
To: Faculty Senate

From: Peter J. Chomentowski III, Faculty Senate President/University Council Chair

RE: July 1st, 2021 – present Summary of Service

Date: April 6, 2022

Position Overview:

As Faculty Senate President/University Council Chair, I would regularly coordinate and set the monthly meeting agendas for the Faculty Senate and University Council meetings. I chaired the Faculty Senate Steering Committee which previews and sets the meeting agenda to be supplied to the FS members five days in advance for their review for the next meeting. University Council is a shared convened meeting with the NIU President, and the UC Chair would adjudicate the second portion of the meeting which consisted of business for the UC to consider and reports from standing committees to the UC. And I worked to maintain the integrity of the FS and UC during the Pandemic which consisted of holding in-person meetings to comply with the Illinois Attorney General's office and the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120).

Projects and Business of the Faculty Senate and University Council:

Faculty Senate Proposed Amendments:

- Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 2, Officers of the Faculty Senate. FIRST READING, Peter Chomentowski, Faculty Senate president. March 30, 2022.
- Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 1, Membership of the Faculty Senate. Jeffry Royce, Operating Staff Representative – Passed September 1, 2021.
- Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 2.1.3, Officers of the Faculty Senate. Peter Chomentowski, Faculty Senate president – Passed September 29, 2021.
- Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 4.3, Academic Planning Council. Beth Ingram, Provost Omar Ghrayeb, Senior Vice Provost – Passed September 29, 2021.
- Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws: Article 2, Officers of the Faculty Senate; Article 8, Personnel Review Responsibilities; Article 14, Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor. Peter Chomentowski, Faculty Senate President – Passed February 23, 2022.

University Council Proposed Amendments:

- Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws, Article 6, Grievance Procedures for Students. FIRST READING, Peter Chomentowski, University Council Chair
Beth Ingram, Executive Vice President and Provost
Gregory Brady, Deputy General Counsel
Lindsay Hatzis, Director of Investigations, Office of Ethics and Compliance – Passed April 6, 2022
- Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws
Creation of new Article 12, Supportive Professional Staff Personnel Advisor and Operating Staff Personnel Advisor.
Holly Nicholson, Operating Staff Council President – Passed October 6, 2021. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws, Article 1.2, Terms of Office. Holly Nicholson, Operating Staff Council President - Passed September 8, 2021.

Projects:

RGE committee:

- Cyber bullying NIU resources web page proposal as tasked by the President of NIU. This consisted of worked with committee chair Holly Nicholson and committee members on a new cyber bullying website to provide information and resources for faculty, staff, and students. We also assessed NIU policies addressing cyber bullying for potential future changes to existing policies. Website proposal for summer 2022.

Social Justice committee non-voting member:

- Worked with the Provost office on allocating summer funding for four Faculty Fellows (4 x \$6,000) and four graduate students (4 x \$3,000) to continue work on the Social Justice committee prioritized recommendations and with the three working groups: Academic Affairs, Institutional Racism, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Funding was supported through the NIU Provost office for summer to continue working on the prioritized recommendations of the social justice committee – April 1, 2022.

Committees:

- *Candidate search for the Dean of the Graduate School:* Participated in the Shared Governance and Presidential Commission Chairs forums for the new candidates in the fall 2021.
- *Candidate search for the Director of Human Resources:* Participated in the Shared Governance and Presidential Commission Chairs forums for the new candidates in the summer 2021.
- *Candidate search for the Vice President of Student Affairs:* Participated in the Shared Governance and Presidential Commission Chairs forums for the new candidates in the spring 2022.
- *University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees:* Committee is tasked with meeting with the University President monthly to discuss topics relating to information regarding matters that come before the Board of Trustees. Committee members attend the BOT meetings.
- *SURSMAC:* NIU's academic faculty representative to the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee – 2021-2022 academic year and attended meetings as required.
- *Campus Prevention Violence committee:* Active voting member for this committee for the spring 2022 semester, this committee is concerned with matters revolving around personal and property security on NIU campus. This committee is charged with implementing the Campus Violence Prevention Plan (CVPP) and provide support, assistance, research, and policy review.
- *Campus Security and Environmental Quality committee:* Active voting member for this committee for the spring 2022 semester, this committee is concerned with matters revolving around personal and property security on NIU campus.

Other:

Monthly and bimonthly individual meetings:

- This included NIU President Lisa Freeman, Provost Beth Ingram, Vice President and Chief Financial officer Sarah Chinniah, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Chad McEvoy, Operating Staff Council President Holly Nicholson, Supportive Professional Staff President Felica Bohanon, Ombudsperson Merlynette Griffin, and Student Government Association Devlin Collins and Dallas Douglass.

Illinois Board of Senators:

- Participated in three meetings during the academic year with Faculty Senate presidents from institutions in Illinois: October 2021, February 2022, and April 2022.
- Discussion Topics:
 - Shared governance structure and membership composition of the institutions in attendance.
 - Open meetings act (OMA) requirements and how to maintain meeting structures with complying with state legislative mandates from the Illinois Attorney general.
 - Working with faculty and staff to maintain the safety of our institutions during the covid pandemic.

Student Conduct – Division of Student Affairs

- Served as the hearing officer for student code of conduct hearings (Six cases in 2021-2022).

Code of Conduct Advisory committee member

- Attended monthly meetings and worked with Charlie Fey (Interim Vice President for Student Affairs) on revisions to the student code of conduct handbook for 2022.