MINUTES – FACULTY SENATE

**Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 3 p.m.**

**Altgeld Hall Auditorium**

**Northern Illinois University**

**DeKalb, Illinois**

[**Full transcript**](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/faculty-senate/agendas-minutes-transcripts/2024-2025/fs/index.shtml)

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Arado, Atkins, Barrett, Bohanon, Books, Brain, Burton, Cain, Campbell, Chomentowski, Creed, Duffin, Finch, Fotovat, Hartenhoff, Ito, Jong, Justice (for Stalcup), Kushimo, Liberty, McGowan, McKee, Mellon, Mills, Naples, Novak, Nyunt, Palese, Qin, Ross, Sabio, Salimi, Schmidt, Schwartz (for Bender), Sharp, Sibley, Sirotkin, Slagstad, Slotsve, Staikidis, Stansell (for Luo), Stone, Thomas, Vahabzadeh, Valentiner, Van Wienen, VanTilburg, Wang, Whedbee, Wheeler, Woods, Yang,

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Akst, Alex, Bender, Corpuz, Demir, Lampi, Libman, Luo, Stalcup,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bryan, Buhrow, Elish-Piper, Falkoff, Jaekel, Nu, Puckett, Reyman, Sumner

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

**I. Call to Order**

Faculty Senate 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**

**P. Chomentowski** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **D. Valentiner**.

Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of the March 26, 2025, minutes**

**F. Bohanon** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **T. Atkins**. Motion passed.

**V. Public Comment**

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

**VII. Provost’s Announcements**

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

A. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 4.4.1.3, Graduate Council Administrative Representation

SECOND READING/VOTE

Jessica Reyman, Acting Dean, Graduate School

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

**J. Slagstad** moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **C. Campbell**. Motion passed.

Yes – 48 votes

No – 2 votes

Abstain - 0

B. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws

Article 1, Membership of Faculty Senate

SECOND READING/VOTE

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

Katy Jaekel, Director, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

**T. Atkins** moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **E. McKee**. Motion passed.

Yes – 47 votes

No – 2 votes

Abstain - 1

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

Emily McKee, FS/RGE Liaison/Spokesperson

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

Per FS Bylaws, Article 2

1. Nominee – Ben Creed

Yes, to accept the candidate – 47 votes

No, to reject the candidate – 0 votes

Abstain - 2

B. Approve faculty candidates running unopposed to serve on various campuswide committees – walk-in

**D. Valentiner** moved to approve the faculty candidates running unopposed to serve on various campuswide committees, seconded by P**. Chomentowski**. Motion passed.

C. Election of faculty candidates running opposed to serve on various campuswide committees. Following the meeting, a Qualtrics ballot will be distributed to the tenured and tenure-track faculty, clinical faculty and instructor members of Faculty Senate.

D. Faculty Senate Personnel Committee 2025-26 – Election of representatives for terms to begin in fall 2025. 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 and tenure-track faculty members of Faculty Senate.

E. Election of Faculty Personnel Advisor

Nominee – Virginia Naples – 18 votes

Nominee – Carrie Kortegast – 20 votes

Abstain - 11

F. Election of NIU representative to the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Page 18

Nominee – Tiffany Puckett

Yes, to accept the candidate – 44 votes

No, to reject the candidate – 2 votes

Abstain - 4

**X. Items for Faculty Senate Consideration**

1. Annual Academic Program Report

Marc Falkoff, Academic Planning Council Assistant Chair

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

**T. Arado** moved to approve the Faculty Senate serving as the body officially signing the written report, and to ask the University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees to share the written report with the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee by way of inclusion in the official report. The motion was seconded by **P. Chomentowski**. During discussion there was consensus to modify the first sentence of the last caveat in the document to state, “As such, the attached report should be seen as baseline information, providing a narrow snapshop of a limited set of metrics related to NIU’s academic degree programs and, therefore, should not be the basis for any decisions”. In addition, there was consensus to add a fifth caveat to the list to communicate a point similar to, “Departments and programs are presented as siloed programs and misses the nuance and interconnectivity of courses, programs and of what different departments do.” The motion, including the amended language, passed with one abstention.

B. Endorsement of NIU action calling for constructive engagement

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

**T. Atkins** moved to approve Faculty Senate’s endorsement of the NIU action calling for constructive engagement, seconded by **J. Burton**. Motion passed.

**XI. 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 – no 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 – report

Felicia Bohanon, President

**XII. 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. [Annual Report](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/annual-reports/index.shtml) – Carrie Kortegast, Faculty Personnel Advisor

Q. [Annual Report](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/annual-reports/index.shtml) – Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

R. 2025-26 FS schedule:

Sep 3, Oct 1, Oct 29, Nov 19, Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 25, Apr 22

S. [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.

**XIII. Adjournment**

**P. Chomentowski** moved to adjourn, seconded by **L. Hartenhoff**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.