

MINUTES

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 3 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois**

All Faculty Senate Steering Committee members will receive an Outlook invitation to this Teams meeting. Others wishing to join the meeting, please contact Pat Erickson at pje@niu.edu.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Beyer, Buck, Chomentowski, Creed, Demir, Doederlein, Johnson, McConkie, McGowan, Petges, Slotsve, Subramony, Thu

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Miguel

I. CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate (FS) Steering Committee chair, **K. Thu**, called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. Doederlein moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **G. Slotsve**. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 13, 2021 MINUTES – Pages 2-4

P. Chomentowski moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **N. Petges**. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR FS STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF FACULTY SENATE DRAFT AGENDA – attached packet

A review of the February 17 draft FS agenda included the following points:

- **K. Thu** intends to present a brief update on COVID vaccines.
- A proposed amendment to FS Bylaws Article 4.8.1 to update the University Assessment Panel membership will be presented for a second reading and vote.
- A proposed amendment to FS Bylaws Article 4.6.2.1 to update the General Education Committee membership will be presented for a second reading and vote.
- Proposed faculty employee definitions will be presented for FS review. If FS approves, a proposed amendment to the NIU Constitution, to include these definitions, will be presented to University Council. During FS-Steering Committee discussion, there was consensus to remove “in the shared governance activities of the university” from Section 5 of the proposal document for FS review, and the revised document will be presented at the Feb. 17 FS meeting.
- A proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 3, to establish a new FS subcommittee, the Social Justice Committee, will be presented for a first reading.
- Rules, Governance and Elections Committee FS liaison/spokesperson, **B. Creed**, will present information on the upcoming election of FS president.
- Rules, Governance and Elections Committee FS liaison/spokesperson, **B. Creed**, will present **L. Saborío** for reappointment as NIU’s representative to the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE.
- Nominee for the Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award, William J. Mills, will be presented for approval.
- CDO Vernese Edghill-Walden will present on Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Initiatives, Accomplishments and Action.
- NIU Web Manager Holly Nicholson will present on Exception to AP Style to allow use of “Dr.” title on the NIU website.
- Provost Beth Ingram will assist in the facilitation of a discussion on spring semester grading during the pandemic.
- NIU representative to the IBHE Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, Simón Weffer, will present an update on this project.

- The Student Government Association, Operating Staff Council and Supportive Professional Staff Council will all present reports.

P. Chomentowski moved to approve the February 17 FS agenda per above discussion, seconded by **G. Slotsve**. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

B. Beyer moved to adjourn, seconded by **T. Buck**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.