VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Barnhart, Bateni, Burton, Chen, Collins, Doederlein, Elish-Piper, Millhorn, Nelson (for Arado), Pearson, Royce, Siegesmund, Thu, White (for Bolden)

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Arado, Bolden

I. CALL TO ORDER

University Council (UC) Steering Committee chair, K. Thu, called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was established.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

I. Pearson moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by H. Bateni. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 28, 2019 MINUTES

J. Royce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by I. Pearson. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR UC STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DRAFT AGENDA

Convener – Provost Ingram will convene the October 16 UC meeting in President Freeman’s absence.

FAC-IBHE – L. Saborio will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

UAC-BOT – K. Thu will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

UC-Academic Policy Committee – V. Collins isn’t sure if she’ll have a report; we will check back with her before agenda distribution.
FS-UC Resources, Space and Budget Committee – T. Arado was not present, but it is anticipated that she will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

Student Association – It is anticipated that N. Bolden and I. Pearson will have reports at the October 16 UC meeting.

Operating Staff Council – J. Royce will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

Supportive Professional Council – C. Doederlein will not be in attendance and isn’t sure if there will be a report. We will check back with her before agenda distribution.

FS-Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession – K. Thu reported that Faculty Senate, during its October 2 meeting, will review a proposal to eliminate this standing committee.

Update: Rethinking FS and Shared Governance – K. Thu reported that this will be a standing item on all UC agendas this year for the purpose of keeping UC updated on a proposal being developed in Faculty Senate. He called the members’ attention to the Powerpoint included in the draft UC agenda packet.

Discussion of NIU’s current shared governance system, and a draft concept in which academic authority transfers from University Council to Faculty Senate, included the following points:

- All other public institutions polled have one faculty shared governance body (as opposed to two at NIU – Faculty Senate and University Council).
- NIU Constitution upholds that faculty predominate in academic matters; therefore the proposal is to move academic-related matters to Faculty Senate.
- Do faculty already predominate on UC, because they hold majority membership?
- The proposal could be interpreted as a diminishment of UC authority; however, UC retains its authority in all non-academic matters.
- Does NIU need two bodies? Should an option for merging the two bodies be considered? Or should Faculty Senate be eliminated?
- Could UC be redesigned with a smaller membership? Some institutions do retain a much smaller executive-type body (see EIU, page 18 of draft UC agenda packet, for example).
- The plan calls for Faculty Senate to develop a proposal for UC consideration.
- Recommendation that any forthcoming proposal from Faculty Senate identify, early on, the problems that we’re trying to solve.

Committee on Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence – Chief Diversity Officer, Vernese Edghill-Walden, will present this proposed bylaw amendment for a first reading at the October 16 UC meeting.
Committee for the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience – Vice Provost Ed Klonoski will present this proposed bylaw amendment for a first reading at the October 16 UC meeting.

2020 Proposed University Holidays for 2020 – This proposal will be presented at the Oct. 16 UC meeting.

There was consensus to approve the proposed October 16 UC agenda per above discussion.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.