MINUTES – FS STEERING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 3 p.m.**

**Altgeld Hall 225**

**Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois**

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

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barrett, Boswell, Fotovat, McGowan

**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. Slagstad.** Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of the January 15, 2025, minutes**

**T. Arado** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **M. Corpuz.** 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 Academic Planning Council is completing its review of this project, including consultation with Institutional Research, and is expected to make its recommendation to FS President **B. Creed**, who will in turn present a report to FS at its April 23 meeting, with the report ultimately advancing to the Board of Trustees.

B. Academic Center Representation in Faculty Senate

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

NIU’s six “academic center” directors are requesting FS representation, including six FS seats, one FS-Social Justice Committee seat and one FS Personnel Committee seat. Steering Committee members discussed the pros and cons of this request, and brainstormed alternative options, including something less than six seats, or the option of piloting the concept for one year (2025-26) before proposing codification in the FS Bylaws.

**VII. New Business**

A. Updates on context shifts and responses

Ben Creed, Faculty Senate President

Amidst uncertainty related to the transition in the federal administration, executive orders and agency policy shifts, **B. Creed** has initiated a survey, in which faculty senators are invited to communicate the worries, impacts and hoped-for resources that exist across campus. NIU’s administration continues working with resources at the state and federal level and will share information as it is confirmed. In many cases, outcomes are currently uncertain, resulting in no action to be taken at this time.

Some faculty have requested an official statement from FS elevating the commitment to academic freedom at NIU; however, it was noted that NIU administration already upholds that commitment to academic freedom. It was also noted that the 1940 Academic Freedom Statement continues to be considered the primary policy statement regarding academic freedom.

**VIII. Discussion and approval of Faculty Senate draft agenda**

**J. Slagstad** moved to approve the draft FS agenda, seconded by **W. Mills**. Discussion included the following points:

* Bárbara González will present on Instructional Faculty: Teaching Professor/Professor of Practice
* Bob Lane Faculty Advocacy Award nominee information will be reviewed, and a recipient will be selected by the body.
* Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws Article 10, Appeal Procedures for Academic Personnel Decisions, and Article 11, Sabbatical Leave Policy, will be presented for a first reading.
* Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws Article 3.5.1, Social Justice Committee Composition, will be presented for a first reading.
* Proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 8, The Academic Personnel Process, will be presented for a first reading.
* The previously scheduled proposed amendment to FS Bylaws, Article 4.4.1.3, Graduate Council Administrative Representation, will not move forward at this time and will be removed from the draft agenda.
* Reports are anticipated from the FS-UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee; Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE; Social Justice Committee, Student Government Association, Operating Staff Council, Supportive Professional Staff Council.

Motion passed.

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

Feb 12, Mar 19, Apr 16

**X. Adjournment**

**W. Mills** moved to adjourn, seconded by **M. Corpuz**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.