

## **MINUTES**

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 3 p.m.  
Altgeld Hall 225  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Birch, Chomentowski, Demir, Grund, Hunter, Marsh, McConkie, McGowan, Montana, Slotsve

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bohanon, Creed, Collins

**OTHERS PRESENT:** E. Fredericks

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was verified.

### **III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Z. Birch** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **D. McConkie**. Motion passed.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2022, MINUTES – Pages 2-3**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **VI. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF FACULTY SENATE DRAFT AGENDA – attached packet**

A review of the draft agenda included the following points:

- Provost's Announcements – Provost Ingram has offered to bring regular updates to, and take questions from, the Faculty Senate. There was consensus that this could be a useful standing item on the FS agenda.
- The draft Anti-Racism Statement will be presented, and feedback will be invited.

- Strategic Enrollment Management 2.0 will be presented by Provost Ingram.
- Nominations for 2022-23 Faculty Senate president will be taken from the floor.
- A proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 2, requiring that candidates for Faculty Senate president be tenured, will be presented for a first reading.
- Reports are anticipated from Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, Social Justice Committee, FS/UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee, Student Government Association.

**Z. Birch** moved to approve the draft agenda per above discussion, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

## **VII. ITEMS FOR FS STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

### **A. Review of Student Evaluation of Instruction**

The FS Steering Committee (FSSC) members reviewed reports related to the five-year review of the Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) Policy, as well as a draft proposal for revisions to the existing policy. Discussion included the following points:

- Addressing bias with student evaluations – The FSSC agreed with the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee’s (FSPC) recommendation that more research on the effects of including, and best practices in crafting, an anti-bias statement, is needed before including such a statement in the SEI Policy. The FSSC members agreed with the FSPC’s recommendation that department and school personnel committees and college councils be urged to discuss and adopt policies to address student evaluation bias, including limiting, but not eliminating, the weight given to SEI in personnel processes.
- Standardized set of evaluation questions – The FSSC agreed with the FSPC’s recommendation that each college create one standard set of questions for use across the college but allow departments or individual faculty to add their own small number of custom questions to that standard college set. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be permitted to create three sets of standardized questions, one for each division: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences.
- Online vs. paper – The FSSC agreed with the FSPC’s recommendation to change the word, “permitted,” to “recommended” when referring to the use of online SEI.

- Response rate – The FSSC agreed with the FSPC’s recommendation that students no longer be allowed to improve their grades by responding to SEI. In addition, the hope was expressed that a simple SEI app be developed so that students can easily use their phones to complete their SEI during class time if the faculty member chooses to use in-class time for this purpose. The current Blackboard-based SEI format is not user friendly when accessed by a mobile phone.
- The draft proposal for revisions to the existing SEI policy will be updated per the above discussion. **P. Chomentowski** will review the updated proposal with Provost Ingram on March 25 and will update members at the next FSSC meeting.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**S. Marsh** moved to adjourn, seconded by **D. McConkie**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.