

MINUTES

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 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: Bohanon, Chomentowski, Collins, Creed, Demir, Grund, Hunter, Marsh, McConkie, McGowan, Montana, Nicholson (for Birch), Slotsve

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Birch

I. CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate (FS) President **P. Chomentowski** called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

D. McConkie moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **B. Creed**. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2021 MINUTES – Pages 2-3

I. Montana moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **H. Nicholson**. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes – 11

No – 0

Abstain – 1

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR FS STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

A. Faculty Senate to meet virtually on January 26, 2022.

Members discussed the fact that, if the on-campus COVID-19 surveillance positivity rate is at 8% or higher for any given week, NIU faculty will have the option to determine if their individual classes will meet in person or online for the following week – and the impact this could have on a decision for Faculty Senate to meet in person or virtually. Points raised included:

- If the positivity rate is at 8% or higher, it would be challenging to achieve quorum for an in-person meeting.
- Communication about the meeting modality should take place by the Friday preceding the FS meeting in order to give members time to plan accordingly.
- Convening Faculty Senate as an in-person meeting during a week when the positivity rate is at or above 8% and university faculty are not, per collective bargaining agreement, not compelled to teach in-person, could be seen as a conflict.
- This week's positivity rate will be reported by late Sunday, Jan. 23. Based on that data, a decision on the modality of the January 26, 2022, FS meeting will be determined by Monday, Jan. 23.

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

A review of the January 26, 2022, draft FS agenda included the following points:

- Human Resource Services Senior Associate Vice President Bill Hodson will present an HRS overview.
- Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award nomination information will be shared.
- Members will be asked to approve the appointment of Therese Arado and Linda Saborío to serve on the Ombudsperson Search Committee.
- A proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Articles 2, 8 and 14 will be presented for a first reading. It was noted that this proposal has been updated since it failed to be approved during the fall semester. **S. Marsh** suggested that language in the introduction box of the proposal be updated to more specifically explain that United Faculty Alliance President Kerry Ferris suggested revised language, which has now been incorporated into the first paragraph of Article 14 of the proposal. There was consensus among the members in support of Marsh's suggestion.

- Reports are anticipated from Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, FS/UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee, FS-Social Justice Committee, Student Government Association and Operating Staff Council.

D. McConkie moved to approve the January 26, 2022, draft FS agenda per above discussion, seconded by **G. Slotsve**. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

S. Marsh moved to adjourn, seconded by **H. Nicholson**. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.