

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 203
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Creed, Ito, Kim, Kreitzer, Marsh, McGowan

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Boswell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate (FS) President **B. Creed** called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

S. Marsh moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2023, MINUTES

T. Arado moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **S. Marsh**. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR FS STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

A. General election day – discussion and proposal

Discussion included the following points:

- Faculty Senate traditionally governs the academic calendar, but not the university holiday schedule.
- Senior administration is open to General Election Day being designated by Faculty Senate as a day of no classes on the academic calendar; and is also open to receiving a Faculty Senate recommendation that General Election Day be further designated as an administrative closure day on the university holiday schedule.

- How do faculty feel about the lost instructional day? Opinions vary.
- Designating General Election Day as a no classes or administrative closure day provides valuable symbolism and sends a message encouraging students and others to vote; but with numerous other pathways and accessibility to voting, does it provide any significant practical impact?
- Campus voting initiatives include:
 - Holmes Student Center is designated an early voting center;
 - [Huskies Vote](#) sponsors voter registration and provides voter resources such as candidate information, polling locations and resources for faculty to engage students about voting.
- Not all faculty, staff and students are eligible to vote.
- A no class day on the academic calendar without administrative closure designation on the university holiday schedule does not help employees (including some student workers).

S. Marsh moved that a proposal be prepared to revise the currently approved academic calendars, in order to change General Election Day (university closed) to General Election Day (no classes). And further, to recommend to the university president that consideration be given to designating General Election Day as an administrative closure day on the university holiday schedule. Seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

It was suggested that Michaela Holtz, Executive Director, Student Affairs Central, be invited to a Faculty Senate meeting to share the work of Huskies Vote, and lead discussion on faculty's role in encouraging students to register and to vote.

B. Academic calendar authority – discussion and recommendation for delegation

Following a brief discussion, there was consensus that the FS Steering Committee would take up this topic at a later date for a potential future proposal to Faculty Senate.

C. Working during non-academic terms – discussion and recommendation for delegation

Following a brief discussion, there was consensus that the FS Steering Committee would take up this topic at a later date for a potential future proposal to Faculty Senate.

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

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

- President’s announcements will include a summary of the recent professional development survey and an overview of upcoming bylaw proposals relative to clinical and research faculty, as well as tenure and promotion process.
- Bárbara González will provide the provost’s announcements on behalf of Interim Provost Elish-Piper.
- Per FS Steering Committee action earlier in this meeting, FS will be asked to consider a proposal to revise the currently approved academic calendars, in order to change General Election Day (university closed) to General Election Day (no classes). And further, to recommend to the university president that consideration be given to designating General Election Day as an administrative closure day on the university holiday schedule
- Two presentations are anticipated:
 - Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action and its Impact on NIU by Bryan Perry, General Counsel
 - Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: It’s All in the Name by Carol Sumner, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, and her staff.
- Reports are anticipated from the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, University Advisory Committee to the BOT, Baccalaureate Council, Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee, Student Government Association, Operating Staff Council, Supportive Professional Staff Council and University Benefits Committee.
- Information items will include a reminder about fall 2023 commencement.

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

VIII. 2023-24 FS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Aug 30, Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 15, Jan 17, Feb 14, Mar 20, Apr 17

IX. ADJOURNMENT

S. Marsh moved to adjourn, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.