MINUTES – FS STEERING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 3 p.m.**

**Altgeld Hall 225**

**Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Arado,Barrett, Corpuz, Creed, McGowan, Mills, Novak, Slagstad, Whedbee

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Boswell, Fotovat

**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**

**T. Arado** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **J. Novak**. Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of the November 13, 2024, minutes**

**T. Arado** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **K. Whedbee**. Motion passed.

**V. Public Comment**

**VI. Unfinished Business**

A. University Goals Feedback – Updates on Academic Program Measures for BOT

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

The committee continued its discussion on the Board of Trustees’ request to review annual updates on academic programs via key metrics in a report (now included in the university goals). The Academic Planning Council (APC) also is reviewing this topic and will make recommendation to the university president and provost regarding measures to be included in the annual reports. The APC, FS Steering Committee and FS will have subsequent opportunities for further review and feedback.

Concern was expressed that reports made to the BOT on an annual basis (compared to the previous eight-year cycle) is too short of a snapshot to provide authentic information. It was noted that the vision is to provide trend data, perhaps a three-year trend.

Concern was expressed regarding a lack of confidence in the accuracy of data provided by NIU’s institutional research team, how details of enrollment such as double majors, or programs that offer required courses but not majors, can skew the data and, as a result, misrepresent the real picture. How do we ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data system in this specific annual reporting scenario, as well as other scenarios?

**VII. New Business**

A. Academic Center Representation in Faculty Senate

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

The directors of NIU’s six academic centers have requested representation on FS, specifically one representative per center for a total of six new FS seats. In addition, the request includes representation on the FS Social Justice Committee and the FS Personnel Committee. Conversations are ongoing.

A question was raised regarding how this compares to the ratio of other constituency groups represented on FS, such as clinical faculty and instructors. Concern was expressed that one representative for each of the six centers is a lot; although, it was also noted that, if the centers are allowed only one or two at-large seats to cover all the centers, those representatives need to really know that they are representing all the centers and not just their own.

**VIII. Discussion and approval of Faculty Senate draft agenda** – attached packet

**T. Arado** moved to approve the draft FS agenda, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Discussion included the following points:

Two presentations will be brought forward: Prevention, Education and Outreach & Social Justice, and NIU Football – Mountain West Conference.

Call for nominations for the Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award will be announced.

Reports are anticipated from the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, Student Government Association, Operating Staff Council and Supportive Professional Staff Council.

Motion passed.

**IX. 2024-25 FS Steering Committee meeting dates**

Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 19, Apr 16

**X. Adjournment**

**W. Mills** moved to adjourn, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.