I. CALL TO ORDER

L. Freeman: Good afternoon everybody.

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Freeman: Can I have verification, please, that quorum has been achieved? [affirmative indicated] All right.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

L. Freeman: With that, can I then have a motion to adopt the agenda?

I. Pearson: So moved.

L. Freeman: We have a motion. A second?

C. Doederlein: Second.

L. Freeman: We have a motion and a second. All in favor?
Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Opposed? All right.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEbruary 27, 2019 MINUTES

L. Freeman: May I have a motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2019?

T. Martin: So moved.

L. Freeman: I have motion. A second?

K. Thu: Second.

L. Freeman: Second, Kendall Thu. And all in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Opposed? Great.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Letter submitted by Sid Kincaid

L. Freeman: Item V is Public Comment. And before I ask for people who are present, I want to notify everybody that we’ve had written public comment submitted by Sid Kincaid. And there will be a link to that document in the minutes of this meeting. Is that correct, Pat? Okay. With that, public comment from members present – members or others present.

M. Haji-Sheikh: I’m sure you guys probably don’t miss me, but hi everybody. I’ve got one public comment I wanted to make, because the change in the bylaws, I know some of you noted that last year I made several comments through the year about the bylaws and the president’s staff. And I saw that change show up on the agenda. One of the things I want to point out is, when that change came in is probably right after Clyde Wingfield was president. Most people here probably don’t remember him. Neither do I. But there are a few who do. And I believe that the comment was that it was unusual for a state university, I believe probably because NIU has had a unique problem with presidential problems in transparency. And at that time, and probably still valid, the faculty probably should have some ability to at least attend some of the meetings and decision-making that are in the bylaws. There is nothing that keeps the administration from having smaller sub-meetings below quorum majorities. So originally I was for changing it. But as I’ve been watching things evolve, I think probably ought to at least think about it, not to be just an immediate change. And things may be different here five years from now. And things do change. Many of you know that the board of Western Illinois was completely removed by the present governor. When I was in Springfield talking to the politicians during the inaugural period, the message that the governor has gotten from others in the state and many people in the state is that NIU is the second worst board.
So don’t be surprised if changes are coming, and they’re going to come fast. So be careful about making lots of bylaw changes, because things could change quickly. Thank you for your time.

L. Freeman: Are there other University Council members or members of the public, who are here to make comment today?

Hearing none, we’ll move forward to President’s Announcements.

VI. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Freeman: I want to point out to everyone, in case you haven’t noticed from the weather, that spring is officially here. And with spring comes all the awards, the celebrations, the academic milestones that characterize the end of the semester. I saw on a very popular social media site for students the other day a quote that kind of struck me here, and I thought I would share it with you.

The end of the semester is coming (which is definitely exciting) but we still have a couple of weeks left on this crazy roller coaster. And the light at the end of the tunnel still requires the part where we have to get through the tunnel.

That spoke to me, and I’m guessing it might speak to some of you. For University Council, this equates to a fairly substantive agenda today with three action items of unfinished business. So I want to keep my comments brief and let us move on to those.

But I did want to report on our testimony in Springfield. On March 21, Chris McCord, Sarah McGill and I testified in front of the House and Senate Appropriation Committees. And I want to share some good news. The climate is improved for higher education, no longer adversarial. And in fact, there’s overall support of the public universities and MAP as good investments. Resources, of course, remain constrained. Still there’s recognition that higher education must be allocated more resources, and that a consistent, multi-year approach to funding is desirable.

In the Senate hearing, we were the only university testifying that day, and we followed testimony by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. And more than one senator took strong exception to the $25 million proposed by the IBHE for non-public institutions in Fiscal Year ’20 under the auspices of the Illinois Financial Assistance Act for Non-Public Institutions of Higher Learning. You may remember, this was an IBHE recommendation that a [inaudible] statute be resurrected and used to give private institutions in Illinois $25 million for a scholarship program similar to the AIM HIGH program that was created for the publics. The objections of the senators provided an opportunity for me to testify that our Faculty Senate shared their concerns and passed a resolution in support of redirecting those proposed FY 20 funds for non-public institutions, proprietary institutions, to FY20 MAP funding. And when I shared that, the committee chair said that we made his day. So I want to thank everyone, Professor Wilson, and the members of the Faculty Senate who worked hard on that resolution. We never took it all the way through our process here, but it was shared in spirit with a Senate committee who very much felt the way that our Faculty Senate and also our Student Association felt.

With that, I think I’ll ask for questions about anything related to the university business, other than
the unfinished business that we’ll discuss under those items. Seeing none, I will turn the microphone over to the UC executive secretary and the Faculty Senate president.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Linda Saborío – report

T. Arado: Thank you, President Freeman. We have nothing on our Consent Agenda, so we will move to our Reports From Councils, Boards and Standing Committees. Linda Saborío, you are always up first.

L. Saborío: Good afternoon everyone. Our February meeting for the FAC to IBHE was held at John Wood Community College. The president spoke with us a bit about some initiatives that may have been helpful in supporting their enrollment, which they did not see a decline there in their enrollment. Some initiatives, such as they have a strong agricultural partnership, and they added certified medical assistant, HVAC programs. They also created a scholarship for Missouri students, which doubled the market share of the Missouri students on their campus – nice. Every January, they advertise a career makeover full scholarship for a career-changing adult, which gets 20 to 80 applicants a year, about 40 percent of whom become JWCC students. And they also have a College of Life program for developmentally disabled individuals to build life skills.

Marie [Donovan], our chair, talked about legislative updates, which this was in February, so we all had access to them at this point. Gretchen Lowman, our IBHE liaison, continues to deal with closures. It’s a big part of her job. And the December board agenda shows a comprehensive list of all recent higher education institutions that have closed in the state of Illinois. In fact, she has now become known as an expert in how effectively close an institution within, not only the state of Illinois, but across the nation, unfortunately.

We continued the work in our working groups. Mine is P-20, as you know. And my group has already completed the excel sheet and the information sheet. And we sent an email out to Therese, and you forwarded it to somebody already.

T. Arado: To our P-20 engagement group.

L. Saborío: Okay, but please keep in mind that we are looking for faculty input on these programs, because, as the FAC, we want to provide faculty’s perspective on what’s happening on the campuses. Okay, great.

Also the caucuses met and reported out. And we are looking at possibly amending our bylaws, in particular, the language relating to the rotation of membership. This doesn’t affect the public caucus as much, because we have a permanent seat. All 12 publics have a permanent seat on the council.

And I think that is it for me. If there are any questions, please let me know. This month we’re meeting down at Bradley University. I’ll be taking an NIU vehicle again so I’ll have some stories
about that. Any questions? Okay, thank you, that’s it.

T. Arado: Thank you, Linda.

B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – no report
   Holly Nicholson, Catherine Doederlein, Therese Arado
   Alex Gelman, Sarah Marsh, Kendall Thu

C. Academic Policy Committee – Vicki Collins, Chair – no report

D. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Jim Wilson, Chair – no report

E. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Richard Siegesmund, Chair – no report

F. University Affairs Committee – Hamid Bateni, Chair – no report

G. Student Association – report
   Khiree Cross, President
   Tristan Martin, Speaker of the Senate

T. Arado: Our next reports are from our Student Association, Khiree and Tristan.

K. Cross: Good afternoon everyone. Of course, you know my name is Khiree Cross. I’m the current Student Association president. So my report is a little bit lengthy, so please bear with me.

Some of the past events that we’ve done with our Project Orange, was an initiative we started for anti-violence. We did an event called The Hate You Give. Pretty much it is exactly what it sounds like. The hate you give unknowingly or knowingly to any biases that you may have regarding race, sexual orientation, gender, etc.

We also did an event called If You Only Knew. So pretty much, that’s just raising awareness regarding sexual assault and domestic violence. I sat on the panel myself. It was a conversation between the audience and the panelists about some controversial topics dealing with sexual assault and domestic violence. And just making people aware of what certain things are, such as red culture, which is very prevalent in college, but some people don’t even know that they are participating in this culture. So it was an event where people walked away with knowing more about sexual assault and domestic violence.

I’ve also been continue to advocate for NIU higher enrollment. I went to my high school, did a visit there, spoke positively about NIU, spoke top some of the upper classmen, juniors and seniors, not only about NIU, but about doing the right things in high school so you can make that transition to college.

I also spoke with Rush Hospital. They have a program where they mentor young men for seniors, and take them to various colleges. So I set up a visit for them to come to NIU this past weekend.
And also a program called Becoming a Man, I also did a program with them, invited them to NIU, just showing the young gentlemen around campus and, hopefully, getting them to come here.

Also I should probably address the elephant in the room. If you’ve checked the Northern Star, the S.A. has been getting a lot of attention, positive or negative. So there’s a quote that I would just like to share that I think explains it.

So you keep fighting. You keep pushing. And if there’s a Goliath in front of you, there’s a David inside of you.

I think we’ve had a lot of negative media. Of course, any organization, any institution is going to have in-house things that they have to fix. It just so happens that our in-house things got put in mainstream. But, of course, when you get put on mainstream, things are twisted, words are twisted. So the story seemed to be bigger than what it was. So a lot of the truth has come out. I hosted a State of the Union address to address most of the issues, to clear the name of, not only myself, but the Student Association at large. And we just definitely have re-shifted our focus toward election. Just being honest, we had the lowest turnout in SA history with elections. But again we’re all students, so we’re still learning and growing, most of us being from ages 18 to 21, never being involved in student organizations. So just because we hold this high stature, we’re still learning as student leaders. So this was just a year of learning and experiences. And for the next year, the SA president, that we don’t have to go through this experience again.

And let’s talk about some positive things. As I spoke about our election, we definitely just elected a new vice president, a new student trustee, and also a new treasurer. And we will be electing a new president in the special election this Friday. Elections will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in various locations and mainly on HuskieLink. Also we have the new speaker-elect in the room, Ian Pearson, as well. So let’s give him a round of applause.

Coming up Director of Governmental Affairs Sandra Puebla and Speaker Martin have been working on the set-up for State Rep. Jeff Keicher. He’ll be here April 8 at 5 p.m. in the Campus Life Building, Room 100. So that’s next week.

On April 11 and 12, we’ll be having a You Matter NIU Leaders series of events. So Thursday, we’ll be focused on getting students to NIU social media to interact and just getting back to being personable. I have a speaker coming from a conference called LEAD365. So pretty much it’s a huge conference where student leaders come from all over the country, pretty much all over the world. And they keynote speaker at the end of the conference was a student. And he amazed me, and he wowed me. And I think he would be great here at NIU for students. So I’ll be bringing him here on the 11th through the 12th. He’ll be in Stevenson at 5:00 doing the You Matter NIU Leaders event. And then he’ll have a meet-and-greet the next day, Friday, from 11 to 1 in the Campus Life Building, in Room 100.

Friday, April 19, I’ll be heading to a conference, along with other members of the Student Association. It’s called the 27th Annual ILACHE Professional and Student Development Conference. Pretty much advocating for our undocumented community and continuing to share the
resources that we create on this campus and sharing them with other campuses as well.

And then April 30 at 7 p.m. the Student Choice Awards will be happening. So that will be in the Duke Ellington Ballroom. And it’s the same day that we all head down to Springfield, so we kind of have no choice but to have it this day. So we’re going to have an eventful day, waking up in the morning, going to the conference, and then coming back and having the Student Choice Awards that night. I encourage all of you to come. It will be a really great show. Devontate Johnson and his committee – he’s our director of student life – he’s been working really hard on this event. We would really like some support of not just students, but faculty as well.

**T. Martin:** Thank you, Khiree. So Khiree pretty much touched on everything, so pretty much just a couple of things that we have is Jeff Keicher is coming to campus April 8 from 5 to 6 p.m. We’re going to have a little bit of a student forum, a student open hall with him, so that we can gauge some of where he’s feeling in regard to higher education and in regard to just things that students are interested in. So we’re trying to make sure that the event is publicized as much as possible this week.

Additionally, we’ve also been planning a lot of logistics for the NIU Advocacy Day, specifically on the student side of things, for April 30. Like President Cross was touching on, we will be going to Advocacy Day and then right after that will be the Student Choice Awards. So it’s going to be an eventful day for us, but it’s going to be a fun day.

And the other thing with elections as well, so the election turnout is, obviously, not what we wanted. But we will be having a special election so that we can improve on these numbers moving forward. We’re also going to make sure that the next Board of Elections is set up more positively. We were kind of working from nothing. So we’re going to make sure that whoever takes our positions will be set up correctly.

And finally also, President Cross and I are working with Catherine Squires to help fundraising for the CHANCE Program as well. So we did a lot of work with the undocumented community on campus, specifically in insuring that they had more fundraising. And I want to make sure that I give a shout out to the people who were on that committee as well, because they helped to push this to where it’s going. So we’ll have a little bit more details with that in the couple months following. So this is going to be a project that stands beyond us, but it will be something that will be to our processors.

Does anyone have any questions for Khiree or myself?

**K. Cross:** Also just for future references, the Student Association has had an immense history here at NIU, but there’s always an [inaudible] balance between student participation and the student power that we have as student government. So I just encourage faculty, staff or community member – when you see a student and they have these issues, just always direct them to S.A. I think that will encourage them to not complain about the problem, but become a solution to the problem, and join the organization. We oversee $1.6 million of student fees, and I think it’s important that students know that we’re prevalent on this campus and that we’re their first direct resource. So I just encourage and challenge faculty to always encourage students to become a part of the Student
Association, regarding if they are a poli sci major or if they want to be a lawyer, if they want to be an attorney. S.A. is really here for representation regardless of what you future is after college. So I definitely encourage faculty and staff to challenge students to join S.A., as we also challenge ourselves, the S.A., to challenge students as well. Thanks.

**T. Arado:** Thank you both.

**H. Operating Staff Council – Holly Nicholson, President – report**

**T. Arado:** Our next report is from Holly Nicholson, president of Operating Staff Council.

**H. Nicholson:** Good afternoon, thank you. It’s election season for us. Our candidate data sheets are due Friday so again I encourage you all, if you work with any operating staff, to encourage them to run for council, because we would love to have them participate.

Also we just awarded our annual scholarships. I don’t think the students have been notified, so I’ll just say that we chose two students, dependents of operating staff for a total of $1800. So we’re really excited about that.

And finally, Jay wanted me to remind you of an event we have coming up. For the past couple of years, we’ve tried to encourage comradery amongst all levels of staff. And so we hold an annual event in the spring for bowling. And we invite faculty, students, SPS, operating staff, everybody, to come out. And so that’s tomorrow at Mardis Gras, 5 to 7. Thank you.

**T. Arado:** Thank you both.

**I. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Catherine Doederlein, President – report**

**T. Arado:** And our next report is from Cathy Doederlein, SPS president.

**C. Doederlein:** It is also our election season as well. We are a little bit behind the process that we normally would be, because with the shifts from SPS to civil service, leading to a reduction in numbers of overall SPS, our divisional proportional representation has been a moving target and harder to figure out. And I was a comms major for a reason. The math on that has been difficult, but we think we have it figured out. And calls for nominations will be going out soon. So I definitely encourage you to encourage colleagues that our SPS to consider running and have the opportunity to be a part of the organization.

Also next Wednesday we will be hosting our SPS Council awards, our presidential awards, our certificates of recognition, and our SPS awards for things such as advocacy and supervision and things of that nature. That will be next Wednesday. Reception starts at 2 p.m. Ceremony, itself, starts at 2:30 downstairs in the ballroom, and everyone is welcome to attend. And so if you hadn’t, hopefully, already seen that invite, definitely encourage you to join us and congratulate those who have been honored. Thank you.

**T. Arado:** Thanks, Cathy.
IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws, Article 20, The University Ombudsperson
SECOND READING/ACTION ITEM

T. Arado: Okay that brings us to the end of our reports and on to our Unfinished Business. And I need you all to bear with me that I do this in the right order. Our first item under Unfinished Business is the second reading for the proposed amendment to the NIU Bylaw covering the university ombudsperson. May I have a motion to adopt? Kendall Thu has given us a motion. May I have a second?

C. Doederlein: Second.

T. Arado: Second, Doederlein. Okay I am going to open it up for discussion in a minute. I wanted to address a few things that came up at our last meeting. On pages 4 and 5 of the text of this, an item that was raised by Linda Saborío last meeting regarding it not clearly stating a majority vote of the committee, I believe, that’s actually on page 5, was required for things coming out of this committee. That language was added so that it’s clear, it’s not just an implied sentence in there. And then the other things that were added for clarification based on feedback that was given was making it clear that the Ombudsperson Search and Review Committee is established by the University Council. And then also that the student members on that committee would be appointed by the Student Association. Both of those things had language to that effect in the current version. So those were put in for clarification as well. So that is what the gray is addressing in the new version of the ombudsperson.

Do we have any further discussion on this? Okay, seeing not discussion, we will vote on this. We need to do a clicker vote for our number. We need to basically take attendance. So if you don’t have a clicker, if you could go grab one at the front door. All right, does everyone needing a clicker have one? All right if we just press something to let us know we’re here. Press 1 or A, that will let us know we’re here. All right, has everyone who has a clicker voted? Okay you should have gotten a smiley face or a something on your clicker so that you know it went through. Okay, so we have 41 people.

Now when we are voting on whether to adopt the proposed amendment, we will have three options: 1 is accept the amendment; 2 is to reject the amendment; and 3 is to abstain. And that would also be along with A, B, or C, so 1/A is accept; 2/B is reject; C/3 is abstain. We’ll wait for Pat to open it back up for us to vote. Okay, we can vote now. 1 is accept; 2 is reject; 3 is abstain. All right, we have 41 responses in there already, and we need 29 votes to pass. Okay, that is adopted. Thank you very much. I don’t even have to look at the number over here.

1/A Accept – 41
2/B Reject – 0
3/C Abstain - 0

B. Proposed amendment to NIU Constitution, Article 6.5, Administrative Committees
SECOND READING/ACTION ITEM
T. Arado: Okay, on to B under Unfinished Business. This is the proposed amendment to the NIU Constitution, Article 6.5. May I have a motion to adopt this change?

H. Nicholson: So moved.

T. Arado: Holly Nicholson made the motion. May I have a second? Kendall Thu second. Now on this one, Kendall Thu had suggested at the last meeting that the second sentence, or the remaining sentence, in the article really became unnecessary with the removal of the first one. So we took that suggestion. And so on page 12 of the material, you’ll see the grayed-out is removing that sentence as well. Do I have any discussion on this item? Virginia, can you come to a microphone, thanks.

V. Naples: I apologize, I still don’t find this format comfortable, because I’d like to be able to talk to everybody and I liked the facing one another, the way we had the arrangement in the other room better. But I would like to suggest that the idea of removing the committees from requirements of meeting the Open Meetings Act is not supportive of shared governance, and it is reducing the level of transparency. Maybe some of you don’t know, but I am a biologist. And not only am I a biologist, I am an anatomist. And regardless of what is going to happen, I’d like to see how the sausage is made. So I would like to know what are the ideas that are in the offing, that even if they don’t actually come to pass, I’d like to know what the thought processes are, and I believe that not having the opportunity to participate is reducing the idea for new ideas to be brought in and new participation. So I would ask that this not be a change that’s made, because we have had the issues in the past. I don’t know if any of you remember President Wingfield, but I certainly do. And that was a very traumatic time. I don’t need to mention that we’ve also gone through a much more recent traumatic time, and I would like to see us keep the status quo, at least for the next few years, to see how things are going. So thank you.

T. Arado: Thank you, Virginia.

L. Freeman: Point of clarification. Clearly Professor Naples and I are not going to agree on the bylaw, but I do want to make a point of clarification. It is not determined that President’s Staff or the Senior Roundtable, which in my mind are not identical, are subject to the Open Meetings Act. There is a pending question regarding this matter with the public access counselor, and it has not yet been ruled upon. The reason I brought this forward was because I felt that removing President’s Staff would reduce confusion between President’s Staff and the Senior Roundtable. But there is not a legal determination that the mere mention of a committee in our documents makes it subject to the Open Meetings Act. So hopefully that makes things clearer and not more confusing, but I’m happy also to entertain questions on that or to call for the general counsel to come if we need that.

T. Arado: Any other comments at this time? Okay, so we will once again use our clickers to vote. Same approach: 1 is accept; 2 is reject; 3 is abstain. And on this one, because this is a constitutional change, this is a two-thirds of those voting. So our last one followed our 60 percent plus one present and then a majority of the body or two-thirds of those present – 29 was a majority of the body. This one is a two-thirds of those voting. The next we get to goes back to the last threshold. So we’re at 40. We had 41. Is there anyone out there – oh, there we go, 41, okay. So 34 – yes that hits our threshold and that one also passes. Thank you.
C. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws Article 18.1, President’s Staff
SECOND READING/ACTION ITEM

T. Arado: All right, our third one is actually from the bylaws, it’s Article 18.1. This one, the way it had been removed last time, nothing was recommended for clarification, because it was the whole thing. And nothing has changed on that since our last meeting. I guess I should have said that after I sought a motion. May I have a motion to adopt this one? Holly Nicholson. May I have a second? Linda Saborío is our second.

Now no changes have been made to this since the last meeting. Now I’d like to open it up for discussion if anyone has comments. No comments? Okay, then our voting again will be A, B, and C. And on this one, our threshold number is 29 again. So A accept, B reject, and C abstain. You are all efficient voters, thank you very much. Okay, 37 accept, 4 reject, 0 abstentions, so that also passes.

A little further information on our constitutional change, that’s not the last step for that language. Our amendment procedures require that a constitutional change be sent out to the faculty for a faculty referendum. That will likely be sent out early next week. And a positive vote by a majority of those voting is necessary for it then to be moved on to the Board of Trustees. So that will completed by the middle to late April to be moved on to the Board of Trustees.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Per NIU Constitution, Article 2.9, consider removal of faculty representative to University Council

T. Arado: Okay our next item, number X under New Business actually is something we do not need to undertake. The matter was resolved, so no action is required on this. If anyone who’s looking at that is wondering, Article 2.9. A number of years ago, the University Council was asked to make sure they were enforcing Article 2.9, which is the article which requires attendance at our meetings. And if there are three successive absences, a member can be brought up to be voted off the body. But we were sought out to have an alternate take this person’s place, so it’s resolved and we don’t need to do this, so yay, we get to go forward on that and that’s great. To me that was very happy news that we didn’t have to do that.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS
A. Minutes, Academic Planning Council
B. Minutes, Athletic Board
C. Minutes, Baccalaureate Council
D. Minutes, Board of Trustees
E. Minutes, Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
F. Minutes, Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
G. Minutes, General Education Committee
H. Minutes, Graduate Council
I. Minutes, Graduate Council Curriculum Committee
J. Minutes, Honors Committee
K. Minutes, Operating Staff Council
L. Minutes, Student Senate
M. Minutes, Supportive Professional Staff Council
N. Minutes, University Assessment Panel
O. Minutes, University Benefits Committee
P. Minutes, Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
Q. Minutes, University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
R. 2018-19 University Council remaining meeting date: May 1

T. Arado: Item XI is our Informational Items. As those of you who sit through Faculty Senate with me know, I always say, go take a look at those. You can learn a lot from looking at the minutes of all the meetings that we see come up on there.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

T. Arado: And, wow, that brings us to adjournment.

L. Freeman: Motion to adjourn? Nobody wants to move to adjourn? Okay, Brad Bond. [Second O. Chmaissem.]

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.