

University Council Steering Committee Minutes
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 225
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: An, Arado, Barnhart, Bishop, Block, G. Chen, J. Chen, Doederlein, Hunt, Millhorn, Saborío, Scherer, Wang

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Andree, Hathaway

I. CALL TO ORDER

University Council (UC) Executive Secretary **L. Saborío** called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Saborío conducted a roll call and verified that a quorum was present.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 17, 2018 MINUTES

L. Saborío noted that, while the new, OMA-compliant agenda template contains this item, today is actually the first meeting at which official minutes will be taken. As a result, there are no minutes to be approved today, but minutes of today's meeting will be taken and submitted for approval at the next UC Steering Committee meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Saborío asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

L. Saborío noted that she is drafting a public comment policy, which will be brought forward for UC approval.

VI. ITEMS FOR UC STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

L. Saborío noted that Rep. Pritchard invited her to meet with him as a follow-up to receiving the FS-approved budget resolution.

VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DRAFT AGENDA

R. Hunt moved to approve the draft 2/28/18 UC agenda, seconded by **C. Wang**.

L. Saborío presented the various topics contained in the draft 2/28/18 UC agenda as follows:

Textbook affordability – **F. Barnhart** noted that the working group is meeting this week to finalize its presentation planned for the 2/21/18 Faculty Senate and 2/28/18 UC meetings.

Report on IBHE presentation – Acting Provost McCord will provide a summary during the 2/28/18 UC meeting on a presentation he and Sol Jensen recently made to the Higher Ed Working Group. “Report on IBHE presentation” is just a working title at this point. McCord will provide an updated title shortly. [NOTE: Following the UC Steering Committee meeting, McCord provided the updated title, “Illinois State Legislature Higher Education Working Group.”]

Ombuds End of Term Review – Acting Provost McCord, who will convene the 2/28/18 UC meeting in President Freeman’s absence, will report that the Ombudsperson Review Committee, established by UC at its 9/13/17 meeting, has completed its work and that the committee’s review has been submitted to President Freeman.

FAC-to-IBHE – **L. Saborío** called attention to her written report, which will be included in the 2/28/18 UC agenda. She also reported that she will attend the FAC-to-IBHE meeting this Friday, Feb. 16, in Carbondale.

UAC-to-BOT – **L. Saborío** does not anticipate a UAC-to-BOT report in the 2/28/18 UC agenda.

Academic Policy Committee – **T. Bishop** noted that no report is anticipated for the 2/28/18 UC agenda.

FS/UC Resources, Space and Budget Committee – **J. Millhorn** noted that the acting president and acting provost met with the RSB during its February meeting. He believes that **S. McHone-Chase** will have a brief verbal report in the 2/28/18 UC agenda.

FS/UC Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – **T. Arado** reported that the committee is reviewing the NIU Bylaws Article 4 Election Procedures of the University Council. Aspects of this review include, but are not limited to, amending current language to allow for electronic voting. A discussion took place regarding the logistics of electronic voting. **T. Arado** noted that no report is anticipated for the 2/28/18 UC agenda.

University Affairs Committee – **R. Scherer** reported that the committee is reviewing the NIU Bylaws Article 20, The University Ombudsperson. Aspects of this review include, but are not limited to, Term of Office, Periodic Evaluation of the Ombudsperson,

Evaluation of the Office of the Ombudsperson, and Ombudsperson Review/Search Committee. **R. Scherer** noted that no report is anticipated for the 2/28/18 UC agenda.

Student Association – **I. An** reported that SA President R. Jacob will host three-day meeting on compliance with Student Conduct next week. **C. Wang** reported that the SA is preparing for SA elections. The SA recently passed a resolution commemorating the 10-year anniversary of Feb. 14 and held a moment of silence to honor the victims. **C. Wang** also reported that Kelly Wesener Michael attended a recent Student Senate meeting to discuss the Maxient software issue, and she plans to return in a few weeks to provide an update. Wesener Michael also met with SA President Rachel Jacob and Greek representatives on Tuesday, Feb. 13. **Wang** feels that a much progress has been made on this topic. **I. An** and **C. Wang** will have brief verbal reports for the 2/28/18 UC agenda.

G. Chen believes that the students who spoke at the 1/31/18 UC meeting on the Maxient software issue expected responses to their questions beyond what was provided during the meeting. He asked Wang for her impression, and also asked if UC would consider including this topic at a future UC meeting as follow up. Wang responded that Greek leadership has met with Wesener Michael as well as Student Involvement and Leadership Development staff numerous times, and these meetings are ongoing. Wang believes that the Greek leadership now has a better understanding of the situation. While she believes it could be valuable to have Wesener Michael return to UC and SA, she notes that the conversation is continuing via other venues. **L. Saborío** noted that President Freeman intends to address this topic at the 4/4/18 UC meeting when there is more information to report.

Operating Staff Council – **B. Andree** was not present, but it is anticipated that she will have a brief verbal report for the 2/28/18 UC agenda.

Supportive Professional Staff Council – Doederlein will submit a summary of the recent SPS campus climate survey to be included in the 2/28/18 UC agenda as informational, and she will have a brief verbal report.

Motion to approve the draft 2/28/18 UC agenda, per above discussion, passed by voice vote.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

R. Scherer moved to adjourn, seconded by **C. Wang**. Motion passed by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.