**Supportive Professional Staff Council**

**General Meeting – Minutes**

October 10, 2024

In Person Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Approved November 14, 2024

**Call to Order:** President Bohanon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Roll Call:** SecretaryDeborah Gettemy called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

**Members Present:** Chynar Amanova, Emily Belcher, Felicia Bohanon, Karinne Bredberg, Cody Carter, Deborah Gettemy, Heath Duncan, Jennifer Manning, Margaret Myles, Tom O’Grady, Anthony Preston, Kyle Springer, Shannon Stoker, Megan Woodruff

**Members Excused:** John Boswell, Bill Braksick, Liz Guess, Michael Kunigonis,

Kellie Martial, Candice Olagunju, Erin Smith, Lauren Teso

**Guests:** Laurie Elish-Piper, Executive Vice President and Provost

Natasha Johnson, President, Operating Staff Council

Ja’Kobe Jones, President, Student Government Association

Manny Corpuz, Speaker of the Senate, Student Government Association

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

**Approval of September 12, 2024 Minutes:** Properly motioned and seconded (Stoker/Duncan) all in favor, none opposed, September 12, 2024 minutes approved by voice vote.

**Guest:** Provost Laurie Elish-Piper discussing university Goal 1A that focuses on what NIU is

doing to be a student-centered institution. In addition to broader university strategies, the

Provost sought to learn from Supportive Professional Staff members what is happening in

their units and ideas that would be important to think about as they try to identify additional ways that NIU can be student centered.

Descriptions of direct and indirect student-centered activities and programs were offered by Karinne Bredberg, Office of Innovation; Anthony Preston and Margaret Myles, College of Business; Heath Duncan, Intercollegiate Athletics; Felicia Bohanon, Precollegiate-Upward Bound; Jennifer Manning, Holmes Student Center; Cody Carter, Alumni Services.

**University Committee Reports**

**Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, Board of Trustees**: Ben Creed to submit his report to Felicia.

**Student Government Association:** Ja’Kobe Jones, newly elected president of the SGA, reported he is in the process of filling his cabinet. He has appointed a Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs and will be appointing a Director of Organizational Development and Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Manny Corpuz, Speaker of the Senate reported he has been working with his deputy speaker about hosting an intercollegiate panel and discussion about student government across Illinois campuses. So far they have reached out to ten different Illinois colleges and recently SIU, Harper College, DePaul University, Elmhurst University and UIUC have reached out to NIU. We plan to start networking with these different student governments across Illinois.

**Operating Staff Council:** Natasha Johnson reported the council has been working on their priorities.

Their top one at this moment is the financial state of the university. People also want to know how

to upscale, to get more information about open positions so when a position becomes available, they can get

into those positions instead of the university hiring externally. It is about promoting from within.

Also there was concern from some that because they are so good at their jobs they may be considered

too valuable to lose to a promotion.

The Council also selected candidates for the university Resource, Space and Budget committee that includes

several backups. Also, they are trying to build up their Civil Service Emergency Fund. They are working

on putting out additional information to the public about various ways to contribute, through the Foundation or through payroll deductions.

They need two volunteers for the joint SPS/Operating Staff annual event committee. AKA Staff Fest.

The date is set for March 12 to be held in the Holmes Student Center.

Planning has begun and the committee needs input from SPS.

Tom O’Grady suggested we recruit **Jesse Perez**. Although he might be a little busy right now, but he would be great at being able to help with the initiative. Regarding this event, please work with Felicia and Natasha

to move funds to one centralized account. Cindy Kozumplik is contact person at OSC.

**Vice President’s Report:** Tom O’Grady reporting. From the Athletic Board is a report from Sean Fraiser about upcoming games, competitions and other things coming up for the 125th anniversary. The Homecoming football game is next week, October 19. Husky Invest—a week of giving Oct 21-25.

Computing Facilities Advisory Board: Meets tomorrow, October 11th.

Innovative Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee: Discussion about the pilot program for faculty teaching and mentoring and their support being offered for those in classrooms navigating through politically charged topics at this time; federal changes required for accessibility of Digital Course Materials; Ongoing changes with the gen-ed program under the new EDGE-Enriching Design of General Education.

Parking Appeals Committee: One hundred forty appeals: 100 approved, 34 denied, 6 reduced.

**New Business:**

Selection of SPS member to serve on the Resource, Space and Budget Committee. Jennifer Manning volunteered and was approved by the Council.

**Committee Breakouts:** Committee members met to choose a chair, a contact person and

date of next meeting.

Advocacy: O’Grady, Preston, Gettemy

Awards: Belcher, Manning, Springer

Constitution & Elections: O’Grady, Bohanon, Woodruff, Carter

Events: Stoker, Boswell, Myles, Stoker

Professional Development: Carter, Smith, Teso, Woodruff

SPS Dependent Scholarship Fund: Duncan, Amanova, Bredberg

**Adjournment:** Having no further business, President Bohanon adjourned the meeting at 11:30 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*