Supportive Professional Staff Council

General Meeting – Draft Minutes

May 9, 2024

Teams/In Person Hybrid Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

**Approved September 12, 2024**

**Call to Order:** President Bohanon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Administrative Aide called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

**Members Present:** FeliciaBohanon, John Boswell, Cody Carter, Liz Guess, Margaret Myles, Tom O’Grady, Candice Olagunju, Perez, Jesse, Anthony Preston, Andrew Rogers, Shannon Stoker, Christina Sutcliffe, Lauren Teso

**Members Excused:** Bill Braksick, Heath Duncan, Joe Lovelace, Dan Wolfe

**Guests:** Benjamin Creed

**Approval of Agenda:** Properly motioned and seconded (Rogers/Myles); all in favor, none opposed, Agenda accepted by voice vote.

**Approval of April, 2024 Minutes:** Properly motioned and seconded (Preston/Myles) all in favor, none opposed, April, 2024 minutes approved by voice vote.

**University Committee Reports**

**Board of Trustees**: Ben Creed reporting: The BOT is currently meeting.

**Board of Trustees Committees:** currently meeting.

**University Council**: Ben Creed reporting: The Council met last Wednesday, May 1, and got

updates on progress towards addressing the budget deficit as well as updates on FASFA and its

rollout; how it’s impacting our campus, the state and nationally; what we are doing to

address that and plan as a university to support our students as they are awaiting their final financial aid packages, which delays their enrollment here, which will potentially impact the budget for the coming year.

We also had a presentation follow-up on the conversation about the closure of Normal Road and the Roundabout. CFO Middlemist, John Heckman and two members from the City of DeKalb

gave us updates and overviews on the plans going forward for both the Roundabout and the closure of Normal Road. They addressed all questions provided to them beforehand and shared a timeline going forward for continued communication on plans and opportunities for further questions to be asked. Overall, the feedback I’ve heard was very positive; they came prepared to address questions, share plans and be a partner going forward that we will continue to share with you.

Another item shared with University Council (and I already shared with Felicia and Natasha) is

about filling the information gap by the dissolution of the Resource Space and Budget Committee three years ago during the reimagining of shared governance, where Faculty Senate took on the responsibilities of the academic core related to promotion, tenure, curriculum and other things like that leaving expenditures related to space and the allocation of resources within the institution to be the main function of the University Council. However, over the past couple of years, that has not been operationalized quite as much as the original conversations would have been expected in that space. So, I have been working with Vice President and Provost, Elish-Piper and CFO Middlemist and President Freeman to discuss how we can bring this

committee back. How can we use University Council the way it was intended during that reorganization. They are open to and engaged with and want that dialogue for staff, faculty and students to have an opportunity to engage earlier on in the budgeting process within a shared governance framework for getting feedback, for sharing information, for learning more about how decisions can be improved.

So, this summer I’ll be working with a group to think through what is the best structure to engage in meaningful and actionable dialogue with budgeting decisions regarding allocation of space or just use of space? And so what I would love is a member of the SPS Council to partner with us and participate in those ongoing conversations this summer to be able to come to University Council or to the right body to make a recommendation of how we’re going to engage in conversations about those things in more proactive ways. Right now, the Roundtable serves a function, but that is advisory just to the President and does not have a direct report back to the Staff, University Council or the Senate.

One of the realizations is that University Council has become much more just informational sharing, and this is an opportunity to make sure that body is living up to its roll and expectations

and retains a reason for membership to come, not just to learn but to participate.

President Bohanon will be following up with the SPS Council members who may be interested

in participating in this project this summer.

**Faculty Senate:** Ben shared he was re-elected to serve as the Senate President and Chair of University Council and is looking forward to that and enjoying the work with this body as well.

**Vice President’s Report:** Tom O’Grady reporting there were no meetings held since our last meeting and the next Parking Appeals Committee meeting is set for May 15.

Representative Myles presented a brief report from the Computing Facilities Advisory Committee where they talked a lot about the Anywhere Print transition and if people are having issues, it seems like there’s some bugs that we are still managing and working out. The committee is very excited about the rollout of the Adobe Creative Cloud suite with student access, so if you haven’t seen that yet, you might want to check out the Adobe Creative Cloud.

**Student Government Association**: No report.

**Operating Staff Council:** No report.

**Committee Updates:**

**Advocacy**: Felicia reported the committee is nearly finished with the survey that may go out with

election materials next week.

**Awards:** No report.

**Communications & Technology:** No report.

**Constitution & Elections**: Tom O’Grady reported getting through the nominating process. Notifications will go out next week. The committee will spend the summer on the Constitution.

**Events**: There was little enthusiasm for an end-of-year event, however, Shannon Stoker suggested having Ollie’s truck come by one day at noon and maybe we just meet and get some Ollies because that is really nice to have and would be pretty minor. Felicia is going to work on getting

that set up.

**Professional Development:** Candice Olagunju hosts today’s presentation by Vicki Caserno,

Counselor, Employee Wellbeing entitled *Stress Relievers for Workplace Stressors”* from

11:30 am -Noon.

**Regional Community Relations:** No report.

**SPSC Dependent Scholarship**: No report.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Announcements:** For the nine members whose terms are expiring we have some very nice

certificates for you to show our appreciation for your service over the last three years:

Joe Lovelace, Margaret Myles, Jesse Perez, Michelle Pickett, Anthony Preston, Andrew Rogers, Shannon Stoker, Christina Sutcliffe and Dan Wolfe, please pick up your certificate at Frances’ office, AL 103.

President Bohanon is working to have FY 24 and FY 25 group photos taken. Based on chat

responses, it looks like a Tuesday or Wednesday around lunch the week of the 20th. We are

focusing on Tuesday, the 21st. More info to follow.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business, President Bohanon adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

**Representatives**: Please contact our SPSC Administrative Aide, Frances Mitchell, ([fmitchell@niu.edu](mailto:fmitchell@niu.edu)) if you are unable to attend a meeting. An Alternate will be contacted for you. A**lternates: You are invited to attend all meetings**.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Frances Mitchell, Administrative Aide*

*Supportive Professional Staff Council*