Northern Illinois University  
Supportive Professional Staff Council Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
Thursday, August 10, 2017  
HSC Clara Sperling Sky Room  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Present: Adzovic, Anderson, Arnold, Baker, Bredberg, Bridges, Builta, Carlisle, Davis, Devereaux, Doederlein, Dymond, Foelske, Franklin, Hochsatter, Johnson, King, Klepec, Lopez, McCall, Meyer, D. Miller, Myles, Napientek, Noascono, Olson, Pietrowski, Pixton, Reid, Richter, Rogers, Salmon, Schneider, Viel, Walk, Wescott, Xidis

Excused: Boughton, Burgin, Love-Moore, Sutcliffe, Watson

Absent: K. Miller

Guests: Click, Klaper, Minor, Saborio, Stang, Streb

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by SPS President, Catherine Doederlein. Doederlein asked for a motion to approve the Agenda, Bredberg so moved, seconded by Rogers. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried, Agenda approved.

Doederlein asked for a motion to approve the July 13, 2017 Minutes. Pietrowski so moved seconded by Meyer. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried, Minutes approved.

Guest Speakers
Doederlein introduced Acting President, Dr. Lisa Freeman. Dr. Freeman thanked the Council for inviting her and recognized Supportive Professional Staff as valuable members of the University community.

Freeman said the University is making plans to restore stability including determining how to address the employee compensation situation. Going forward NIU will be focused on the positive. If you have not heard or read Holly Nicholson’s remarks to the BOT, Dr. Freeman suggested you find and read them. She urged us all to be loud positive voices everywhere.

The State of the University address will be delivered September 20 at 3:00 p.m. and includes time for questions. Release time has been authorized, there will be live streaming and it will be recorded.
Dr. Freeman turned the podium over to **Wheeler Coleman**, President of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Coleman thanked Freeman for being here for NIU during this period of transition and related that the BOT is very excited about having her as Acting President.

Mr. Coleman talked about how NIU had changed his life and how we need to pull together to impact lives and change futures. He said the BOT is counting on the Councils to help change the messaging in a positive direction.

Mr. **Dennis Barsema**, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, echoed the appreciation expressed by Freeman and Coleman. He reminded us of the great things that are going on at NIU citing the groundbreaking program Pathways. He reminded us we have a lot to be proud of and urged us to take our strong positive voices about the good work of NIU to the outside world.

Mr. Coleman opened a discussion of the presidential search with a brief description of the last search process. Leaders from every shared governance group became part of the Search Committee. A private search firm was hired to screen and vet candidates. A list of 10 top candidates was whittled down to 3 who were interviewed by the various groups, at Naperville.

Mr. Coleman presented three approaches to the timing of a search: begin soon, wait a year or do an off cycle search. Coleman and Barsema asked for feedback on the following issues: timing of the search; character and values; philosophy/style; compensation components—can some be variable.

A number of comments seemed to favor waiting a year. Some expressed the importance of character and style—honesty; sincerity; approachability; motivational leadership; inclusiveness and a president who can show a sense of stability beyond just maintaining the status quo. There was strong support for open forums on campus.

In closing, the President and Vice President of the Board of Trustees wanted the Council to know that they are going to do their best to make the best decision for this University and asked SPS to keep doing your job, be ambassadors and to be frugal of our budget.

**Announcements**
Move-In Day, 8/25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Unity March 9/19 – more information coming
STEM Outreach “Mythology and the Eclipse” 8/21
Committee Reports
Due to time constraint, reports are postponed to September 14 meeting as follows:
Awards – report
Communications & Technology – report
Constitution & Elections – report
Events – report
Professional Development – report
Regional Community Relations – report
SPS Dependent Scholarship Fund – report
Advocacy (formerly Workplace Issues) – report

Vice-President’s Report
a.) Committee’s Summary Report – Posted on SharePoint

Unfinished Business
a.) SPS Compensation/Degree/Certification Policy – continuing
b.) FLSA Overtime Rule – No Update
c.) Program Prioritization – administration is continuing to follow
d.) SPS Handbook – Table of Contents – on web Progress is being made behind
the scenes – if you see problems, please report
e.) Search Committee Updates: Two candidates for Vice President
f.) Staff Retreat Follow-up: ongoing behind the scenes discussions

New Business
a.)

University Committee Reports
Board of Trustees – 9/14/2017
Board of Trustees Committees – 11/16/2017
University Council – 9/13/2017
Operating Staff Council – 9/7/2017
Faculty Senate – 9/6/2017

Motion to adjourn from Pixton, seconded by Bredberg. All in favor, meeting adjourned
at 12:00 noon.