagues who are on University Council and Faculty Senate because it is clear that in order for SPS to have a voice, we need to advocate for ourselves.

VI. University Committee Reports

Board of Trustees – 3/5/20

Board of Trustees Committees – 2/13/20

Faculty Senate – 2/19/20

Operating Staff Council - 2/6/20

Student Government Association – Every Sunday/Sky Room/5:00 p.m.

University Council – 1/29/20 & 2/26/20

VII. Adjournment

Doederlein called for a motion to adjourn, Mewhirter so motioned, seconded by Myles. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.