

**PUBLIC NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 3 p.m.**

**Altgeld Hall Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Northern Illinois University**

**DeKalb, Illinois**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

**III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2023, MINUTES – Pages 4-7**

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VI. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VII. PROVOST’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Proposal to amend Guidelines and Principles for Establishment of the Academic Calendar and selected academic calendars and to recommend that General Election Day be designated as an administrative closure day on University Holiday Schedules – Pages 8-15

**IX. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION**

- A. Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action and its Impact on NIU  
Bryan Perry, Vice President and General Counsel
- B. Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: It’s All in the Name  
Carol Sumner, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer  
Jade Silva Tovar, Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Joe Flynn, Executive Director Equity and Inclusion

## **X. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – report  
Linda Saborío, NIU representative to FAC-IBHE
- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report  
Felicia Bohanon, Natasha Johnson, Ben Creed  
Larissa Garcia (Katy Jaekel fall 2023 alternate), Karen Whedbee, Brad Cripe
- C. Baccalaureate Council – report  
Amanda Ferguson, Chair  
Alicia Schatteman, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – report
- E. Social Justice Committee – no report
- F. FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – no report  
Emily McKee, FS/RGE Liaison/Spokesperson
- G. Student Government Association – report  
Olivia Newman, SGA President  
Cole Hensley, Speaker of the Senate
- H. Operating Staff Council – report  
Natasha Johnson, President
- I. Supportive Professional Staff Council – report  
Felicia Bohanon, President
- J. University Benefits Committee – report  
Cynthia Campbell, FS Liaison

## **XI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. [Policy Library](#) – Comment on Proposed Policies
- B. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- C. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- D. [Minutes](#), Baccalaureate Council
- E. [Minutes](#), Board of Trustees
- F. [Minutes](#), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- G. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- H. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council
- I. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee
- J. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- K. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council

- L. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- M. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee
- N. [Minutes](#), Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
- O. [Minutes](#), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
- P. 2023-24 FS schedule: Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Nov 29, Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 27, Apr 24
- Q. [Fall 2023 Commencement](#)
  - Graduate Commencement – Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023
  - Undergraduate Commencement – Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

## MINUTES

### FACULTY SENATE

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 3 p.m.

Altgeld Hall Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, Illinois

#### [Full transcript](#)

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Arado, Atkins, Barrett, Bohanon, Books, Boswell, Brain, Campbell, Creed, Duffin, Finch, Fotovat, Guzman, Ito, Johnson, Jong, Kim, Kreitzer, Lampi, Luo, Marsh, McGowan, McKee, Mellon, Naples, Nesterov, Nyunt, Porter, Qin, Salimi, Scanlon, Sharp, Sirotkin, Swedlow, Vahabzadeh, Vahedian, Valentiner, Van Wienen, Wang, Whedbee, Xie

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chomentowski, Demir, Graves, Harris, Hartenhoff, Liberty, Martinez, Rajabi, Ross, Rossetti, Ruetsche, Slotsve, Staikidis, Vaezi

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bryan, Buhrow, Elish-Piper, Falkoff, Fiala, Freeman, Hughes, Middlemist, Streb, Sumner, Swingley

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Cripe, Ferguson, Jaekel, Saborío

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Faculty Senate President **B. Creed** called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

#### **II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was verified.

#### **III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**D. Valentiner** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **C. Campbell**. Motion passed.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2023, MINUTES**

**T. Arado** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **D. Valentiner**. Motion Passed.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **VI. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **VII. PROVOST'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Proposal to amend Guidelines and Principles for Establishment of the Academic Calendar  
Laurie Elish-Piper, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

**T. Arado** moved to approve the proposal, seconded by **S. Marsh**. Motion passed.  
28 – yes  
8 – no  
2 - abstain

- B. Proposal to amend 2023-24 academic calendar  
Laurie Elish-Piper, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

**T. Atkins** moved to approve the proposal, seconded by **J. Lampi**. Motion passed.  
37 – yes  
0 – no  
1 - abstain

## IX. ITEMS FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

- A. HLC accreditation  
Amy Buhrow, Assistant Vice Provost of Assessment and Accreditation

- B. Multiyear budgeting: an overview of the process and faculty and staff engagement in the planning and implementation

Laurie Elish-Piper  
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

George Middlemist  
Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer

- C. Executive vice president and provost position description – feedback from Faculty Senate

Lisa Freeman, NIU President  
Matt Streb, Chief Strategy Officer/Liaison for the Board of Trustees  
Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

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Larissa Garcia (Katy Jaekel fall 2023 alternate), Karen Whedbee, Brad Cripe
  
- C. Baccalaureate Council – no report  
Amanda Ferguson, Chair  
Alicia Schatteman, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
  
- D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – no report
  
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- H. Operating Staff Council – no report  
Natasha Johnson, President
  
- I. Supportive Professional Staff Council – no report  
Felicia Bohanon, President

## **XI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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Undergraduate Commencement – Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**S. Marsh** moved to adjourn, seconded by **T. Arado**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

**Proposal to amend Guidelines and Principles for Establishment of the Academic Calendar  
and selected academic calendars  
and to recommend that General Election Day be designated an administrative closure day  
on University Holiday Schedules**

Clarification of SB2123 from Illinois State Senate staff revealed that the holiday language relative to Illinois General Election Day does not apply to colleges and universities. As a result, this administrative closure day was removed from the NIU University Holiday Schedule, and also removed from the Guidelines and Principles for Establishment of the Academic Calendar.

This proposal would accomplish the following:

1. Restore General Election Day as a day of no classes in the Guidelines and Principles for Establishment of the Academic Calendar, item 5, student-faculty vacation periods and holidays.
2. Revise the reference to General Election Day in the already approved 2024-25, 2026-27, 2028-29, 2030-31 and 2032-33 academic calendars from “(university closed)” to “(no classes).”
3. Recommend to those with authority over the University Holiday Schedule to give consideration to making the General Election Day as an administrative closure day in the current and future University Holiday Schedules.

NIU is engaged in many efforts related to voter education, voter registration, and increasing voter participation rates amongst Huskies and in the broader community. While participating in the General Election has been made easier through early voting and absentee voting, the designation of the General Election Day as a no classes day provides faculty and students an opportunity for civic engagement. The no classes day would allow students and faculty, many who are commuters to the DeKalb campus, to vote in their local elections and otherwise participate in the elections. Further, having no classes on the General Election Day would provide the message that NIU values civic engagement, particularly through exercising students’ and faculty’s right to vote. While the no classes day provides greater opportunity for faculty and students to engage in the election, it does not provide the same opportunity to staff or those students who work on campus. The proposal includes the recommendation for making the General Election Day an administrative closure day, in order to ensure the opportunity extends across campus.



## **GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

1. Instruction in the fall semester will begin on the last Monday in August and end on a Saturday in December that falls between December 5 and 11. Final examinations for the fall semester will begin on the first Monday after the last day of classes and conclude on Saturday of that same week. Dates for the first day of examinations will range from December 8 to 14.

If the last Monday in August is August 29, 30 or 31, the instruction for that fall semester will begin on the fourth Monday in August and conclude on the first Saturday in December. In any of these events, final examinations will run from December 5 to 10, December 6 to 11, or December 7 to 12, respectively. Graduate commencement will be held on the Saturday that is the last day of final examination week. Undergraduate commencement will be held on the next day, which is the Sunday immediately following final examination week.

2. Instruction in the spring semester will begin on the second or third Monday in January that falls between January 11 and 17, unless this date coincides with Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (the third Monday in January). In such an event, instruction will begin on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The spring semester will conclude on a Thursday that falls between April 30 (April 29 in some leap years) and May 6. The Friday immediately after the last day of classes will be Reading Day.

University Honors Day will be included in the academic calendar so as to occur each spring on the second Sunday prior to Reading Day (two weeks before the end of the spring semester). In those years when this date is also Easter Sunday, University Honors Day will be scheduled on the third Sunday prior to Reading Day.

Final examinations for the spring semester will begin on the first Saturday after Reading Day and continue Monday through Friday of the next week. Graduate commencement will be held on the Friday that is the last day of final examination week. Undergraduate commencement will be held on the next day, which is the Saturday immediately following final examination week.

3. Fall and spring semesters will formally begin one week prior to the beginning of classes and conclude within one week after final examinations. When classes start on Monday, August 22, faculty meeting week will be adjusted to take place from Tuesday to Friday, August 16 to 19, in order to comply with nine-month faculty contracts (which begin August 16 and conclude May 15).
4. Summer session will begin on the sixth Monday after final examinations of the spring semester and conclude on a Sunday, eight weeks later. Some academic departments may offer limited enrollments in workshops, field trips, or other classes during the four weeks prior to the traditional start of the summer session.

5. Student-faculty ~~vacation periods and holidays~~ **no class** days will include:

General Election Day – during years when a general election is held (every two years), occurring on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, within November 2 to November 8

Thanksgiving – the Wednesday prior to the fourth Thursday through Sunday

Period between Christmas and New Years – university usually closed

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday – the third Monday in January

Spring recess – the ninth week after the beginning of classes, Sunday - Sunday

Memorial Day – observed the last Monday in May

Juneteenth – one day only, observed on Friday when June 19 occurs on Saturday and observed on Monday when June 19 occurs on Sunday

Independence Day – one day only, observed on Friday when July 4 occurs on Saturday and observed on Monday when July 4 occurs on Sunday

Labor Day – the first Monday in September

6. The academic calendar for the College of Law will conform to the student-faculty vacation periods and holidays in section 5, as amended from time to time, but may otherwise vary from the above guidelines and principles.

These guidelines will provide the necessary 35 days between the end of pre-registration in the fall and the first day of registration in the spring; provide the requested one-week recess between the end of the summer session and the first contract day for faculty in the fall; and allow early access to the summer job market in May for NIU students.

*Approved by the University Council April 12, 1978; revised and approved on May 2, 1979; revised and approved on May 2, 1984; revised and approved on March 9, 1988; revised and approved March 20, 1996; revised and approved March 18, 1998; revised and approved February 12, 2003; revised and approved February 16, 2011; revised and approved February 22, 2012; revised and approved April 3, 2013; revised and approved by Faculty Senate February 23, 2022; revised and approved by Faculty Senate November 1, 2023.*

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024 – 2025

<b>FALL SEMESTER 2024</b>		
August 19-23	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
August 26	Monday	Classes begin
September 2	Monday	Labor Day (university closed)
November 5	Tuesday	General Election Day (university closed) (no classes)
November 27	Wednesday	Thanksgiving break begins (no classes on Wednesday)
December 2	Monday	Classes resume
December 7	Saturday	Classes end
December 9-14	Monday - Saturday	Final examinations
December 14	Saturday	Fall graduate commencement
December 15	Sunday	Fall undergraduate commencement
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2025</b>		
January 6-10	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
January 13	Monday	Classes begin
January 20	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (university closed)
March 9-16	Sunday - Sunday	Spring recess
March 17	Monday	Classes resume
April 13	Sunday	Honors Day
May 1	Thursday	Classes end
May 2	Friday	Reading Day
May 3, 5-9	Saturday, Monday - Friday	Final examinations
May 9	Friday	Spring graduate commencement
May 10	Saturday	Spring undergraduate commencement
<b>SUMMER SEMESTER 2025</b>		
June 16	Monday	Classes begin
June 19	Thursday	Juneteenth (university closed)
July 4	Friday	Independence Day (university closed)
August 10	Sunday	Summer session ends

Approved by University Council – February 25, 2015.

Amended by Faculty Senate – February 23, 2022.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2026-2027

<b>FALL SEMESTER 2026</b>		
August 17-21	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
August 24	Monday	Classes begin
September 7	Monday	Labor Day (university closed)
November 3	Tuesday	General Election Day (university closed) (no classes)
November 25	Wednesday	Thanksgiving break begins (no classes on Wednesday)
November 30	Monday	Classes resume
December 5	Saturday	Classes end
December 7-12	Monday - Saturday	Final examinations
December 12	Saturday	Fall graduate commencement
December 13	Sunday	Fall undergraduate commencement
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2027</b>		
January 4-8	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
January 11	Monday	Classes begin
January 18	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (university closed)
March 7-14	Sunday - Sunday	Spring recess
March 15	Monday	Classes resume
April 18	Sunday	Honors Day
April 29	Thursday	Classes end
April 30	Friday	Reading Day
May 1, 3-7	Saturday, Monday - Friday	Final examinations
May 7	Friday	Spring graduate commencement
May 8	Saturday	Spring undergraduate commencement
<b>SUMMER SEMESTER 2027</b>		
June 14	Monday	Classes begin
June 18	Friday	Juneteenth observed (university closed)
July 5	Monday	Independence Day observed (university closed)
August 8	Sunday	Summer session ends

Approved by University Council – March 1, 2017.  
Amended by Faculty Senate – February 23, 2022.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2028-2029

<b>FALL SEMESTER 2028</b>		
August 21-25	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
August 28	Monday	Classes begin
September 4	Monday	Labor Day (university closed)
November 7	Tuesday	General Election Day (university closed) (no classes)
November 22	Wednesday	Thanksgiving break begins (no classes on Wednesday)
November 27	Monday	Classes resume
December 9	Saturday	Classes end
December 11-16	Monday - Saturday	Final examinations
December 16	Saturday	Fall graduate commencement
December 17	Sunday	Fall undergraduate commencement
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2029</b>		
January 8-12	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
January 15	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (university closed)
January 16	Tuesday	Classes begin
March 11-18	Sunday - Sunday	Spring recess
March 19	Monday	Classes resume
April 22	Sunday	Honors Day
May 3	Thursday	Classes end
May 4	Friday	Reading Day
May 5, 7-11	Saturday, Monday - Friday	Final examinations
May 11	Friday	Spring graduate commencement
May 12	Saturday	Spring undergraduate commencement
<b>SUMMER SEMESTER 2029</b>		
June 11	Monday	Classes begin
June 19	Tuesday	Juneteenth (university closed)
July 4	Wednesday	Independence Day (university closed)
August 5	Sunday	Summer session ends

Approved by University Council February 27, 2019.

Amended by Faculty Senate February 23, 2022.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2030-2031

<b>FALL SEMESTER 2030</b>		
August 19-23	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
August 26	Monday	Classes begin
September 2	Monday	Labor Day (university closed)
November 5	Tuesday	General Election Day (university closed) (no classes)
November 27	Wednesday	Thanksgiving break begins (no classes on Wednesday)
December 2	Monday	Classes resume
December 7	Saturday	Classes end
December 9-14	Monday - Saturday	Final examinations
December 14	Saturday	Fall graduate commencement
December 15	Sunday	Fall undergraduate commencement
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2031</b>		
January 6-10	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
January 13	Monday	Classes begin
January 20	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (university closed)
March 9-16	Sunday - Sunday	Spring recess
March 17	Monday	Classes resume
April 20	Sunday	Honors Day
May 1	Thursday	Classes end
May 2	Friday	Reading Day
May 3, 5-9	Saturday, Monday - Friday	Final examinations
May 9	Friday	Spring graduate commencement
May 10	Saturday	Spring undergraduate commencement
<b>SUMMER SEMESTER 2031</b>		
June 16	Monday	Classes begin
June 19	Thursday	Juneteenth (university closed)
July 4	Friday	Independence Day (university closed)
August 10	Sunday	Summer session ends

Approved by Faculty Senate – January 2021.

Amended by Faculty Senate – February 23, 2022.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2032-2033

<b>FALL SEMESTER 2032</b>		
August 16-20	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
August 23	Monday	Classes begin
September 6	Monday	Labor Day (university closed)
November 2	Tuesday	General Election Day (university closed) (no classes)
November 24	Wednesday	Thanksgiving break begins (no classes on Wednesday)
November 29	Monday	Classes resume
December 4	Saturday	Classes end
December 6-11	Monday - Saturday	Final examinations
December 11	Saturday	Fall graduate commencement
December 12	Sunday	Fall undergraduate commencement
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2033</b>		
January 10-14	Monday - Friday	Faculty meetings
January 17	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (university closed)
January 18	Tuesday	Classes begin
March 13-20	Sunday - Sunday	Spring recess
March 21	Monday	Classes resume
April 24	Sunday	Honors Day
May 5	Thursday	Classes end
May 6	Friday	Reading Day
May 7, 9-13	Saturday, Monday - Friday	Final examinations
May 13	Friday	Spring graduate commencement
May 14	Saturday	Spring undergraduate commencement
<b>SUMMER SEMESTER 2033</b>		
June 13	Monday	Classes begin
June 20	Monday	Juneteenth observed (university closed)
July 4	Monday	Independence Day (university closed)
August 7	Sunday	Summer session ends

Approved by Faculty Senate – February 23, 2022.