

Supportive Professional Staff Council  
Minutes  
September 10, 2020 Teams Meeting  
Approved October 8, 2020

**Member Participants:** Ballard, Bernoudy, Bohanon, Borg, Burchard, Clemens, Doederlein, Gipson, Goode, Guess, Hein, Miesbauer, Mitchell, Myles, O’Grady, Pickett, Reynolds, Rogers

**Members Excused Absence:** Boughton, Lundelius, Mewhirter

**Shared Governance Participants:** Beyer, Johnson, Klaper, Thu

Reminder: Unless a “Nay” is heard, “all in favor” is presumed.

**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 passes, Agenda approved. (Movant: Bernoudy; Second: Burchard)

President Doederlein called for a motion to approve the August 13, 2020 Minutes. Approval of the August Minutes motioned and seconded. All in favor, no abstentions, none opposed, motion passes, August minutes approved. (Movant: Burchard; Second: Goode)

**II. Guest Speakers:** October 8: Lisa Freeman & Vernese Edghill-Walden  
Doederlein invited suggestions for guest presenters from council members and invited members to present a topic of their choice.

**III. Announcements**

**a.) Well being tips,** weekly announcements

**b.) Flu Shots:**

Thursday, September 24th 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Duke Ellington Ballroom

Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Duke Ellington Ballroom

**c.) COVID-19 Concerns Form** for reporting non-emergency concerns and non-compliance related to COVID-19 by NIU students, employees, visitors, and student organizations. This form can also be used to report other COVID-19 concerns related to facilities, cleaning, availability of hand sanitizer, general behavior by groups, or other concerns.

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernIllinoisUniv&layout\\_id=17](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernIllinoisUniv&layout_id=17))

**d.) Jonamac Orchard** is helping NIU celebrate its 125th Anniversary with a massive 10-acre #HuskiePride corn maze. Open every weekend through October 31. Visit [jonamacorchard.com](http://jonamacorchard.com) for details.

**e.) Academic Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (AEDI)** is doing a podcast focusing on social justice. Check it out. Here is everything you need to know: The podcast can be accessed primarily at the following link:

<https://www.spreaker.com/show/huskie-conversation-cafe-podcast>

Listeners can also find the podcast on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Podcast Addict, and Podchaser. To find the podcast on these platforms, folks can search “Huskie Conversation Café Podcast” and subscribe or follow.

The podcast will run for 12 episodes and 12 mini-episodes, and the first three main episodes are already uploaded. These episodes detail the introduction through Chapter 6 of the book “When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir” by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele. Listeners are encouraged to read along with the podcast!

More details can be found in this article from NIU Today:

<https://www.niutoday.info/2020/09/02/new-adei-podcast-encourages-huskie-interaction-on-social-justice-issues/>

**f.) NIU’s, Pre-Collegiate-Upward Bound**, is the recipient of a Student Support Services grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Thanks to Felicia Bohanon and her staff. Felicia will be leading that operation. Felicia reported they will be supporting 140 students and they are very excited about that. Congratulations Felicia and others who worked hard for that resource.

**g.)** The good news for NIU is that enrollment is up by 160 enrollments.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### **Advocacy: Ballard, Borg, Costello, Gipson, Miller, Quider, and Rogers**

Jeanna Ballard, chair, reported having had their first meeting where they discussed the possibility of an employee satisfaction survey. The committee decided to focus instead on COVID-19 and what are some things that have gone really well. What are some positives and what are some of the things we should change. Anna Quider will be able to relay some of our feedback to our Federal legislators, more to come.

##### **Awards: Bohanon, Burchard, Edwards, Keller, Lundelius, Pickett, and Sutcliffe**

This committee is seeking a chair. Initial Teams meeting is **September 21 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Communications & Technology:** No report. [No one has signed up for this committee.]

##### **Constitution & Elections: Burgin, Meyer, Myles, and O’Grady**

This committee will be holding their first Teams meeting **September 16 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Events: Miesbauer, Mitchell, and Solfisburg.** First meeting scheduled **September 16 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Professional Development: Bernoudy, Boughton, Guess, Little, Lyles, Mewhirter, Reynolds and Rogers.** No Report. First meeting **October 6 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Regional Community Relations: Mewhirter, Mooberry.** First meeting **September 17 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Dependent Scholarship Fund: Goode, Keller, Stoker and Quider.** No report. First meeting **September 21 at 9:00 a.m.**

**V. Vice President’s Report:** Parking Appeals Committee met September 8. There were six appeals. The committee denied four and approved two. **Next meeting September 22.**

Many university committees have not yet met. There will be more to report as we fill expanded committee vacancies due to re-organization of University Council/Faculty Senate.

## **VI. Unfinished Business:**

a.) Search Committee Updates/Ad Hoc Committee Updates: No reports.

There may be some positions being filled that do not rise to the level of a full on committee.

b.) SUCSS Procedure Update (FAQ Discussion)

No report. This item is being kept on unfinished business. We may have updates about the shift from SPS to Civil Service next month.

## **VII. University Committee Reports:**

Board of Trustees – 9/17/2020 Re: Budget and Layoffs

Dennis Barsema signed a Financial Distress notification, a less dramatic action than Financial Exigency, but does allow for rules changes relative to layoffs etc.

Board of Trustees Committees – 11/12/2020

Faculty Senate – Thu reported first meeting yesterday (9/9/20) taking up issues around Social Justice; are there items they can act on. They are going to be looking at how student evaluations are used; they heard a report from Sarah Garner on the new Sexual Misconduct policy changes. See:

<https://www.niu.edu/publicsafety/resources/title-IX.shtml>

The SPSC has more representation on University Council and for the first time, Faculty Senate. Next meeting 9/30/2020

Operating Staff Council – Natasha Johnson reported OSC concern about layoffs and the overall budget plan. Next meeting 10/1/2020

Student Government Association – Brad Beyer reported things are starting to settle down. The SGA is having its first meeting this coming weekend, 9/13. They are trying to get students into the swing of things and find out what they want to focus on this coming year. Antonio Johnson reported they are in frequent contact with senior leadership.

University Council – 10/7/2020

**VIII. Other Business:** In response to a question about how a representative secures an Alternate, President Doederlein offered two ways:

1. Alternates are no longer identified for each Division. Rather, all twenty-seven of them are at-large and listed alphabetically on the SPSC website Membership pages. Reps may recruit an alternate on their own letting Catherine Doederlein, Frances Mitchell and Tom O’Grady know who your alternate is.

2. Or, you may contact Frances, Catherine, and Tom asking them to find you an alternate. They will be very happy to do so.

Also, Doederlein reminded everyone that if they have ideas regarding speakers, agenda topics, or a topic they would like to present to the council, please let Catherine know.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Doederlein called for a motion to Adjourn. (Movant: Myles, Second: Pickett)

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.