

**Supportive Professional Staff Council Meeting**  
Thursday, November 14, 2019 (Approved December 12, 2019)  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
HSC Sky Room

**Present:** Anderson, Boughton, Bredberg, Burchard, Click, Costello, Davis, Doederlein, Dymond, Edwards, Gipson, Goode, Guess, Kazmierczak, Lyles, Mewhirter, Meyer, Miller, Myles, O’Grady, Reid, Sutcliffe, Xidis

**Excused:** Ballard, Botterman, Hochstatter, Miesbauer

**Absent:** McKee, Olson

**Regular Guests & Visitors:** Grant Montgomery, Student; Sabrina Self, Student Assoc.; Kendall Thu, Faculty Senate/UC; Frances Mitchell, A. Aide/SPSC

**I. Call to Order:** President Doederlein called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Approval of Agenda, motioned and seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, none opposed.

Motion: Miller

Second: Myles

Approval of October 10, 2019 Minutes motioned and seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, none opposed.

Motion: Kazmierczak

Second: Bredberg

**II. Announcements:**

President Freeman is our December guest speaker. Please send any questions you have for her, however, doing so is not required. We should give her a sense of things on our minds.

- a.) Volunteers needed for IHSA Football Playoffs
- b.) STEM Cafes – December 3 (Berimbau)

**III. Committee Reports:**

**Advocacy:** No report.

**Awards:** Edwards stated the committee will have a report next month.

**Communications & Technology:** Xidis reported changes to the SPSC website with a few minor things to update. Representatives & Alternates will be updated this week with at-large alternates.

**Constitution & Elections:** No report.

**Events:** Sutcliffe reported an excellent turnout, 45-50 for the November Pot Luck. A good crowd of campus individuals--not all SPS. Most stayed until the end too. We are working on the details for the Holiday Party scheduled for December 17 in the Atrium of the Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center. We hope to have an invite out next week.

**Professional Development:** Gipson reported that the Professional Development Committee met the end of October and discussed the results from the survey of SPS Council during the previous meeting. The results showed an interest in learning more about the sabbatical process for SPS employees. The committee will continue to work on finding the best way to get the word out to the SPS community about sabbaticals.

**Regional Community Relations:** Dymond reported they have developed the survey. It is in a Qualtrics document. We will ask committee members to give their final approval of the survey. Then, we will be contacting communications to seek help with sending the survey to all of the remaining SPS members. Dymond expressed a need for Qualtrics training. Mewhirter added that the survey is short and concise to capture the data on our SPS volunteers at NIU and Mewhirter agreed that we should have Qualtrics training.

**SPS Scholarship Fund:** Reid reported the Fund balance is \$6,108.75, up from last month. The deadline for applying for a scholarship is January 31, 2021. We need to put a note in Announcements.

**IV. Vice President's Report:** Bohanon summarized the report; it is posted on SharePoint under the **SR** group. (*Blue Box*)

**V. Unfinished Business:**

**a.) Search Committee Updates:** Meyer reported the Division of Student Affairs has opened a search for a Director of Counseling & Consultation Services. Candidates are welcome to apply at NIU.edu

**b.) SUCSS Procedure:** Doederlein reported results of desk audits will not be acted on until January so as to not impact budgeting as control shifts from central to local. Conversions continue to be evaluated. Confusion about the conversion process seems to be lingering so we will be working with HR to see about a Myth Buster's type of event.

**c.) 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee Update:** Doederlein reported for Michael Adzovic: The grant deadline has passed. The Oral History component is coming out December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**d.) Priorities for the Council:** Doederlein reported we continue to focus on the transition, making sure we are protected as to various areas of employment such as increases. Doederlein asked members of the Council if they had any suggestions for our priorities list and reminded everyone they could contact her directly outside of the meeting if preferred.

**VI. New Business:**

**a.) SECOND READING -- Article VII, Section 10 – Make up of Scholarship Committee:** Doederlein read the amendment and called for a motion to approve. Myles moved to approve, seconded by Edwards. A vote was by a show of hands. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. The amendment passed.

**VII. University Committee Reports:**

**Board of Trustees** – next meeting of full Board is 12/5/19

**Board of Trustees Committees** – currently meeting. Faculty union contract passed. Negotiations were reciprocal in a collaborative spirit of getting things done.

**Faculty Senate** – Rules & Governance Committee will be acting on the structure of shared governance and moving ahead on its priorities. This afternoon the Baccalaureate Committee is making changes in admissions standards. Test scores are not good predictors of success. A student's GPA provides a holistic review. Concerns were voiced about how that change would affect the Chance Program and support for the students we bring in.

**Operating Staff Council** – Next meeting 12/5/19

**Student Association** – Meets every Sunday, next meeting 11/16/2019  
**University Council** – 12/4/19

**VIII. Adjournment:** Doederlein called for a motion to adjourn, Bredberg so moved, Myles seconded. All in favor, no abstentions, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.