

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING TRANSCRIPT**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 3 p.m.**  
**Holmes Student Center Sky Room**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andree, Arado, Baker, Barnhart, Bateni (for Chung), Block, Bond, Boughton, Cannistra (for Jacob), Carlson, G. Chen, J. Chen, Chitwood, Click, Cordes, Doederlein, Fredericks (for Briscoe), Freeman, Graff, Haji-Sheikh, Hathaway, Hernandez, Hunt, Kassel, Krmeneč, Ledgerwood, Lesnicki, Maddali, Martin, McCord, Millhorn, Naples, Newman, Nicholson, Penrod, Pluim, Prabhaker (for Rajagopalan), Rheineck, Royce (for Nicholson), Saborío, Scherer, Schmidt, Segura, Shin, Song, Stiggers, Tahernezehadi (for Peterson), Thu, Torres, Walker (for Elish-Piper), Wang, Wilson, Zolotor

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bishop, Briscoe, Chung, Elish-Piper, Flores, Jacob, Milot, Mogren, Patro, Peterson, Rajagopalan, Staikidis, Stephen, Ward

**NONVOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Blazey, Bryan, Burlingame, Costello, Falkoff, Klaper, Pinkelton, Stoddard, Wesener Michael

**NONVOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jensen, Kortegast

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**L. Freeman:** Good afternoon, everybody.

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

**L. Freeman:** Welcome to University Council, the October meeting. It's amazing to me that we're already in October. How many other people feel that way – we don't need clickers – I know how did that happen? The leaves are falling and the days are getting shorter and we're past the first exams and we've already had homecoming on the campus. How did it get to be October?

A couple little known facts about October to share with you. First, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and our Affirmative Action and Equity Compliance group has been sponsoring Wednesday lunch hour program relative to Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There are two such presentations left, next Wednesday and the Wednesday after, so the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, one on being an active bystander, and the other on community resources for victims and survivors of rape and domestic violence. Those are held in the Holmes Student Center in the Heritage Room, and we have a purple flier if anybody wants to come up afterwards and look at more details.

It's also Disability Awareness Month in October, and I want to thank Kelly Wesener Michael, the dean of students, for raising student awareness of the services provided by the DRC. And I also want to thank the DRC staff and the Presidential Commission on Disabilities for all that they do to make our community more welcoming and inclusive.

I want to again thank the Student Association for their #nosshame campaign, because they're working to remind our campus that mental health disorders are actually recognized in the context of disabilities. And I know that they want to work on policies and processes that are relative to that. And I thank them for taking this important issue up.

I want to make you aware of some efforts that are related that are going on in our community as well. This past Tuesday night, the DeKalb County Mental Health Board held an event at the Egyptian Theatre that was actually meant to launch a community-wide conversation about mental illness. Hopefully, our groups will continue to participate in that.

Tomorrow night, from 5:30 to 7:30 in the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, the College of Education is sponsoring a panel on suicide awareness and prevention. So all these events are related to Disabilities Awareness Month, and I'm sure they'll be of interest to the campus community.

I want to give you an update on some of the campus-wide searches that are going on. First, the vice president for administration and finance. We had three candidates visit the campus. I've obtained feedback from the committee and from the university community. In the process of doing additional reference checks and finishing the Human Resources process. Expect that to wrap up within the next week or so.

We'll be bringing an item forward to University Council in November relative to the search for a new general counsel. That search will be starting this fall and probably completing in the spring. We will not be using a search firm, and the position will be general counsel, but will no longer carry the title of vice president.

And finally, one that I know everyone here from shared governance is interested in, the search for a policy librarian. I've said previously that I was awaiting a recommendation from the Office of General Counsel and Human Resource Services, and I have received that recommendation. They've put together a benchmarking study looking at organizational structures at similar universities that they use to support ethics compliance and policy libraries. It was excellent work done looking at universities, both inside and outside Illinois. They suggested a number of staff positions necessary to cover the scope of responsibilities that, frankly, exceeds the number of new hires that's possible in this environment. So in an effort to conserve resources and to control administrative costs, I'm looking, with others, at staffing plans to fulfill the roles and responsibilities in their proposal without making four new hires. I'm going to be suggesting alternative staffing strategy and bringing those forward along with the original proposal for your feedback, starting with Dr. Saborío in the next week to ten days.

That concludes the president's announcements, but before we move to the presentation from the Green Team, I'm certainly happy to take questions from the group.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**L. Freeman:** Oh, I never adopted the agenda. Can I have a motion to adopt the agenda.

**T. Arado:** So moved.

**L. Freeman:** Second?

**B. Andree:** I second.

**L. Freeman:** All those in favor, say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Freeman:** Opposed same sign? Okay, agenda is adopted, which is good because we're already through Item IV.

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 MEETING**

**L. Freeman:** Can I have approval of the minutes from the September 13 meeting.

**R. Hunt:** So moved.

**L. Freeman:** Second?

**T. Arado:** Second.

**L. Freeman:** Any discussion, corrections? All in favor?

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Freeman:** Opposed same sign?

### **IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**L. Freeman:** All right, now I'm happy to take questions and answers. And you can ask me why I'm not better with Roberts' Rules of Order, and I'm not really sure what the answer is, but I'll work on it before the next meeting. I know exactly the feeling that Linda had, because in my faculty career at one point, I was a commencement marshal. And the provost started commencement while the graduate faculty were still in the hallway. And I was debating whether or it was good or bad to elbow the provost off the podium to allow the graduate faculty to enter. And I decided it was probably the right thing to do. But I wasn't tenured at the time, so for the rest of the commencement ceremony, I was kind of sweating bullets. He was happy that we got the graduate faculty in the room, and I'm happy that we got the agenda and the minutes approved.

- A. The Green Team and [Campus Sustainability Proposed resolution regarding sustainability](#) – Page 3  
[NIU Green Team presentation](#)

Melissa Burlingame, Green Team Chair

Asst. Director, Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy

Melanie Costello, Green Team Member  
Director, Lorado Taft Field Campus

**L. Freeman:** If there are no questions for me, I'm going to ask Linda to introduce the Green Team to talk about campus sustainability. I do want to say that I've had the pleasure to see this presentation a number of times at this point, and it's a great story.

**L. Saborío:** Good afternoon. So the Green Team has a presentation for us. We have two individuals presenting today: Melissa Burlingame is the assistant director for the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy. And she's a very busy person. She also oversees the Environmental Studies Program, chairs the NIU Green Team and helps lead the NIU Communiversy Gardens. And then the second person presenting with her today is Melanie Costello, who has been the campus director and outdoor education coordinator at Lorado Taft since 2012. And after your presentation, we will be talking about the resolution that you brought forward to University Council. And that is available in your packets on page 3. And we will be voting on it, so if you don't have a clicker and you are a voting member, then please, clickers are in the back when you came in.

**M. Burlingame:** Thank you. Yes, we are making the rounds to make sure that the people at NIU recognize that the Green Team exists. So thank you for having us. The Green Team advises the vice president of administration and finance, or John Heckmann right now, on different measures to increase sustainability at NIU. We started as a team back in 2007 as a directive from the governor at the time, and have continued because we recognize the need for environmental initiatives to be taken...

**M. Costello:** So sustainability, as it's defined by NIU and by us on the Green Team – sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. And when you're looking at sustainability, we're often talking about environmental sustainability, but that's not the whole picture. We're also thinking about economic sustainability which, of course, is very important, and social sustainability.

There has been a lot of work done on this campus as far as sustainability efforts. Many of them are kind of behind-the-scenes and unknown, which is one of the problems that I think we have that we're trying to solve. The addition or changing out lights to LED lighting, various construction projects done in ways that are considered sustainable, permeable parking lots – there's a couple here on campus, and various building automation control systems – the HVAC systems that are more efficient. So, many things going on.

There are still some things that can be done, and the job is not over. Just a few ideas that have come to mind include creating more naturalized areas or using native landscaping around campus for all the benefits that that has, which includes water resources and management, but that's also a separate topic as well. And then being more coordinated in our efforts to have sustainability initiatives here on campus, as well as additional ideas generated by stakeholders, which is one of the reasons why we are here.

So some things that we are doing: One of the issues that I think that people have in our community, whether it be staff, faculty or students, who have good ideas, is not knowing what to do with it when they have it. I have this great idea – what do we do? Who do I bring it to? So one of the things that we're working on is clarifying how a proposal can start, just the starting point – going through the Green Team and getting it to where it needs to be to possibly go somewhere, possibly not. Of course, not all proposals are going to work for our campus, but to at least get it out there and see what can be done. As well as building a database of past initiatives, and this is something that a student is working on – building a database so that we know what we've done – so that the information is there and it's searchable.

**M. Burlingame:** So real quick, these last two things were done with students. Students getting hands-on experience working with the Green Team and bringing up ideas that they – these were the results of them saying to us: I don't know how to do this, let's figure this out. And so we would apply for funds so we could get a student to actually help clarify the processes and whatnot.

In Geography 453, which is Environmental Management, we've got students who are working on writing feasibility reports for shorter-term projects. So can we have year-around donation bins similar to Goodwill? Should we have another community garden site out by the campus apartments? Are the bike racks placed in ways that are easily accessible and are people using them properly? And then something that's been coming up from several areas is, should we have a bike share program similar to Divvy. And so the professor is using service learning as a way to have her students really learn about environmental initiatives and how to actually proceed.

And then we're also building relationships so that's why we're here. We're talking with different stakeholder groups to get you informed about what we're doing, and just letting you know how we plan to move forward. So part of that has been generating ideas for low-hanging fruit projects. The ideas here for the environmental management class, those are all things that have been brought up to the Green Team, low-hanging fruit. So we're looking for some of those ideas to be pursued by future classes.

We're looking for invitations for us to go talk at different groups, and we're also looking to invite you to come join the Green Team, so building a relationship that way.

And then the big piece that we're working on is developing a sustainability plan for the university, not dictating what happens, but helping guide sustainability and make it part of the conversation. Right now we've got a class that is working on developing sustainability goals. They're going to be interviewing stakeholders over the next four or five weeks. And so we're inviting you to be part of that process for creating a sustainability plan for the university, because, hopefully, it will positively impact all of us. And so we should be involved in creating what that is going to look like.

And so moving forward, we hope you'll support our efforts to continue to facilitate environmental initiatives on campus and support the resolution regarding sustainability for NIU.

That is our contact information. You can contact me directly, Melanie directly, or the [greenteam@niu.edu](mailto:greenteam@niu.edu) email address. Questions?

**R. Scherer:** Question about whether the Green Team has been interacting at all with the Foundation. I've got a proposal, we're sort of putting together, to try and promote some of the sustainability projects to alumni. I mean things like net metering and energy auditing and solar panels and that sort of thing that might be of interest to some of our alums and friends out in the community, and industry as well.

**M. Burlingame:** Not at this point. My inclination is that we would do that after we had gone through a sustainability planning process to find out where to expend our efforts and what would be the most appropriate for our campus.

**R. Scherer:** Okay, well we need to talk, because I've been talking with Jerry.

**M. Burlingame:** Sure.

**S. Torres:** I was just wondering, looking ahead, if you had in mind at all perhaps collaborating with national initiatives. For example, the Earth Hour that's coming up.

**M. Burlingame:** In March?

**S. Torres:** Yes.

**M. Burlingame:** We do have students who are working in the class on education and outreach, and how do we make environmental initiatives more well-known across the different populations here at NIU. That is something that I will bring back to them and ask them to include in their recommendations as one of the strategies to support environmental education. But yes, we are looking at different national things.

**S. Torres:** Thank you.

**L. Saborío:** Any questions? Okay the proposed resolution regarding sustainability is available on page 3, and before we have a discussion about the resolution, I do need a motion and a second to approve it. And then we have a discussion. And then we can vote. Okay, so Kendall, are you saying motion?

**K. Thu:** I move to approve.

**H. Nicholson:** Second.

**L. Saborío:** And now we have a discussion. Does anybody have anything they would like to add or discuss in regard to the resolution?

**C. Wang:** I just wanted to say that on Sunday, the Student Association Senate actually approved this resolution.

**M. Burlingame:** Thank you so much.

**C. Wang:** [inaudible]

**M. Burlingame:** I could clarify that the draft resolution is more or less asking you to support what we're already doing, and to move us in a direction that better communicates environmental initiatives that are happening on campus and asks us to better collaborate and seek recognition. So hopefully, we're looking for ways to get students to help write those reports.

**Unidentified:** Didn't Faculty Senate also approve this resolution?

**L. Saborío:** Yes, last week, or was it two weeks ago? Faculty Senate did approve it.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Just a brief comment. It's a great idea, though I do want to point out that we all should know that the Glidden family were pioneers in sustainable agriculture, so we should always remember that with the Glidden Homestead being part of the campus, so this would be something that we could really tie into the history of DeKalb and the agricultural history of DeKalb.

**M. Burlingame:** Thank you.

**L. Saborío:** Anybody else?

**B. Andree:** I'm wondering, based on the comments made earlier about the Foundation, the NIU Foundation, if there could be language in this resolution or is there any mention of working with the NIU Foundation?

**M. Burlingame:** Not specifically.

**B. Andree:** Because you mention national and that's great, I'm not saying anything against state and national, but I'm wondering if adding NIU Foundation might be appropriate or considering it.

**M. Burlingame:** I think it's a good idea. If we start naming one organization, we're going to need to start naming all of them. And I need to make a note so I don't forget.

**K. Thu:** Yes, that was exactly my point – if we start naming one entity, then where do we draw the lines? I think just conceptually, having the Foundation in mind as this goes forward, I think is probably more appropriate than incorporating it into the language.

**M. Burlingame:** One of the things that we're doing is, as we create goals and strategies, is thinking about how do we fund those, including in the conversation with students and faculty and so using the Foundation in developing those routes as an option for funding is one of the things we'll include. Honestly, that hadn't been on the top of my radar, so I do appreciate that being brought up.

**L. Saborío:** And you do have the language in here, it says, NIU community, so that may.

**M. Burlingame:** Okay.

**L. Saborío.** Okay, if there is no more discussion, if you have your clickers available, we're going to vote to approve the resolution as it is written. Just a reminder that 1 is for yes, I approve the resolution; 2 is for no; and 3 is to abstain. Okay, so we're going to close the ballot. And the resolution passes.

Yes – 39 votes  
No – 0 votes  
Abstain – 1 vote

**M. Burlingame:** Thank you very much.

**L. Saborío:** Since I've been on UC, that's the first time I've ever seen zero no votes.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approve nominee, [Mark Brown](#), Chicago Sun-Times, to serve as a community-at-large member of the Northern Star Publications Board for a three-year term (2017-20) per committee membership guidelines – Page 4

**L. Saborío:** Item V is the consent agenda. We have one item. It's to approve the nominee of Mark Brown from the Chicago Sun-Times to serve as a community-at-large member of the Northern Star Publications Board for a three-year term (2017-20) per committee membership guidelines. And you have a brief bio of Mark Brown on page 4 of your packet. This is a consent agenda item so there will be no discussion. Can I get a motion to approve? Cathy Doederlein. And a second? Thank you, Janet Hathaway. All in favor, say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Saborío:** Opposed? Abstentions? Great.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. [Proposed university holidays for 2018](#) – Page 5

**L. Saborío:** Unfinished business, nothing there. New business, we have the proposed university holidays for 2018 on page 5 of the packets. And I did notice that Cathy Doederlein looked these over very closely for us and approved them, right? Any questions regarding the proposed university holidays for 2018? So I need a motion to approve the university holidays. Holly Nicholson. And a second? Thank you, Rebecca Hunt. Any questions, discussion, comments – you wish there were more? It's not enough? I know. All in favor, say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Saborío:** Opposed? Abstentions? Great, we passed the proposed university holidays.

## VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Paul Stoddard – report

**L. Saborío:** Okay, reports from standing committees. First up is Paul Stoddard. I did see him here, there he is. Hi Paul, how are you doing?

**P. Stoddard:** Good, how are you.

**L. Saborío:** Good.

**P. Stoddard:** My apologies for missing last month's meeting but, as it turns out, we really didn't miss very much. The FAC did meet on September 8 at UIUC. They didn't really cover very much of substance; it was the first meeting of the year. We started off with our usual presentation of how wonderful our host institution was, this being the U of I. They gave a very nice presentation of how wonderful they are. And let's suffice it to say, they're wonderful. They are now calling themselves the U of I System, so you might want to make note of that for your correspondence and other notes regarding the U of I.

Moving on, we got an update from Gretchen Lowman, who is our FAC liaison to the IBHE. She reports that there's no news on a new executive director for the IBHE. You may remember that the previous one retired sometime last year. So you can see that this is very high up on the governor's priority list to make sure that the IBHE is being well-led. Sorry.

Otherwise, we didn't really do very much business. We did go into caucus meetings to discuss some of the issues that each individual caucus would like to address this year, and for those of you new to the council and not familiar with the FAC, the FAC is the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE. It's made up of institutions from across the state representing the four-year publics, the community colleges and the private schools. Each of those groups represents a caucus with their own agendas, but generally these agendas overlap quite a bit.

Some of the things that we were very concerned about was the state of liberal arts curricula in the state. General education courses are typically how we address these at the four-years. We are a little concerned that the Illinois articulation initiative might be framing how we present that curriculum more than we're comfortable with and that perhaps we need to be a little more active on the IAI panels that decide which courses are acceptable for general education credit.

That was really, I think, the main thing. We're also worried about dual credit courses. A lot of this is left to the community colleges, but some of the out-of-state schools are beginning to offer this, and now the four-year publics would be in a position of having to accept a course from out-of-state as part of the gen ed package, according to the IAI. So something to sort of keep an eye on, and something that we might want to, as an FAC, weigh in with some opinions in a white paper about that.

That was it. The rest of the meeting was either a tour of campus or a introduction to the FAC for the

new members there or a chance to go home early for some of us. There will be coming up something that the FAC discussed last year, which is a dialog with the Association of American Publishers. They're working toward digital delivery of text material, which includes the traditional text, but also a lot of other things you can do in the digital age that we couldn't do with paper textbook back in our days.

The next of these dialogs is going to be Friday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. until noon, in Chicago. If people are interested in going to that, let me know and I can see if we can't help arrange that. It is a worthwhile conversation to be having, I believe.

And in the spirit of the president's comments earlier, this is not only National Disability Employment Awareness Month and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it's also Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Filipino American History Month, LGBT History Month, and a host of others, not to leave out National Orthodontic Health Month. So if you're thinking of getting braces for you or your kids, now is the time to do it. I'll take any questions if there are any.

**L. Freeman:** Before you give Paul questions, I can give an update that's relative incomplete, but might be a little more current on the IBHE executive director. On the presidents and chancellors call last Wednesday, we heard that there was an appointment. So when the IBHE met at Macomb a couple of weeks ago, Tom Cross talked to the presidents and chancellors about what would the characteristics of a suitable executive director be. And the presidents and chancellors were very vocal about what we would like to see and also gave a list of names. And we did this, in part, because there was a rumor that there was someone with no higher ed background from the governor's office who was about to be named, but that person chose not to relocate to Springfield, and so we were not going to have that executive director. Being proactive, we tried to advance the idea of an executive director with a lot of higher ed experience and understanding going forward. We gave a list of names, and what we heard on the presidents and chancellors call last Wednesday was a mixed bag – that an announcement was imminent with no feedback back to our group that the name about to be announced was no one that we had mentioned or discussed, but that, in fact, the announcement was a former university president who would be largely acceptable. That was a week ago. We were told there would be an announcement within 48 to 72 hours, and there hasn't been an official announcement. So now you know exactly what I know, which is updated on Paul, but not real information.

**P. Stoddard:** Thank you. That's useful to know that, though.

**L. Saborío:** Any questions for Paul? Okay.

**Unidentified:** Paul, do they anticipate changing IAI in any way? I mean there are some departments that would impact more than others.

**P. Stoddard:** I don't think we're really looking to change the initiative. I mean that would be a legislative thing to do. But the four-years do get representation on the various panels that decide which courses are acceptable and which aren't. I know when I've served on those panels, I've annoyed some of them by actually asking to see curricula every now and then for some of the more interesting unorthodox-sounding titles, like Chemistry at the Grocery Store and so forth, which

could be a very good course, but without seeing the... Anyway, I think we would just like to see a little bit more oversight by the four-years' representatives on those panels to make sure that the general program in the state really reflects what we in liberal arts tend to think it should represent – liberal arts and sciences.

**L. Saborío:** Anyone else? No? Okay, thank you, Paul.

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 – report

**L. Saborío:** So next up we have the chair of the Resources, Space and Budget Committee, Jim Wilson, you have a report for us?

**J. Wilson:** Yes. On last Friday, Oct. 6, we met with President Freeman and Provost McCord for the first time. We are mandated to meet with members of the administration at least twice a semester. So we opened it up with several questions, but first we were provided a review of the annual budget bill process. And also it was affirmed that the chair – that is me – will be included in Executive Budget meetings in the future.

Some of the questions that have come up to my attention: One was the quarterly budget review. The next was deferred maintenance. And the last was improving graduate student stipends, tuition and online fees.

I'll start briefly with the quarterly budget review. There were a number of people that expressed frustration with having to deal with, especially from the chairs, having to deal with the quarterly budget. And we were informed that the Board of Trustees have this fiduciary control and responsibility. They are accustomed to working within a business model framework and, of course, their calendar is on a quarterly basis. And in that way, they have the opportunity for feedback on a quarterly basis. It is meant to be, actually intended to be a proactive process, not necessarily intended to be punitive, although it may feel otherwise.

The problem is – and it was recognized that this quarterly budget process does not align well with the academic calendar. It does not jive well. The tempo and flow of things in the academic calendar is a bit different than the business model of looking at things on a quarterly basis. So we didn't come to any kind of resolution on that, but it was recognized.

It was also mentioned that we have a lot of uncertainty for the fiscal year '19 budget, especially since we are entering into an election year. And President Freeman did recognize – and some people have brought this up – that there was an apparent lack of transparency in the process of initiating this quarterly budget review. And the way it was mandated and implemented was not really very transparent, but that was recognized.

The next topic was on deferred maintenance. Vice President Heckmann provided some very nice visuals that were intended to show state lawmakers to illustrate some of the issues that came about. We talked about how there are actually several levels to the maintenance budget, but he used this model that's based on a plant replacement value. And that's actually set at \$1 billion. And what is used is two percent of that value, which comes to \$20 million. And where we're at with respect to that, we're about half a percent – below half a percent – that two percent. So we really have about a \$16 million shortfall in maintenance. The overall health of the buildings is declining and, ultimately, upkeep and maintenance will, of course, reduce costs. I mean if we manage that, things won't cost as much in the near future. But it is believed by Vice President Heckmann that we are losing ground at this point in maintenance.

Next topic was improving graduate student stipends, tuition and online fees. It was mentioned that improving graduate student stipends will be a multi-year process. We need to evaluate where we stand with respect to universities, given our sort of non-competitive edge at the moment. And all these things – tuition and online fees and stipends – need to be included as priorities in the budget development that was mentioned before. T

hey are looking at online fees and tuition. Currently, there is a plan, or the idea, to reduce out-of-state tuition to the same as domestic in-state tuition, to help NIU remain competitive.

The other question of online students paying off-campus fees is not being addressed this year. It is also recognized that a significant amount of work needs to be done, so efforts are being made to examine the pricing structure, price point, and how we compare to other universities. We need to make ourselves more competitive with other states is recognized. And the IBHE, of course, will have to be involved in all this at some point. We do have a person that will be a part of the University Fees Review, and that person will be George Slotsve.

So with that, I'll open it up to any questions. And there's a number of other people that are on the committee that may have some other insights as well.

**K. Thu:** I want to just make a comment about the quarterly reporting and ask: If the Board wants to have quarterly budget reporting, does that necessitate units, departments doing quarterly reporting themselves? Is there some sort of middle ground where the Board gets what it wants, but we don't bear the burden of having to allocate small amounts of money by quarter? We've had additional meetings to figure out how to make this work. We've had to figure out which forms to use. We've had additional phone calls to our business manager in the college. It's actually costing us more money than I think we're saving. So is there some middle ground there?

**L. Freeman:** I'm going to ask either Associate Vice President Pinkelton or the provost to respond, not because I'm ducking the question, but because they're the co-chairs of the Executive Budget Committee and are really the people who the university looks to to manage a budget that's academically responsive and fiscally responsible and who liaise to the finance committee of the Board of Trustees.

**L. Pinkelton:** Good afternoon. The request that was brought forth by the Board of Trustees was

originally intended to help provide the institution's leadership additional perspective around how we were performing from a financial standpoint on a quarterly basis. The process that you're alluding to has been included in our annual budget process. This is intended to help each of the people across the campus get a better understanding as to exactly how the university is performing. And so as we think about moving forward, the intent is to provide information to the senior leadership, which helps us get a better understanding of how our cash flows can be managed in addition to what other course corrections we might need to make throughout the course of the year regarding our financial performance.

**C. McCord:** So I will speak with, I guess, less authority as this falls within Larry's purview as the CFO. The intent is to provide the leadership up and down with an awareness of where they are so that, frankly, budgets stay within tolerances. It's a tool. We need to evaluate whether that tool is the best tool to serve the purpose, understanding that within any new tool, there's always a start-up period which is more difficult than the steady state will be, recognizing the difficulties and recognizing – Larry and I have had some conversations where we've unearthed some of the bugs in the system that need to be worked out. So what we'll have to evaluate is, as we refine the use of this, can we make this less painful while still meeting its needs? Or do we decide that there is no simple way to make it less painful while meeting our needs and, therefore, we need to look at other solutions. So I think we need to evaluate whether this is working, whether the transaction cost is worth it, and whether we can improve it enough to make it less onerous moving forward than it is in its initial format.

**K. Thu:** Thank you.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** I might be mistaken, but I believe, don't we have like a PeopleSoft software that keeps track of all the account numbers? And essentially, couldn't Accounting keep track of all this with actually never interacting with the departments, knowing what's in the cash expenditures and out-bills? Because PeopleSoft's a super powerful tool.

**C. McCord:** And this is the tool that's being used for this.

**L. Pinkelton:** One thing to differentiate here. We're talking about the budget process, which is officially done once throughout the course of the year. And so if you are successful in breaking down your organization into a quarterly component, this shouldn't create a bunch of churn quarter after quarter after quarter. We're only doing the budget process once a year.

To your point around PeopleSoft, that's already our P-system, and that will help us to relate actual expense to the quarterly budget. So that point is taken.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Essentially it's a tool that takes very, comes from your end, and the departments should just get reports to see how their expenditures are so they can keep track of them themselves.

**L. Pinkelton:** That's right. So from here I might suggest that, if there's questions around process, around how each of the departments will break their budgets down on a quarterly basis, the finance and budget function stands at the ready to provide you with assistance in trying to navigate through that process and we'll try to be as practical as we can, and answer any questions that you might

have.

**K. Thu:** I just want to impress upon you the fact that you can't pigeon-hole expenses during the academic year by quarter. It just doesn't work. So to give you a concrete example, we have indirect funds that come into the departments from grants. We use those funds to support research assistants. We don't know when those funds will come in, because the funds come in as we expend the grant down. It's unrealistic for us to figure out where to place those funds in a quarterly system. And there are other examples like that. I understand the purpose, we had a conversation about this in our college senate meeting in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It's creating burdens that are costly and don't make sense from our unit level. Having said that, I understand the overall purpose. So if we can find a way, as Dr. McCord said, to fine-tune the mechanism to make it more user-friendly so that we don't have to engage in these constant weekly battles to figure out where funds are going to go in each quarter, I think that would be a welcome sign.

**L. Freeman:** The feedback and the willingness to dialog are appreciated. And I think this conversation needs to continue so that we can achieve something that makes sense for the university and that is appreciative of the burden and the transaction costs that are creative. And I think you've seen in both Associate Vice President Pinkelton and Provost McCord a willingness to come together and examine those questions.

**L. Saborío:** Any other questions for Jim before we move to the next report? Okay.

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

**L. Saborío:** So next we have the Student Association, and I think Emily Schmidt is here and Christine is here too.

**E. Schmidt:** Hello. I am Emily Schmidt. Rachel Jacob is out of town to day until Monday. And so I am her chief of staff and I will be giving her report for her. In the past few weeks, she's been working with the Office of Student Conduct and SILD [Student Involvement and Leadership Development] to improve and adjust or adapt the compliance check policies for the off-campus events that happen. That has been an ongoing conversation, and they're still working out what they would like to do.

She's also been talking to the NIU Foundation about an endowment for the undocumented students. They're in the preliminary steps of that. She wanted me to mention the next No Shame Campaign event, which I'm sure Christine will talk more about in her report. But that is on October 23, it's a Monday, here in this room. And it is focusing on minorities and mental health issues.

She is also in the midst of planning a Greek Mental Health Awareness event for all four councils of our Greek students, with the help of our director of Greek Affairs.

I would also like to report that we have a full S.A. Supreme Court now. Our justices are Stephen Samuels, Keith Stiggers, Alonte Holliday, Jamie Bellah and Kaitlyn Harper. So we're very excited that we have a full court now. And the director of IT applications is actually open again; our director had to step down, so we have an opening in the executive cabinet.

And I will yield to questions that I could potentially answer. Otherwise, feel free to send Rachel an email. Her email address is [rjacob1@niu.edu](mailto:rjacob1@niu.edu).

**C. Wang:** To follow up on the No Shame Campaign event, last time I was here, we were launching the No Shame Campaign event, the 14<sup>th</sup>. And I'm happy to report that at the launch event, itself, which only took an hour-and-a-half, we had 140 signatures. So that was amazing to see so much support from students and faculty. And I think Acting President Freeman actually came by and signed it, and so thank you for coming by. At this point, we have over 500 pledges signed, which is amazing. And we actually had to order more within the first two weeks of having ordered a stack of pledges that were 500. We also have swag, in which we have our No Shame Campaign bands, as well as t-shirts. And we also have pens with the No Shame # as well. We'll be giving that out on Friday, because, at the suggestion of Dr. Wesener Michael, we will be doing #HuskiePride on Friday, this Friday. And so we'll be in the MLK Commons giving out the swag and also giving out some more information on the No Shame Campaign as well. So we'll be there from 11 to 1. So if you want to stop by, grab a shirt or a band or something like that, sign the pledge, whatever it is that you'd like, we'll be there.

To follow up and talk a little bit more about what's going on, besides the forum that we have on minorities and mental health, I also went to City Council on Monday to gather support from the city regarding the No Shame Campaign, and I got a lot of good questions. One of them was about psychiatric care, or at least what we wanted to pursue. And one of the things that we do want to pursue is expanding the psychiatric care that's available to, not only NIU students, but also to the community. Right now there is a lack of adequate psychiatric care, not only just in this community, but throughout the entire country. Either you can't find psychiatric care that's covered under your insurance, or you can't find psychiatric care that you can get within one month. You can call – I've personally found that you can call seven different psychiatric places, and the closest one you can get within your insurance isn't within one month. And so that's unacceptable. Someone who is seeking psychiatric care cannot wait one month for that kind of doctor's appointment. And actually, I got the contact information from Gene Lowery, who is the police chief of the City of DeKalb, and he wants to work together with me on improving psychiatric care and improving mental health within the community. So I'm very excited to see that he's amped up for this as well.

I also wanted to say that Jordan Burnham, who came to campus in September to speak about his experiences with suicide survival, as well as mental illness. He came by and he was a huge success. It was really great to see that a lot of really engaged students who came and asked him a lot of questions to see, what can you do for someone you know is suffering. And so it was really great to see them. Basically, we're doing really well with the #noshame campaign, and our next event is on October 23.

We have a couple of things coming up right now with the DACA issue, and we've been working

closely with DREAM Action, not only with Rachel Jacob, as Emily had mentioned, to set up an endowment with the NIU Foundation for a scholarship for undocumented students, but on the senate side, we're working on a social security number release form to be changed. Right now undocumented students cannot run for senate, which is an unpaid position, it's volunteer. But you do need to have a social security number on the release form for a background check in order to run for senate. And we don't think that's fair. These students pay tuition just as much as every other student. And so we're looking into fixing that with HR.

We also have a couple of other things with the City of DeKalb, the Annie Glidden North Corridor project is moving forward. They're trying to gather some more feedback. On November 1, at 5 p.m. at Fanatico's, which is free food, by the way, they will be asking questions on how to improve the Annie Glidden North Corridor. And this is only open to students, not to any other residents there, but just to students who live there. And so I expect them to be issuing some links to sign up pretty soon, but that's going to be really exciting to see a good turnout. Last time we did something like this, which was at the O'Leary's event, we had some really great feedback.

And then to transition off of that, some of the things that were addressed during that O'Leary's event was the lack of lighting. And actually, I'm happy to say that the City of DeKalb will be improving lighting through tree trimming and additional lighting. So that will be really great to see. We've had some more reports of gun violence in the last couple of weeks, and so we want to make sure that our students feel safe while living in that community.

There's also going to be a DeKalb internship or job fair that is focused only on internships and jobs that you can find in the City of DeKalb. So that's something that we suggested to them, and they are actually going to be moving forward with it. And another downtown event, like the O'Leary's event last year, that will be happening in February. So it looks like this little group has been really successful in kind of building bridges between the City of DeKalb and the students.

And then finally, I just wanted to end with our Pizza with Pritchard event and Dinner with Demmer, which is going to be on October 17, from 6:30 til 8 in the New Hall swing space. There's free pizza, it's open to everyone, so if you guys have time, we'd really like to see you guys there.

Are there any questions?

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Yes, I have a question. There's this thing called the Mental Health Living Room concept, and I think the county has been trying to get one opened up in DeKalb at some point. But they haven't really had anybody step up. So you may want to talk to some of the people at the county and see what's going on. It's essentially, of course, somebody having some issues, they can have a place to time-out themselves a little and have some minor supervision, but it's not medical care particularly.

**C. Wang:** Like a meditation room.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Yeah.

**C. Wang:** Okay, cool. I think we have something like that in the library, like a meditation room. So

maybe we can do something like that again maybe in the library or in the Holmes Student Center or something like that. Thank you for bringing that up.

**F. Segura:** To go with the not having a social security number for undocumented, something that's not really well known to that population is individual tax ID numbers. It's not a social, it just gives you the ability to file taxes. So maybe if nothing can be done about not having a social, maybe kind of orienting them to go for a ITIN number.

**C. Wang:** Yeah, that's something we've also been looking into and seeing if we can expand that to TIN numbers, tax identification numbers, as you had mentioned. So we have international students who are in senate. But on the form, itself, it says you have to have a social security number. So I'm curious to see exactly what the process is. I'm not involved in this checking of backgrounds, because I run every single year, so I'm not sure what goes on behind that. So we're just trying to get more information on how that process works, and then seeing how we can open up that portion of background checks to undocumented students.

**F. Segura:** I know you can open up a bank account with an ITIN number, so I wouldn't see a reason as to why it couldn't equvalate to social.

**C. Wang:** That's our concern as well.

**F. Segura:** Thank you.

**C. Wang:** Thank you.

**L. Saborío:** Any other questions for Christine? Okay, thank you very much.

**C. Wang:** Thank you.

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

**L. Saborío:** Next up on the agenda, we have the Operating Staff Council president, Barbara Andree, and she has a report for us.

**B. Andree:** Just briefly, the Council of Councils, which means that the other Operating Staff Councils at all the other Illinois state universities, will be sending representatives here for next Thursday evening and Friday all day. There are more than 15 representatives coming, and all of the EAC [Employee Advisory Committee] representatives will be here, so we'll have quite – oh 50, not 15 – plus our own Operating Staff Council people. We gather to compare notes, what's going on on other campuses. And this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this gathering, Council of Councils. And it started here at NIU, so we're very proud to have the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering here next week. And everything else is fairly routine things that are going on. Any questions?

**L. Saborío:** All right, thank you very much.

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

**L. Saborío:** So next up we have Cathy Doederlein, president for the Supportive Professional Staff Council, and she has a report for us. Always, right?

**C. Doederlein:** Yes, always, it's important. Just a quick update, we'll have our SPS Council meeting tomorrow, at which time we'll be approving the report of the results of our survey findings that we did of the SPS population on campus, at which time then I'll be able to finally share more detailed information with this body, which I think is useful in terms of understanding what's facing SPS on campus and what are some positive things going on within our body.

And also just an early heads-up – and you'll hear this reminder several times, but it's really important – our presidential awards, the nominations for those will be coming out probably within the next few weeks to a month. I encourage you to think about colleagues that you work with within the SPS ranks that you might want to recognize in that way and go through the nomination process as certainly that recognition is something that helps to improve the morale within SPS. Just even being nominated is a special thing. Thank you.

**L. Saborío:** Any questions for Cathy? Okay, thank you very much.

## **IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

**L. Saborío:** And now any 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

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**L. Freeman:** All right, hearing none, I'll try not to screw up Roberts' Rules as I ask for a motion to adjourn.

M. Haji-Sheikh: So moved.

L. Freeman: Second?

K. Stiggers: Second.

L. Freeman: All in favor, vote with your feet. Have a great evening.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.