VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Boughton (for Borg), Chomentowski (for Chen), Collins, Creed, Cripe, Hunter (for Penkrot), Kim (for Olson), Maki, Martin, Nicholson, Sharp, Timko

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Borg, Chen, Olson, Penkrot

OTHERS PRESENT: Demaray, Gunkel

OTHERS ABSENT: Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections (RGE) Committee Chair H. Nicholson called the meeting to order.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

M. Timko moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by D. Maki. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2020 MINUTES – Pages 2-3

S. Sharp moved to approve the minutes, seconded by B. Creed. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Charge for 2021-22: Cyberbullying website and policy

Example site:
Trolling Attacks on Scholars – Executive Officer Action – Office of the Provost (illinois.edu)

1. Presentation by Michelle Demaray and David Gunkel regarding cyberbullying research.

M. Demaray and D. Gunkel presented summary points on their research. Committee members discussed various aspects of the project. Points included:

- Clear Definition is important: Includes three core features: repeated, intended to cause harm, power differential.
- Cyberbullying often takes place on social media, text messaging, instant messaging, online forums, email, online gaming.
- Less prevalent than face-to-face bullying.
- Different from traditional bullying: can be anonymous, can’t escape it, wide audience.
- Consequences overlap: anxiety, depression, linked to suicidal ideation, poor grades.
- At risk groups: students with disabilities, LGBTQ, anyone who is different, social status.
- Bystanders – those who witness the bullying, including defenders, outsiders (those who ignore the behavior).
- Reporting procedures:
  o Can reports be made anonymously?
  o Who receives those reports?
  o What are the procedures for response/referral?
- Resources:
  o What steps can the individual take immediately (such as keeping records of cyberbullying)?
  o How can an individual report cyberbullying on social media sites?
  o Cyberbullying Research Center
  o Stopbullying.gov
- When does bullying become harassment? When bullying behavior directed at the target is based on a protected class, that behavior is then defined as harassment. Committee members debated this definition.
- Do other universities already have such policies? University of Illinois is one example.
- What related policies already exist at NIU and could be updated with cyberbullying information? Caution was advised in just creating new policies.
- Review Illinois School Code and existing state laws.
• Undertake data collection (possibly annually) so that policy development and revision is data driven. **M. Demaray** has collected data from 400 undergrads within the last couple years and is glad to share it. **S. Sharp** also can work on data collection.
• What’s the purpose in creating a website? To break the cyberbullying cycle? Lower the incident rate? Show support for victims? It was suggested that the first objective is to support victims, then other objectives can be addressed. In K-12, prevention is also a goal.

2. Identify campus stakeholders.

The following stakeholders were identified by the RGE Committee members:

• Matt Parks, Chief Information Officer
• Taylor Hayden, Associate Director of Digital Content
• Sarah Garner, Ethics and Compliance Officer
• Greg Brady, Deputy General Counsel
• Katie Davison, State Legislative Liaison
• Students (via SGA President Devlin Collins, who is on this committee)
• Chad McEvoy, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
• Union leadership – Kerry Ferris, President of United Faculty Alliance
• Jesse Perez, Director of Employee and Labor Relations

3. Establish working groups and next steps.

Three working groups were established:

• Resource Development
• Reviewing Current Policies
• Data Collection

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**S. Shane** moved to adjourn, seconded by D. Collins. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.