

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 3 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Sky Room

Full transcript unavailable.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Andree, Arado, Bishop, Block, Boughton, Briscoe, Brubaker (for Barnhart), Carlson, G. Chen, J. Chen, Chitwood, Chmaissem, Click, Cordes, Doederlein, Freeman, Graff, Haji-Sheikh, Hanley, Hunt, Kassel, Konen, Kortegast (for Bond), Krmeneč, Ledgerwood, Lesnicki, Maddali, Martin, McCord, Millhorn, Milot, Mogren, Naples, Newman, Nicholson, Penrod, Rheineck, Saborío, Scherer, Segura, Shi, Song, Staikidis, Stephen, Stiggers, Tahernezehadi (for Peterson), Thu, Torres, Towell (for Rajagopalan), Valles, Walker (for Elish-Piper), Wang

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: An, Barnhart, Bond, Campbell, Chung, Elish-Piper, Hathaway, Patro, Peterson, Plum, Rajagopalan, Zolotor

OTHERS PRESENT: Blazey, Bryan, King, Klaper, McGill, McHone-Chase, Wesener Michael

OTHERS ABSENT: Falkoff, Jensen

I. CALL TO ORDER

NIU Acting President **L.Freeman** called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

R. Scherer moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **C. Doederlein**. Motion passed by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2017 MEETING

T. Arado moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **B. Andree**. Motion passed by voice vote.

IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Freeman presented the following announcements indicating that questions and/or comments would be entertained at the end:

- Chief Financial Officer
Introduced and welcomed NIU Chief Financial Officer, **Sarah McGill**.

- State legislative update

The spring legislative session is underway and will likely focus on the state budget, an area of great concern for NIU and other public universities. Uncertainty remains about whether a budget appropriation will be forthcoming, however, several General Assembly members have been encouraging in sharing their belief that a budget will pass.

The IBHE has been advocating publically on behalf of higher education in an effort to restore confidence in Illinois colleges and universities and stem student outmigration. There is agreement on a request for a \$100 million increase in MAP funding; however, there has been disagreement between the IBHE and the Illinois public university presidents and chancellors regarding the IBHE's budget recommendations. In terms of the operating budget, the IBHE is requesting a 1.9 percent over FY18 (\$24.1 million over current funding for a total of \$1.1 billion for public universities) and the presidents/chancellors are asking for a return to FY15 funding levels (\$1.2 billion, which is a difference of \$100 million).

[Letter](#) to IBHE Executive Director, Al Bowman from Illinois university presidents, was read to the body. For context, \$5.5 billion in backlogged maintenance currently exists.

NIU will participate in appropriations hearings in front of the Senate and House Higher Education Committees, currently being scheduled to begin in March. In addition, like the other public four-year institutions, NIU will present before a 12-person bicameral, bi-partisan higher education working group (of which Rep. Pritchard is a member) on February 8. NIU has been asked to present data on recruitment, retention and graduate rates, and for the presenters to be the administrators with responsibility for those areas rather than the president.

- Open Meetings Act update

Following up on a report made at the December 6, 2017 University Council meeting that University Council and its standing committees will move to Open Meetings Act compliance, employees have been designated to complete OMA training annually. University Council staff are developing easy-to-use guidance for UC standing committee chairs. OMA elements that standing committees are expected to observe during the spring 2018 semester are: 48-hour advance posting of meeting agendas, provision of an opportunity for public comment, and prohibition on the majority of a quorum discussion council or committee business outside of a public meeting. University Council is working toward full compliance for Fall 2018.

- Maxient System

Some NIU students have expressed concern that NIU is monitoring their social media accounts via a watchlist. This is not the case. This meeting is an opportunity to provide clarity regarding the university's use of Maxient software and its proactive response mechanism that the vendor has, unfortunately, termed, "watchlist." K. Wesener Michael was asked to provide background and factual account of this situation.

Feedback and dialogue that can lead to improved policies and practices to enhance

student well-being and academic success was encouraged.

In response to a request, the “[Report an Incident](#)” link is being provided in these minutes.

- Michigan State University

In the wake of what has emerged from Michigan State University, L. Freeman reiterated NIU’s expectations that “if you see something, hear something or have reason to be concerned, say something. And we will pursue with appropriate measures. This is each of our responsibility to each other.”

- Upcoming Campus Experience Survey

An email urging participation will be distributed soon.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws [Article 15.5](#) Baccalaureate Council – Pages 3-4

SECOND READING – ACTION

H. Nicholson moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **R. Hunt**. The motion passed by electronic vote: Yes-42, No-0, Abstain -1.

- B. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws [Article 15.3](#) Academic Planning Council – Pages 5-7

SECOND READING – ACTION

R. Hunt moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **T. Arado**.

A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to modify the proposed language in 15.3.1.3(B) (first bullet point).

Originally proposed: vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs responsible for undergraduate education.

Friendly accepted amendment: vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs.

The motion, as friendly amended, passed by electronic clicker vote: Yes-44, No-0, Abstain-1.

- C. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws [Article 15.8](#) University Assessment Panel – Page 8-11

SECOND READING – ACTION

J. Stephen moved to approve the proposed amendment, seconded by **W. Penrod**. A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to modify the proposed language in 15.8.1.b (first bullet point).

Originally proposed: ...and the other sciences);

Friendly accepted amendment: ...and the natural sciences);

A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to include additional language in the rationale, which is provided to summarize the intent of the proposal.

Friendly accepted additional language: Changes are also proposed to reorganize the duties of the UAP.

The motion, as friendly amended, passed by electronic clicker vote:
Yes-42, No-0, Abstain-2.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Linda Saborío – [report](#) – Pages 12-19

L. Saborio referred members to her written report.

- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – no report
Barbara Andree, Catherine Doederlein, Alex Gelman,
Mark Riley, Linda Saborío, Kendall Thu

- C. Academic Policy Committee – Terry Bishop, Chair – no report

- D. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Jim Wilson, Chair, and
Sarah McHone-Chase Faculty Senate Liaison/Spokesperson – report

S. McHone-Chase reported that representatives from the RSB Committee would participate in the upcoming budget development process. She also reported that Acting President Freeman and Acting Provost would attend the upcoming RSB Committee meeting to be held Friday, Feb. 2.

- E. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Therese Arado, Chair – no report

- F. University Affairs Committee – Reed Scherer, Chair – no report

- G. Student Association – Rachel Jacob, President; Christine Wang, Speaker of the Senate – report

C. Wang submitted the following report:

- 1/21 Senate meeting was cancelled due to a miscommunication with the HSC. The first SA Senate meeting took place on 1/28.
- The next SA Senate meeting was moved to 2 pm on 2/4 due to the Super Bowl.
- The SA lost 10 senators due to a myriad of reasons, which resulted in turnover and some leadership changes.
- #NoShameCampaign is still moving forward—Director of Cultural Affairs Luis Flores is setting up events for the campaign, and the blog will be up and running very soon. We are also working on getting other events up such as a relationships workshop, which ties into our goal of achieving sexual assault awareness on campus.
- Regarding the Safe Streets Initiative—Senators visited City Council. Phase I was passed, but due to our talks, a student was placed on the committee regarding the parking ordinance.
- Elections for the SA are taking place this semester and the Board of Elections was elected on 1/28, which means we have a full Election Commission.
- 2/11's Senate meeting will include a resolution commemorating the 10-year anniversary and remembering the victims.

C. **Wang** submitted the following Student Association President's report:

- Planning a diversity event for April.
- Working closely on the watchlist/Maxient issues with Dr. Kelly Wesener-Michael and Dr. Jill Zambito.
- Putting together a social policy committee to review the social policy with SILD and Student Conduct.
- Coordinating compliance checks trainings with Student Conduct.

H. Operating Staff Council – Barbara Andree, President – report –

B. Andree announced that the Operating Staff Council bowling event was rescheduled to February 7.

I. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Catherine Doederlein, President – report –

IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

X. 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. [The Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Acts: Better Understanding and Compliance](#)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

J. Stephen moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.