MINUTES – FACULTY SENATE

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 3 p.m.**

**Altgeld Hall Auditorium**

**Northern Illinois University**

**DeKalb, Illinois**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Akst, Arado, Atkins, Barrett, Bender, Books, Brain, Burton, Cain, Campbell, Chomentowski, Creed, Davis (for Alex), Demir, Duffin, Finch, Fotovat, Ito, John, Lampi, Liberty, Libman, Luo, McGowan, McKee, Mellon, Mills, Naples, Novak, Nyunt, O’Grady (for Bohanon), Palese, Qin, Rajabi, Sabio, Salimi, Schmidt, Sharp, Sirotkin, Slagstad, Staikidis, Stalcup, Thomas, Vahabzadeh, Valentiner, Van Wienen, VanTilburg, Whedbee, Wheeler, Woods

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alex, Bohanon, Corpuz, Hartenhoff, Kushimo, Ross, Sibley, Slotsve, Wang, Yang

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Abreu, Bryan, Buhrow, Elish-Piper, Falkoff, Hodge, Hughes, Johnson, Middlemist, Napientek, Nolan, Puckett, Schatteman, Skuzinski, Srygler, Sumner

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Cripe, Garcia, Notebaert, Strid

1. **Call to Order**

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

1. **Verification of Quorum**A quorum was verified.

**III. Adoption of the Agenda  
  
S. Stalcup** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **B. McGowan.** Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of the February 19, 2025, minutes   
  
C. Campbell** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **K. Whedbee.** Motion passed.

**V. Public Comment**

**VI. Faculty Senate President’s Announcements**

**VII. Provost’s Announcements**

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

A. Presentation of the Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award to

Professor Todd D. Reeves

Department of Educational Technology, Research and Assessment

B. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 10, Appeal Procedures for Academic Personnel Decisions

Article 11, Sabbatical Leave Policy

SECOND READING/VOTE

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President  
  
It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed amendment. Motion passed.

Yes – 41 votes

No – 1 vote

Abstain – 5 votes

C. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 11.4, Sabbatical Policies

SECOND READING/VOTE

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President  
  
**P. Chomentowski** moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **T. Arado**. **M. Van Wienan** moved to amend the proposal, seconded by **A. Finch**. The motion to amend was approved by voice vote. The original motion, as amended, was approved.

Yes – 37 votes

No – 5 votes

Abstain – 7 votes

D. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 3.5.1, Social Justice Committee Composition

SECOND READING/VOTE

Felicia Bohanon, Supportive Professional Staff Council President

Natasha Johnson, Operating Staff Council President

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

**T. Arado** moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **D. Valentiner**. Motion passed.

Yes – 38 votes

No – 1 vote

Abstain – 6 votes

E. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 8, The Academic Personnel Process

SECOND READING/VOTE

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

**J. Burton** moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **D. Valentiner**. Motion passed.

Yes – 36 votes

No – 2 votes

Abstain – 8 votes

**IX. New Business**

A. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 4.4.1.3, Graduate Council Administrative Representation

FIRST READING

Jessica Reyman, Acting Dean, Graduate School

Amy Buhrow, Assistant Vice Provost, Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation

B. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 1, Membership of Faculty Senate

FIRST READING

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

Christina Abreu, Director, Center for Latino and Latin American Studies

Laura Johnson, Acting Director, Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies

Thomas Skuzinski, Director, Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability and Energy

**X. FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – report**

Emily McKee, FS/RGE Liaison/Spokesperson

A. 2025-26 President of Faculty Senate/Chair of University Council

Call for nominations

* Nominations will be taken from the Faculty Senate floor during the March 26 Faculty Senate meeting.
* Letters of acceptance of nominations are due in the Office of Faculty Senate by Friday, April 11, and can be emailed to Pat Erickson at [pje@niu.edu](mailto:pje@niu.edu).
* Letters of acceptance of nomination will be provided to Faculty Senate voting members via email by Wednesday, April 16, and also will be included in the April 23 Faculty Senate agenda packets.
* Election of the 2025-26 Faculty Senate president/University Council chair will be held during the April 23 Faculty Senate meeting.

**K. Whedbee** nominated **B. Creed**, seconded by **K. Staikidis**. Hearing no other nominations, **E. McKee** closed the nominations.

B. Election of 2025-26 [Non-Union Faculty and Staff Grievance Pool](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/uc/niu-bylaws.shtml#article-5) – A Qualtrics ballot will be distributed to FS tenured/tenure track voting members following the meeting.

C. Faculty Personnel Advisor – Call for self-nominations

Nominee – Virginia Naples

Nominee – Carrie Kortegast

Faculty Senate members will elect the faculty personnel advisor at the April 23 Faculty Senate meeting.

D. NIU representative to the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE

Nominee – Tiffany Puckett

Faculty Senate members will elect the faculty personnel advisor at the April 23 Faculty Senate meeting.

**XI. Items for Faculty Senate Consideration**

A. Updates from Undergraduate Affairs

Alicia Schatteman, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Randi Napientek, Director of Student-Athlete Support Services

B. Budget update

Laurie Elish-Piper, Executive Vice President and Provost

George Middlemist, Vice President for Administration and Finance

& Chief Financial Officer

**XII. Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees**

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – report

Tiffany Puckett, NIU representative to FAC-IBHE

B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report

Felicia Bohanon, Natasha Johnson, Ben Creed

Brad Cripe, Larissa Garcia, Tom Skuzinski

C. Baccalaureate Council – no report

Alicia Schatteman, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

D. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – no report

Therese Arado, Chair

E. Social Justice Committee – report

Ben Creed, FS President

F. Student Government Association – no report

Ja’kobe Jones, SGA President

Manny Corpuz, Speaker of the Senate

G. Operating Staff Council – no report

Natasha Johnson, President

H. Supportive Professional Staff Council – no report

Felicia Bohanon, President

**XIII. Information Items**

A. [Policy Library](https://www.niu.edu/policies/) – Comment on Proposed Policies

B. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/apc/index.shtml), Academic Planning Council

C. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/athletics/index.shtml), Athletic Board

D. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/bc/index.shtml), Baccalaureate Council

E. [Minutes,](http://www.niu.edu/board/meetings/index.shtml) Board of Trustees

F. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/ciuae/index.shtml), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience

G. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/gec/index.shtml), General Education Committee

H [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/gc/index.shtml), Graduate Council

I. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/hc/index.shtml), Honors Committee

J. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/operating-staff-council/meetings/index.shtml), Operating Staff Council

K. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/spsc/meetings/index.shtml), Supportive Professional Staff Council

L. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/uap/index.shtml), University Assessment Panel

M. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/ubc/index.shtml), University Benefits Committee

N. [Minutes](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/minutes/uciel/index.shtml), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure

O. [Minutes](http://www.facibhe.org/meetings/minutes.php), Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE

P. 2024-25 FS meeting dates: Mar 26, Apr 23

Q. [Spring Commencement](https://www.niu.edu/commencement/)

Graduate School – Friday, May 9, 4 p.m.

Undergraduate – CLAS, CEET, CVPA – Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.

Undergraduate – CEDU, CBUS, CHHS – Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m.

**XIV. Adjournment**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.