

TRANSCRIPT

FACULTY SENATE

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall Auditorium, 2nd Floor
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois**

Voting members present: Akst, Berke, Bohanon, Books, Buck, Campbell, Chen, Cheyney, Chomentowski, Duffin, Duffrin, Gray, Hartenhoff, Hu, Hunter, Ito, Johnson, Jong, Kim, Liberty, Marsh, May, McConkie, McGowan, McKee, Mellon, Miguel, Montana, Montgomery, Naples, Nesterov, Nicholson, Palese, Penkrot, Puckett, Qin, Rejabi, Rossetti, Scanlon, Serowka, Sharp, Slotsve, Sullivan, Vaezi, Vahabzadeh, Valentiner, Whedbee

Voting members absent: Allori, Borre, Clark, Demir, Douglass, Gors, Konen, Majeed, Mooberry, Rogers, Saborío, Saiyed, Shulman, Sirotkin

Others present: Bryan, Falkoff, Hughes, Ingram, Lee-Gordon, McEvoy, Schatteman

Others absent: Cripe, Ferguson, Groves, Jaekel

I. CALL TO ORDER

I. Montana: The time is three minutes past three, and I would like to call the meeting to order. So, welcome everyone. Today's Faculty Senate meeting on this Wednesday, April 26, 2023, is the last meeting for this academic year, 2022-2023.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

I. Montana: With that, I will move on to agenda item II., Verification of Quorum. Per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, as a public body, Faculty Senate must have a quorum of a simple majority for a meeting to convene. Pat, would you please verify that we have a quorum to proceed.

P. Erickson: We do have a quorum. And thank you again, all of our members and guests, for completing your attendance slips and leaving that at your place, and also for remembering to please go to the microphone when you have a comment or a question. And if you tell us your name and your constituency, that helps. Thanks.

I. Montana: Thank you.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

I. Montana: This brings us to item number III., adoption of the agenda for today's April 26, 2023, meeting. May I have a motion and a second to adopt the agenda?

P. Chomentowski: So moved.

D. Valentiner: Second.

I. Montana: Any discussion regarding the agenda? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

I. Montana: Any opposed? Abstentions? Thank you, the motion to adopt the agenda passes.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 29, 2023, MINUTES

I. Montana: We shall now move to item IV., to approve the minutes of the meeting from March 29, 2023. Everyone should have the agenda that Pat emailed to this body, and I'm going to allow a minute or so for folks who might need to refresh their memory.

Okay, I will entertain a motion and a second to approve the minutes.

D. Valentiner: So moved.

I. Montana: Okay, David. Second?

Unidentified: Second.

I. Montana: Any discussion, additions, deletions to the minutes? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

I. Montana: Any opposed, abstentions. Okay, the minutes are approved. Thank you, everyone.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

I. Montana: Agenda item V., Public Comment. Pat, do we have any timely requests for public comment?

P. Erickson: Sarah Marsh wants to make a comment.

S. Marsh: Ismael, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, we want you to accept this engraved clock as a token of our appreciation for your service to the Faculty Senate and faculty governance at NIU. We especially thank you for serving in a leadership role this year and, for over three years, being critical

to the establishment of the Faculty Senate Social Justice Committee. I know I'm not alone in thanking you for your service, but also for the positive spirit you bring to everything you do. Thank you, Ismael, for your service.

I. Montana: I am very humbled; I am very touched. I wish I would have brought some Kleenex, because when I start crying, I don't stop easily. So, maybe that's better that I don't have it here. Thank you very, very much. I really appreciate it. Now I'm lost, I don't know where we left off.

VI. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. Montana: Okay, we move on to agenda item VI., Faculty Senate President's Announcements. We don't have a packed agenda, so I hope that we will get our business accomplished in time for the body to go out and enjoy this pristine start of the spring weather. Before we get going, I do want to point out two agenda items beforehand: the first being an overview presentation we're going to have from Dr. Alicia Schatteman, director of the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies, who is back in this body to present and share information on the Huskie Closet. Given my relationship with the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies as a faculty associate, I can attest firsthand how much my colleague, Dr. Schatteman, cares about the Huskie community, and for that I am very pleased that we're going to have her talk about one of the programs I consider to be a difference-maker to the Huskie community.

The second agenda item I want to point out beforehand is that today this body will elect the next Faculty Senate president, whose term will begin July 1, 2023. And as was proposed by this body back in 2021, faculty who serve in the role of Faculty Senate president are given the opportunity to submit an annual report summarizing the work and accomplishments during their terms. You will find the link to my annual report under item XIII in your agenda packet. You will also find a report by our faculty personnel advisor, Dr. Carrie Kortegast.

And before I move on to our next agenda item, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support. This is my turn to reciprocate to this body. I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent such an important body filled with dedicated colleagues and to be able to work with various constituencies of the university to provide a faculty voice in shared governance. For sure, I have had a chance to work more regularly with some of the Faculty Senate standing committees than others. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee is one. The Faculty Senate Social Justice Committee is another. And occasionally, also the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee, including numerous meetings and discussions with Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Dr. Chad McEvoy, who chairs the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee.

And, of course, some of the issues that were deliberated in this body, such as concerns over campus safety, were resolved by listening to faculty who cared about our welfare. So, thank you all for your demonstrated commitment and for your service on behalf of our faculty. I am especially grateful to Patricia Erickson, whose wisdom and knowledge has guided me and made this job an incredible learning experience. And of course, to our parliamentarian, Ferald Bryan, thank you for our guidance with the several proposed revisions to our bylaws that came to this floor.

And as a final thought, I want to reiterate how grateful I am, as well, for the opportunity. I have gotten to work with the administration and to see more clearly and closely how the university functions. The Faculty Senate Social Justice Committee is continuing to work with the administration through implementation of the prioritized recommendations this body has charged that committee with. The academic affairs; diversity, equity and inclusion; and institutional racism working groups are actively engaged in this endeavor. And especially, revisions to Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 8, in regard to our tenure and promotion process. I am very convinced that President Freeman and Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram have the best interest of all faculty at heart, and I'm sure that our incoming Faculty Senate president will continue to work with the administration and shared governance to advance the interests, not just of our faculty, but all of our Huskie community.

VII. PROVOST'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. Montana: And with this, I would like to move on to agenda item VII, and ask if Provost Ingram has any announcements she would like to make.

B. Ingram: Thank you, and I guess I'm continuing a theme here. What I wanted to do was just take a minute to thank some of the leadership that has guided the university over the last few years and thank them for their service publicly here in front of Faculty Senate. We have three deans who are completing their terms: Bev Henry, who served as interim dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences for a little bit longer than, I think, she might have expected, but has done a terrific job; Don Peterson, who's finishing up his term as dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology; and then as you probably found out today, Balaji Rajagopalan, who has accepted an offer to be dean at the University of Missouri, but he's been in his position for seven years. So, I wanted to make sure that we acknowledge the contributions that those deans have made to the leadership team.

And then in my office, Omar Ghrayeb who will be returning to a faculty position this fall after innumerable activities related to student success and student retention and student enrollment and just attention to the success of our undergraduate students; Chad McEvoy who is moving to a well-deserved deanship at Illinois State University and has worked very closely with Ismael and others in this room on faculty issues, making sure that the faculty are well supported and well served by my office. And then finally, Ismael, who has been an amazing partner this year. He's thoughtful. He is a deep thinker. He's collaborative. And I've really enjoyed our conversations. When we have a conversation and I ask him a question, he always sort of pauses and takes a breath, and then says something that's really thoughtful, really to the point and really helps me think about an issue from a faculty perspective. So, it's been a great partnership this year, Ismael. And I'm sure Ben will be a terrific successor to you, but I think we accomplished this year in a really collaborative and thoughtful way. So, if you'd all join me in just thanking the people who have led both on my administrative team, but on the faculty side as well.

And then I just wish you – we’re coming up on what, two weeks, we’ve got left. I want to just wish you all well as you grade finals and read papers and do your final defenses. And then in a couple weeks, we’ll watch our students walk across the stage, shake the president’s hand and become graduates of this great university – my favorite time of the year. I hope to see a lot of you there, thanks.

I. Montana: Thank you, Provost Ingram.

VIII. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

A. [Huskie Closet](#)

Alicia Schatteman

Associate Professor and Director, Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies

I. Montana: We will move on to agenda item VIII., Items for Faculty Senate Consideration, and we have two items. Agenda item VIII. A. will be the presentation by Dr. Alicia Schatteman, associate professor and director of the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies on Huskie Closet.

A. Schatteman: Thanks for having me again. The Huskie Closet story – how many of you have heard of the Huskie Closet, just by a show of hands. Great. So, you may not know kind of how it started, and this isn’t a long story, I promise. We had a Swap Don’t Shop event going on for several years, mainly sponsored by NIU Recreation, a Go Green NIU Team here on campus in the fieldhouse. And then COVID happened, and a lot of clothes were stored in the fieldhouse, and so two students came forward who served on the Student Government Association – one of them was an NGO major at the time – and said, would you guys want to do something with this? Is this something you’re interested in? So, we did a little bit of a crowdfunding campaign to create some funds for interns to kind of kick it off. And so, we had kind of a soft opening during fall of 2021. And we enlisted a couple of students to help us. One was Michelle Nunez Salas; she was an NGO major at the time. She graduated in spring of ’21. She designed the logos and stuff that you see up here. She had designed Black Lives Matters stickers and was raising funds for that, so we tapped her on the shoulder to do that. So, she designed some of those early things, and she was also part of the 40TUDE Nonprofit consulting team at the time.

So, what is it? It’s a free clothing closet that’s open to all students, both casual and career wear, all kinds of stuff. You can volunteer there, and I’ll go through some of those opportunities. Some people don’t want to donate to certain organizations. Some people think that it’s necessarily going to go in the trash, those kind of things. So, we do really take care with everything that we get in and try to evaluate if we can use it.

The Huskie Closet is in the Chick Evans Field House; you’ve seen it probably many times probably, driving by Lucinda on the corner of Lucinda and Annie Glidden. We’re in Room 102. So, if you look at that building, that faces Lucinda; we’re immediately to the left of that entrance. And the pantry is down at the other end, when you come in on the other side. Our shopping hours match the pantry; we did that, because we’re in the same building, and we’re serving a lot of the same

students. So, they added some hours on Wednesdays, so we also added some hours this semester. So, they can change semester by semester, but right now those are our hours. This is our spring calendar that's up there. You'll see this in lots of different places on campus on bulletin boards, that kind of thing.

We also consulted with the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center to make sure we were setting up the closet as inclusively as possible. So, we use terms like women's sizing and men's sizing, to make sure that we are open to all; and we've highlighted that in all of our materials as well. We have a lot of materials when you walk in that's gender neutral, such as sweatshirts, t-shirts, all that kind of stuff, clothing, outerwear, whatever.

These are some of the statistics from our first year. I'll have our 2022-23 statistics soon. But about 700 items given away, about 100 students served over that time period, roughly 700 pounds – this is some of the data our interns are collecting – and it provided about 480 hours of paid internship hours for those students.

People can volunteer; we think it's a fun, hopefully accessible place. If you want to volunteer to be around while people are shopping, or you want to be in the back, we have all kinds of opportunities to do that. And we know there are different benefits for volunteering on campus. You can sign up for a time slot where we're open, or we can set up a separate time if you want to work in the back.

This is one of our students. We were donated some materials to get us up and running in the field house. They gave us some tables and chairs and those kinds of things. And this is one of our students sorting in the back. But there's a lot of merchandising. So, if you've ever worked in retail and have students who've worked in retail, things get messy, shelves get messy, so we're constantly going through racks making sure that everything is in good shape.

Ways for you guys to think about how you can engage with the Huskie Closet. Bring your class to shop or to volunteer. If you do have that opportunity within your class schedule, we can accommodate. We can split your group in half. Half can volunteer in the pantry and half can volunteer in the closet. You can create an assignment around the Huskie Closet. We're always looking at different research opportunities. If you want to do survey work, focus groups, volunteering, anything related to the closet. You can help raise funds for the closet. We've had groups do campaigns to raise some funds. Promote the Huskie Closet to your students and I include a statement about the Huskie Closet in my syllabus; I also have in there about the pantry. But just things that say it's free and open to any student. We're not checking IDs, but we want to make sure you are a student at NIU, but that's about it, just so we can capture that. And then we can see if students come back. Check the NIU calendar for our most up to date hours.

This is one of our NGO students. She presented at CURE. On her research that was part of the Huskie Closet, she was really interested in how student consumption of used clothing contributes to their financial sustainability. She actually won first place we just found out yesterday. So, kudos to Ally for doing that.

Some of the things that she found out – she was only tracking during fall of 2022. She was one of our volunteers that worked in the closet pretty consistently. We had about 130 guests over that fall.

Many return more than once. She wanted to determine how much students are spending on clothing. Some of our students are spending upward of \$1,000 every semester on clothing. So, we want to try to reduce some of those costs. The closet distributed shirts more than any other article of clothing. And if you have any NIU Huskie stuff, that stuff flies. We've literally had to say, you can only take one Huskie item when you're in the closet, because they go rapidly. So, if you have any old athletic wear, anything that you've outgrown, whatever, Huskie stuff goes quickly. And as I said, about 46 percent visited once; 40 percent visited at least twice; and 14 percent are consistently coming back.

We've also had a number of different clothing donations. This was a photo that was taken yesterday from the Mortenson Construction Company. They brought in their truck, which you can see behind them. They had about six big bins of clothing that they dropped off. We've worked with the Newman Center. We've worked with student organizations. So, we have a lot of clothing coming in. It needs a lot of volunteer support to sort through all that stuff. But you can drop them off at the Huskie Closet during our open hours or in our offices, 114 in Zulauf. All sizes and styles of adult clothing are accepted, things that you would typically see a student want to wear. But that can be all shapes and sizes, so that doesn't matter. And again, as I said, Huskie gear is always in demand.

We always need certain supplies, particularly hangars, cleaning supplies, racks and new plastic storage bins. As we are rotating out seasonally, we pack certain things away. When we started the closet, it really came from an environmental standpoint to kind of conserve clothing and so it would be recycled. What we also found out is that there are emergency crisis situations where students need clothing, and so we also keep new things, like socks, underwear and pajamas. So, if you do have a student in crisis, we get reference from our mental health services; but if you know a student in crisis and need some emergency clothing, let us know. All of us who are in the field house – the pantry and us – we have keys for each other. So, in an emergency, we can get you in there very quickly.

Financial support for students – we did the Huskies United campaign most recently, and that allows us to support paid internships. It's really been a focus of mine, as the director of the NGO Center, to have all of our student interns be paid, minimum of stipends, but ideally, more hourly. We do accept donations year-round through the NIU Foundation. We have a Huskie Closet Fund set up.

We are expanding – this was a photo that was, incidentally taken yesterday – into the room next door. If you're familiar with the fieldhouse, there are a lot of rooms in there that are not being used, so we're expanding into the room next door. We have some funding from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to help us with that expansion. It will give us a little bit more room for donation sorting and volunteers, and the possible addition of limited children's wear. That is something that our student parents have been asking for, is do you have any clothing available for children. So, it's not going to be a full line probably; but we'll have a little bit more room to do that.

We are hosted by NIU Athletics, so I want to make sure that I give a shout out to them. They host us in the field house, and our neighbors, the Huskie Food Pantry, ROTC and the NIU tennis team. So, that is a motley crew that's in the fieldhouse. Please come by and check us out. It's a lot of fun!

Thank you, and I'm happy to take any questions.

I. Montana: Questions? Comments?

D. McConkie: Hi, I'm Dan McConkie. I'm a professor in the College of Law, and I volunteered for the Huskie Pantry last year and just wanted to say it was an amazing experience. So grateful we provide this opportunity for NIU students. I saw lots of students coming in that were hungry, it was clear to me, and they were getting this wonderful service that we provide. So, I just wanted to thank those that work on this and the Huskie Closet. It's a wonderful service, and I hope many of us have an opportunity to check it out.

A. Schatteman: Thank you, thank you.

I. Montana: Any other questions or comments? It's so interesting that the Huskie Pantry and the Huskie Closet are in the same space, rendering the same service to our community. We are really, really grateful for all of you, your time, and the difference that you are making. And the most important thing is that we know about this and, as Dan was speaking, a question I had for Dan is like, how did you get to know about it? I'm hoping it was a result of that presentation. This is just the beginning for us to know about it and, hopefully, get involved in supporting this very important initiative. Maybe one thing that you didn't highlight: For me as an international scholar, in what way does it help our growing international student population.

A. Schatteman: Yes, often when our international students arrive, they know they're going to a colder climate; they don't exactly know what that means. So, in the fall, particularly, we're busier than we are in the spring, mainly with outerwear – everything from boots to coats, scarves, gloves, all of that stuff, we stock. So, if you have any of that winter wear hanging around, that is a big need for our international students. And then once they do come, they tend to repeat that they'll also come back again. And that's also a population where we want to serve as much as we can.

I. Montana: Well, if there are no other questions or comments, please join me in thanking Professor Schatteman.

A. Schatteman: Thank you very much.

B. Recognition of Faculty Senate members who have completed their service

I. Montana: We'll move on to agenda item VIII.B., and that is recognition of Faculty Senate members who have completed their service. As the semester draws to a close, we want to take a moment to thank all of you who have served on Faculty Senate this year, and most especially to our members who are completing their term at the close of this spring semester. It takes time and effort to attend the meetings and to do the work of shared governance. We are grateful for our faculty, instructors and staff and students who serve this body. If you are rotating off like me, please stand up for acknowledgement. Thank you. Anyone? I thank everyone for your service.

IX. FS-UC RULES, GOVERNANCE AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE – report
Lori Hartenhoff, FS Liaison/Spokesperson

A. Election of 2023-24 FS president/UC chair per FS Bylaws, Article 2

1. Ben Creed

I. Montana: We will now move to agenda item IX., Faculty Senate-University Council Rules, Governance and Elections Committee. At this point, I want to invite Lori Hartenhoff, FS liaison/spokesperson, to walk us through this agenda item.

L. Hartenhoff: Thank you. First, we are going to elect the president. The nominee is Professor Ben Creed, and the acceptance letter was emailed to you last week, and it's also in your agenda packet. For this, we're going to use our clickers, 1 or A is yes; 2 or B is no; and 3 or C is abstain. And Pat will lead us through that.

P. Erickson: If you're a voting member or if you're here today as an alternate for a voting member, we ask you to just go to the back and get a clicker. I think we all remember, you don't need to turn them on or off. You just click 1 if your vote is yes, you accept this nominee; 2 if your vote is no; 3 if you abstain. We need a simple majority for approval, and I'm going to open the poll now. Maybe another few seconds. Okay, I'm going to close the poll. And that clearly passes.

Yes – 41 votes

No – 3 votes

Abstain – 1 vote

I. Montana: Is Ben here with us? Ben informed me that he was not 100 percent sure if he would be able to make it to accept his election. But nevertheless, he showed his appreciation for the trust and confidence this body has placed in him. We will convey the message and, again, congratulations to Ben for being elected to serve as the next Faculty Senate president. We owe him our support and all the best in the work that is ahead in representing the interests of this body.

B. Committees of the University 2023-24 – Approve faculty candidates running unopposed to serve on committees of the university – walk-in

L. Hartenhoff: The next item of business is to elect faculty members who are running unopposed to serve on various committees of the university. At your table there is a list, and they're also on the screen. May I have a motion and a second to approve those faculty candidates who are running unopposed.

H. Nicholson: So moved.

D. Valentiner: Second.

L. Hartenhoff: Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.

Members: Aye.

L. Hartenhoff: Opposed? Abstain? The motion passes, thank you.

- C. Committees of the University 2023-24 – Election of faculty candidates running opposed. Following the meeting, a Qualtrics ballot will be distributed to the tenured/tenure track faculty, clinical faculty and instructor members of Faculty Senate.

L. Hartenhoff: Next is candidates running opposed. Following the meeting, a Qualtrics ballot will be distributed to tenured/tenure track faculty, clinical faculty and instructor members of Faculty Senate.

- D. Faculty Senate Personnel Committee 2023-24 – Election of representatives for terms to begin in fall 2023. Those elected to serve on the FSPC must be tenured faculty members of Faculty Senate. Following the meeting, a Qualtrics ballot will be distributed to the tenured/tenure-track faculty members of Faculty Senate.

L. Hartenhoff: Item D is to elect tenured faculty members to serve on the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee for terms to begin in fall 2023. To complete this process, Pat will distribute another Qualtrics ballot via email following today’s meeting. So, you can watch to receive that soon, as well. Please note that only the College of Health and Human Sciences, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences need to hold Faculty Senate Personnel Committee elections at this time. So, only those faculty representatives will receive the Qualtrics ballot for their college.

That’s it, thank you.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Proposed amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws,
Article 4.8, University Assessment Panel
SECOND READING/VOTE
Jason Rhode, Associate Vice Provost for Teaching, Learning and Digital Education

I. Montana: We’ll move now to agenda item X. We have one agenda item, X.A., proposed amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 4.8, University Assessment Panel. We have with us Carrie Zack, who is going to represent Jason Rhode in overseeing the second reading of this item, to be followed by the vote. Is Carrie here?

P. Erickson: Carrie, are you here? Want to come up to the front maybe and just introduce briefly what the goals are of this, and then answer any questions if anyone has one. Thanks.

C. Zack: Sure, thank you. This is my first time at Faculty Senate. The UAP revised the bylaws this year, basically to address the changes in the leadership of the office and those members who were specifically referenced by their position in the bylaws, as well as to try to bring more student representatives, or to ease the student representation process – we’ve had struggles getting students

to be nominated on the panel in the past, so there's some tweaking of the language to include if there is an opportunity to have students who are both graduate or both undergraduate, where in the past, we said one of each. We didn't want to limit ourselves to one or no representation in that regard. Those are the main things I think we changed. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to address them, about specific items. I think we were also trying to be more inclusive of faculty where we eliminated the reference to tenure-track as a qualification.

I. Montana: The attachment containing the information on this proposed bylaw revision can be found on pages 11 through 13.

T. Buck: Hi, I'm Todd Buck from the School of Art and Design. You said that it's adding the non-tenured faculty as eligible to serve on these committees, and it does seem to me that, while they could do an excellent job on these committees, it does seem like the tenure-track faculty are getting put on more and more committees, and their time needs to be a little more protected when they're trying to get their research in order for tenure. So, I'm just kind of concerned that it could be a direction where we're putting tenure track faculty on more and more committees due to lack of maybe new hires and titling it something else, like, look, we're including you in this, instead of, wow, you should be working on your research. It's just a concern.

I. Montana: Any other questions or comments?

P. Erickson: It sounds like we're ready to vote. Again, if you are a voting member – but I have to stop myself – we need a motion and a second, don't we, and we didn't get that. So, let's have that first, a motion and a second to approve. Holly and Pete?

I. Montana: Okay, Holly [Nicholson] and Pete [Chomentowski].

P. Erickson: Okay, now if you are a voting member, we're going to get the clickers out again. 1 is yes, you agree with the motion to approve the proposed amendments. 2 is no, you do not agree with the proposed amendment. And 3 is abstain. We need two-thirds of those voting to pass this motion, and if you abstain, you're not part of that equation because you are choosing not to vote.

Another few seconds. Okay, we'll close the ballot, and that clearly passes.

Yes – 33 votes

No – 7 votes

Abstain – 5 votes

I. Montana: Okay, thank you, this proposed amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws, Article 4.8, passes as Pat indicated.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

I. Montana: Okay, we'll move to agenda item XI, new business, but we do not have new business.

XII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – no report
Linda Saborío, NIU representative to FAC-IBHE

I. Montana: So, this takes us now to agenda item XII., reports from councils, boards and standing committees. XII. A., Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, Linda does not have a report.

- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report
Felicia Bohanon, Holly Nicholson, Ismael Montana
Katy Jaekel, Karen Whedbee, Brad Cripe

I. Montana: We will move on to agenda item XII. B., University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, members of which include Felicia Bohanon, Holly Nicholson, Ismael Montana, Katy Jaekel, Karen Whedbee and Brad Cripe. I'll provide a very brief summary based on the BOT's last meeting that took place on April 3, 2023. That meeting featured six action items directly from the president's report, including the university recommendation for the trustees to approve a four-year agreement with NIU tenure and tenure-track faculty, United Faculty Alliance, Local 4100 of the University Professionals of Illinois. This agreement is retroactive, effective from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2026. As we speak, this has already taken place, and there have been communication on several fronts.

The second action item was the university's recommendation for the board's approval of dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences. This recommendation followed a national search that culminated in the hiring of Dr. Kelly Fiala, who accepted an offer to be the dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Also, after postponing a vote affecting law student tuition and fees from a previous meeting, the trustees approved the university's recommendation to increase fees to cover the cost of operation. And, as a result, law students will see an increase in health and wellness charges by 25 cents; university advisement fee for capital improvement charges and transportation access by 45 and 70 cents respectively. Law excellence charges will increase by \$40, while tuition will remain the same, thereby seeing a zero percent increase.

Other action items that were deliberated at the Board of Trustees meeting include the sale of the real estate property the board had previously determined as surplus to the university's needs and authorized to be sold under the provisions of the Illinois Property Control Act 30 ILCS 605. A reasonable offer for the lease/purchase of this property arrangement has been tentatively developed with the DeKalb Community Unit School District 428. And upon the university's recommendation, this was approved at the BOT previous meeting on March 7.

These are just highlights of some of the action items that were deliberated at the BOT meeting on April 4. All reports and minutes of these and all BOT meetings can be accessed using the link provided in your agenda packet in the information items. The next BOT meeting will be May 11.

C. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – no report

I. Montana: With that, we will go to the next agenda item. That would be XII.C., Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee, no report.

D. Social Justice Committee – report
David Valentiner, Chair

I. Montana: XII.D., Social Justice Committee, David Valentiner.

D. Valentiner: Thank you, Ismael. I just want to say that we are in the process of preparing our year-end report, which is essentially just the status of our work, the accomplishments of the past year and our anticipation recommendations for next steps. I note that for the academic affairs working group, that includes the formidable work that they've done with the individual colleges and coming up with recommendations for bylaw changes. And I know for the DEI group that there is going to be a proposal that we're hoping to see come to fruition early next year having to do with some type of festival or convention, along those lines. And I'm not sure what we decided in terms of when we were going to send that out, whether that was going to happen as we submit it or immediately prior to the beginning of next year. In a way, beginning of next year will make it fresh in people's minds. Do you remember what we decided on that?

I. Montana: The proposal was revised as a standing annual festival and has been submitted to the provost.

D. Valentiner: Right. When do you think the report from the Social Justice Committee will be distributed to the faculty senators? Will that be at the beginning of next year then?

I. Montana: Yes.

D. Valentiner: Okay. That's all.

I. Montana: Thank you.

E. FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – no report
Lori Hartenhoff, FS/RGE Liaison/Spokesperson

I. Montana: Agenda item XII.E., we've already covered that.

F. Student Government Association – report
Dallas Douglass, Speaker of the Senate

I. Montana: So, we'll go straight to F. That is the Student Government Association. Do we have any representatives from the Student Government Association?

- G. Operating Staff Council – report
Holly Nicholson, President
Natasha Johnson, OSC/FS representative

I. Montana: The next agenda item then would be the Operating Staff Council, Holly Nicholson.

H. Nicholson: My terms on Faculty Senate and Operating Staff Council are concluding, and as Ismael and I like to call it, we're quiet-quitting; we're not quitting. But I wanted to thank you all for being outstanding colleagues and educators and for being so welcoming and inclusive. And I hope to continue to work with all of you in my role – in my day job – leading the Web team. And I'm sure my council wants me to remember to tell you that we're in election season. So, please encourage the staff that you work with to vote and have a part in saying who represents them in rooms like these.

Also, we've given almost \$4,000 in grants to the emergency fund to date, which is amazing. But that's depleted our funds, so we're back to fundraising. If you have any questions about the fund, please let me know.

And then, finally, tomorrow are the staff awards, so please support staff if you are able to. Thanks.

I. Montana: Thank you, Holly. You've been a great working partner. As I said in my remarks, you and Felicia, you guys were the face of shared governance that I had the pleasure of working with. And in the course of that, came to appreciate the inner workings of the university. So, thank you very, very much for that.

- H. Supportive Professional Staff Council – report
Felicia Bohanon, President
Andrew Rogers, SPSC/FS representative

I. Montana: The last agenda item is XII.G., Supportive Professional Staff Council. We do not have a report unless, Felicia, if you want to offer any remarks.

F. Bohanon: I just want to say what a pleasure it's been working with you, Ismael, as well as Holly, over the past year. I will be continuing for another year. But I just want to say what a great pleasure it's been and how much I appreciate your support as I've taken on this position this year. And so I just want to say thank you.

I just want to report two items. We are also in the process of selecting additional members to the Supportive Professional Staff Council; and so nominations went out and we're in the process within the next month of holding elections. We did award two scholarships for individuals who were supported by SPS staff, and so, those were two scholarships in the amount of \$750. Those will be awarded to students who were impacted positively or influenced by an SPS employee.

That's basically our highlights. Thank you.

I. Montana: Thank you, Felicia.

XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. [Policy Library](#) – Comment on Proposed Policies (right-hand column on web page)
- B. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- C. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- D. [Minutes](#), Baccalaureate Council
- E. [Minutes](#), Board of Trustees
- F. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- G. [Minutes](#), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- H. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- I. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council
- J. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee
- K. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- L. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- M. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- N. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee
- O. [Minutes](#), Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
- P. [Minutes](#), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
- Q. [Annual Report](#) – Faculty Senate President – Pages 14-17
- R. [Annual Report](#) – Faculty Personnel Advisor – Pages 18-19
- S. 2023-24 FS schedule: Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Nov 29, Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 27, Apr 24

I. Montana: Our next agenda item is XIII., which is information items. And as the name says, that is basically what it is, except I would like to draw your attention to two items I already mentioned. That is item XIII. Q. and R., annual reports from myself and from the faculty personnel advisor.

And the last agenda item, which is item S., is the schedule for Faculty Senate meetings for the next academic year. So, the first meeting will start in September and continue from there. So, the rest of the agenda is there as you can see.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

I. Montana: With that, we come to our last agenda item, and that is XIV., adjournment. And I would like at this point to entertain a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

P. Chomentowski: So moved.

V. Naples: Second.

I. Montana: Okay. All in favor, say aye.

Members: Aye.

I. Montana: Okay, thank you. This meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.