MINUTES

Faculty Senate-University Council Rules, Governance and Elections Committee
Tuesday, February 22, 1 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 125
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Chen, Chomentowski (for Creed), Cripe, Maki, Martin, Nicholson, O’Grady (for Rogers), Olson, Sharp, Stange (for Penkrot)

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Creed, Collins, Penkrot, Rogers, Timko

OTHERS PRESENT: Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

FS-UC Rules Governance and Elections (RGE) Committee chair, H. Nicholson, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

M. Stange moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by J. Olson. H. Nicholson proposed to change the order of the first two working group reports to: A. Data Collection, followed by B. Resource Development. Motion to approve the agenda as amended passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 27, 2022, MINUTES – Pages 2-4

K. Martin moved to approve the minutes, seconded by G. Chen. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Data Collection Working Group report

S. Sharp presented student survey findings. The committee feedback included the following points:
The survey data shows that cyberbullying might not be as pervasive as previously thought, but it does exist, can lead to harmful consequences and must be addressed.

Was the survey sample big enough (237 undergraduate and 152 graduate students)?

Focus should remain on offering resources as opposed to creating policies that have little potential for enforcement. The ability to find tools, such as through a resource web page, is likely more helpful to a cyberbullying victim than a policy.

Workshops on cyberbullying, and how to avoid being victimized by it, could be a helpful resource.

Many students might not feel entitled to make use of resources. Repeated encouragement to seek assistance might be necessary.

Women are by far more likely to experience unwanted sexting. The NIU Ethics and Compliance Office, through Title IX compliance, would be a resource for those experiencing this situation. How do we share this information with the NIU community?

In addition to specific cyberbullying resources, how do we help students to become aware of existing mental health resources on campus?

For many, cyberbullying has become a fact of life. And many others don’t even realize they are a victim of cyberbullying. How can we help the NIU community understand what cyberbullying is and how to report it?

Does the academic department or other local level also have a role to play in helping the NIU community become aware of cyberbullying resources?

A similar survey for NIU faculty and staff could be helpful. S. Shane will facilitate one and report results.

B. Resource Development Working Group report

H. Nicholson presented a draft Cyberbullying Resources website. Discussion included the following points:

The intent is to have the website link from a variety of places on the website, and the content should contain related keywords to enable interested people to find the resources through an online search.
• A cyberbullying definition will be developed, which will complement, and align with, the definition currently being developed for the Student Code of Conduct. Examples of cyberbullying also will be included to enhance the definition. The proposed definition will be shared with committee members for feedback.

• It can be difficult to differentiate between cyberbullying and online harassment; and, as a result, both terms will be address on the website. Trolling also will be defined.

• Resources for someone who knows someone who is being cyberbullied also might be helpful.

• The current webpage draft design includes three subpages: What to Do; Campus Contacts and Resources; Learn More.

• Additional messaging can be achieved through signage across campus, information sharing during student orientation, social media groups, and Student Affairs.

• The link to the draft webpage will be shared with committee members following this meeting.

C. Reviewing Current Policies Working Group report

There is little information on cyberbullying in currently existing NIU policies. P. Chomentowski has provided a list of existing policies to H. Nicholson. It is hoped that the list can be solidified next month.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

M. Stange moved to adjourn, seconded by D. Maki. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.