

## MINUTES

Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 3 p.m.  
Altgeld Hall 225  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Buck, Demir, Hunter, Kim, Liberty, Marsh, McGowan, Montana, Rogers (for Bohanon), Slagstad (for Nicholson), Valentiner

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bohanon, Douglass, Nicholson

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate (FS) President **I. Montana** called the meeting to order.

### II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

### III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**D. Valentiner** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **S. Marsh**. Motion passed.

### IV. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 19, MINUTES

**B. McGowan** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **D. Valentiner**. Motion passed.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENT

### VI. ITEMS FOR FS STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

#### A. Faculty Engagement in Shared Governance

**I. Montana** shared notes from the recent National Council of Faculty Senates webinar, in which the topic of faculty engagement in shared governance, particularly in the post-pandemic environment. FS Steering Committee response included the following points:

- Speaking in a large room to a large group can be intimidating. Are there other ways to share ideas?

- Can input be solicited via online surveys or in writing with results reported at the following meeting, or even during the meeting?
- What role could small group conversations during FS meetings play?
- Lead a presentation/discussion on the concept of shared governance at NIU.
- Sometimes just having exemplars is helpful.
- What is the goal for this engagement – To have FS members be more active in their home environment? To have FS members participate to a greater degree during meetings? To have more people on campus volunteer to serve? The goal revolves around the concept of shared governance; faculty are involved, in order to influence policy. The objective is to be present, to participate and to influence policy.
- Some are averse to adding more obligations to their schedule. When only a small percentage of the whole participate, this leads to burnout.
- Often it comes down to the incentive for participation.
- Until you're personally involved in some facet of shared governance, you don't even know it exists.
- NIU doesn't host a regular campus-wide faculty meeting, as some institutions do.
- Faculty look to their departmental faculty senator as the person running interference, so they don't have to deal with the issues. Often the faculty senator's role becomes one of protecting the faculty from getting engaged, and this is the opposite of the stated objective.

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

A review of the draft FS agenda included the following points:

- President Lisa Freeman will bring a presentation on the draft 2023 University Goals.
- Jeanne Baxter, Student Involvement and Leadership Development, will bring a presentation on the Huskie Food Pantry.
- Reports are anticipated from the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, FS-Social Justice Committee, Student Government Association and possibly Supportive Professional Staff Council.

- As part of the pilot project being undertaken to encourage greater engagement of the FS body during committee reports, several committee leaders provided specific topics or questions to be posted to the body prior to the FS meeting and within the FS agenda:
  - FAC-IBHE will ask about the impact of early college credit, and also about faculty burnout.
  - FS-SJC will ask for input regarding any concerns related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

**S. Marsh** moved to approve the draft FS agenda per above discussion, seconded by **T. Buck**. Motion passed.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**D. Valentiner** moved to adjourn, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.