PUBLIC NOTICE & AGENDA

University Council Steering Committee
Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 225
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 16, 2019 MINUTES

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR UC STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DRAFT AGENDA – Pages 2-20

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Below is a draft of the upcoming University Council agenda, which we will use to shape discussion at the UC-Steering Committee meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND AGENDA

University Council
Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 315
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

IV. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2018 MINUTES

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Strategic Enrollment Management Plan
   Chris McCord, Acting Executive Vice President and Provost
   Sol Jensen, Vice President, Enrollment Management, Marketing & Communications

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

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

B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees
   Holly Nicholson, Catherine Doederlein, Therese Arado
   Alex Gelman, Sarah Marsh, Kendall Thu

C. Academic Policy Committee – Vicki Collins, Chair

D. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Jim Wilson, Chair

1. Proposed resolution supporting the redirection of IBHE FY20 proposed funding ($25M) for non-public institutions to the Monetary Award Program (MAP) – Page 5
E. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Richard Siegesmund, Chair

F. University Affairs Committee – Hamid Bateni, Chair – report

1. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws, Article 20, The University Ombudsperson – Pages 6-13
   FIRST READING

   2. Proposed 2028-29 academic calendar – Pages 14-16

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

H. Operating Staff Council – Holly Nicholson, President

I. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Catherine Doederlein, President

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed amendment to NIU Constitution, Article 6.5, Administrative Committees – Pages 17-18
   FIRST READING

B. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws, Article 18.1, President’s Staff – Pages 19-20
   FIRST READING

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 dates: Apr 3, May 1
S. FS-UC RSB Committee – Illinois Open Meetings Act review

XII. ADJOURNMENT
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REDIRECTING PROPOSED FY20 FUNDS FOR NON-PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO FY20 MAP FUNDING

NIU University Council – February 27, 2019

PREAMBLE: Illinois non-public institutions do not benefit from AIM High scholarship funding, a program begun in FY19 that was intended to increase enrollment in Illinois public institutions. To balance this, the Illinois Board of Higher Education has proposed $25M for non-public institutions for FY20 under the auspices of the Illinois Financial Assistance Act for Nonpublic Institutions of Higher Learning. However, the administrative rules for this program remain unchanged since the program’s inception and need to be changed to reflect current needs and goals. The purpose of this resolution is to support re-directing the proposed funds for non-public institutions to the Monetary Award Program (MAP), which remains underfunded.

WHEREAS, monetary support for Public Higher Education, including students, has waned significantly in the past decade;

WHEREAS, private institutions were intentionally not beneficiaries of the AIM High scholarship program because of state lawmakers’ focus on boosting enrollment at Illinois’ public universities;

WHEREAS, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) covered 100% of public university tuition for eligible students in FY02 and now covers just 31.2% in FY19;

WHEREAS, there were 97,500 MAP eligible students in FY18 who did not receive an award offer due to under-appropriation;

WHEREAS, declining MAP funding has been a contributing factor to out-of-state student migration and a likely reason for many students choosing not to attend college at all;

WHEREAS, all Illinois private and proprietary institutions received $160.6 million, or 41% of Monetary Award Program dollars in FY18;

WHEREAS, $25M has been proposed by the IBHE for the Illinois Financial Assistance Act for Nonpublic Institutions of Higher Learning, a program that has not been funded since FY04;

WHEREAS, the administrative rules for the program remain unchanged and need to be significantly modified to reflect current needs and goals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that members of Northern Illinois University shared governance bodies, the University Council and Student Association Senate, fully support adding $25M to IBHE’s proposed FY20 $501,341,900 MAP funding in lieu of funding Illinois Financial Assistance Act for Nonpublic Institutions of Higher Learning program for FY20.
Proposed Amended NIU Bylaws, Article 20

This proposed amendment is intended to:

- Amend the initial term for the ombudsperson to six years, with four-year subsequent terms bringing it into alignment with the term structure of NIU’s other administrative positions.

- Combine the comprehensive performance review process with the evaluation of the need for the ombudsperson position, both to be completed during the penultimate year of the ombudsperson’s term. Annual performance reviews will be conducted by the president.

- Rename and restructure the Ombudsperson Search and Review Committee.

- Require annual written reports from the ombudsperson. Oral reports to the University Council are welcome, but not required.

ARTICLE 20
THE UNIVERSITY OMBUDSPERSON

20.1 The Ombudsperson
The ombudsperson is a resource person whose services are available to any member of the university community. Duties of the ombudsperson include the following: Assist members of the university community in accomplishing the expeditious settlement of administrative, academic, and individual complaints or grievances; make reports and recommendations to the president concerning complaints or grievances for which no remedy has been found; report annually, in writing, to the University Council regarding the operation of the Office of the Ombudsperson, and provide an oral summary at a University Council meeting in the beginning of the penultimate year of the term.

20.2 Access to Documents
Whenever necessary to the resolution of specific complaints or grievances, the ombudsperson shall have access to all members of the university community and all university records and reports with the exception of medical, psychiatric, and psychological records which will be released only upon presentation of a notarized waiver signed by the individual whose records are requested.
20.3 The Office of the Ombudsperson

20.3.1 Appointment
The president shall appoint a person to fill the position of ombudsperson from among a list of acceptable candidates submitted to the president by the Ombudsperson Search and Review Committee (OSRC).

20.3.2 Term of Office
The ombudsperson shall serve an initial term of six years, beginning on that incumbent’s first day of service in office. The ombudsperson shall be eligible for reappointment to successive four-year terms if recommended by the OSRC.

20.3.3 Responsibility
The ombudsperson shall be responsible to the president for the discharge of the duties of the office.

20.3.4 Resources
The Office of the President shall provide the Office of the Ombudsperson with appropriate financial, secretarial, and office resources to fulfill its responsibilities. The ombudsperson shall annually submit a proposed office budget to the Office of the President.

20.4 Selection of an Ombudsperson
The selection of an ombudsperson shall be conducted by an Ombudsperson Search and Review Committee (OSRC).

20.4.1 The OSRC will consist of the following:

(A) One undergraduate student;
(B) One graduate student;
(C) Two faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate;
(D) One supportive professional staff member appointed by the Supportive Professional Staff Council;
(E) One operating staff member appointed by the Operating Staff Council;
(F) A representative of the university administration appointed by the president.

At the time of appointment, each appointee should expect to be available on campus for the full academic year.

20.4.2 Officers

(A) Committee chair – The committee shall select its chair from among the faculty members of the committee.
(B) Secretary – The university administration representative shall serve as secretary of the committee.

20.4.3 Voting Power
All members of the committee, including the chair, shall have the right to participate in all deliberations of the committee and to vote on all questions brought before the committee.

20.4.4 Resources
The Office of the President shall provide the committee with appropriate financial, administrative, and other office resources to fulfill its responsibilities.

20.4.5
The committee shall insure that the constituencies served by the ombudsperson have the opportunity to interview the candidates and provide feedback to the committee regarding the acceptability of the candidates.

20.5 Review and Reappointment of the Ombudsperson

20.5.1 The performance of the ombudsperson shall be reviewed annually by the president.

20.5.2 In the beginning of the penultimate year of the ombudsperson’s term, if the ombudsperson wishes to be considered for reappointment, a comprehensive review shall be conducted by an Ombudsperson Search and Review Committee (OSRC).

20.5.2.1 OSRC
See Articles 20.4.1-20.4.4.

20.5.2.2 Duties
At the beginning of the penultimate year of the ombudsperson’s term of office, the committee shall determine whether the ombudsperson wishes to be considered for an additional term.

When the ombudsperson wishes to be considered for an additional term:

(A) The committee shall conduct a review of the ombudsperson’s performance in office, using the operative job description for the office as a guide. The committee shall provide appropriate opportunities for input from members of the university community. Upon conclusion of its review, the committee shall make its recommendation regarding reappointment to the University Council, and such recommendation shall be subject to University Council approval. The University Council-approved recommendation shall then be communicated to the president prior to the end of the penultimate year of the ombudsperson’s term.
(B) Simultaneously with the performance review, the committee shall also review the question of the continuing need for the Office of the Ombudsperson. The committee shall give consideration to the recommendations of the Student Association, the Faculty Senate, the Operating Staff Council, and the Supportive Professional Staff Council. Upon conclusion of its review, the committee shall make its recommendation regarding the continuing need for the Office of the Ombudsperson to the University Council, and such recommendation shall be subject to University Council approval. The University Council-approved recommendation shall then be communicated to the president prior to the end of the penultimate year of the ombudsperson’s term.
Currently Existing Language

ARTICLE 20: THE UNIVERSITY OMBUDSPERSON

Students who have grievances relating to a denial of academic freedom, a denial of due process, or inequality of treatment have recourse to the Office of Community Standards & Student Conduct, the Ombudsperson, or the Student Association for assistance in resolving such grievances. Faculty members with similar grievances have recourse to the procedures set forth in Articles 7, 10, and 11 of these bylaws, to the Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor, and to the Ombudsperson. Other members of the university community with such grievances have recourse to the procedures of Article 11, and may consult with the Ombudsperson.

20.1 The Ombudsperson

The Ombudsperson is a resource person whose services are available to any member of the university community. Duties of the Ombudsperson include the following: Assist members of the university community in accomplishing the expeditious settlement of administrative, academic, and individual complaints or grievances; Make reports and recommendations to the president concerning complaints or grievances for which no remedy has been found; Report annually to the University Council regarding the operation of the Ombudsperson's office and provide an oral summary at a University Council meeting.

20.2 Access to Documents

Whenever necessary to the resolution of specific complaints or grievances, the Ombudsperson shall have access to all members of the university community and all university records and reports with the exception of medical, psychiatric, the psychological records which will be released only upon presentation of a notarized waiver signed by the individual whose records are requested.

20.3 The Office of the Ombudsperson

20.3.1 Appointment The president shall appoint a person to fill the position of Ombudsperson from among a list of acceptable candidates submitted to the president by the Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee.

20.3.2 Term of Office The Ombudsperson shall serve a term of three years, beginning on that incumbent's first day of service in office. The Ombudsperson shall be eligible for reappointment to successive three-year terms if recommended by the Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee and acceptable to the president.

20.3.3 Responsibility The Ombudsperson shall be responsible to the president for the discharge of the duties of the office.
20.3.4 **Resources** The University Council shall provide the Office of the Ombudsperson with appropriate financial, secretarial, and office resources to fulfill its responsibilities. The Ombudsperson shall submit a proposed office budget to, and consult with, the Executive Secretary of the University Council as part of the University Council's annual budgeting process.

20.4 **Periodic Evaluation of Ombudsperson**

The University Affairs Committee of the University Council will evaluate the performance of each person holding the office of Ombudsperson early in the spring semester of the first and second year of that person's first three-year term of office and during the fall semester of the second year of each three-year term thereafter. In its evaluation, the committee will take into account information obtained from (i) recent annual reports of the Ombudsperson, (ii) a written self-evaluation submitted to the committee by the Ombudsperson, (iii) the results of surveys of members of the university community who have used the services of the Office of the Ombudsperson during the current term of office; and (iv) other information deemed relevant by the committee. The committee will also provide appropriate opportunities for input from other members of the university community. By no later than the end of the semester in which each review is commenced, the chair of the University Affairs Committee will submit the evaluation to the president, with a copy to the University Council.

20.4.1 **Evaluation of the Office of the Ombudsperson**

Every eight years, or at the time of the next vacancy in the office, whichever comes first (but not during a review/search year) during the fall semester, the University Affairs Committee of the University Council shall review the question of continuing need for the office of the Ombudsperson. The University Council shall give strong consideration to the recommendations of the Student Association, the Faculty Senate, the Operating Staff Council and the Supportive Professional Staff Council.

20.5 **The Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee**

20.5.1 **Establishment** The University Council shall establish an Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee when a vacancy in the office is announced and during the fall semester of the last year of an incumbent Ombudsperson's three-year term of office. The committee shall continue until it has completed its assigned task.

20.5.2 **Composition** The Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee shall consist of:

(A) Three undergraduate students and two graduate students appointed by the Student Association;

(B) Two faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate;

(C) One member of the supportive professional staff appointed by the Supportive Professional Staff Council;
(D) One member of the operating staff appointed by the Operating Staff Council;

(E) A representative of the university administration appointed by the president. At the time of appointment each appointee should expect to be available on campus for the full academic year.

20.5.3 Officers

20.5.3.1 Committee Chair The committee shall select its chair from among the faculty members of the committee.

20.5.3.2 Secretary The representative of the university administration shall serve ex officio as secretary of the committee.

20.5.4 Voting Power All members of the committee, including the chair, shall have the right to participate in all deliberations of the committee and to vote on all questions brought before the committee.

20.5.5 Duties

20.5.5.1 Review of Performance During the last year of an incumbent’s term of office, the committee shall determine whether the Ombudsperson wishes to be considered for appointment for another three-year term.

   (A) When the Ombudsperson wishes to be considered for another three-year term, the committee shall conduct a review of the Ombudsperson’s performance in office, using the operative job description for the office as a guide. The committee shall provide appropriate opportunities for input from members of the university community. Upon conclusion of its review, the committee shall make a recommendation regarding reappointment to the president. A recommendation for reappointment shall require a vote of three-fifths of the membership of the committee.

   (B) When the Ombudsperson does not wish to be considered for another three-year term, when the committee fails to pass a recommendation for another term by the required three-fifths majority of its membership, or when the president decides not to reappoint the Ombudsperson for another three-year term, the committee shall initiate a search to fill the office upon the expiration of the Ombudsperson’s term of office.

20.5.5.2 Recruitment When the position of Ombudsperson is vacant, or when a vacancy is anticipated under section 20.5.5.1(B), the Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee shall undertake a search for candidates for the office.

   (A) The committee shall develop a job description for the position and criteria for the selection of candidates.
(B) The committee shall conduct a national search for candidates, complying fully in the process with affirmative action guidelines and procedures.

(C) The committee shall insure that the constituencies served by the Ombudsperson have the opportunity to interview the candidates and provide feedback to the committee regarding the acceptability of the candidates.

(D) The committee shall present a list of acceptable candidates, ranked in order of preference if the committee so chooses, to the president.

20.5.6 Resources The president shall provide the Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee with appropriate financial, secretarial, and office resources to fulfill its responsibilities.
# ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2028-2029

## FALL SEMESTER 2028

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 21-25</td>
<td>Monday - Friday</td>
<td>Faculty meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Labor Day (university closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving break begins (no classes on Wednesday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Classes end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11-16</td>
<td>Monday - Saturday</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Fall graduate commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 17</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Fall undergraduate commencement</td>
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## SPRING SEMESTER 2029

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8-12</td>
<td>Monday - Friday</td>
<td>Faculty meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (university closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11-18</td>
<td>Sunday - Sunday</td>
<td>Spring recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Honors Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Classes end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5, 7-11</td>
<td>Saturday, Monday - Friday</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Spring graduate commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Spring undergraduate commencement</td>
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## SUMMER SEMESTER 2029

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Independence Day observed (university closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Summer session ends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

1. Instruction in the fall semester will begin on the last Monday in August and end on a Saturday in December that falls between December 5 and 11. Final examinations for the fall semester will begin on the first Monday after the last day of classes and conclude on Saturday of that same week. Dates for the first day of examinations will range from December 8 to 14.

If the last Monday in August is August 29, 30 or 31, the instruction for that fall semester will begin on the fourth Monday in August and conclude on the first Saturday in December. In any of these events, final examinations will run from December 5 to 10, December 6 to 11, or December 7 to 12, respectively. Graduate commencement will be held on the Saturday that is the last day of final examination week. Undergraduate commencement will be held on the next day, which is the Sunday immediately following final examination week.

2. Instruction in the spring semester will begin on the second or third Monday in January that falls between January 11 and 17, unless this date coincides with Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday (the third Monday in January). In such an event, instruction will begin on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. The spring semester will conclude on a Thursday that falls between April 30 (April 29 in some leap years) and May 6. The Friday immediately after the last day of classes will be Reading Day.

University Honors Day will be included in the academic calendar so as to occur each spring on the second Sunday prior to Reading Day (two weeks before the end of the spring semester). In those years when this date is also Easter Sunday, University Honors Day will be scheduled on the third Sunday prior to Reading Day.

Final examinations for the spring semester will begin on the first Saturday after Reading Day and continue Monday through Friday of the next week. Graduate commencement will be held on the Friday that is the last day of final examination week. Undergraduate commencement will be held on the next day, which is the Saturday immediately following final examination week.

3. Fall and spring semesters will formally begin one week prior to the beginning of classes and conclude within one week after final examinations. When classes start on Monday, August 22, faculty meeting week will be adjusted to take place from Tuesday to Friday, August 16 to 19, in order to comply with nine-month faculty contracts (which begin August 16 and conclude May 15).

4. Summer session will begin on the sixth Monday after final examinations of the spring semester and conclude on a Sunday, eight weeks later. Some academic departments may offer limited enrollments in workshops, field trips, or other classes during the four weeks prior to the traditional start of the summer session.

5. Student-faculty vacation periods and holidays will include:
Thanksgiving – the Wednesday prior to the fourth Thursday through Sunday

Period between Christmas and New Years – university usually closed

Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday – the third Monday in January

Spring recess – the ninth week after the beginning of classes, Sunday - Sunday

Memorial Day – observed the last Monday in May

Independence Day – one day only, observed on Friday when July 4 occurs on Saturday and observed on Monday when July 4 occurs on Sunday

Labor Day – the first Monday in September

6. The academic calendar for the College of Law will conform to the student-faculty vacation periods and holidays in section 5, as amended from time to time, but may otherwise vary from the above guidelines and principles.

These guidelines will provide the necessary 35 days between the end of pre-registration in the fall and the first day of registration in the spring; provide the requested one-week recess between the end of the summer session and the first contract day for faculty in the fall; and allow early access to the summer job market in May for NIU students.

Approved by the University Council April 12, 1978; revised and approved on May 2, 1979; revised and approved on May 2, 1984; revised and approved on March 9, 1988; revised and approved March 20, 1996; revised and approved March 18, 1998; revised and approved February 12, 2003; revised and approved February 16, 2011; revised and approved February 22, 2012; revised and approved April 3, 2013.
**Proposed Amendment to**
**NIU Constitution Article 6.5: Administrative Committees**

Rationale:

A challenge from a community member has revealed that the University’s Constitution and Bylaws contain outdated and unclear language that needs to be addressed. This community member believes that the Senior Leadership Roundtable should be subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act and is using the fact that the Constitution and Bylaws list the “President’s Staff” as an administrative committee as a basis for their argument. In addition, it appears that this community member believes that any entity (i.e., committees, sub-committee, etc.) listed in the NIU Constitution and Bylaws should be considered a “public body” under the Open Meetings Act.

The “President’s Staff” is not currently a functioning committee of the University, as there is no such committee that makes policy recommendations to the University Council, or that serves as a liaison body between the administrative divisions and their constituent parts, as described in the Constitution and Bylaws. In addition, it appears that no other Illinois public university has a reference to the equivalent of the “President’s Staff” in their constitutions or other governing documents. Therefore, the language in the Constitution and Bylaws is out-of-date and non-operational. These proposed changes are intended to remove this outdated language and provide more clarity.

President Freeman holds informal staff meetings with members of the senior leadership – these meetings are known as the Senior Leadership Roundtable. These meetings are usually held on a weekly basis, depending on the schedule of the president and other considerations. The members of the Senior Leadership Roundtable are determined at the direction of the president. Additionally, the Senior Leadership Roundtable is not formally appointed by, report to, or otherwise accountable to the University Council, or any other public body of the state. The Senior Leadership Roundtable’s sole function is to advise the president on matters pertaining to internal university affairs. As such, the Senior Leadership Roundtable is not the same as the “President’s Staff.”

Therefore, removal of the “President’s Staff” from the Constitution and Bylaws is appropriate in order to (1) eliminate references to a committee that does not currently function at NIU, to (2) remove the confusion between the Senior Leadership Roundtable and the “President’s Staff,” and (3) would be more compatible with governing documents from similarly situated universities in the state of Illinois.
NIU CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE 6:
FACULTIES, STANDING COMMITTEES, COUNCILS AND BOARDS OF THE
FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

6.5 Administrative Committees

6.5.1 The President’s Staff
The president’s staff shall consist of the president and such other members as determined by the president.

6.5.2 Other Administrative Committees
There shall be such other administrative committees as may be established by the bylaws, by the University Council, or by the president.
Proposed Amendment to
NIU Bylaws Article 18.1: The President’s Staff

Rationale:

A challenge from a community member has revealed that the University’s Constitution and Bylaws contain outdated and unclear language that needs to be addressed. This community member believes that the Senior Leadership Roundtable should be subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act and is using the fact that the Constitution and Bylaws list the “President’s Staff” as an administrative committee as a basis for their argument. In addition, it appears that this community member believes that any entity (i.e., committees, subcommittee, etc.) listed in the NIU Constitution and Bylaws should be considered a “public body” under the Open Meetings Act.

The “President’s Staff” is not currently a functioning committee of the University, as there is no such committee that makes policy recommendations to the University Council, or that serves as a liaison body between the administrative divisions and their constituent parts, as described in the Constitution and Bylaws. In addition, it appears that no other Illinois public university has a reference to the equivalent of the “President’s Staff” in their constitutions or other governing documents. Therefore, the language in the Constitution and Bylaws is out-of-date and non-operational. These proposed changes are intended to remove this outdated language and provide more clarity.

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NIU BYLAWS
ARTICLE 18:
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

18.1 The President's Staff

18.1.1 Composition The president's staff shall consist of the president and other members determined by the president.

18.1.2 Duties.

18.1.2.1 To act as an advisory body to the president regarding the administration of the university.

18.1.2.2 To discuss basic university policy as requested by the president and to make recommendations to the University Council concerning such policies.

18.1.2.3 To serve as a liaison body between the administrative divisions of the university and between the constituent parts of these divisions.