

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) OF THE APRIL 5, 2017 MEETING

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Report from the Committee to Evaluate the President of Faculty Senate/
Executive Secretary of University Council – Sean Farrell

V. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Program Prioritization – Lisa Freeman, Executive Vice President and Provost
- B. Follow-up on Faculty Senate response to December 22 Baker Report – Greg Long
- C. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws [Article 3.6](#) – Page 3
Office of the Executive Secretary – **SECOND READING/ACTION ITEM**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Student Grievance Annual Report per NIU Bylaws [Article 12.6](#) – Greg Long –
Page 4

No student grievances were filed during the 2016-17 academic year.

IX. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. FAC to IBHE – Paul Stoddard – report
 - 1. March 17, 2017 [meeting report](#) – Pages 5-7
- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – no report
Cathy Doederlein, Greg Long, Holly Nicholson,
Rebecca Shortridge, Kendall Thu, Leanne VandeCreek
- C. Academic Policy Committee – no report

- D. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Sarah McHone-Chase, Chair – no report
- E. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Therese Arado, Chair – report
 - 1. Election of 2017-18 Executive Secretary of University Council per NIU Bylaws [Article 14.5](#) – Page 8

[Linda Saborío](#) – Pages 9-10
 - 2. Policy Library update and shared governance [recommendations](#) – Greg Long – Pages 11-12
- F. University Affairs Committee – Linda Saborío, Chair – no report
- G. Student Association – report
Giuseppe LaGioia, President
Christine Wang, Speaker of the Senate
- H. Operating Staff Council – Holly Nicholson, President – report
- I. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Cathy Doederlein, President – report

X. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- B. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- C. [Minutes](#), Baccalaureate Council
- D. [Minutes](#), Board of Trustees
- E. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- F. [Minutes](#), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- G. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- H. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council
- I. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council Curriculum Committee
- J. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee
- K. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- L. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- M. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- N. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee
- O. [Minutes](#), Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
- P. [Minutes](#), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
- Q. [2017-18 Meeting Schedule](#) – Page 13

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws, Article 3.6

This proposed amendment brings the bylaw into alignment with current practice and expectations of the office of Executive Secretary of University Council, which requires a 12-month commitment. To accommodate the 12-month contract, the University Council budget funds three months' salary (not two).

NIU BYLAWS

ARTICLE 3: OPERATING PROCEDURES OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

3.6 Office of the Executive Secretary

3.6.2 The executive secretary shall be paid from the budget of the academic department in which the individual holds rank and tenure for a regular nine-month full-time appointment. That department shall be compensated by a transfer of funds from the budget of the University Council to support instructional costs incurred by the department as a consequence of the executive secretary's assignment to University Council duties. The actual allocation to the department shall be determined on the basis of discussions involving the department chair, the dean of the college, the executive vice president and provost, and the Office of the President. The budget of the University Council shall also fund an additional ~~two~~ **three** months' salary for the executive secretary.

ARTICLE 12: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS

12.6 Post-Hearing Process

... The executive secretary is to maintain records pertaining to each grievance including the outcome. The executive secretary will provide a summary report of the number of grievances filed and the disposition to the University Council at the April meeting each year.

Faculty Advisory Council
Illinois Board of Higher Education

17 March 2017 Meeting Agenda*

Hosted by South Suburban College

Main Building, 15800 S. State Street, South Holland, Illinois 60573

9:00 Call to order & introductions (*Marie Donovan*)

9:05 Opening remarks and conversation with *SSC President Donald Manning*

Have to offer developmental courses because too many incoming students are not college ready. Working on streamlined developmental courses (less than 16 weeks). Social promotion stops in Grade 12.

Stresses that higher ed is part of the economic development process. SSC is a \$60 million operation. That money goes back into the local economy.

Many of their students are 1st generation college students, require “hand holding” to help navigate the bureaucracy.

9:20 Presentations and discussion about faculty governance and self-advocacy

SSC faculty union president Gerald A. Griffith

Won election as union president (by 2 votes) after previous contract provided raises for all but 4 faculty. Has a sarcastic streak, which only served to upset people, not help negotiations. Recruited exec board after Lincoln’s “cabinet of rivals” model. SSC is entirely a patronage institution (all admins contribute to SSC board’s chair, who is local pol).

Finds he has to handle a lot of “other duties as needed” including student complaints, which are absolutely not his responsibility. Also disputes *between* faculty members.

SSC FAC representative Steve Vivian

1986 strike lasted 6 weeks. (1984 strike last 3 days, they got 5% raise/year for 2 years). New prez for 1986 negotiations, wanted to “destroy” the union. Prez tried to lay off 5 instructors. Didn’t follow protocol; instructors not laid off. Lost a good SSC board member in election, strike followed. Back then, had 5 members on team. (Now it’s G.A. plus two others). Delaying tactics from the admin side. Board voted to hire replacement faculty.

10:20 Reports:

Chair (Marie Donovan): Tuesday’s IBHE meeting: Pushing for SB 440 (fac rep on IBHE). Was passed through by higher ed committee. Bill for all faculty, not just FAC. FAC represents wide diversity of institutions and thus is representative for Illinois. Gov’s office dictates that IBHE is opposed to bill. Marie spoke with Cross after; he was very dismissive, condescending, misogynistic. Wrote to Vice Chair Shawn, rather than Marie. Caucus discussions to consider our next step, Phillips’ position statement, and survey questions.

Vice Chair (Shawn Schumacher): Next meeting is at Western.

Secretary (Steve Rock): Faculty is 3rd leg of higher ed. (with students and admins).
Gretchen Lohman, FAC Liaison, Associate Director, IBHE Academic Affairs:
IBHE has been conducting webinars about administrative rule changes for privates, 2-yrs(?).

No news on new Exec Director.

No news on budget (we know as much as she does).

Candace Mueller, Associate Director, IBHE External Relations:

Submitted legislative report via email (through Marie).

<http://www.ibhe.org/Board/agendas/2017/March/LegislativeReport.pdf>

10:45 Break

11:00 Caucus Meetings

11:45 Caucus Reports

Privates: SB 440 response (2 issues – official, personal). Minutes need to be crafted carefully. Procedural: Board position before board discussion. Work to alleviate IBHE size issue.

4-yr Publics: Schools are burning through reserves. We are economic hubs for communities. We still need to tell our stories, even if they've all been heard before. Position statement needs some work – clarifications and some more teeth. In SB 440 we need to clarify we're asking for FACULTY representation, not FAC representation.

CCs: Unanimous support for Marie. Pension choice came up, specifically the current plan being floated in the "Grand Bargain."

12:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Discussion with *Rep. Emanuel 'Chris' Welch (D-7th), Chair, IL House Committee on Higher Education*

Gauntlet of woe from the FAC (how is the budget crisis affecting each institution).

CW: If legislators had their way, there would be a budget. They've gone 9 months without a paycheck. They have the same healthcare issues. He had to write a personal check to keep his office open. Gov. Rauner is proceeding with every aspect of his agenda. Asked IBHE Chair Cross about disinvestment in Ill higher ed and the positive role of higher ed. Cross agreed, but got hostile when asked about having conversations with the Gov on this issue, defending the Gov. as being pro-higher ed.

Thinks income tax shouldn't have been sun-set, and advocates for returning to at least 5% rate. Closing a corporate loophole (carried interest) would net the state about \$350 million. HB to prevent the state from entering toxic bond issues would save half a billion. Talk with legislators, call, write, visit Springfield. April 27 "teach-out".

Gov. said last week that we should merge some of the public universities.

HB 3447 – Tuition reduction act, now out of committee. Still working on "baseline number" (2015 currently, maybe 2002 in final version, since that was last time higher ed "fully funded"). Half (?) of all money over certain baseline level goes to tuition reduction.

2:00 Business Meeting

- 1) Old Business
 - a) Approval of minutes from the Feb 17, 2017 meeting at UI-Springfield

- 2) New Business
 - a) Announcements
 - b) Other

2:30 Adjournment

Next FAC Meeting: Friday, 14 April at Western Illinois University

NIU BYLAWS

ARTICLE 14: UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

14.5 Officers

14.5.1 The executive secretary of the University Council shall be elected by the voting members of the University Council from the elected faculty members of the University Council in accordance with Section 3.2 of the University Constitution and Section 1.3 of these Bylaws. The Executive Secretary of the Council shall also serve as President of the Faculty Senate. The Senate shall elect such other officers it may consider essential for the performance of its duties.

14.5.1.1 The initial selection of candidates for the office of Executive Secretary of the University Council shall take place at the second spring semester meeting of the Faculty Senate. Any faculty senator may suggest or second the suggestion of a candidate. To be qualified to serve, the candidate must be an elected faculty member of the University Council for the current and for the ensuing year.

14.5.1.2 Suggested candidates for the office of Executive Secretary shall submit a letter of intent to be included with the agenda for the third and fourth (last) spring semester regularly scheduled meetings of the Faculty Senate.

14.5.1.3 An election of the final candidate for nomination shall be conducted by secret ballot at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the normal academic year of the Faculty Senate. All Faculty Senators present may cast a ballot for the candidate. If there are more than two suggested candidates, the final nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority, subsequent ballots will be taken removing the candidate receiving the fewest votes until a candidate is selected.

14.5.1.4 The voting members of the University Council will vote by secret ballot to accept or reject the nominee at the last University Council meeting of the spring semester.

14.5.2 The election of a vice president shall take place at the first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year.

14.5.3 The term of office for all officers shall begin August 16 and shall be for one year. An officer may serve successive terms.



**Northern Illinois
University**
*Department of Foreign
Languages and Literatures*

March 10, 2017

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Dear fellow senators:

With full understanding of the significant responsibility of this position, I respectfully accept my nomination to be considered for Faculty Senate President / University Council Executive Secretary.

I understand that several of you may not know me, so I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. This is my sixth year as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. During my time as Director, I was charged with the task of writing the Spanish and French program prioritization reports and, two years earlier, my department's program review for the B.A. in both Spanish and French. In addition to the numerous other duties as Director of Undergraduate Studies for my department, I am also involved with several university-wide committees. Currently, I am completing the second year of my first term on University Council. Since being elected to University Council, I have been serving as the Chair of the University Affairs standing committee. Likewise, it is my second year serving on the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. In the past, I served on Faculty Senate, on a number of sub-committees for the Center for the Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality during the time of their merger with LGBT Studies, and on the Faculty Advisory Committee for the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies. From 2012-2013, I also served as a member on the Latino Resource Center Advisory Board where we focused on increasing Latino student enrollment and involvement on campus. As evidenced by my committee experience, I place great importance on working to improve diversity and inclusion at this university.

In regard to the position of Faculty Senate President / University Council Executive Secretary, I plan to continue to foster an environment of mutual respect and understanding with all my constituents and, as the Constitution states in regard to the purpose of Faculty Senate, "to promote the representation of faculty; to encourage active faculty participation; to discuss and recommend policies; and to promote the welfare of the faculty and the university." To accomplish these goals, I would invite faculty to share their ideas and concerns with me so that I may correctly represent your voices and build a strong consensus whenever possible. At times, I understand that it will be essential to respond to complex decisions, but I am willing to aptly step up, take a stand, and resolutely face those challenges.

We cannot deny that the university is facing unprecedented challenges. These "changing times," as I prefer to call them, are symptomatic of higher education as an institution

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being driven to respond to economic, political, and cultural transitions. As a result, faculty is witnessing a shift in how we teach, what we teach, when, and to whom. Further, we continue to face fiscal uncertainty with our state budget, which has resulted in the loss of tools necessary for our job coupled with numerous other budget reductions at department levels; enrollments have declined from five years ago (in part due to an outmigration of students from Illinois); and overall morale across campus is spiraling downward. Needless to say, this list is not conclusive.

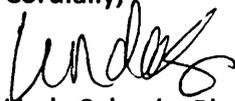
In light of these challenges, there are action steps that faculty can take to ensure that proper governance procedures, values, and opinions are shared across colleges and disciplines as well as with administration. A few of these steps I outline for you below:

- Continue the hard work put forth by Greg Long, Therese Arado, and the members of the Rules, Governance and Elections Committee in creating an easily accessible policy library
- Push for transparency in regard to the budget, program prioritization, enrollment management, and more
- Review and protect academic procedures and policies as deemed necessary
- Maintain open communication with the recently established faculty union to ensure faculty needs are heard and met

This list represents a small number of steps I plan to take to ensure inclusion among all members of the senate.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude for this nomination. If elected, I would welcome your input and invite you to speak directly with me about your concerns. I believe that any effective leader should be transparent and honest, and strive to create meaningful dialogue with others.

Cordially,



Linda Saborio, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Spanish

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

lsaborio@niu.edu



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

University Council and Faculty Senate

April 20, 2017

To: Faculty Senate and University Council members

From: Greg Long
Faculty Senate President
University Council Executive Secretary

RE: Shared Governance Recommendations

It is more important now than ever to ensure that faculty and staff have significant decision-making input. Toward that end, over the past 18 months, shared governance leaders have engaged in a discussion about reorganizing the University's Constitution and Bylaws. As reported in prior meetings, NIU's Constitution and Bylaws is quite unique. It underwent significant revision in the mid-1980s in response to external political pressure. The goal at that time, per Vice President Anne Kaplan, was to create a document that was "resistant to change." The resulting Constitution and Bylaws codified many policies and procedures into bylaws and then set a voting threshold for change that required near unanimity from attending members for passage.

In response to this challenge, and following significant discussion among shared governance leadership, the following three-step solution was proposed. First, lower the threshold for amending bylaws (i.e., Article 22). Second, move selected bylaws (e.g., Article 13—Placement of Critical Materials in Faculty Personnel Files) into a more appropriate location. Third, revise the Constitution and Bylaws to empower the Faculty Senate with significant authority over curricular matters. Over the past 12 months, significant progress has been made on the first two steps. The first step was accomplished during the April 6, 2016 University Council meeting when members voted to lower the voting threshold for amending bylaws.

The second step of the solution (i.e., revising the CBL) has evolved since last spring. Initial effort focused on extensive benchmarking of other universities' governance documents. This led to the awareness that nearly half of NIU's current bylaws are more accurately described as policies and/or procedures. For example, over 20 pages are devoted to grievance procedures. In contrast, most other universities do not mention grievance processes in their bylaws, or if so, there is simply a statement that protections are available.

Your Future. Our Focus.

TO: Faculty Senate and University Council members
Page Two
April 20, 2017

A question arises, however, as to where such policies should “live” if not in the Bylaws. A common approach at many other universities is the use of an online policy library (see [Purdue University](#) or [University of Arizona](#) for examples). The library becomes the official site for all university-wide policies and includes resources, forms, and guidelines for submitting, reviewing, and approving policies. The University Council’s Rules, Governance, and Elections Committee supports the development of such a policy library and has met regularly this academic year to further its creation. At the time of this report, significant progress has been made relative to collecting and categorizing university-wide policies, website design, and writing a “Policy on Managing Policies.”

After the policy library and management guidelines are in place, I encourage continued revision of the Constitution and Bylaws to:

- move “policy bylaws” into the policy library
- create a shared governance structure where the Faculty Senate has significantly increased authority over academic and curricular matters
- provide increased parity for staff on University Council because, at present, Operating Staff and SPS have only 4 seats out of 60.

2017-2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

FACULTY SENATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

FS-STEERING COMMITTEE 1 – 2:30 p.m.	FACULTY SENATE 3 – 5 p.m.	UNIVERSITY COUNCIL 3 – 5 p.m.
UC-STEERING COMMITTEE 3 – 4:30 p.m. Altgeld Hall 225	Clara Sperling Sky Room Holmes Student Center	Clara Sperling Sky Room Holmes Student Center
August 30, 2017	September 6, 2017	September 13, 2017
September 27, 2017	October 4, 2017	October 11, 2017
October 25, 2017	November 1, 2017	November 8, 2017
November 15, 2017	November 29, 2017	December 6, 2017
January 17, 2018	January 24, 2018	January 31, 2018
February 14, 2018	February 21, 2018	February 28, 2018
March 21, 2018	March 28, 2018	April 4, 2018
April 18, 2018	April 25, 2018	May 2, 2018

Spring Break March 11-18, 2018