

MINUTES

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 3 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois**

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

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: McGowan

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 **T. Buck**. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 MINUTES

T. Buck moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **G. Slotsve**. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR FS STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

K. Thu asked for two volunteers to serve on the Dean of Students Review Committee. **P. Chomentowski** volunteered. **K. Thu** will serve as the second volunteer.

K. Thu asked for a volunteer to serve on the Dean of the Graduate School/Vice President of International Affairs Search Committee. **G. Slotsve** will serve.

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

A review of the October 28 draft FS agenda included the following points:

- A Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee update will be provided, including a report of the committee charge.
- Speaker of the Student Senate, **B. Beyer** will present information on the Student Mental Health Initiative. **G. Slotsve** suggested that, once a syllabus statement template is established, it should be distributed to faculty through department chairs. **T. Buck** noted that the number of students struggling with mental health issues seems to have grown during the pandemic. **B. Beyer** will reach out to pandemic resource people in the Division of Student Affairs and bring that information forward within his planned presentation.
- FS will be asked to review (second reading) and vote on a proposed bylaw amendment regarding Baccalaureate Council and General Education Committee student membership.
- FS will be asked to review (first reading) a proposed bylaw amendment regarding FS Personnel Committee chairmanship.
- NIU's representative to the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, **L. Saborío**, will present a report.
- No University Advisory Council to the Board of Trustees report is planned, since the BOT has not met recently.
- FS-Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee chair, **P. Chomentowski**, will give a brief report on this committee's work regarding the definition of "faculty," in the NIU Constitution and Bylaws and the Faculty Senate Bylaws.
- No FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee will be necessary at this time.
- The Student Government Association, Operating Staff Council and Supportive Professional Staff Council will all present brief reports.
- Recent revisions to the Spring 2021 academic calendar will be presented to FS as an informational item.

N. Petges moved to approve the October 28 FS agenda per above discussion, seconded by **N. Johnson**. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

N. Johnson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.