Supportive Professional Staff Council
Thursday, January 11, 2018
Approved February 8, 2018
HSC Clara Sperling Sky Room
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Present: Adzvoic, Arnold, Bredberg, Bridges, Builta, Carlisle, Dymond, Foelske, Franklin, Hochstatter, Johnson, King, Lopez, Love-Moore, McCall, Miller, Myles, Napientek, Olson, Pietrowski, Salmon, Walk, Watson, Xidis
Excused: Meyer, Rogers-Tryba, Sutcliffe
Absent: Dosier, Reid
Guests: Alexander, Andree, Klaper, Magara, Mitchell, Phillips, Saborio

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

Doederlein announced one amendment to the Agenda that was the inclusion of item c.) Recreation and Wellness update and one typographical fix. She then asked for a motion to approve the amended Agenda. Love-Moore motioned, seconded by Pietrowski. All were in favor of approving the amended Agenda, none opposed, no abstentions. The motion carried. The Agenda was approved as amended.

Doederlein next called for a motion to approve the December 14, 2017 Minutes. Walk moved, seconded by Love-Moore. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. The motion carried. The December 14, 2017 Minutes were approved.

Guest Speakers:
Thomas Phillips, NIU Chief of Police
Melanie Magara, Special Assistant to the VP, Outreach, Engagement & Regional Development

The following list of questions was sent to Chief Phillips in advance:

1) Can you explain how NIU works in concert with the DeKalb Police to keep students and residents safe?
2) How is the university and DeKalb keeping off campus property managers accountable for their responsibilities around safety? e.g. replacing broken doors, windows, adding security cameras, etc. to help make their students and residents secure.
3) How many of the crime incidents in DeKalb are actually gang related?
4) Is there any update available on the University’s involvement in decisions regarding the potential parking restrictions around the University Village (and surrounding) neighborhoods?
5) How can we as Support Professional Staff members help in regards to campus (and community) safety concerns? Are there specific things we can do (or messages we can help convey) that would be helpful?
6) Any possibility of increased (minimally periodically) police presence on Normal Road to encourage reduction of car speeds, especially during peak pedestrian traffic times?
Chief Phillips came prepared to address the above questions and more. Regarding question (1) the Campus Police and DeKalb Police do work together to keep students and residents safe. Phillips explained that students don’t realize the difference between on campus and off campus so the Police Departments found it necessary to work together. They started out doing joint patrols and now both respond to off campus calls but NIU is not the primary authority. Additionally, NIU is part of the Major Crime Task Force, part of DeKalb County Special Operations.

In his response to question (2) Phillips explained that outside maintenance—lighting, hedge & tree trimming for example—have a direct impact on crime prevention. The Campus Police Department has no actual authority to enforce building & grounds codes. However, NIU works with the City of DeKalb in many ways and the City is prioritizing code enforcement. Chief Phillips reported that he meets with the DeKalb Police Chief Lowery monthly to work together. The NIU Police Department also works with DeKalb County. One of their joint efforts is code enforcement and safe streets. Effective January 12, 2018, all boarding houses (such as Greek Row) are required to have a sprinkler system. Their joint efforts are focusing on the area north of campus.

Regarding question (3) about gang related crimes in DeKalb, Phillips reported he has found no evidence of gang activity in DeKalb. He said there are gang members in DeKalb. However, a gang member committing a crime does not necessarily make the crime “gang related”. He has seen no evidence of [organized] “gang activity” in DeKalb, only in so far as they find an individual who has committed a crime who also happens to be a member of a gang.

Addressing question (4) Chief Phillips said he is supportive of not removing parking restrictions because he said managing parking, affects crime.

Question (5) how can we help, Chief Phillips asked us to please spread the good news about how great this campus is. He said he hears nothing but negativity from members of the community. Chief Phillips reminded us, “if you see something, say something.”

Question (6) about speeding on Normal. We are really trying to manage and slow down traffic on that street. We don’t have the unarmed security guards we need. We are trying to bring up staffing in that area.

Following Chief Phillip’s presentation addressing our questions, there was a discussion of the success of the Citizen Police Academy. Read more about it at https://www.niutoday.info/2017/01/23/niu-police-to-hold-citizens-police-academy/
Chief Phillips also discussed Cannabis. He said there is going to be Cannabis. Illinois has decriminalized the possession of less than 10 grams and he believes the state is moving toward legalization. Cannabis situations on campus are handled by the Student Conduct Board.

The Huskie Safe Line is being tweaked to make it more applicable to our community. If you are disabled, they will pick you up. Learn more at: http://niu.edu/publicsafety/safety-services/safe-line.shtml

**Announcements:**
Barb Andree, President of the Operating Staff Council reminded everyone to come to the Bowling Night, this evening, January 11, and the OSC’s kick off of their Huskie Food Pantry drive. 4:30-7:00 pm HSC Huskie Den.
(Post Script: unfortunately, the University was closed at 3:00 pm on January 11 due to the threat of an ice storm.) **UPDATE: Rescheduled for Wednesday, February y, 2018.** Same place HSC Huskie Den, same time: 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Barb also reminded us of the **February 13 deadline** for nominating a civil servant for the Outstanding Service Award. For more information and nomination form go to: https://www.niu.edu/osc/serviceaward/nominationinfo.shtml

Sandi Carlisle reminded us about the **Recreation & Wellness** program. Many people are still unaware of the opportunities which have been made more affordable and accessible across campus. This is an amazing program, check it out at: https://www.niu.edu/campusrec/

Judith Dymond announced the **February 21, 2018 NIU STEM Café:** The Physics of Hockey at Eduardo’s, free and open to the public.

**Committee Reports:**
**Awards:** No report

**Communications & Technology:** Reminder that anyone who wants information shared on the Monday Morning Announcements needs to get the details submitted by the end of the day on the preceding Thursday.

**Constitution & Elections:** Pietrowski reported they are now working on the time line for next elections this Spring.

**Events:** Love-Moore reported the Holiday Social this past December was attended by about 45 people. The committee has discussed having it a different week next year because a lot of people take off early for the holiday.

We are having a **Lunch & Learn** tomorrow January 12, CLB 100. Managing Up – How to handle people from all aspects. It was informative and fun.
Other events being considered are: (no dates yet)

- Greenhouse Tour
- Hospitality Student presentation: you get to watch the preparation of a recipe, eat the food and take home the recipe
- Campus sculpture tour
- Student Appreciation Days: We will need your help handing out cookies—a fun experience
- Winter Olympic Social – more details later
- Lunch at El Flamingo Mexican restaurant in DeKalb

**Professional Development:** No report today, update at next meeting

**Regional Community Relations:** Dymond reported STEM Career Expo at Fermi Lab, April 18. She would like us to have a table there. More info to follow. Here is the link to Fermi Lab Expo:


**SPS Dependent Scholarship Fund:** Bredberg reported there is just $6100 in the fund. We are going to break even. The deadline is coming up and an announcement is coming out January 22nd. If you have a dependent or know someone who does, you can apply via AcademicWorks: [http://niu.edu/scholarships/academicworks/index.shtml](http://niu.edu/scholarships/academicworks/index.shtml)

**Advocacy:** Nothing to report this month.

**Vice President’s Report:** Report is on Share Point. The Parking Committee meets in January. If anyone has questions our representatives are Joseph Baumgart, Cindy Ditzler and Tim Trottier.

**New Business:** Bring any items you have

**University Committee Upcoming Meetings:**
- Board of Trustees – 3/8/18
- Board of Trustees Committees – 2/15/18
- University Council – 2/1/18
- Operating Staff Council – 2/1/18
- Faculty Senate – 1/24/18

**Adjournment:**

Doederlein asked for a motion to adjourn, Love-Moore motioned, Seconded by Salmon, all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

**Representatives:** Please contact your alternate and the SPS Council Secretary, Linda Watson if you are unable to attend the meeting. **Alternates:** You are invited to attend all meetings.