

MINUTES

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 225
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Abdel-Motaleb, Birch, Bohanon, Chomentowski, Collins, Creed, Hunter, Marsh, McConkie, McGowan, Montana, Petges, Slotsve

I. CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate (FS) President **P. Chomentowski** called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

G. Slotsve moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **I. Montana**. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 MINUTES – Pages 2-3

G. Slotsve moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **F. Bohanon**. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR FS STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

President Freeman will present the University Goals to the Board of Trustees on November 18. P. Erickson will provide the BOT web page address to access the virtual meeting.

Concern was raised regarding the inability to hire and retain civil service staff at NIU, due to non-competitive wages. It was acknowledged that this is a long-standing issue, which impacts many departments at NIU. Jeffry Royce and Holly Nicholson raised this same issue at the October 6 University Council meeting. What are the details contributing to this situation at NIU? Why are NIU's civil service compensation rates lower than those at many other Illinois universities?

[Integrated Media Services is being replaced by R.R. Donnelley](#), which will be an online printing service. A concern was expressed regarding old copy/print equipment in some departments. How will R.R. Donnelley deliver print jobs to the client? Can exams still be printed?

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

A review of the October 27, 2021 draft FS agenda included the following points:

- FS will meet in the Altgeld Hall Auditorium on October 27.
- Tim Paquette and Brian Smith will present on Student, Faculty and Staff Wellbeing and Resources.
- Updates to the 2021-22 FS standing committee rosters will be approved via the consent agenda.
- Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws Articles 2, 8 and 14 will be presented for second reading and vote; the proposal has been updated based on first reading feedback received at the September 29 FS meeting. Following discussion, there was consensus among the FS-Steering Committee members to further update proposed language in the first paragraph from “...related to their terms and conditions of employment...” to “...covered by a collective bargaining agreement...”
- Reports are anticipated from NIU’s representative to the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE and from the Student Government Association.

B. McGowan moved to approve the FS October 27 draft agenda per above discussion, seconded by **Z. Birch**. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

G. Slotsve moved to adjourn, seconded by **S. Marsh**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.