TRANSCRIPT – FACULTY SENATE

**Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 3 p.m.**

**Altgeld Hall Auditorium**

**Northern Illinois University**

**DeKalb, Illinois**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Akst, Alex, Arado, Atkins, Barrett, Bender, Bohanon, Books, Brain, Burton, Cain, Campbell, Cefaratti, Chan, Corpuz, Creed, Demir, Duffin, Ehsani, Finch, Fotovat, Hartenhoff, Ito, Kushimo, Lenczewski (for Luo), McGowan, McKee, Mills, Naples, Nesterov, Novak, Nyunt, Palese, Rajabi, Ross, Salimi, Sharp, Slagstad, Slotsve, Staikidis, Stalcup, Swedlow, Thomas, Thurmaier, Vahabzadeh, Valentiner, Van Wienen, VanTilburg, Wang, Whedbee, Woods, Yang

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Boswell, Chomentowski, Dada, Lampi, Libman, Luo, Ruetsche, Sabio, Sibley, Sirotkin

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bryan, Elish-Piper, Falkoff, Gonzalez, Holtz, Mocarski, Puckett

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

**I. Call to Order**

**B. Creed:** I’ll go ahead and call the meeting to order for Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024, meeting of the Faculty Senate.

**II. Verification of Quorum**

**B. Creed:** Pat, can you verify that we have a quorum?

**P. Erickson:** We do have a quorum.

**B. Creed:** Thank you.

**III. Adoption of the Agenda**

**B. Creed:** Next up is the adoption of the agenda. Can I have a motion to adopt the agenda? Kryssi, thank you. A second? Thank you, Emily McKee. All in favor of adopting the agenda for today’s meeting, please say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**B. Creed:** Opposed? Abstain.

**IV. Approval of the September 4, 2024, minutes**

**B. Creed:** That brings us to the approval of the September 4, 2024, minutes found on pages 4 through 7. Can I have a motion to approve the minutes for September 4, 2024? Thank you, Atkins. Second, Felicia. Any discussion, edits, comments? Hearing none, all in favor of approving the September 4, 2024, minutes, please say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**B. Creed:** Opposed? Abstain. Minutes are approved.

**V. Public Comment**

**B. Creed:** Pat, do we have any requests for public comment?

**P. Erickson:** No request for public comment.

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

**B. Creed:** That brings us to the Faculty Senate president’s announcements. Before I get into my announcements, you’ll see later in the agenda we will have a vote where we’ll use our clickers. So, if you didn’t grab a clicker on your way in, while I’m talking, you can listen and grab a clicker.

I just want to welcome everybody to our second meeting here. My announcements should be brief. I just have a few things to talk through today. The main thing is following up from last meeting’s announcements to share that I will be soliciting this week participation of faculty senators in a number of important efforts for this body and campus to engage in over the upcoming year. These topics are going to include reviewing and making recommendations about a few of the outstanding topics that remained after the promotion and tenure bylaws were passed last year. And that includes looking at the time in position requirement, which we had decided to leave in place and revisit this year; clarifying some language that had emerged as maybe worrisome or troublesome or not clear enough; and other updates that have come in about that. So, a group to kind of polish up those promotion and tenure bylaws that were changed last year.

The second one is working with our prevention education outreach team as they continue to develop and support training around sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. They’ve asked this body to help them think through how to better provide that training for students, for faculty and for staff.

Another item for work is development of materials related to how shared governance works at NIU. I know I shared those slides before, last meeting. But one of the things I’d like to do is develop orientation-type materials to new faculty senators and also a website for campus to understand shared governance here on our campus, how it operates, what the bodies are and what the processes look like, to try to make that more visible to campus.

The fourth thing is bringing together some faculty senators to think about service and leadership. How it is [inaudible] engaged with at NIU, including picking up and maybe building off some of the work that we’ve heard in the past from Greg Beyer, relating to those constellations where we find pathways of service and pathways of leadership to help folks understand service opportunities on campus and how to think about equity within service.

And the final one we’ll touch on later after Provost Elish-Piper talks about the AI Task Force.

Generally, I appreciate everyone’s service on this body and coming here on Wednesdays, as well as those who serve on the standing committees. And I hope that folks will be willing to engage with some of these projects that will help move our campus forward by looking at the academic core of our institution and how we can improve it as the Faculty Senate.

Those are my announcements for today.

**VII. Provost’s Announcements**

**B. Creed:** Next up on the agenda are the provost’s announcements, and I invite up Provost Elish-Piper.

**L. Elish-Piper:** Good afternoon. I do have a few announcements for you. A couple of them will require audio visual support. I just want to draw everyone’s attention to the [website that was put together](https://www.niu.edu/freedom-of-expression-and-academic-freedom/index.shtml). It was announced very early in the semester, but I’m not sure everyone had a chance to see it. It focuses on freedom of expression and academic freedom, and it brings together our previously existing policies all in one place, as well as relevant resources. Just wanted to make sure everyone was aware of this. As the semester heats up and the world heats up around us, just a reminder that we do have those policies and resources related to both freedom of expression and academic freedom.

The next thing that I’ll share does not require audio visual support – so I’ll give Pat a moment. I just want to let you know that the [Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning](https://www.niu.edu/citl/index.shtml) has launched a [Teaching Mentors Program](https://www.niu.edu/citl/teaching-mentors/index.shtml), and I think some of you in this room might be part of that. Just wanted to make sure that you are aware that about 20 award-winning faculty and instructors, who have received awards for their teaching, agreed to serve as mentors with a primary focus on our new faculty, but also they are available to consult with others who would like to touch base regarding different aspects of teaching. And so, we’re excited about that initiative and think it will provide additional support for setting up our new faculty for success in the classroom and, ultimately, supporting our students’ success.

The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning is also launching [Open Classroom Weeks](https://www.niu.edu/citl/open-classroom-weeks/index.shtml). This is an opportunity to sign up to visit people’s classrooms to see different types of pedagogies and technologies and classroom types of activities in action. If you go to the website for the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, you can get more information. It will be the weeks of October 14 through 25. They’ve got a wide range of different kinds of classrooms that have been opened up. Some of you in here may have opened up your classrooms. We have everything from general education classes to STEM classes to seminar classes to large lecture classes. Just a wide array, to have an opportunity to visit other people’s classrooms, learn about what they do and then, ultimately and hopefully, support one another in high-quality teaching.

I also want to let you know that tomorrow there is a workshop on promotion and tenure for pre-tenure faculty. Basically, just helping them understand the broad process. That’s put together by Bárbara González, our vice provost for faculty affairs, and Janice Hamlet, the associate vice provost for faculty mentoring and diversity. It is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, 3:30 to 4:30, in the Holmes Student Center Heritage Room. If you have any pre-tenure faculty that you’re working with or that you know that might be nervous about how does promotion and tenure work, that workshop would be a good opportunity for them to get some more information and also get some of their questions answered.

The last announcement that I have relates to the task force in Academic Affairs for AI. Last spring, we put together an action team to identify some quick recommendations that we should respond to related to AI. The first one was to put together a task force. And that task force is being formed as we speak. The task force has the charge listed up there. I’ll let you read that yourself, I’m not going to read it for you. It’s basically going to focus around a structure where we’ll have an advisory group and then three working groups. I want to talk a little bit about those three working groups.

There we go with the advisory groups and the working groups. And we’ll go to the next slide. These are the three working groups. The first one, Ethical Guidelines and Evaluation. You can see who the co-chairs are. We have a balance of faculty and other leaders on campus who have expertise related to the working group. And we’re currently forming the members of these groups. The first one on Ethical Guidelines and Evaluation; the second one, Academic Support Services; and then the third one, Teaching and Learning.

As Ben mentioned, we are looking for representatives from Faculty Senate to serve on each of those working groups to bring forth different perspectives and different ideas. The co-chairs have all agreed to serve in that capacity, and they are beginning to get things organized to reach out and invite people to join those working groups. And so, in collaboration with Faculty Senate, we would definitely want to have representation just to bring that together and make sure there’s communication back and forth between the two.

We’ve set up a timeline where the groups will be working with some deliverables by the end of this semester. Others by next March and next May. So, trying to move somewhat quickly, knowing that artificial intelligence is rapidly expanding and changing and growing. And so, we want to make sure that we’re moving as efficiently as we can.

I do want to mention that one of the recommendations of the action team was to also consider a plan for looking at research in AI. And so, on the advisory committee, Richard Mocarski, our new vice president for research and innovation partnerships, is going to serve in that capacity. And then, ultimately, can make a decision on whether we add a working group; a different structure might be used to look at opportunities related to research. But I did want to let you know that we are making that connection at this point, because when we think about the work that goes on in academic affairs, it deals with, of course, teaching, as well as scholarship and artistry, and then the services for our students. And so, we’re trying to come up with a plan that allows us to address all of those within the task force structure.

If you’re interested in that area and you have expertise in that area, or know others, please work with Ben so that we can get those names sent to the co-chairs; and we can get those folks connected and get those groups meeting.

Any questions?

**B. Creed:** No question, but just a thank you for the collaboration and conversation leading up to this. There will be part of that email that goes out with opportunities to get engaged with the work on this area. So, if you do have that interest, please look for that form – it should be coming out tomorrow or Friday – and nominate yourself or a colleague, like Provost Elish-Piper mentioned.

**L. Elish-Piper:** Thank you.

**VIII. Items for Faculty Senate Consideration**

A. [Annuitants Association](https://www.niu.edu/annuitants/)
Toni Tollerud, President

**B. Creed:** That brings us to items for Faculty Senate consideration. The first presentation that’s listed there will not be presented today. We’ve been asked to postpone that presentation as Toni Tollerud was not able to make it today.

B. RIPS: Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Goals for the Future

 Richard Mocarski, Vice President

 [Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships](https://research.niu.edu/divresearch/)

**B. Creed:** That will bring us up to a presentation, RIPS: Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Goals for the Future, by our vice president for RIPS, Richard Mocarski.

R. Mocarski: Thanks for having me. I’m Richard Mocarski; I’m the new vice president for RIPS. I’m really excited to be here, excited to talk with you. Wanted to let you know where our team is as we change a little bit to a more faculty-focused model of RIPS, transparent model where our goal is to meet the faculty where you all are, to provide services and support and research and innovation. We did an exercise this summer with the leadership team to define our mission, vision, values, which hadn’t been updated in quite a bit of time. Just spending a little bit of time today to talk about that.

We’ll start with the values. What we decided as a team was that our goals, our values, are to be nurturing, resourceful, ethical, partners, accessible, joyous and agents of change. And again, this should all resonate as our job is to be high-touch folks. We want to be the person you come to when you have issues. And when you don’t have issues, we want you to be with us too, so we can help partner with you to find the resources necessary to support the research and artistry that you all do.

With that, we came to our vision. Our vision for RIPS is one, again, of support: To grow the research and creative enterprise to empower world transforming discovery, paradigm shifting expression and life changing student opportunities.

I should zoom out for just a second. The reason I’m here, the reason I’m at NIU is because it’s a unique institution. There are a lot of higher ed institutions across the country. NIU is one of the few that combines world class research and artistry and student access. So, I won’t name names, but there are institutions out there that do the first, and they do it really well. But unless you’re a doctoral student, unless you’re a post-doc or a very fortunate undergraduate, you’re not having access to those faculty. And then there are institutions where you have great access to faculty, but maybe they’re not on the cutting edge, they’re not doing that world changing institution. The diagram of institutions that do those well is small, and we should be proud to be one of those.

RIPS is here to help to continue that tradition that you all are already doing and to support that. And that’s where our vision comes from. And that drives our mission. Our mission is to create the ecosystem for a thriving and growing research and creative enterprise.

What you’ll see in the coming year is some changes to our structure. We were a flat structure, and we’re moving to one where we’re not as flat, so not everybody reports to me. And we’re a little bit more nimble, but we’re definitely more responsive. We have two AVPs. One AVP is responsible for research services; that’s Dara Little. So, that’s Sponsored Programs, that’s our MAC [Molecular Analysis Core] Lab, that’s our Research Methodological Services and that’s compliance. So, that’s a change that’s coming.

The other AVP, Barrie Bode, right now is in charge or research enhancement. So, that’s Research Development, that’s T-RISE [Transdisciplinary Research Incubator for STEM Education], that’s the Office of Innovation.

This helps drive our strategic goals, and we have five strategic goals for the year. I’ll go over them very briefly. We’re going to:

Grow research, artistry and innovation. And when I say grow, it’s not just money. We’re talking about impact. Again, we want you to be able to do your work and do it well.

We’re going to expand and develop partnerships, both internal and external. Again, we’re here to partner with you.

We’re going to nurture an entrepreneurial mindset. And that’s not just innovation. That’s in everything we do. We want to help partner with you to find different ways to do things so we can expand our impact.

We’re going to improve our own operational effectiveness. We know there are some pinch points. I know there are some pinch points. My team does. We’re going to find ways to improve those.

And we’re going to increase our brand awareness. That story that I just told before, the world needs to know. That’s a recruitment story. If you’re a 17-year old student, maybe you don’t care so much about being able to have access to faculty. But your parents do, because they know how important it is for matriculation and future success.

To do that, we have initiatives within some cross functional teams that we’ve launched within out division. For grow research, artistry and innovation, we’re working on finding out how we can help you find funding. What are ways that we can do this efficiently without investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in software or new people? How can we do this efficiently and effectively to get faculty the information they need and the opportunities.

For Developing and expanding partnerships, one of the cross functional teams we’re going to do is a research capabilities team. Again, how do we advertise what people are doing? How do we bring people together around themes? Like AI’s a great example. How do we make sure there are opportunities that faculty can talk to each other, can talk to industry, can talk to agencies. So, we’re working on that.

We’re also working on celebrating our successes, both internal to our team and external. It’s important that we stop and reflect on the amazing work that’s happening. And this is just a snapshot, by the way. I tried to keep it short.

To nurture the entrepreneurial mindset, we’re developing an innovation ecosystem map. What’s already happening? What’s happening in the College of Business? What’s happening in the other colleges? What supports are available? And how can we make sure we’re ushering people to the right places so that they have what they need at that time? If somebody’s ready for a start-up, where do they go? If somebody’s ready to just partner with industry on a research project, how do they do that? What supports of the university? How do they get connected with the folks in Advancement who do corporate and foundation relations?

Improving operational effectiveness, this is really in-house. We have a policy working group, and we also have a standard operating procedures working group. The only thing I can say there is that it should make your lives easier, because we’re trying to fix some of those pinch points; again, some of the pre-award stuff that gets in the way. Some of the post-award transaction stuff, how do we make sure we have all the information for you all so you’re not searching for it, so you’re not running in circles?

And finally, for increasing brand awareness, we’re working on our marketing. We’ve hired a marketing intern. We’re going to be putting out stories about faculty. We’re going to be communicating with faculty about what we do. And I mentioned, we’re doing the website, as well.

So, this is a very quick and dirty presentation, but I wanted to give you an idea of where we’re going. We’ve already made a lot of progress in working to set up the conditions for success. We know we have a lot of work to do; and, frankly, it’s going to involve partnership. Some of the things that we’re doing that are already out that I want to make you aware of – Ben and the Steering Committee helped us with the faculty needs assessment that went out. We’ve already gotten a lot of results on those and seen that some of the issues that faculty have with their creative and research agenda is time, understanding what funding opportunities, collaboration. We’re going to continue to push that out.

Every Tuesday, if you want to have lunch with me, brown bag lunch at 71 North, that’s an opportunity to meet with faculty to have an informal conversation about their work or any problems that they’re having with RIPS or any successes they want to celebrate.

On the 24th, from 9 to 11, we have our Leadership Open House, again, in 71 North. The whole RIPS leadership team will be there. Again, just opportunities and touch points to meet with folks.

With that, I’ll open it up for questions.

**B. Creed:** Not seeing anybody coming up to the mic; but I just want to say I have appreciated the conversations, the candor and the perspective and vision you’re bringing to the office. I do think through starting to learn from faculty and opening up to faculty, I think there’s a great opportunity for us to meet the goals that you have set for yourself. So, thank you.

**R. Mocarski:** Thanks.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

A. Approve the following faculty representative substitutions to serve on the 2024-25 [Libraries Advisory Committee](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/lac.shtml):

HHS – Jennifer Gray for Arlene Keddie
LAS – Shengde Zhou for Pallavi Singh
VPA – Jeremy Floyd for Marc Macaranas

**B. Creed:** That brings us to the consent agenda. This is approving the following faculty representatives substitutions to serve on this academic year’s Libraries Advisory Committee. From HHS, we have Jennifer Gray for Arlene Keddie. For LAS, we have Shengde Zhou for Pallavi Singh. For VPA, we have Jeremy Floyd for Marc Macaranas. We just need a first and a second and then a vote. So, if we have a motion to approve the representative substitutions? Thank you, Therese. Second, Valentiner. All in favor of approving the consent agenda, please say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**B. Creed:** Opposed? Abstentions? All right, thank you.

**X. Unfinished Business**

A. Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws 3.1.1, Composition of Steering Committee –
Second Reading/Vote

**B. Creed:** That brings us to unfinished business. The first item up is the proposed amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws, 3.1.1, the composition of the Steering Committee. You can see that on page 8. Again, this is a second reading and a vote. We’ll take a motion and a second. And then in discussion, Pat will lead us through the process for the vote and then we’ll open it up for discussion from the group. So, if I could have a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws, 3.1.1. Thank you, Kurt. A second? Thank you [Novak].

For discussion, and while Pat pulls that up, I should probably read the proposal summary, which is on page 8. Again, this is just a proposal that’s intended to ensure the Faculty Senate Steering Committee has sufficient representation from all constituencies without placing an unnecessary and unfair burden on those particular faculty senators who also are taking on leadership roles in various standing committees of the Faculty Senate. It allows those Faculty Senate standing committee chairs to ask for and receive a seat on the Steering Committee if they choose, but it also allows them not to have to serve in that way. Are there any comments or discussion about this proposed amendment? Hearing none, I’ll turn it over to Pat.

**P. Erickson:** It’s been a while since we used our clickers to vote. So, you’ll hopefully remember, or if you’re new, you aren’t going to remember that if you see your name on this list of voting members, or if you’re here for someone whose name is on that list, then you should have a clicker. They’re in the back, and now’s the time to get up and go get one. When the time comes to vote, once I open the poll, 1 equals yes, you agree with the motion to approve the amendment; 2 is no, you don’t agree; and 3 is abstain. We need two-thirds of those voting to vote yes. I’ll just call this up to remind everybody. If you vote 3, abstain, it means you’re present, but you’re choosing not to vote. So, we need two-thirds of those who are voting to vote yes in order to pass the amendment.

Now I’m going to open the poll. 1 is yes, 2 is no, 3 is abstain meaning you’re here but you’re not voting. If anyone is having trouble with their clicker, just raise your hand and we’ll help you with that.

**B. Creed:** It might be easier if you’re having trouble to just grab a different clicker. Scott’s having trouble. Does that work?

**P. Erickson:** You should get a smiley face or a checkmark when you click the number. We can see that 50 people have voted. Maybe another few seconds. Anybody need more time? We’re going to close the poll. So, we can see that clearly passes by two-thirds of those who are voting.

Yes – 48 (96%)

No – 2 (4%)

Abstain – 0

**B. Creed:** Thank you for being here and for voting so we can move that forward.

**XI. New Business**

A. Proposed amendment to [FS Bylaws 4.4.3.2 and 4.5.3.3](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/faculty-senate/bylaws/index.shtml#article4), Duties of the Graduate Council and Duties of the Baccalaureate Council

 First Reading

**B. Creed:** Next up is new business. This is a proposed amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws, 4.4.3.2 and 4.5.3.3, which are related to the duties of the Graduate Council and duties of the Baccalaureate Council. If I could have a motion to approve the proposed amendment. Thank you, George, and a second? Oh, no need to vote on this, I just need to read this. Thank you for the motions, but, my fault. You can find the proposed amendment on page 9. The proposal is to add language that codifies current precedent and current practice that the Graduate Council and the Baccalaureate Council have the duty and the responsibilities to set standards and policies related to withdrawal; and that the Graduate Council has the authority to set reentry policies and standards for graduate students. This has always been the way those bodies have operated as far back as we’re looking at these documents. This is in alignment with the duties and responsibilities that they currently function as listed. This is just to clean up that language and make sure that those are on the books. Is there any discussion or comment about this?

All right. Next time will be a second reading and that’s when we’ll have a vote on that proposed amendment. If there is anything that comes up in the meantime, please don’t hesitate to reach out and let me know.

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

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – report

 Tiffany Puckett, NIU representative to FAC-IBHE

**B. Creed:** This brings us to our reports from councils, boards and standing committees. First up is Tiffany Puckett with a report from the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE.

**T. Puckett:** Good afternoon. I hope everyone is well. I do have a few things that I want to bring out from our first meeting. Our first meeting of the academic year was September 20, and it was hosted by the University of Illinois Chicago. The meeting started with a nice welcome from their provost, who brought up the fact that they were having some of the similar issues that we had with enrollment, with freshmen, their freshman enrollment was down, as well. They did have an increase in transfer students, as we did. And everyone’s assuming it was because of the FAFSA stuff.

We also had a report provided by the associate director of academic affairs to the IBHE, Jill Gebke. She talked about how the FAFSA application has been pushed back to December 1 this year, that IBHE has a AI task force and they will be creating a report. So, when that report comes out, I’ll make sure that it makes it to NIU. There next board meeting will be on November 13 at Lake Lane College, and no agenda had been put out at this point.

During our caucus meetings, the public universities’ caucus had conversation around the importance of librarians at universities. That was a very interesting conversation. Some interesting stuff coming out of the working groups. The Equity Working Group is creating a teaching tool around teaching equity in classrooms and is reaching out to the chief diversity officers at all universities to come up with a compilation of these tools. And all these tools will be put on a website so that all faculty around the state of Illinois will have access to those tools.

Mental Health Group is working on a survey that will be sent out to faculty across Illinois about the mental health of Illinois faculty.

The last interesting thing that we talked about was from the FAC legislative liaison, who had some brief discussion about Senate Bill 3965. That is the higher education funding act. It’s titled Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act. There is a lot of conversation going on around this proposed legislation. There is a House Bill that’s going to be coming out that’s probably going to be similar to it that is sponsored by State Representative Carol Ammons. For those of you who are interested, they’ve been seeking people to look at the bill, to give feedback and just have some discussion around it. The Coalition for Transforming Higher Education Funding had been holding meetings around the bill. There is a meeting at the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana on October 8. But there is a meeting at Northern, which will be October 24 at 2 p.m. If you’re interested in taking part in this conversation, you can go to the [Coalition for Transforming Higher Education Funding website](https://transformhigheredil.org/) and register for that meeting. If you don’t want to do that, but you want to just shoot me an email, I’ll send you the link for it. If you don’t want to look the bill up and you want a copy of the bill, you can also shoot me an email, and I will forward you a copy of the bill.

Our next meeting will take place on October 18, and it will be hosted by Roosevelt University. Thank you. Does anyone have any questions?

**B. Creed:** I have a flyer I’ll be sharing, as well, on that visit to campus on the 24th. So, that will be part of the summer. Thank you.

**T. Puckett:** Thank you.

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

 Felicia Bohanon, Natasha Johnson, Ben Creed

 Brad Cripe, Larissa Garcia, Tom Skuzinski

**B. Creed:** All right, that brings us to the University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees. At the most recent meeting, we received updates on the efforts of the NIU Foundation and the successes that they’ve had over the past fiscal year and at the beginning of this fiscal year. They’ve reached and surpassed their goals and milestones in a way – the levels of funding that have come through the foundation are higher than we’ve had before. So, that’s great news from our alumni and our donors.

We also heard a presentation – the Board of Trustees has asked for more student centric presentations to be heard, and that’s part of their commitment to student success. The Board of Trustees heard from Andrea Radasanu and two alumni about their experiences in the Congressional Summer Internship Program. And I think that really spoke volumes to the quality of our students that we are over-subscribed. There are too many students that want to participate than the seats that we have, so we’re able to send really high quality and sought after interns to Washington, D.C., to work over the summer and get that valuable experience. It was a great presentation from the there of them about that program, that work.

There is a Board of Trustees special meeting on October 9. If you have any interest in tuning in to that, the link will be made available, I believe, next week.

And that is it unless there’s anything else.

C. University Council – report

 Ben Creed, University Council Chair

**B. Creed:** Next up is a report University Council, so you get to keep listening to me. The main point of action worth reporting to this body is that the University Council received recommendations from a working group that had engaged in the topic of how to bring shared governance back into budget, resource and space conversations. In the past, we had a committee that sat between University Council and Faculty Senate called Resources, Space and Budget. That was sunset with the reorganization of shared governance back in 2020. The duties of that body were to be subsumed and taken up by University Council. That was part of the deliberation and conversation. However, the University Council is more of a formal body and formal setting than what RSB used to be. So, one of the efforts that we engaged in over the summer was establishing a working group on how do we reestablish that place to have faculty, staff and students more proactively engaged in those conversations, in an advisory role, as an information sharing role and as a university partner.

Two recommendations came out of that working group. One was to senior administration to create a budget advisory group led by Provost Elish-Piper and CFO Middlemist that was in alignment with a budgeting calendar that engaged campus in proactive and intentional ways. It was a recommendation that was accepted, and they’re working on that effort.

The second recommendation was to create a committee of the University Council to engage directly with resource and space and budget and other operations types of conversations. So, this year, there will be an ad hoc group pulled together to serve in that function. And by the end of this academic year, the goal and the charge for that committee is to bring forward NIU Bylaw amendments to create that standing body and to create calendars and to create a rhythm for those meetings, to make sure that they’re intentional and follow up on the conversations that have been going on on campus. If there are any questions about that, please let me know here or otherwise. But that is a group and an effort that’s going on to, once again, bring back the resource, space and budget type of conversation in a proactive manner.

D. Baccalaureate Council – report

 Alicia Schatteman, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

**B. Creed:** I believe there is no report from the Baccalaureate Council today.

E. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee – report

 Therese Arado, Chair

**B. Creed:** That brings us to the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee. Therese Arado will share a brief report.

**T. Arado:** Happy Wednesday, everyone. This is actually a looking forward report, not a report of what we’ve done. The Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee this year is undertaking a project to look at academic freedom at NIU, what it means and ways to further enhance NIU’s commitment to academic freedom. The committee is going to look at current NIU materials, as well as resources at other institutions in their approach to academic freedom. We already heard from Provost Elish-Piper earlier about the website. If you want more information on what is available currently through the NIU website, I know Ben will send this link out tomorrow Friday when we get the update from this meeting, which is a wonderful thing, thank you. Take a look at that and see what’s there. But know that going forward, you’ll get more information from Faculty Rights and Responsibilities on NIU’s view of academic freedom, our approach, and how we can enhance our commitment to it. Any questions from that looking forward report? I don’t know what I can answer, but. Thanks.

**B. Creed:** Looks like Emily’s got a question.

**E. McKee:** I imagine that a lot of this is going to be focused on freedom of speech and freedom of expression for faculty. Is it also going to be dealing with facilitating in the classroom freedom of expression for students.

**T. Arado:** Absolutely. Academic freedom and freedom of expression are two very different things. But it will approach it from the faculty, staff, employee, student view. Yes, our view is faculty, because we’re Faculty Senate, but it is impossible to discuss one without discussing and impacting others.

**E. McKee:** And are you also looking for any participation, or do you already have avenues for getting participation from students and folks outside the Faculty Senate?

**T. Arado:** I hadn’t thought that far, but Ben might certainly have some thoughts on that.

**B. Creed:** I think after the first meeting, there will probably opportunities to find ways to bring in the voices, the perspectives, the information that’s necessary, if that’s what you’re thinking about, such as avenues to get the information to Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. It is an open meeting, so there will be public notice. Folks are welcome to submit public comments and sit in on those conversations, as well.

**E. McKee:** Thank you.

**B. Creed:** Thanks.

**T. Arado:** Anybody else, before I walk away again?

**B. Creed:** Thank you so much for taking on that role, thank you.

F. Social Justice Committee – no report

**B. Creed:** There is no report from the Social Justice Committee.

G. FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – no report

 Emily McKee, FS/RGE Liaison/Spokesperson

**B. Creed:** And no report from the FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee.

H. Student Government Association – report

 Ja’kobe Jones, SGA President

 Manny Corpuz, Speaker of the Senate

**B. Creed:** Do we have a report from SGA? I don’t think so. No, Manny is saying no. Thank you, Manny.

I. Operating Staff Council – report

 Natasha Johnson, President

**B. Creed:** Do we have a report from Operating Staff Council. Thank you, Jim.

**J. Slagstad:** It’s not very much, but one of the big things from Natasha this year is that she’s going to be putting out a survey to really help us focus our efforts in a direction that makes sense for the staff. So, I think there is going to be a lot more – last year was very quiet – so, this year I think there’s going to be a lot more focus on what we can do to help the situation for staff. Thank you.

**B. Creed:** Any questions? Okay, thank you.

J. Supportive Professional Staff Council – report

 Felicia Bohanon, President

**B. Creed:** Next up is a report from the Supportive Professional Staff Council.

**F. Bohanon:** We had our first meeting of the academic year. I was reelected as president in June. And then at our last meeting, we elected our vice president who is Tom O’Grady; our secretary, Deborah Gittemy; and Kelly Marshall as our treasurer.

We finished up last year, in terms of development of a survey, so that we have a better sense of our needs of SPS staff, and we’ll be sending that out in the next month. Thank you. Any questions?

**B. Creed:** Thank you, Felicia.

**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: Oct 2, Oct 30, Nov 20, Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 26, Apr 23

Q. [Faculty Meet and Greet with RIPS Leadership](https://calendar.niu.edu/event/faculty-meet-and-greet-with-rips-leadership-273), Thursday, Oct. 24, 9-11 a.m., 71 North Partnership Studio, located in Founders Memorial Library lower level. Come and meet the leadership team for an informal introduction. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

R. [The Real Talk Conference](https://www.niu.edu/diversity-inclusion/conference/index.shtml): Opening Pathways to Embrace Our Humanity, Friday, Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m.

S. [Designing Engagement for Equity](https://www.niu.edu/diversity-inclusion/conference/index.shtml): Fall 2024 Engagement Executive-in-Residence Workshop, Thursday, Oct. 24, 8:30 a.m.

**B. Creed:** That brings us to informational items. Items A through O are the Policy Library and minutes from various minutes and councils. You’ll notice Item P has our next Faculty Senate meeting, which is October 30.

And then we have three other informational items. Richard already talked about the faculty meet-and-greet with RIPS leadership on Thursday, Oct. 24.

Then we have two related items. Item R is the Real Talk Conference: Opening Pathways to Embrace our Humanity, which is Friday, Oct. 25, 8:30. If you participated last year, I’m sure you can share great stories about the impactful conversations and topics discussed in that. I’ve been on the planning committee, and there’s great keynote speakers, great presentations, great opportunities to engage with that conference and that topic.

There is a pre-conference, which is item S, Designing Engagement for Equity. This is part of the Fall Engagement Executive-in-Residence Program. It’s a workshop that starts at 8:30 in the morning on October 24. There is a morning session that you can be a part of, or you can be part of the full-day session. The morning is about human-centered design and how it applies to community engagement, engaged work and designing for equity. The afternoon is an applied hands-on workshop. In order to be a part of that, you would be asked to participate in the morning and then the afternoon. And to make that afternoon useful, we’re encouraging folks who are working on projects in their departments or academic units that might benefit from a hands-on workshop, to come as a group. I’m bringing my department. We’re going to show up and look at our Ed.D. Program. How can we use these principles to improve what we do for our students. I’ll send materials on all three of these.

**XIII. Adjournment**

**B. Creed:** That brings us to adjournment. Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting today? Thank you, Beth. Second? Lori. All in favor of adjourning the meeting?

**Members:** Aye.

**B. Creed:** Thank you all.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.