

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Allori, Arado, Azad, Bateni, Briscoe, Brubaker, Cefaratti, Chakraborty, Conderman, Falkoff, Feurer, Gorman, Hathaway, Henning, Hunt, Irwin, Johnson, Koren, Lenczewski, Macdonald, Mackie, Manning, Martin, McHone-Chase, Millis, Montana, Moremen, Naples, Novak, Pitney, Rodgers, Rosenbaum, Rush, Sagarin, Schneider, Shin, Siegesmund, Slotsve, Stoddard, Than, Tonks, Un, Wilson

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Bujarski, Campbell, Chen, Chmaissem, Deng, Fredericks, Gaillard, Giese, Jaffee, Khoury, Lee, G. Long, Mogren, Mohabbat, Moraga, Munroe, Patro, Plonczynski, Riley, Schwartz-Bechet, Sirotkin, Stephen

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Bryan, Coronado, Haliczzer, Klaper, Kolb, D. Long, Monteiro, Shortridge

OTHERS ABSENT: Doederlein, Gebo, Streb, Waas

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m.

W. Pitney introduced Pat Erickson, FS and UC administrative assistant; Ferald Bryan, Parliamentarian; Sarah Klaper, Ombudsperson.

S. Klaper described her role and announced that this year is the 45th anniversary of the Ombudsperson office, which is one of the oldest Offices of the Ombudsperson in an academic setting in North America. The anniversary celebration will be next Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Glass Gallery of HSC.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

W. Pitney requested a motion to adopt the agenda. **R. Siegesmund** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **S. McHone-Chase**. **Motion Passed.**

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2014 FS MEETING

W. Pitney requested approval of the minutes. **R. Siegesmund** moved to approve the minutes and **M. Lenczewski** seconded. The **motion passed.**

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

W. Pitney announced that President Baker will join the FS on October 29 for a question and answer session. Questions will be solicited in advance via e-mail. W. Pitney will moderate the session.

Michael Kolb, Associate Vice Provost, and **Ed Klonoski**, School of Music, presented information about the proposed general education (GE) program.

The proposed GE program, called Progressive Learning and Undergraduate Studies or NIU PLUS, was created by a task force that was assembled in the spring of 2013 to begin undergraduate curricular revision and has been expanded to incorporate a couple important changes in the baccalaureate program. The task force is comprised of mostly faculty with some administrators and students.

PLUS attempts to address the dropping enrollments and the perceived disconnect students have with general education as well as NIU's strengths in academic breadth and engaged learning.

Three things are proposed: 1) increase in high-impact practices at our institution, 2) better integration and flexibility of the general education program so it integrates and segues into the major better, and 3) meet the baccalaureate goals and student learning outcomes

With all the various changes a potential reduction of up to 11 credit hours for students is foreseen. This may increase the flexibility that they might have in their degree program whether it be a licensure or other things and some programs are now beyond that 120 hour credits. A new, enhanced writing requirement is also proposed along with a capstone program.

Four high-impact practices are emphasized—this is based on a national movement called the Liberal Education on America's Promise initiative which is the American Association of Colleges and Universities have collected extensive data on high-impact practices that affect things such as student persistence and retention and satisfaction with their degree programs. The program focuses on more writing; the use of the First-Year Experience, which is the UNIV101-201 class which is currently offered; engaged learning; and a career success course.

The current GE requirement is 13 courses and a minimum of 39 credit hours and it's broken down into five different categories: core competencies which are practices in math or communication as well as writing or English, four distributive study areas including the humanities and arts, science and math, social sciences and interdisciplinary studies. Students have to basically take 39 credit hours minimum if they come in as a native student. There are currently four specific general education goals.

The PLUS program initiates a transformation in regard to the credit hours: a drop of about two courses that 33 credit hours distributed into four areas of study which mimic the existing categories or distributive areas. This has been renamed it foundational studies where they have to take four courses once again in what we consider to be quantitative literacy, oral communication

and writing composition. These abide by the Illinois Articulation Initiative compact with other institutions around the state.

There are three knowledge domains: creativity and critical analysis, nature and technology, society and culture. Students have to take two out of each of those domains as well as one elective from any of those three domains. The vision is students taking 11 courses distributed in four areas and instead of utilizing our four general education goals, all eight student learning outcomes for the baccalaureate will be adopted.

The foundational competencies focus on critical thinking, quantitative/qualitative reasoning, communicating effectively both written and oral, as well as working collaboratively. All four of these represent four of our baccalaureate outcomes. This has not changed a whole lot other than perhaps the collaborative learning. The knowledge domain studies are meant to assure content breadth between various categories and various departments as well as various colleges.

All the existing general education courses, of which we have 144, articulate into the four content areas of study quite easily. Departments will have the option to declare what knowledge domain that they would like to see their courses occupy.

Interdisciplinary studies has been removed and replaced with pathways that lead to student transcript documentation of a minor essentially in liberal studies in general education, or in a pathway. These minors or these opportunities for pathways hopefully will segue into major studies programs as students again get exposed right to various departments and various disciplines then they might be able to pursue a general education focus or a pathway focus, or a minor, that again might complement their major studies program.

A pathway is a body of knowledge and courses that address a specific theme from different disciplinary perspectives. These pathways will be organized around a set of broad thematic questions. Eight potential pathways have been identified. These are possible ones.

The president and the provost have indicated they want some sort of transformation and it may be again in steps at some point but the fall of 2015. That's the tentative focus, that's the tentative timeline. The report is forthcoming.

M. Kolb and E. Klonoski addressed several questions pertaining to articulation, logistics for implementing the proposed changes, and advising students. Questions also revolved around whether courses in foundational studies have been involved in the proposed changes. It was clarified that student teaching and required internships would be recognized as engaged experiences.

W. Pitney thanked **M. Kolb** and **E. Klonoski** for their time and consideration.

W. Pitney announced the upcoming Faculty Club lunch for Monday, September 22 in the Chandelier Room.

W. Pitney expressed the roles of faculty senators: 1) to take any critical noteworthy information back to your department and present that to your colleagues, and 2) to get information from your colleagues, perceptions and perspectives and bring that to Faculty Senate. Pitney is sending out a letter to department chair to ask that time be allotted at each department meeting for faculty senators to present current information from the senate but also get feedback related to some issues.

V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. Selection of Vice President and Secretary of Faculty Senate

W. Pitney nominated George Slotsve to be VP and there were no nominations from the floor. **J. Novak** moved to accept the nomination by acclamation. **S. McHone Chase** Second. **Motion passed.**

W. Pitney nominated S. McHone Chase to be the FS Secretary and there were no nominations from the floor. **M. Rosenbaum** moved to accept the nomination by acclamation. **J. Novak** Second. **Motion passed.**

B. Selection of Faculty Senate liaison to the Libraries Advisory Committee. The LAC typically meets from 2 to 3 p.m. on the third Friday of the month, though they meet only two to three times per semester. This person also will be asked to represent the Faculty Senate on the Provost's Open Access to Research Articles Act (OARAA) Task Force.

W. Pitney nominated Gleb Sirotkin from Math and there were no nominations from the floor. **Unidentified** moved to accept the nomination by acclamation. **P. Stoddard** Second. **Motion passed.**

C. Selection of two faculty members to serve on the Ombudsperson Review Committee per NIU Bylaws [Article 20.5.1](#) – Pages 7-8

W. Pitney nominated Sarah McHone-Chase. Mark Rosenbaum self-nominated. No other nominations were received from the floor. **R. Sigesmund** moved to accept by acclamation. **R. Schneider** Second. **Motion passed.**

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. [Faculty Senate Standing Committees](#) – Per Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 3, approve the 2014-15 membership rosters – Pages 9-13**
- B. [University Council Steering Committee](#) – Per NIU Bylaws, Article 2.1.1, approve the faculty members of the 2014-15 UC-Steering Committee – Page 14**
- C. [Parliamentarian](#) – Per Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 2.2, approve Professor Ferald Bryan, Department of Communication to serve as the Faculty Senate parliamentarian for the 2014-15 academic year – Page 15**

Motion passed

Yes – 32

No – 0

Abstain – 0

VII. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. FAC to IBHE – Sonya Armstrong – report

[May 16, 2014](#) – Page 16

[June 20, 2014](#) – Pages 17-18

S. Armstrong: The Illinois Board of Higher Education, the IBHE, is the governing board for higher education in the state of Illinois. And the FAC is the Faculty Advisory Council. All higher ed institutions in the state are represented on this council and we meet monthly to work with the IBHE staff and board members.

A. University Benefits Committee – Deborah Haliczzer – [report](#) – Pages 19-20

D. Haliczzer: Human Resources is advertising additional retirement counseling sessions November 3 and 4.

C. BOT Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee –
Dan Gebo and William Pitney – report

[May 29, 2014](#) – Pages 21-24

[August 28, 2014](#) – Pages 25-27

D. BOT Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee –
Jay Monteiro and Rebecca Shortridge – report

[May 29, 2014](#) – Pages 28-29

[August 28, 2014](#) – walk-in

E. BOT Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee –
Deborah Haliczzer and Dan Gebo – report

[August 28, 2014](#) – walk-in

D. Haliczzer: Professor Gebo raised our attention to the fact of how many of those individual emeriti faculty were, in fact, Board of Trustees, Distinguished Research and Distinguished Teaching faculty. I then made the next editorial comment which was that, as we're looking at legislative and fiscal issues, are we asked for the support of our Board of Trustees on pension issues and salary issues because we stand to lose still more excellent faculty from the university and the board needed to be aware of the risks and pay close attention to legislative issues.

- F. BOT Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee – Deborah Haliczzer and Greg Waas – report
[May 29, 2014](#) – Page 30
[August 28, 2014](#) – walk-in
- G. BOT – William Pitney and Greg Waas – report
[May 29, 2014](#) – Page 31
[June 19, 2014](#) – Page 32
[August 28, 2014](#) – Page 33

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities – Richard Siegesmund, Chair – no report
- B. Academic Affairs – Sarah McHone-Chase, Chair – no report
- C. Economic Status of the Profession – George Slotsve, Chair – no report
- D. Rules and Governance – Robert Schneider, Chair – no report
- E. Resources, Space and Budgets – Jim Wilson, Liaison/Spokesperson – [report](#) – Pages 34-35

J. Wilson called attention to Paul Carpenter’s report from last May. The RSB Committee members were asked to give feedback on the level of degree or alignment with budget principals and our budget priorities that we had set forth last year. The exercise was quite involved with input from the deans, provosts, and cabinet. In terms of numbers, and as an example, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences put forward over 90 positions to the dean and came up with a priority list of 48 and then from that what was accepted, about 18.

W. Pitney requested for the Committee of Resource, Space and Budget to be vigilant in terms of monitoring how many positions were vacated and how many faculty were hired. **J. Wilson** commented that one of the committee’s charges is to meet with the president and the provost twice a semester to get that kind of information. **W. Pitney** expressed that what we’re seeing across the country is an erosion of tenure track positions and we’ve got to be conscientious about our mission to create knowledge and engage in scholarly creative activity. **R. Feurer** supported that but questioned why we can’t get that information now. She commented that the University of Illinois Chicago just wrote a no confidence vote for a hire that was made outside the constitution—and NIU had one this year that was not done without formal faculty vetting. She requested hypervigilance to monitor this. **J. Wilson** replied that the RSB will set forth an agenda of questions that we would like to speak with the president and provost about.

M.B. Henning commented that not only do we need hypervigilance about the faculty openings, but it seems very questionable about the administrative hiring process right now and the perception is that it doesn’t look too good in terms of how quickly administrators at the top level

and provosts are being hired and how it doesn't seem to be following the process that is seeming to be so slow for faculty.

F. Elections and Legislative Oversight – Stephen Tonks, Chair

1. Hearing Panel election – ballots will be distributed at FS meeting
2. By-lot election of Faculty Grievance Panel members

Jana Brubaker, Reinaldo Moraga, Hamid Bateni, Diane Rogers, Stephen Martin, Elisa Fredericks, Donna Monroe, Donna Plonczynski, Keith Millis, Melissa Lenczewski, Jimmie Manning, Eui-Kyung Shin, Eric Mogren, Brian Mackie, Joseph Stephen.

3. Election of University Council alternates – ballots will be distributed at FS meeting.
4. Selection of one Faculty Senate member to serve on the 2015 BOT Professorship Award Selection Committee. Committee members review approximately 20 applications online and the committee meets 2-3 times (November/December and January/February).

J. Manning volunteered to serve in this role.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Evaluation of Faculty & SPS Personnel Advisor and Evaluation of Executive Secretary of University Council/President of Faculty Senate – revisions to Faculty Senate Bylaws [Article 7](#) – **FIRST READING** – Page 36

W. Pitney explained the reason for amending the current bylaw language to add an SPS member to the Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor Evaluation Committee and to add an SPS member and an Operating Staff member to the evaluation committee of the FS President and Executive Secretary of UC.

R. Moremen clarified that a student is also on the FS President and UC Executive Secretary Evaluation Committee.

XI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

W. Pitney announced that this October there is an academic service prioritization conference in Chicago and Provost Freeman has put together a delegation from NIU to attend. W. Pitney, Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb, and Marc Falkoff will represent the faculty. The idea here is to attend this conference that's based on the works of Dickeson. **M. Falkoff** added that the president and

the provost are really thinking about what prioritization is going to mean, both for faculty and for administrative positions. And the baseline of their thinking is this treatise by Dickeson.

G. Slotsve encouraged the senators to use this time to also bring up things from the department or put things potentially on the agenda for the next meeting.

R. Feurer raised a concern about the acceptable use policy. **G. Slotsve** stated this will be discussed at CFAC at the October 3 meeting.

R. Moremen raised a concern about faculty hires with joint appointments and the role that MOUs play in that process.

J. Novak raised a concern about NIU faculty getting raises and the editorial that appeared in the Daily Chronicle.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. [Meeting schedule](#), 2014-2015 – Page 37
- B. [Annual Report](#), Academic Planning Council
- C. [Annual Report](#), Affirmative Action & Diversity resources Advisory Committee
- D. [Annual Report](#), Campus Security & Environmental Quality Committee
- E. [Annual Report](#), Graduate Council
- F. [Annual Report](#), University Assessment Panel
- G. [Annual Report](#), University Council Personnel Committee
- H. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- I. [Minutes](#), Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee
- J. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- K. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- L. [Minutes](#), Committee on Advanced Professional Certification in Education
- M. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education
- N. [Minutes](#), Committee on Initial Teacher Certification
- O. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- P. [Minutes](#), Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum
- Q. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- R. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee
- S. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- T. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- U. [Minutes](#), Undergraduate Coordinating Council
- V. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- W. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.