

TRANSCRIPT

FACULTY SENATE

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 3 p.m.
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center
231 N. Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb, IL
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Akst, Bardolph, Books, Carpenter, Chen, Cheyney, Chomentowski, Clark, D. Collins, Creed, Douglass, Duffin, Duffrin, Fredericks, Grund, Hu, Hunter, Ito, N. Johnson, Jong, Keddie, Kim, Knoll, Lampi, Liberty, Maki, Marsh, McConkie, McGowan, Miguel, Nesterov, Penkrot, Petges, Qin, Richter, Sharp, Sirotkin, Slotsve, Smith, Staikidis, Sullivan, Vahabzadeh, Whedbee

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Allori, Bohanon, Bujarski, Gorman, Montana, Montgomery, Palese, Royce, Valentiner

OTHERS PRESENT: Beyer, Bryan, Griffin, Holmes, Ingram, McEvoy, Saborío

OTHERS ABSENT: Groza, Jaekel

I. CALL TO ORDER

P. Chomentowski: Greetings everyone. Welcome to Faculty Senate. I want to say thank you for coming. We'll call this meeting to order.

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

P. Chomentowski: The first thing we'll do is ask Pat if we have a quorum for today.

P. Erickson: We do have a quorum.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

P. Chomentowski: We'll move on to the adoption of the agenda. Can I have someone from the group make a motion to adopt the agenda for today's meeting, and a second, please.

G. Slotsve: So moved.

P. Chomentowski: Second?

D. Bardolph: Second.

P. Chomentowski: All those in favor, can I get an aye?

Members: Aye.

P. Chomentowski: No, for those opposed? Or Abstain? All right, the motion is passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2021 MINUTES – Pages 4-7

P. Chomentowski: We'll move on to the approval of the minutes that are in your packet. The approval of the April 21 minutes. Can I have someone from the group make a motion to approve the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes, and a second.

G. Slotsve: So moved.

D. Douglass: Second.

P. Chomentowski: Thank you very much. All those in favor, can I get an aye?

Members: Aye.

P. Chomentowski: Opposed, no? And abstain? All right, the approval of the minutes from the April 21 meeting is passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

P. Chomentowski: Pat, do we have any public comment?

P. Erickson: No, we do not.

VI. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Chomentowski: We'll move on to Faculty Senate President's Announcements. I want to say thank you to everyone for attending the meeting today. I know this has been a rough beginning for some people to the semester and coming back to being on campus. I want everyone to know that we tried to, actually, bring everyone back; and one of our goals for Faculty Senate that was really important to us was to make all of you comfortable. So, one of the reasons that we are in this room that we'll be in for the year, the Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center, it's a little more comfortable than the Sky Room and having to take the elevator up to the 17th floor.

And so with that being said, we are here today for Faculty Senate, because we are complying with the OMA laws for the Open Meetings Act. I want to just point your attention to the board. This is the Faculty Senate web page. If you look under "Important Links." We have an OMA document that is now up, written by the legal department at NIU. And it gives a summary of what OMA is. Some people have been asking why couldn't we go back to virtual meetings like last year. The

reason is that the OMA that we had last year, there was an executive order stating that all OMA meetings could be virtual. That was not renewed in July by the governor. When it was not renewed, they renewed this thing called special rules for OMA. One of the things they include is we are supposed to meet in person. But one thing they said is that we could have hybrid or virtual meetings if stipulations were met. There are actually ten stipulations. Greg Brady from legal kind of broke it down to six. And then the bottom four are in the bottom there where it talks about notice.

The reason we're here and the reason that I've actually opted to have us here is due to number 6. For number 6, it says that, if we are in hybrid or virtual meetings, all votes must be in roll call. That means we have to go through and call everyone's name. You have to say your vote – yes, no or abstain – nothing is anonymous. One of the things that we believe, and I believe, and from speaking with administration, is that your votes on all subjects should be anonymous. According to the law, if we hold a hybrid with just one person being virtual, we must roll call all votes, and there is no anonymity to voting anymore.

So, that's kind of where we are, where we actually are opting to hold in-person meetings for Faculty Senate and University Council. If we hold them in-person, then we are still allowed to use our clickers to vote on important topics, and everyone still has an anonymous vote. So, that's the issue we were having for the last couple of weeks dealing with the legislation, with trying to do a virtual meeting or a hybrid. They said you could, but that's one of the rules you have to abide by.

Right now we have 69 voting members technically. So, we would have to go around to every person on every vote for everything, from just actually approving the agenda and the minutes, to adjourning. We'd have to have a roll call vote.

So, I just wanted to give you a little more information on the Open Meetings Act and how it changed in the last year to allow us to be back in-person. But also, they added a bunch of rules to having a virtual meeting. So, that's why we are now holding Faculty Senate and University Council in person until things change with the laws of the State of Illinois.

VII. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

- A. Cycles and Constellations: Reimagining Committee Participation in the Department, College, and University
Greg Beyer
Professor, School of Music
Member, University Council and University Advisory Committee to the BOT

P. Chomentowski: I'm going to now move on to Items for Faculty Senate Consideration. We have a presentation today. Professor Beyer is going to present for us on Cycles and Constellations: Reimagining Committee Participation in the Department, College and University.

G. Beyer: Good afternoon, everybody. I hope you're doing well. Welcome back to Northern. It's good to be back and good to see so many familiar faces. My name is Gregory Beyer. For those of you who don't know me, I am the director of percussion studies in the School of Music. I see some people looking around. Linda, you're in the back of the hall. Can you hear me okay? Okay, we'll

wait until he turns the microphone on. Oh, it's on. Let me get right up on the mic. The difference between a dynamic microphone and a condenser microphone is that on a dynamic microphone, you need to be like this.

Good afternoon once again. My name is Gregory Beyer. I am the director of percussion studies in the School of Music. It's a pleasure to be here. I see a lot of familiar faces. And for those of you who I don't know, I look forward to getting to know you over the course of the year if our paths happen to cross. Tony, are you able to flip this over to my screen? Thank you, good man.

The name of this presentation – and I should preface this quickly by saying that I gave an instance of this presentation at the end of last year for my School of Music colleagues. And so if, over the course of the next ten minutes of talking, some of the things feel very specific to the School of Music and not at all pertinent to your own situation, I apologize in advance, but ask your patience, and perhaps your creative thinking, to think about how some of the concepts that I'm talking about today might actually apply to either your departments or your schools or the specific areas on campus in which you work and that you represent.

As Peter kindly pointed out, this presentation is entitled *Cycles and Constellations: Reimagining Committee Participation from the Department to the College and to the University*. During the past two years, I have had the eye-opening experience of serving on NIU's largest shared governance bodies, namely Faculty Senate and the University Council. My time on these committees has coincided with a major shift in their structure and their function, spearheaded by our good friend and recently retired former Faculty Senate President Kendall Thu. These changes have brought NIU's shared governance practices in line with our sister institutions around the state and around the nation. In fact, for this particular body of folks, an apt subtitle for this presentation might simply be: Thank you, Kendall.

Both bodies, Faculty Senate and University Council, now bring together representatives from all the major constituencies on campus: administration, faculty, supportive professional staff, operational staff and students. But that was not always the case. The University Council, where I now serve has a much more limited function than it had in the past. It is now a much smaller body. And it deliberates and votes only on matters of policy that are operational and budgetary or financial in nature, not academic. The body serves, among other things, as a sounding board for the central administration and its planning regarding the budget and operational efficiencies throughout campus.

By contract, all of you are serving on Faculty Senate. And this body of folks have been vastly empowered through the recent changes, and you now deliberate and vote on all of the university's academic matters. As the name implies, Faculty Senate is faculty-driven now, although the committee still has representation from each constituency that I mentioned previously.

Faculty Senate, as we shall see, is the central body to which several other standing committees at the university report. And as a consequence of this centrality, departments and college representation here on Faculty Senate is very important. In other words, all of you are very important. Of course, you knew that already, but what I mean to say is – what you do here matters, because you represent and have the ability to speak articulately and passionately about the matters

that matter to your departments and your areas on campus in order to make sure that legislation that matters is passed the way that you would like to see that happen.

In other words, the structural shifts that Kendall envisioned and enacted are profound, and they're consequential. And they're also reason for us to celebrate, because they have reinvigorated all of us serving on these bodies to imagine and to have more clarity of purpose doing what we do – more so than ever before, I would argue.

Bearing witness to these sweeping changes has given me, personally, a deeper appreciation for the larger structural web of committee service, the committee service ecosystem on campus and the pathways of communication that flow from departments through the colleges and into the university. I now believe that this understanding is valuable and useful for all faculty with particular import for new people just starting to develop bearings here on campus. Understanding how the university's committee ecosystem works will, I believe, lead to a greater sense of investment and responsibility in the course of serving.

In this presentation, I'm going to discuss common perceptions of committee service among new faculty; how committees are currently presented at election time; a new organization of committees as a series of pathways; the recursive information flow within these given pathways; the central importance, as I've already mentioned, of the Faculty Senate; and a proposal of cyclical service that allows new and experienced faculty alike to experience all of the service pathways that make up the whole. When we look at the whole, we're going to see that there is actually a web of constellations that is formed by the interconnectivity of committees all over campus.

Being a new faculty member, when it comes to committee service, can be confusing. Historically, new faculty are elected to minor roles and given little guidance about the specific functions of the committee on which they serve. Even when the functions of that committee are made clear, it's not often that new faculty receive an understanding of how that committee's work feeds into the larger system of university service.

And here are two stories that I'd like to share with you that illustrate this point. This is from a colleague of ours from the School of Art and Design.

Twenty years ago, I was a new faculty member, I was a new mother, I was not presented with a clear overview of service opportunities; and, therefore, I saw no incentive to value getting involved beyond minimal requirements.

In my own case, 16 years ago, when I was a new faculty member, I was put on the School of Music's Convocation Committee for five years in a row, even though it was only a one-year appointment. I became the chair of the committee in the second year, and I cared a lot about how the committee impacted the experience of our undergraduate students. I developed a robust All-School Convocation series for the students. But after five years, when I cycled off the committee, because there was no institutional memory built into the way that that committee was populated, a lot of the details of that presentation cycle fell away. And this was disappointing to me given how much time and effort that I had spent shaping that committee.

I can't speak for any of the rest of you, but I happen to know that in the School of Music, our election time for committees is at the end of the academic year. Does that sound about right? Pretty much the standard practice? When we run these elections, we're presented with this list. It's simply an alphabetical list of committee service in the School of Music. And here are the alphabetical lists for the College of Visual and Performing Arts (in the middle there). And then the panoply of opportunities to serve on committees across the university. Both of these again are in alphabetical order.

Now, if you haven't served on a particular committee, you may not have a full sense of how it functions within your department or school, let alone its connections and resonances within the college and the university. And in the absence of experiential knowledge, not understanding those kinds of things is normal. However, not having experiential knowledge of the department's committees over time can prove detrimental in later years when serving on interconnected university service positions higher up the flow chain.

How can we ensure that faculty experience the full range of committee service critical to the success of our shared mission? What if, instead of an alphabetical list, we organize and present committees by functional category? I'm going to refer to these categories as pathways, to indicate that information can and should flow smoothly along each path.

For veteran faculty, the curricular and personnel pathways have clear corollaries from the department to the college and the university, I'm certain. But how many of us, even for those of us with a decade or more of experience, have ever considered how committees that impact the academic experience of our undergraduates or our diversity, equity and belonging committees? How many of us understand that there are resonances to be found elsewhere across the university? Those resonances, I would argue, are exciting to consider.

Now, I want to take just a quick look at the recursive system of the undergraduate curricular pathway. Most departments have a clear path between the department and the college. From the college, undergraduate curricular proposals flow from the college curriculum committee to the Baccalaureate Council, which is a university standing committee. Note that the BC also receives information from three of its subcommittees: the General Education Committee, the Honors Committee and the Committee on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience. And finally, the Baccalaureate Council ultimately reports here to Faculty Senate, where final proposals are reviewed and discussed and voted on.

To see an undergraduate curricular proposal succeed, therefore, a department is best served when it has representation throughout this process, throughout this flow chain, to ensure the proposals are cared for throughout their journey into becoming. And the final point of that journey, once again, is its arrival here in Faculty Senate. The buck stops here.

In this newly empowered Faculty Senate on which all of you serve, you receive proposals for final approval from several of the university's most important standing committees, such as the Baccalaureate Council that I already mentioned, the University Committee on Educator Licensure, the Academic, Equity and Inclusion Excellence Committee and the newly empowered Faculty Senate Personnel Committee.

As I hope is becoming clear, it is critically important that each department across campus has committed and capable representation here, someone like yourself, who is aware of – and able to speak convincingly to – the proposals that come out of your area.

You'll recall that I previously mentioned that not having experiential knowledge of a department or school's committees over time can be detrimental in later years when serving on university service positions higher up the flow chain, and I'd like to offer a case in point. In 2016 through 2018, I was asked to serve on the Graduate Council, and I was happy to do that. But in my second year of Graduate Council, I was asked to serve on the Graduate Council subcommittee for curriculum, the GCCC. When I arrived at the first couple of meetings, I was shocked. I was out of my league, because I had never in the 14 years of service that I'd had at that time, I had never served on the School of Music's Curricular Committee, nor the CVPA's Curriculum Committee. So, getting there, I really didn't know what I was doing. And this didn't reflect well on me. And it didn't really reflect well on the college either. And I would argue that the reason that happened is simply through the absence of a system that thoughtfully puts faculty through a set of experiences to globally understand what committee service on campus can really truly be about.

So, what I'd like to propose today is that each of you take home to your departments and colleges and schools, the people that you represent, a possible way to develop a cycle of service or a rotation through pathways. Now I'm going to speak from the perspective of a faculty member, and so I'm going to ask for your patience if you happen to be here representing supportive professional staff or operational staff. But I would like to imagine that you may be able to adapt this to your own ecosystem here on campus in ways that make sense to you.

From a faculty perspective, assuming a six-year tenure track, which I understand is not always the case, but that's the typical case, we might divide those six years into two two-year terms and two one-year terms such that tenure-track faculty can experience four critical service pathways: An undergraduate experience pathway; an academic, diversity, equity and belonging pathway; an advisory committee pathway; and a curricular committee pathway. Once tenured, that faculty member will experience the fifth critical pathway, which is personnel. And so, after eight years of service, the cycle can begin again. The faculty member in the next eight years of service will experience another rotation through those five service pathways and, once you've already experienced that, you will be able to provide a more mature understanding of the pathway's functions and flow systems of information, and you can serve as a mentor for younger faculty who are in their first years of service.

What does that look like for a new faculty member? Here are those six years broken up into those four different service pathways. If we look at the very familiar curricular pathway, there's curricular flow from the department to the college. As I mentioned before, undergraduate proposals from the college go to the Baccalaureate Council, whereas graduate proposals go to the Graduate Council Curricular Committee. The Graduate Council Curricular Committee, of course, is a subcommittee of the Graduate Council, to which the Graduate Advisory Council in anyone's area, department or school, serves as a liaison.

An unexplored resonance is the possibility that anyone serving on a committee that is meant to improve the undergraduate experience can be in touch with the people who are serving on such committees as the Honors Committee or the General Education Committee or the Committee for the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience. These are all the subcommittees of the Baccalaureate Council.

The Library Committee in an area, or even a diversity and equity and belonging committee may have resonances elsewhere on campus. Like I mentioned, a school's academic, diversity, equity and belonging committee has a really important resonance with the standing committee, the Committee on Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence. That committee is doing a wonderful job connecting to our larger surrounding DeKalb community. A recent initiative on their part is the development of a DeKalb Belonging Council. And even our undergraduate improvement committees can have resonance with a committee like the University Outreach Advisory Committee.

And again, many of these committees all report ultimately here, to Faculty Senate. So again, the centrality of Faculty Senate is important, and it's important for you to consider. Here are some suggestions, in closing, that I'd like to go over quickly.

Where are the lines of communication that could be drawn or enhanced for the benefit of your department?

In your own departments, how might this cyclical approach to committee service be suitably tailored to meet the needs of your area?

Perhaps your tenured faculty beyond the first cycle of service have a choice. They can either pass through the same cycle of eight years again, or they might elect to specialize in a given pathway becoming intimately involved at the university level in a curricular function or in a personnel function, for example.

Experienced faculty can become leaders within a chosen pathway to create systems of mentorship and lines of communication to discuss important pathway initiatives all along the chain.

Can service activity be considered part of a weekly load alongside teaching and artistry or teaching and research, keeping commitments human-sized to make sure that everyone is involved, everyone participates, and that no single person is over-burdened.

And finally – and this is something that worked really well in the School of Music, are there too many committees? Can you assess how many committees you happen to have in your particular areas and either downsize or consolidate some committees to work together so that everyone involved is pulling weight equally, or as close to equally as possible.

I know that no one came to the university to serve on committees specifically. It's time consuming. But I think that, in light of the changes that Kendall ushered through, the time has come for us to consider what comes next in light of these important transformations. It seems to me that Kendall provided us with a garden, a beautifully designed garden. And I'd like to posit that what we do with the garden now matters and can reverberate, not just in the University Council and the Faculty

Senate, but throughout the university's service ecosystem. Committee service is akin to garden maintenance. If we don't tend to the systems that we take for granted, 90 percent of the time when we're doing our teaching and doing our artistry or our research, then the systems that we take for granted eventually break down. We need to weed the garden. We need to look after the garden. We need to water the things that we plant.

So, I hope that this presentation was fun. I hope that it was enlightening and maybe even encouraging. I believe that our coordinated efforts in this regard can help systems of communication flow throughout the university, and I'd like to encourage us all to give some thought to that as we watch this year unfold.

Perhaps if there's just a minute or two, I can take a question or two, or a comment. Otherwise, I'll pass the microphone back to President Chomentowski. Yes?

A. Keddie: [inaudible]

G. Beyer: Sure, yes, I'd be delighted to. The two most obvious pathways that I think most people are familiar with are the curricular pathway and the personnel pathway. In the School of Music in particular, and you'll have to forgive me if this is one of the schools music-centric points of view that I bring to this discussion, we have several committees that are specifically geared to make our students' lives engaged. And I refer to those, generally speaking, as experiential or academic experience or undergraduate experience committees. Because there's a standing committee on campus called the Committee for the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience, I see those committees in the School of Music as aligned with the mission of that larger standing subcommittee of the Baccalaureate Council. Does that make sense?

And I have to be honest with you, until I started doing this kind of looking around, I never saw that resonance before. In the School of Music, after we spent a couple of months thinking about these things, it's exciting to see that, internally, we're making changes in the School of Music to create systems of flow that will help us help ourselves pass that information on more readily from level to level of committee service throughout the university. So, that's one, the undergraduate experience committees.

The other two are advisory committees. And then diversity, equity and belonging committees.

Yes, sir.

E. Nesterov: [inaudible]

G. Beyer: I do think that the concepts are universal and applicable to every department, because communication, internal communication, is the way that our institution thrives. If we don't communicate properly from level to level, then systems break down. And so, it's sort of like a house cleaning. I think oftentimes – and I speak from experience, but I also speak by bringing comments from some of my colleagues in CVPA to light, that we oftentimes look at even in the faculty service reporting, I would argue that committee service is sort of like a Cinderella's sister. We get a lot of points for teaching. We get a lot of points for research. We get some points for

committee service – but, it’s still an expectation. And if it’s embraced with the right kind of energy, then the system of information flow can really help in such a way that, for people like yourself sitting on Faculty Senate, when you have a curricular proposal say, for example, or you have a personnel issue that comes before this committee, ahead of time, you will know. Does that make sense? Thank you for your question.

Anyone else? Well, I want to thank you all for your time. I’d like to thank President Chomentowski for the opportunity to share these thoughts with all of you. And I will bid you adieu.

P. Chomentowski: Thank you very much, Greg.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve the 2021-22 Faculty Senate Standing Committee membership rosters per FS Bylaws, Article 3 – Page 8
- B. Approve the 2021-22 University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees membership roster, confirming Karen Whedbee for a three-year term, per NIU Bylaws, Article 8.4.1.1 – Page 9
- C. Approve Department of Communication Professor Ferald Bryan to serve as the 2021-22 Faculty Senate parliamentarian per FS Bylaws, Article 2.2
- D. Approve faculty candidates running unopposed to serve on committees of the university – Page 10
- E. Approve FS President Peter Chomentowski to serve as NIU’s academic representative to the [State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee](#) (SURSMAC)

P. Chomentowski: Can you do me a favor? Unfortunately, for this meeting, we weren’t able to put microphones on all the tables. So, if you have comments or want to address something, could you actually step up to one of the mics. We have four around the room. Unfortunately, we just were not able to put them out on every table. We have them spaced out like we’re doing at other meetings around the university, like leadership yesterday. Thank you.

We’ll move on to the consent agenda, section VIII in our packet. We look to approve the 2021-22 Faculty Senate Standing Committee membership rosters for A. For B, approve the 2021-22 University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees membership roster, confirming Karen Whedbee for a three-year term, per NIU Bylaws. For C, we’re going to approve Department of Communication Professor Ferald Bryan to serve as our Faculty Senate parliamentarian for the 2021-22 year. D, approve the faculty candidates running unopposed to serve on committees of the university. And also approve Faculty Senate President Peter Chomentowski to serve as NIU’s academic representative to the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee.

Can I have someone in the group make a motion to approve the consent agenda for today and second it.

D. Collins: So moved.

D. McConkie: Second.

P. Chomentowski: All those in favor, say aye.

Members: Aye.

P. Chomentowski: Opposed, say no. And abstain? The consent agenda has been passed.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 1, Membership of the Faculty Senate –
Pages 11-12
SECOND READING/VOTE
Jeffry Royce, Operating Staff Council

P. Chomentowski: On to our next section, Unfinished Business. Is Jeffry Royce here? Is Natasha here? Could you speak real quickly on this at the microphone, because this is a second reading, and we're going to take a vote on it today. This was brought up at the last meeting as a first reading. If you could just give some background information.

N. Johnson: Yes, for the Operating Staff Council, we typically have two Operating Staff Council reps on Faculty Senate, and they typically serve for three years. We're looking to change that to have one year. In that way, as things are changing; for example, right now it's Jeffry and myself, but really it probably should be at least the president, so Holly [Nicholson] should be on here. But because of the way we have it set up, we're currently doing three years. Once we get this changed, then as of next year, we will do one-year cycles.

P. Chomentowski: Thank you, Natasha. Pat?

P. Erickson: For this vote, I hope everybody picked up a clicker on their way in. But if you didn't pick up one, now's the time to get up and go get one. And I'm going to put what is my working voting member slide up. It's still a little bit of a work in progress; there's some shuffling around this fall. And so it's going to be our guide. So, that should give you a list then. If you see your name there or if you see the name of someone who you are here for today, subbing for them, then you are a voting member. If you have any question, if you don't see your name there, but you think you're here as a voting member, feel free to raise your hand and ask me now. Okay, you look really confident, so we're going to move ahead.

First, there's no need to turn the clickers on or off. They activate automatically when you vote. And they deactivate after several seconds of non-use. There's also no need to erase previous votes. The clickers automatically erase previous votes when you enter a new vote. Every time we vote, I'll let

you know when the software is ready, so please wait for my cue before punching in the number. And when we're ready, I'll be instructing you to press 1 for yes, which means that you agree and approve the motion to amend the bylaw. Or 2 for no, you don't approve the proposal. Or 3 for abstain. Once you've pressed your number, you should see a smiley face or a check mark on your clicker screen. And as long as I keep the poll open, you can change your mind and just enter a different number if you want. Your original vote will be erased, your new vote will be counted. So, I'm going to open that software. Give me just a moment.

E. Nesterov: [inaudible]

P. Erickson: All the clickers operate on channel 45. Do you see that on your clicker? Okay, well, I don't think you necessarily need to see anything. You should probably just a blank screen right now on your clicker. I've programmed them so they shouldn't have to do anything but press – once I tell you that the software's open – if you want to vote yes, press 1, no 2, 3 abstain. And you shouldn't need to do anything else.

Now it's open, and I think you can probably see that up in the corner too as responses are coming in. All you're doing is clicking 1, 2 or 3, nothing else. Looks like maybe there are two or three – if I look out in the room, I've been taking some mental counts. Is everybody finding success with that? Another few seconds in case anybody else is thinking it over. Should we call it?

P. Chomentowski: Yes.

P. Erickson: So that passes, 35 – 1 – 2. Thank you.

Yes – 35

No – 1

Abstain – 2

P. Chomentowski: Motion passes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 2.1.3, Officers of the Faculty Senate

Page 13

FIRST READING

Peter Chomentowski, President, Faculty Senate

P. Chomentowski: Now, we'll move on to New Business. I will speak on this first reading for the proposed amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 2.1.3, Officers of the Faculty Senate. If you look at page 13, this may sound a little odd, but according to some of the new legislation that came down with things like OMA, one of the things that they put out and we were contacted by legal was that the word, secret, was not to be used anymore for voting. It sounds a little arbitrary, but we had it in one bylaw where you could see where it talks about the election of the Faculty Senate president shall be conducted by secret ballot at the last regular scheduled meeting of Faculty Senate of the normal academic year.

Interestingly, they deem that having the word, secret, needed to be taken out. It was due to a legal case that was brought in 2013. Simply put, we were asked by legal to just take out the word, secret, and just delete it. This is the only place in our bylaws that has it. So, that's basically what this first reading is, just to remove this word. Is there any discussion that anyone wants to have on this? No discussion? Yes, grab a microphone, please.

E. Nesterov: If you remove the word, secret, would it mean that, at some point, that some will interpret that we would have to vote openly.

P. Chomentowski: By removing the word, secret?

E. Nesterov: Yes.

P. Chomentowski: No. According to legal, removing the word, secret, is not going to – the votes will still be held the way we do, which is anonymous voting. It's kind of a gray area in the law right now. We don't have to change the method of voting, but they want the wording taken out. This is a first reading to get your ideas. We'll bring this back at the next meeting for a second reading and our vote, in case anyone has anymore questions about it.

- B. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 4.3, Academic Planning Council
Page 14
FIRST READING
Omar Ghrayeb, Senior Vice Provost

P. Chomentowski: Moving on to B. We have a proposed amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 4.3, Academic Planning Council on page 14. Is Omar here, or Beth, to speak on this? Okay, I'll do it. Yes?

B. Ingram [inaudible] It's because we've eliminated the position of vice provost for institutional effectiveness. That position doesn't exist anymore, so we're taking it out of the bylaws, because that position doesn't exist.

P. Chomentowski: Okay, thank you. This is a first reading. I think Omar will be here for the next meeting. So that vice provost for institutional effectiveness has been eliminated from the Academic Planning Council. Any discussion from anyone on this? This is a first reading. We will bring this back at the next meeting for a second reading, and I believe Omar will be there for that one.

XI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Linda Saborío – report

P. Chomentowski: We will now move on to Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees. Linda?

L. Saborío: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Linda Saborío, and I'm NIU's faculty representative on the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Pat is sharing with you the website for the FAC. As you can see on the website, we have 36 members, and there's one representative from each of the 12 public universities, 12 representatives of the private and proprietary institutions and 12 for the public community colleges in the state.

I don't have an official report for you today. Normally, in the summer, we do go down to Springfield and meet with state reps. And for obvious reasons, we were not able to do that this summer. Our first meeting of the FAC is the second week in September [September 17]. It's on a Friday, whatever that date. So, I'll have a report for you next month.

But I just wanted to introduce myself to the group and let you know that I serve as our rep on the FAC. We are an advisory council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education; so any issues that are deemed of importance to you and this group, please bring them to me, please share them with me, and I will be more than happy to bring them forward to the FAC. Thank you. Anyone have any questions for me?

P. Chomentowski: Thank you, Linda.

- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report
Felicia Bohanon, Holly Nicholson, Peter Chomentowski
Katy Jaekel, Karen Whedbee, Greg Beyer

P. Chomentowski: University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees. Felicia, Holly, Katy, Karen, Greg, anyone have a report that they'd like to give from the UAC to BOT meeting? I do. A few points that I found interesting from the Board of Trustees meetings that just recently happened.

One is that the university is going to be changing external printer services. For a long period of time, NIU has had an internal print service. The university is looking to work with an outside company now, just having a different print service work with the university. More information will be coming along, but I just thought I'd give you a heads-up since some people use the print service for their departments. So, just put that on your radar that there will be changes with the print services this year.

Another one I thought was interesting too is that they are looking at replacing the telephone service in our office. We all have the telephone service in our office, but now they're looking to upgrade the telephones services that we have in our offices to Microsoft Teams Voice Solutions this year. I think we've had the same service for telephone for almost 30 years at NIU. So, this year, they're going to be looking into that.

One other thing that I thought was interesting is that they're looking at building access, looking into seeing about starting to have some buildings key-coded to your ID card, like the dorms are. So, academic buildings. So, that's something also to look for in the future, that may be coming, that was brought to the Board of Trustees.

I thought those were some interesting things for faculty and staff on the campus. Any questions?

C. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Nancy Petges, Chair – no report

P. Chomentowski: Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Nancy, you don't have a report? Okay, no.

D. FS/UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Ben Creed,
FS Liaison/Spokesperson – report

P. Chomentowski: So, Faculty Senate and University Council Rules, Governance and Elections Committee, Ben.

B. Creed: We've got a number of elections this afternoon. Before you begin, just a reminder that those who are Faculty Senate voting members for today. If you are here, please abstain from voting if you are not a Faculty Senate member. I know Pat has shared that before. Looks like she's going to bring it up again. I'll pause and see if anybody has any questions about that status, but I know we've already voted this afternoon, so I think you should know.

1. Election of 2021-22 Hearing Panel – A Qualtrics ballot will be distributed to FS tenured/tenure-track voting members following the meeting.

B. Creed: The first election is for the 2021-2022 Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel is used for appeals based on Faculty Senate Bylaws Article 11.3 regarding due process for faculty dismissal issues and also for the review of allegations regarding violation of academic freedom based on Faculty Senate Bylaws Article 15. For this election, we'll use a Qualtrics ballot, and Pat will email that ballot out following this meeting, along with directions for completing it. The ballot contains the names of 34 tenured faculty members selected at random, and you'll be asked to vote for no more than 20 of those.

2. By-lot drawing of 15 FS tenured faculty members to serve on the 2021-22 grievance panel for student grievances

B. Creed: Next election, per NIU Bylaws Article 6, the Faculty Senate is asked to identify 15 members of its tenured faculty membership to serve as a panel from which student grievances could be created, should one be needed to review a student grievance. These 15 panel members are selected by lot from all tenured faculty members of Faculty Senate and University Council. And I'll draw those names now.

Sarah Marsh, Management
Bette Montgomery, Family and Consumer Sciences
Kryssi Staikidis, Art and Design
David Maki, Music
Evgueni Nesterov, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Arlene Keddie, Health Studies
In-Sop Kim, Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Dan McConkie, Law
Melani Duffrin, Interdisciplinary Health Professions

Rich Grund, Theatre and Dance
Lisa Liberty, Special and Early Education
Valia Allori, Philosophy
Yasuo Ito, Physics
David Gorman, English
Larissa Garcia, University Libraries

So, that should be 15.

3. Election of 2021-22 non-union faculty and staff grievance pool – A Qualtrics ballot will be distributed to FS tenured/tenure-track voting members following the meeting.

B. Creed: The third election for tonight is that we're asked to identify three tenured non-union faculty members to serve on the 2021-22 pool for non-union faculty and staff grievances from which a grievance committee could be created should one be needed to review non-union faculty or staff grievances. SPS Council and Operating Staff Council also are selecting their own three representatives each to serve in this grievance pool. For this election of three faculty members, we'll use a Qualtrics ballot, and Pat will email that out after the meeting, along with directions for it. It will contain the list of all tenured and non-union faculty members, and you'll be asked to vote for three.

4. Election of Faculty Senate vice president per Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 2.2. Nominations will be taken from the FS Floor, and election will take place during the meeting.

B. Creed: The fourth item is the election of a Faculty Senate vice president. And I'll open the floor for nominations at this time and ask you to come to a microphone to make your nominations or I can repeat them for you if you prefer not to.

D. McConkie: I'm Dan McConkie from the law school. I nominate George Slotsve.

B. Creed: Thank you. Just pausing to see if there are any other nominations. Hearing no other nominations, we can take a voice vote. All in favor of George Slotsve serving as the vice president for Faculty Senate, say aye.

Members: Aye.

B. Creed: All opposed, say no. Any abstentions?

G. Slotsve: Abstain.

B. Creed: Thank you.

5. Selection of one FS tenured/tenure-track faculty member to serve as the Faculty Senate president's designee on the 2022 BOT Professorship Award Selection Committee. Nominations will be taken from the FS floor, and election will take place during the meeting.

Committee members review approximately 10 applications online, and the committee meets two to three times between November and February. The person selected to serve on this committee cannot be a candidate for the award, nor have submitted a nomination for the award.

B. Creed: The final election is the selection of one tenured or tenure-track faculty volunteer to serve on the Board of Trustees Professorship Award Selection Committee. This assignment includes reviewing approximately ten applications online, and the committee meets two or three times between November and February. Do we have any volunteers to serve on the selection committee for this year? And again, if you would like to volunteer, please use one of the microphones.

There was a note that, if there were no self-nominations, please reach out to Peter or myself for more information, or to Pat, as well, if you would like to serve in that capacity.

And that concludes my report. Thank you.

P. Chomentowski: Thank you, Ben.

- E. Social Justice Committee – Ismael Montana, Chair – report

P. Chomentowski: The Social Justice Committee. Ismael Montana is the chair of the committee, but he is not with us today due to a family issue. He asked me to speak a little bit on behalf of this committee. The Social Justice Committee this year now will be meeting regularly under OMA once a month in Altgeld Hall. We will be having regular meetings to discuss basically how we're going to be working on the priority recommendations that they put together for the university for this year.

We have three working groups that work separately and then report back. For the institutional racism working group, the chair will be Beth McGowan. For diversity, equity and inclusion, the chair will be Elisa Fredericks. And for academic affairs, it will be Ben Creed.

The Social Justice Committee will be providing us with reports monthly at Faculty Senate on what they are working on with other parts of the institution as we move through the year.

- F. Student Government Association – report
Devlin Collins, President
Dallas Douglass, Speaker of the Senate

P. Chomentowski: Next we'll go to the Student Government Association. We have Devlin Collins and Dallas Douglass. Gentlemen, do you have a report?

D. Collins: Good afternoon, everybody. Once again, my name is Devlin Collins, and I have the privilege of being the president of the Student Government Association. I'd like to start by thanking all the faculty and staff for their hard work and determination as we are reopening campus. Students have taken notice of the positivity and support coming from instructors and our staff from the buildings, and you all really are responsible for making campus feel like home as we are opening up this semester. So, please give yourselves a round of applause. [applause]

The Student Government Association has been hard at work to reestablish our role to students and organizations as their guide and resource here on campus. That being said, we as SGA, have taken notice to the low engagement of students in extra curriculars, research and student employment opportunities here on campus. So we want to begin addressing this issue by better identifying students in need of these programs and also starting a match program to better assist students networking with these opportunities. We understand, and we've already started reaching out to different offices so that we can start collecting these different programs and start reaching out to these students. So if you have any other programs that you are in need of students or you would want better promoted to our students on campus, please network with us so that we can continue this effort.

Additional, SGA will act in sync with the university and stands firmly to support further policies dealing with diversity, equity and inclusion here on campus. The campus culture is quickly changing around, and we have no intention of letting it slip by us. We've lost two years, and we have a complete sophomore and freshman class here, including transfer students, that have not experienced a full campus. And we do intend on providing that for our students this year.

This year, SGA will be working with resource and cultural centers specifically to better promote courses and programs offered to students and to supply their student organizations and advisory boards with the necessary resources to pull off their program. This does mean we'll be supporting them with other logistical resources. Financial resources is also in the question. But, like I said, we would love to better promote these resources out to students so that these numbers do go up in the future.

Finally, I'd like to let it be known that moving forward this year, we'll be taking a more active role in the community, itself; specifically areas directly tied to student residents and social activities around DeKalb and the NIU campus as a whole. With the continued threat of COVID, growing safety concerns and/or worries that NIU may be shown in a bad light, we'll be looking to engage impactful dialog with community leaders and organizations who have a similar goal in community building and networking as we continue to enforce NIU's Protect the Pack Plan. While it's exciting to see the growing social atmosphere return to the campus, we're also aware of the dangers of us losing our senses too early in the semester could pose. So, we are dedicated in assisting the university with this.

The Student Government Association, I'd just like to remind you, remains dedicated to providing students with the best college experience possible. And in order to do so, the SGA looks forward to moving forward with you all as a university together. Thank you. [applause].

P. Chomentowski: Thank you, Devlin.

D. Douglass: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Dallas Douglass. As stated, I am the speaker of the NIU SGA Senate. As President Collins summarized all of SGA's goals fairly well, I'm just going to echo his thoughts. We're excited to get to work this semester after 18 months of virtual senate. As for senate-specific business, Speaker Emeritus Brad Beyer's new senate seat model passed last year, and it allows for more direct representation from colleges on the Student Senate. I'm working on filling all of those seats. We've seen a pretty dramatic increase in students' desire to get involved in SGA, and it's just a matter of harnessing it at this point.

And finally, I'm seeking engagement from faculty and leaders, like yourselves. If any of you would like to give a presentation at one of our 5 p.m. Sunday senate meetings, please let me know. Thank you. [applause]

G. Operating Staff Council – Holly Nicholson, President – report

P. Chomentowski: All right, we will move on to Operating Staff Council. Natasha, do you have a report?

N. Johnson: No report.

H. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Felicia Bohanon, President – report

P. Chomentowski: Supportive Professional Staff Council, Felicia. She's not here, and we have no report.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. [Policy Library](#) – Comment on Proposed Policies (right-hand column on web page)
- B. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- C. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- D. [Minutes](#), Baccalaureate Council
- E. [Minutes](#), Board of Trustees
- F. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- G. [Minutes](#), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- H. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- I. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council
- 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
- Q. [2020-21 Annual Reports](#)
- R. FS 2021-22 dates: Sep 1, Sep 29, Oct 27, Nov 17, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 30, Apr 27

P. Chomentowski: One thing I want to call your attention to. At the bottom of your packet, section R, has our dates for the other Faculty Senate meetings for the rest of the academic 2021-22 year. We will be meeting in this room for the rest of the year, for right now.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

P. Chomentowski: With that being said, I think we can adjourn the meeting. Can I have someone from the group to adjourn the meeting today, and a second, please?

G. Slotsve: So moved.

D. Collins: Second.

P. Chomentowski: All in favor, say aye.

Members: Aye.

P. Chomentowski: No for opposed. Abstain. All right, adjournment is passed. Good meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.