MINUTES – FS FACULTY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, March 5, 2024, 3:15 p.m.**

**Altgeld Hall 225**

**Northern Illinois University**

**DeKalb, Illinois**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Arado, Brain, Burton (for Rajabi), Hartenhoff, Thomas, Wang

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Campbell,Rajabi

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Reeves,Streb, Valentiner

**I. Call to Order**

Faculty Senate (FS) Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (FRR) Committee Chair **T. Arado** called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

**II. Verification of Quorum**

A quorum was verified.

**III. Adoption of the Agenda**

**L. Hartenhoff** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **D. Brain**. Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of the December 11, 2024, Minutes**

**L. Hartenhoff** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **D. Brain**. Motion passed.

**V. Public Comment**

**VI. Items for FS Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee Consideration**

A. Discussion/Review of [FS Bylaws, Article 14](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/faculty-senate/bylaws/index.shtml#article14)

Matt Streb, Chief Strategy Officer, Liaison to the Board of Trustees

The committee members and visitors engaged in conversation on the topic of academic freedom including these components: President Freeman’s commitment to academic freedom at NIU; the distinction from freedom of expression; the role of responsible scholarship; the role of tenure; the potential impact of political climates on academic freedom; the strengths and weaknesses of NIU’s current grievance procedures for violation of academic freedom, including some concern that these procedures allow for faculty review and recommendation only, with final authority residing with administration; concerns about potential retaliation in/from academic freedom complaints and how they would be handled; a desire to cultivate a healthier culture that elevates collegiality and peer accountability

Members were invited to review FS Bylaws Article 14 again, and to submit draft language with a focus on greater faculty authority in the appeal process, for review by the members at the next meeting on April 9.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned 4:15 p.m.