

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA**  
**Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 3 p.m.**  
**Holmes Student Center Sky Room**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) OF THE JANUARY 24, 2018 FS MEETING**

**IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**V. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION**

- A. The Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy [Award](#) – Page 4  
**Faculty Senate will vote on the recipient during the February 21 meeting.**  
Recipient will be honored at the March 28 Faculty Senate meeting.

1. Nomination – [Kendall Thu](#) – Page 5
2. Nomination – [Michael Haji-Sheikh](#) – Page 6-8

- B. Art Annex Update  
Paul Kassel, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts  
John Heckmann, AVP, Facilities Management and Campus Services

- C. Textbook Affordability  
Fred Barnhart, Dean, University Libraries  
DeeAnna Phares, Library Assistant and  
Chair of the University Libraries' Textbook Task Force  
Ian Crone, Director, Holmes Student Center  
Stephanie Torres, Director, Academic Affairs, Student Association

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Katy Jaekel, Chair – report
- B. Academic Affairs Committee – Clanitra Stewart Nejd, Chair – no report
- C. Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession – Laura Beamer, Chair – report

D. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Keith Millis, Liaison/Spokesperson

1. Nomination for Executive Secretary of University Council/  
President of Faculty Senate – 1-year term  
NIU Constitution and Faculty Senate Bylaws [citations](#) – Page 9  
[List](#) of University Council members eligible for election – Page 10  
**Nominations will be taken during the Feb. 21 Faculty Senate meeting.**

Letters of acceptance of nomination are due in the Office of University Council and Faculty Senate by **Friday, March 16**, and will be included in the March 28 and April 25 FS agenda packets. **Election of final nominee will take place at the April 25 FS meeting.**

- E. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Sarah McHone-Chase,  
Liaison/Spokesperson – report

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**X. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

- A. FAC to IBHE – Linda Saborío – [report](#) – Page 11
- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – no report  
Barbara Andree, Cathy Doederlein, Alex Gelman,  
Mark Riley, Linda Saborío, Kendall Thu

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**XII. 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](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- M. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- N. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee

- O. [Minutes](#), Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
- P. [Minutes](#), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

## **Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award**

The Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award recognizes an NIU faculty member for special service to the faculty.

Submit written letters of nomination, identifying the reasons why the nominee should receive the award, to Faculty Senate President Linda Saborio no later than noon Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Those letters will be included in the February 21, 2018 meeting agenda packet, and the Faculty Senate will vote on the recipient at that meeting. The recipient will be honored at the March 28, 2018 meeting.

Award recipients are commemorated on a permanent plaque displayed in the Holmes Student Center, which includes the names of all recipients.

### **Bob Lane Award Recipients**

Dave Ripley – 1995-1996

Ken Bowden – 1996-1997

Lorys Oddi – 1997-1998

Sherman Stanage – 1998-1999

Herbert Rubin – 1999-2000

Robert Suchner – 2000-2001

James King – 2001-2002

David Wagner – 2002-2003

Elizabeth Miller – 2003-2004

Joseph “Buck” Stephen – 2004-2005

Rosemary Feurer – 2009-2010

Charles Cappell – 2011-2012

George Slotsve – 2015-2016

Therese A. Clarke Arado – 2016-2017

Donna Munroe – 2017-2018

February 12, 2018

To: Faculty Senate

From: George Slotsve

Re: Bob Lane nomination for Kendall Thu

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Professor Kendall Thu for this year's Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award.

During the time that I have known Professor Thu, he has been an unrelenting and outspoken advocate for higher education, devoting significant time and effort on faculty's behalf. Rarely do you come across someone who is so dedicated to promoting excellence among his peers.

As a long-standing member of NIU's community, Professor Thu has become a familiar face to many across campus. In fact, I have often marveled at his ability to be present in so many places at the same time. Since joining University Council in 2008, Professor Thu has been pro-active in asking pointblank the tough, unanswered questions, yet always with the best intention of creating enhanced transparency and greater accountability. He was a key player on the Program Prioritization Task Force and is currently serving as a member on the Presidential Search Preparation Committee. His untiring commitment to the university exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated member of our profession.

Professor Thu understands what it takes to be a faculty leader, an educator, a researcher, and a mentor. In closing, I ask that you sincerely consider Professor Thu's nomination for the Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award.

February 7, 2018

Re: Bob Lane Award Nomination for Michael Haji-Sheikh

Dear Faculty Senators:

It is my pleasure to support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Haji-Sheikh for the Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award this year.

Over the last several years, Dr. Haji-Sheikh has been consistent in trying to improve the way in which NIU conducts business. He frequently addressed the Faculty Senate, University Council and Board of Trustees on a variety of issues and worked hard to ensure the university adheres to the regulations by which the university is required to operate. For example, Dr. Haji-Sheikh has worked diligently to convince the university to improve the procurement process and be more responsive to the needs of departments. He was among the first of the faculty to draw attention to the misuse of funds or switching restricted funds to undertake projects for which they were not eligible to be used by the previous administration. He was responsible for getting the university to adhere to the Open Meetings Act requirements for the subcommittees of the University Council. This change ensures that the university as well as the public has access to detailed agendas, minutes and data from committees of the UC, such as Resources, Space and Budgets. This will significantly increase the transparency of our processes and be of long term benefit to the entire university community.

Dr. Haji-Sheikh deserves our support for this award.

Thanks, and Sincerely,

Shi-Jie (Gary) Chen, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Industrial and Systems Engineering

Department of Biological Sciences  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2861  
February 5, 2018

Dr. Linda Saborio  
President, Faculty Senate and Executive Secretary of the University Council  
Altgeld Hall, Room 125  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2861

Dear Dr. Saborio,

I am writing to nominate Dr. Michael Haji-Sheikh, Professor of Electrical Engineering, for the Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award for 2018-2019. Dr. Haji-Sheikh has been at NIU for sixteen years. He obtained his Ph. D. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. He worked at Bell Helicopter and Honeywell Corporations, gaining valuable industry and business experience prior to entering an academic career.

While at NIU, he has consistently used his analytical skills and real world experience to improve how NIU functions. He is a tireless advocate for faculty, staff and especially, students. Dr. Haji-Sheikh is and extremely creative and adept problem solver. He is superb at finding the means to navigate complex university systems. He has repeatedly uncovered inefficiencies, misuse of funds and a widespread lack of transparency in university transactions. His efforts precisely reflect the spirit of the Bob Lane award, making him an ideal candidate for this honor. In many ways, he has become the conscience of our university. Because of recent past events, we need the strongest possible advocate for conducting university business according to rules, state regulations and laws as well as in the most transparent manner possible.

Dr. Haji-Sheikh is diligent in seeking information on many issues, and analyzing their impact on a wide variety of critical university functions. His efforts benefit faculty, staff, students as well as community members who interact with NIU. His work is thorough, and fact based. He always follows through, completing projects he undertakes. He regularly presents his results to appropriate bodies, including the NIU administration, Faculty Senate, University Council and Board of Trustees, among others. Dr. Haji-Sheikh perfectly fills the role of a concerned, engaged faculty member who wants NIU to achieve its full potential. His actions consistently inspire others, including myself, to work harder to help our university.

A sampling of a few of the actions Dr. Haji-Sheikh initiated or to which he contributed substantially include:

1. He documented our previous administration's misdirection or switching of restricted category funds, specifically Build American Bonds, to pay for ineligible projects.
2. Dr. Haji-Sheikh regularly monitors contracts for campus construction, how these are awarded and the quality of work conducted. He has identified many irregularities and has persuaded the university to correct many of these problems.
3. Dr. Haji-Sheikh has been a leader, among others, to streamline the university procurement process. Previously, this was cumbersome, inefficient and extremely time consuming.

4. Dr. Haji-Sheikh recognized that Huskie Pups were illegally using sidewalks on campus and elsewhere. His efforts resulted in Huskie Pups traversing campus and city streets displaying orange triangle “slow moving vehicle” signs, a major improvement in their visibility and safe use.

5. Dr. Haji-Sheikh’s efforts resulted in the university initiating adherence to Open Meetings Act requirements for all University Council subcommittees. This is a major increase in transparency in conducting university business, including the budget decision-making process, which has never occurred before.

In conclusion, if not for the diligence of Dr. Haji-Sheikh, many university financial and other excesses might never have been recognized. His leadership, as well as the efforts of a small number of other deeply committed individuals, contributed to these changes. There are many other areas in which Dr. Haji-Sheikh has played a key role in improving the way in which our university functions, but I hope that these highlights illustrate his worthiness to be the Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy awardee for 2018. If you have other questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Virginia Naples, Ph. D.  
Professor of Biological Sciences  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2861



## NIU CONSTITUTION

### **ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

#### **3.2 Executive Secretary of the University Council**

**3.2.1** The executive secretary of the University Council shall be elected by the voting members of the University Council from the elected faculty members of the University Council as defined in Section 2.2.1 of the constitution.

#### **2.2 Apportionment of Faculty Representation**

**2.2.1** For purposes of representation on the University Council, the faculty shall be defined as those regular, full-time university faculty (as defined in Section 6.1.1 of the Constitution) in the academic division of the university, excluding the president, the president's staff, the executive vice president and provost, the executive vice president and provost's staff, the deans, and the deans' staffs. Regular faculty members are those whose contracts do not carry the designation "temporary" or "adjunct."

#### **6.1.1 Definition of University Faculty**

The university faculty shall consist of all full-time staff members holding the ranks of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and instructor.

## FACULTY SENATE BYLAWS

### **ARTICLE 2: OFFICERS OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

**2.1** The Executive Secretary of the University Council shall also serve as President of the Faculty Senate. The Executive Secretary is nominated by the Faculty Senate from the elected faculty members of the University Council and is elected by the University Council.

**2.1.1** The initial selection of candidates for the office of Executive Secretary of the University Council shall take place at the second spring semester meeting of the Faculty Senate. Any faculty senator may suggest or second the suggestion of a candidate. To be qualified to serve, the candidate must be an elected faculty member of the University Council for the current year and for the ensuing year.

**2.1.2** Suggested candidates for the office of Executive Secretary shall submit a letter of intent to be included with the agenda for the third and fourth (last) spring semester regularly scheduled meetings of the Faculty Senate.

**2.1.3** An election of the final candidate for nomination shall be conducted by secret ballot at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the normal academic year of the Faculty Senate. All faculty senators present may cast a ballot for the candidate. If there are more than two suggested candidates, the final nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority, subsequent ballots will be taken removing the candidate receiving the fewest votes until a candidate is selected.

**Faculty Eligible to Serve as  
Executive Secretary of University Council/President of Faculty Senate  
2018-19**

Jon Briscoe, Business  
Sukesh Patro, Business  
Rebecca Hunt, Education  
Jane Rheineck, Education  
\*William Penrod, Education  
Michael Haji-Sheikh, Engineering and Engineering Technology  
Gary Chen, Engineering and Engineering Technology  
Lin Shi, Health and Human Sciences  
Jie Chen, Health and Human Sciences  
King Chung, Health and Human Sciences  
Therese Arado, Law  
\*Anita Maddali, Law  
\*Anne Hanley, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Eric Mogren, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Jie Song, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Amy Newman, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Andrew Krmeneč, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
\*Reed Scherer, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Jim Wilson, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Joseph Stephen, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
\*Linda Saborío, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
\*Kendall Thu, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Omar Chmaissem, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Virginia Naples, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Jim Millhorn, University Libraries  
Janet Hathaway, Visual and Performing Arts  
\*Kryssi Staikidis, Visual and Performing Arts  
Judith Chitwood, Visual and Performing Arts  
Doug Boughton, Visual and Performing Arts

*\*If re-elected to University Council in election currently underway. Updated chart will be distributed at the February 21, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting.*

## FAC to IBHE Jan 19 Meeting Report

1. Welcome discussion with President of Illinois College: the topic of this discussion was the value of a liberal arts education. At IC, student-faculty interaction (learning experiences, collaborative relationships) are paramount. There are a number of short term travel abroad opportunities (called “breakaways”) made available to students along with scholarships to help defray costs. Also, there is summer research support for students. Under curriculum, there is a first year and a senior capstone experience. IC emphasizes writing, public speaking, diversity, and teamwork; in other words, a broad education. Finally, there is a student presentation day in April called “Celebration of Excellence Day;” classes are cancelled so that faculty and students can attend recitals, research and art expos, theatrical productions, and more.
2. Rebecca Spencer from IC presented on IC’s programs with Japanese universities, such as Ritsumeikan University. Opportunities include a 10-week research lab experience in the summer for students and a 4-5 week language intensive internship focusing on environmental issues.
3. Marie Donovan indicated that IBHE is no longer going to have lunches with their constituency groups at their quarterly meetings. The stated reason is so that the Board members can have more time to interact with each other; yet, we still want to have a yearly opportunity to make a substantial presentation to the Board. It was suggested that this perhaps could be arranged for what would have been our annual meeting with the Board on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the College of Lake County. We would also like the opportunity to make a brief presentation at each Board meeting. The hope is that Al Bowman, Tom Cross, and other Board members could be present at more advisory council meetings in the future.
4. Jaimee Ray – Legislative Report: 1) change the Truth in Tuition laws to allow opt in or opt out 2) expand slightly the scope of the Grow Your Own Program (grants for additional certifications) 3) remove the budget recommendation request for the Graduation Incentive grant program since there is no funding
5. There was discussion regarding the state budget and HLC accreditation. It was suggested that we contact our Faculty Senates/Councils and prepare resolutions on this matter to be publicized and shared with the Governor and Legislature.
6. We received a presentation by Kathleen Almy from NIU on remedial math impacts of the Illinois Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (PA 99-0674), which was signed into law on July 29, 2016. Transitional math courses in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of high school can help students prepare for college. These courses would be structured to offer a different (more applied) type of experience than the math courses in the first three years. Students that pass with a C or better are guaranteed placement into college level math at Illinois community colleges.