

TRANSCRIPT

University Council
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 315
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Barnhart, Bateni, Block, Boughton, Briscoe, Burton, G. Chen, J. Chen, Chitwood, Chmaissem, Chung, Cordes, Cross, Davis, Demir (for Haji-Sheikh), Doederlein, Elish-Piper, Fragassi (for Zamora), Fredericks, Freeman, Hanley, Johnson (for Coleman), Kamp, Kim, Koss, Ledgerwood, Lesnicki (for Halicki), Macdonald, Majumdar (for Peterson), Martin, McCord, Mershon, Millhorn, Mogren, Monteiro, Nelson, Newman, Nicholson, Pearson (for Bolden), Penrod, Pietrowski, Saborío, Scherer, Shi, Siegesmund, Slotsve (for Song), Staikidis, Tallon (for Rajagopalan), Thu, Valadez, Wilson

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Bolden, Bond, Coleman, Coli, Collins, Davis, Haji-Sheikh, Kassel, Naples, Peterson, Rajagopalan, Stephen, Zamora

OTHERS PRESENT: Blazey, Bryan, Falkoff, Klaper, McGill

OTHERS ABSENT: Ferguson, Jensen, Kortegast, Wesener Michael

I. CALL TO ORDER

L. Freeman: Good afternoon, everybody.

Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Freeman: I'd like to start by asking folks to click in to verify a quorum. Just looking at the number of people here, I think we might be close, Pat, do you want to give people instructions? Or we just press 1 and that will record if we are here and part of a quorum. So obviously, only voting members should press 1. [pause] All right, we have verified the presence of a quorum. We needed 30 and we have 35.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

L. Freeman: Can I have a motion to adopt the agenda. So moved. Tristan, do you want to be a second? So we have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor, aye.

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Opposed? The agenda is adopted.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2018 MINUTES

L. Freeman: Can I have a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting. I'm looking at Linda; she could make a motion. So moved. Do we have a second.

J. Wilson: I'll second.

L. Freeman: Jim made a second. We have a motion and a second. Any changes, comments? Okay, hearing none, all in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Opposed? All right.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Freeman: Do we have anyone who has requested the opportunity to comment publicly?

VI. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Freeman: Okay, then we will move to President's Announcements. The first announcement I want to make is in an effort to use technology to enhance the experience of being in this room, we're trying a new recording protocol today. You may notice that the microphones have toupees on them. This is to allow better reception so that, sitting in the chair without the benefit of a nearby microphone, if you stand and speak loudly – use what Dean Elish-Piper would call your “teacher voice,” we're hoping that the microphones will pick up your speech. We won't hear the amplification, but we'll be capturing it appropriately for recording. So we'll try an experiment. Hopefully, this will make everyone's lives more convenient, but if this isn't working because you can't hear, or if Tony says it's failing technologically, we'll go back to using the microphones. But we're very optimistic that this will work and make our lives better.

In putting today's agenda together, I know we have Matt Streb with us for the beginning of the meeting. The last time we met, it was just after the election. Since that time, we've been down in Springfield during veto session. And we just had the IBHE meeting yesterday. So I can update you a little bit on what's going on.

A lot of our time in Springfield was spent meeting with new members, telling them about NIU's mission and where we sit in terms of being a leader, in terms of research productivity, student engagement and research, and social mobility. We held a joint caucus of the members of our caucus and the University of Illinois' caucus to talk about the Illinois Innovation Network. I and the other presidents met with Sen. Sandoval about supplier diversity goals. We did a lot of office visits. And overall, I would say that there's an optimistic mood toward higher education at this point.

That said, veto session was quiet as it relates to higher education legislation, which is not always, or in all cases, a bad thing. Several of the bills that we were following because we had concerns, like the Community College Four-Year Nursing Degree, the Accelerated Teacher Licensure, the Ban the Box Bill, did not go forward. Unfortunately, some of the bills that we were in support of also did not go forward. We have a bill that's called the Aim High Trailer Bill, and that would allow us to keep the unallocated scholarship money. So if we allocate all of our AIM HIGH money, but not all of the students we allocated to attend, the way the bill is currently written, we would have to return that money. With the Trailer bill, that there is support for in most quarters, we would be able to keep that money and use it to fund those students and their renewals next year. So most legislators are in favor of that bill, but it did not move during the veto session. There is a good possibility that it will be passed during the lame duck session in January.

IBHE was yesterday, and it's budget recommendation time. If you go to the IBHE Website, you can download the whole document of their budget recommendation. You may remember that last year this was a very contentious meeting of the presidents and chancellors with IBHE, because our idea of what was a healthy recommendation and their idea of what was a healthy recommendation was not identical. But this year we are all on the same page. We requested about a ten percent increase in state appropriation to us, bringing us back to Fiscal '15, and IBHE is requesting a similar increase. So that was good news. And Governor-Elect Pritzker has advocated for an increase in higher ed spending, so there's a possibility we may see even more investment.

IBHE is advocating strongly for us with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget in terms of our need for capital spending to invest in deferred maintenance, and there's a good chance we'll have a reasonable allocation there, according to their request. There still is not consensus on whether we'll have an overall capital bill, and there's more sympathy for capital renewal or deferred maintenance than there is for moving the new buildings off the list. But time will tell where that's going to go.

IBHE is recommending another \$100 million in MAP funding and an additional \$20 million, bringing AIM HIGH from \$25 [million] to \$45 [million], and all of those things were considered quite positive.

A couple other things that came out of the IBHE conversation that were positive was that there was a debrief on Monday night. The four-year university presidents invited community college presidents to dinner and to a discussion. And there was a very good discussion about what we could do to help stop students from either going elsewhere or going nowhere, how we could look at what we could do together to serve students who are in the new majority, meaning first generation students of color, adult learners and veterans, and what we could do together to settle things down. Like, could we come out with one voice and say, "Let's let the nursing pilots take hold, and let's see what those look like. Let's continue to work on nursing pathways, and let's stop spending so much time and energy fighting four-year degrees in the community colleges." And the presidents who were there were amenable to that.

We have three presidents who are representing higher ed on the Governor's Transition Task Force, the Education Committee. And that's Larry Dietz, who is the president of Illinois State University, who is there, not because he's the president of Illinois State, but because he's the convener of the

four-year presidents. We have Zeke Scott from Chicago State, who has very strong Chicago political connections, who was a trustee of that institution before becoming their president. And then Barb Wilson, who is the executive vice president for the Illinois system, former dean of arts and sciences at Urbana-Champaign, is also on the task force. And we had a very good discussion with them about what's being spoken about on the transition team. The themes that are coming out are equity, closing achievement gaps, keeping students in Illinois, career and workforce development. And the majority of the education discussion to date has really been in the P-20 spectrum before higher ed, but they're going to be breaking into smaller groups, and I think they will represent higher ed well.

In terms of what we came up with as our agenda as four-year presidents for the transition team, we wanted to talk about rational allocation of resources with accountability and the willingness to look at a multi-year framework to continue to support MAP.

A couple things that came out that were a little controversial, or that we learned about that were controversial is: In addition to increased funding for AIM HIGH, IBHE proposed a merit-based scholarship program for private, well actually for non-public institutions. And they did this using an old act that was on the books. They say that they're going to write rules to exclude for-profit institutions and to maybe look at endowment size. But right now, basically, they're proposing \$25 million for non-public institutions to go through an old act where there would basically be no strings attached. The four-year presidents made it clear that we thought this was appalling and inappropriate and that we would not support it. And we'll keep you posted on that as there may be opportunities for our Faculty Advisory Committee [Council] and others to raise their voices about this.

In terms of educator shortages – I know Linda is going to talk about this when she gives the report from the Faculty Advisory Council – but we all got, as four-year presidents, a packet of all the letters of concern that have been written by all of the various organizations talking about our concerns about letting entities, other than universities, prepare educators, and in particular, bilingual and ESL educators.

Interestingly, behind the scenes, the ISBE staff met with the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE and indicated in some of those conversations with that leadership that there was an editing error, and that this wasn't really their intention. But then when asked to issue a correction, they declined to do so. So what we were asked to do as four-year presidents was to come back and ask our deans and faculties to think about statutory relief that we could request that would allow them to prepare educators more quickly using the best possible techniques of which universities are the custodians.

And so if there are regulatory relief or other things that we could be asking for to say that we want to help address the educator shortage system if you would only do this, this would be the time to put that forward.

And I think that pretty much summarizes IBHE. I'm going to ask Matt, while he's still here, if there's anything you want to add about either Springfield or the Board of Higher Ed.

M. Streb: You did a great job [inaudible]

L. Freeman: Okay. With that, I will be happy to take questions from anybody on the topics discussed or others before we move on to the consent agenda.

K. Thu: There was the discussion of a five-year plan for budgeting for higher education. Is that still on the table?

L. Freeman: The plan was a compact that wasn't binding. And it probably won't get full support in its current form, in part because it has University of Illinois in its name, even though, under that umbrella, all the universities would make individual agreements. I will say there was unanimity among the four-year presidents that we want a multi-year plan. We want a rational formula for resource allocation. And we're willing to agree to accountability measures to get that. And so I suspect that conversation will be restarted, and we may see something that's very similar. It will never be binding, because the budgets do go from year to year. However, in the spirit of compact, I think we're probably in a better place now than we were. That one I will ask Matt to comment on.

M. Streb: IPAC is what we call a slow bill. We never expected that it would pass last session. We got Chris Welch, who is the chair of the House Higher Education, on board [inaudible] a huge person to get support from. And I think the president is right. I think you will see probably [inaudible] somewhat, but the point that we've been trying to make is to kind of push accountability funding as opposed to performance-based funding. Performance-based funding is a bunch of measures that don't necessarily measure anything that we can agree upon, and it also forces us to compete with one another. We would much rather be held accountable for how we're spending our money and not be in competition with our sister institutions.

And so I think you're starting to see our sister institutions – they may not be on board like the president said with IPAC, as it's called. But you saw yesterday very clearly the presidents are supportive of the idea of a compact, which I think is important.

L. Freeman: And Dr. Blazey just reminded me that, while Matt and I were in Springfield and then in Joliet for IBHE, he's been attending a number of meetings talking about the future of the Illinois Innovation Network and the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability. And I want to give him an opportunity to give us an update.

J. Blazey: Thank you, President Freeman. I'm going to take just a few minutes to give you an update on the [Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability](#) and how we imagine going forward as an institution with this initiative. There's been a lot of questions from the faculty and staff so I thought it was time to bring you up to date.

So it may be new to some of you, so I'll give you some history and context. I think that will be helpful. As a reminder, in June of this year, the state legislature authorized half a billion dollars to the U of I System for the [Illinois Innovation Network](#) and the [Discovery Partners Institute](#). So try to remember the acronyms: IIN and DPI. The IIN will be comprised of a series of hubs located around the state, aligned with institutions of higher education. And DPI will be the largest hub, located in downtown Chicago, south of the Loop. The IIN and DPI are intended to be sources of research and innovation and economic development.

Temporary quarters for the DPI, or the Discovery Partners Institute, have been established at 200 South Wacker by the U of I system. It's next to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for those of you familiar with the neighborhood. It's about five minutes from the Ogilvie train station.

Last week was the first meeting of the IIN at the DPI site. It included all of the state institutions, and that included Western, Eastern, Governors, Southern, UIC and the U of I system. Next week will be the first full meeting of the faculty involved with the DPI. And that's dominated 99.5 percent by faculty from the U of I system. And there will be one member from NIU, that other .5 percent, and that will be me representing NIU.

There have been four hubs established in the Illinois Innovation Network: UIUC, UI Springfield, UI Chicago and NIU. And it's important to note that NIU is the only non-U of I system university in that group. So we got a running start. They've been great partners including us in this initiative.

You'll remember President Freeman, President Killeen and Governor Rauner announced NICCS or the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability on October 9. The center will focus on water resources, ecosystem restoration and resiliency, and food systems with a related policy cross-cut. And these track extremely closely with the four emphases of the IIN and the DPI.

I think it's important to note that these three emphases we selected were established through meetings with faculty over the summer and over the early fall. So this is not something we created [inaudible]. We talked to the faculty members, examined our expertise and selected those three themes. So, water resources and ecosystems and ecosystem resiliency. We have great expertise in that area. We have some expertise in food systems. We will be partnering with a U of I college, Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences on food systems. So again, rather remarkable that, not only is the U of I including us in this initiative, but we'll be partnering directly with them.

We will match \$15 million from the state with \$7.9 million to build a 30,000 square foot facility, tentatively located out on the west campus, just northwest of the Convo Center. And we anticipate occupation in as soon as three years. \$2 million should start arriving in Fiscal Year '19 – they tell us this month, but it's already getting pretty close to holidays – which we will use for A&E, architectural and engineering design. And we're in discussion now with the UI system about how to transfer and manage those funds. So we're hoping we can hit the ground running early in the next calendar year. Internally, we've also been preparing for the A&E contract, and we'll start considering qualified firms next week. So it's moving pretty quick.

We've also started considering internally how we're going to organize ourselves – the NICCS – and organize the university to accommodate NICCS. The president has charged a group of vice presidents to serve as an oversight strategy group to start the process, and that group – I'm just calling it the OSG – met for the first time today to begin organizing. We envision three reporting committees. One will be an external advisory committee. We really need the community to contribute and participate in NICCS. There will be a facilities committee, which I imagine will be stood up and stood down as we build the facilities. And then there will be a program committee, and that's where the faculty will have the greatest input. We have to have the faculty input on the program committee. The structure and memberships of the committees are under discussion now,

but, as I said, there will have to be significant faculty representations, especially on the program committee. And we need to start work on that immediately, because the program will inform the facility, which informs the A&E firm. So we'll be reaching out to faculty and faculty leadership to build the membership of those committees and insure proper representation of faculty in the three themes in development of the program and facilities.

So that's what I wanted to say.

L. Freeman: I'll let you take questions, but let me just add a couple things. Dr. Blazey pointed out that he'd be the only non-U of I faculty member there, and I don't want anyone to think that it's because he didn't take the time to invite others. We've been in an interesting position here, because we were planning to collaborate early, and we were incorporated into the initial appropriation. We are kind of in a most-favored non-U of I university status. So the other universities that went to the meeting last week are going to have to apply to be part of IIN. And they'll be applying for \$5 million. So we are in an interesting position.

But also, because we are the only non-U of I member of IIN, and the U of I has been actively scrambling to make this as real as possible during the gubernatorial transition, they don't always remember when they're having a DPI meeting and when they're having an IIN meeting. And it went from being a DPI meeting to an IIN meeting within the last week, and that's when Jerry was added. And so I just want to make sure that you all know that he is not neglecting.

I also want to say that there will be a couple other announcements coming up. There are two Israeli universities – one will be here on the 11th, and one will be here in the first week of January – who are committing resources and collaboration to the overall DPI/IIN initiative. So there will be two hubs that international. The first two will be in Israel.

And a point that was made very strongly at the caucus meeting, where we had University of Illinois and us with our legislators, is that if you go to their Website and you look, there are these scientific areas of emphasis with which we align in terms of food and water and sustainability. But there are also cross-cutting areas that are really about being very cause disciplinary and very inclusive of social sciences and humanities from the beginning. And so as we build our faculty capacity, we've talked about, not only science, but policy. But I think there are a lot of real opportunities. And so it's not too late for anybody to be included in the planning of the academic programs, the research programs, participating in building design. So I just wanted to get that out there, as you could interpret what he said the wrong way, and I don't want anyone to do that.

R. Scherer: First of all, before we get any further down into the weeds, can you run through the alphabet soup again so I make sure to get the acronyms right.

J. Blazey: There's the IIN, which is the Illinois Innovation Network, which will be comprised of hubs around the state and perhaps internationally as the president just pointed out. And then the main hub is the Discovery Partners Institute, which is downtown near south of the Loop. The reason you're confused is, frankly, because the U of I has been confused about the roles of those two entities. Until just recently, it wasn't really well articulated.

I also want to thank President Freeman for covering for me. I thought about trying to get more of our faculty invited to this DPI meeting on Monday, but I am trying very hard not to upset U of I's prerogatives – at least that's the way I'm seeing it – and going slowly. And I am hoping that in subsequent meetings, we will be there in force and not just one lonely representative. So it's intentional. I'm going really slowly on purpose.

R. Scherer: Second question, what is the current budget for the DeKalb.

J. Blazey: Right now we've only identified the capital budget, and it's \$15 million from the state, with which we're going to match \$5 million in equipment and \$2.9 million in-kind. One of the roles of this oversight group is to grapple with operations issues. We have three years to figure it out, two to three years, but I'll be the first to say that's our main challenge.

R. Scherer: And my third and last question is: Of the themes that have been identified, the theme that's front and center globally, of course, is climate; and that's not specifically mentioned here. Obviously, it has components in all of the other, but how much has that been a part of the discussion?

J. Blazey: Oh it's about 70 percent. I mean, when you think about water resources, you're really thinking about climate.

L. Freeman: And environmental too.

R. Scherer: Yes. So it touches on all, but

J. Blazey: So when we say "sustainability," we're really putting it in the context of the changing climate.

L. Freeman: And changing demographics.

J. Blazey: Which is like the changing climate. The other thing is, the U of I system has made it very clear that they see these hubs as gateways for collaboration. And we've been told explicitly we should never think that we wouldn't encourage collaborative work across hubs, that we're limited to just themes we mentioned. So if somebody at NIU wanted to work with somebody at UIC on their drug discovery hub, that's the intent. So no discipline should feel like there's not going to be a role for them. You just might have to look at one of the other hubs to see how you would benefit from the network.

K. Thu: The document that you circulated to everybody that had the basic plans – is that available on the Website somewhere?

J. Blazey: I'm not sure, but we do have a sort of a nascent Website.

K. Thu: It would be helpful for us when we're fielding questions from faculty to have. If what you just said there, if we could have that.

J. Blazey: I'll put it up. I'll put it up.

L. Freeman: All right, in that case, hearing no more questions, I believe that we will allow Therese to take charge of the meeting and move us to the Consent Agenda.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

T. Arado: Actually, we have no Consent Agenda, so that was an easy move.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Linda Saborío – [report](#) – Pages 3-5

T. Arado: So we will move on to our Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees. And our first one is Linda Saborío's report from the FAC to the IBHE.

L. Saborío: If you were listening to President Freeman's comments at the beginning of this meeting, well basically she just concluded everything I needed to say, so that's it for today. I don't know what else to add here.

We met at Illinois Wesleyan University in Normal, Illinois, so I can happily report that I did not have a come to Jesus moment during this trip. The provost of Wesleyan spoke to the group about Wesleyan's innovative program offering a signature experience to undergraduates. He said that select undergrads are enrolled in courses based on first-year experience themes that are then promoted campus-wide. And their Undergrad Research Advisory Committee develops the themes and events for the program each year. The program is in its initial stages, and they are hoping to expand it further in the coming years.

We also met with Dr. Al Bowman – and President Freeman already told you what we talked about basically – and Rep. Dan Brady. There is one memorandum that you're looking at that was prepared in response to the many concerns regarding the proposed actions for addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois. And I know that the chair of the FAC has compiled a zip drive, if you're interested, with all the different documents that were shared regarding the teacher shortage.

L. Freeman: Would it be helpful to make that available to all of University Council?

L. Saborio: That's what I was wondering. Should we share it with Pat or Therese? Because I know that the FAC also had a memorandum that they prepared, and I haven't heard from the chair yet on how that went on Tuesday. Our meeting is next Friday so I'm sure that she'll be more than happy to share with us what happened there.

So next month we're meeting with our working groups. Not the entire FAC is meeting in December. So my group has decided to meet in downtown Chicago, because I was insistent that I missed restaurants and I wanted to go out to eat at a nice restaurant. So we'll be meeting on December 14 all day at DePaul University downtown.

Any questions, please address them to President Freeman at this point. [laughter]

L. Freeman: It sounds like we're talking a lot about this, but the teacher shortage and accelerated teacher licensure is the new four-year nursing degree. So I think we will see less of baccalaureate degrees at community colleges attached to nursing and more of unaccredited, not thoughtful, borderline professional suggestions for how to address the teacher shortage. And so it is important that we are all thoughtful, given where teacher licensure resides on our campus and our history of a Normal school.

L. Saborío: Yes, in particular because they're looking at non-higher education institutions from even out of the state of Illinois to address these shortages, and that is of great concern.

T. Arado: Thank you, Linda.

- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report
Holly Nicholson, Catherine Doederlein, Therese Arado
Alex Gelman, Sarah Marsh, Kendall Thu

T. Arado: The next report is University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, and that's me. Just a couple of things I wanted to note. The Board of Trustees committee meetings took place on November 15 of this year. And I know we are all incredibly busy individuals in this room, and everyone will say, I don't have time to go, wherever. These meetings are really interesting and, until I was in this position, I didn't make it a point to go to them, because I was really busy. But if you take a look at the agenda that comes out a couple days ahead of time, if there's a topic of interest to you, it's a great place that we can go and get the information. Hearing President Freeman's announcements today, it's that kind of a thing. We get the details on some of the stuff we hear about going on around, and you wonder where did that come from. These meetings are a great place to do that. So if you don't have the time, which I completely understand, they put the minutes up. And you can read them and get that too instead of my five little things that I will highlight that were discussed there and are interesting.

The first thing that was going on actually when I walked in late was a recognition of faculty and staff who received 2018 professional excellence awards. And it was just really neat to be sitting in the room, having colleagues recognized and get up and speak. If that is what you're interested in, you could have been in and out in about a half hour. But it was just a really nice thing to experience.

The other things that were discussed that I think all of you might find interesting – and all of this is in detail at the Board of Trustees site through their minutes and the report that they put out. But there was a discussion of the intellectual property holdings of NIU and how many we have and where they come from, which I thought was very interesting, from a faculty perspective, to see where these things are coming from.

Discussion of the [Education Systems Center](#) and its mission and their outreach, which again, these are things you hear about, but you're never quite sure what they're doing. And so you can figure out ways you can incorporate it into your conversation with people.

And President Freeman and Matt Streb both talked about the legislative updates. There's a great summary in the committee meetings of the legislative updates as well, because our Washington, DC, Anna Quider, was there in person. And then we had a summary of the Illinois materials. But what I found most noteworthy is that in January we will have three new NIU alumni being added to the legislature. It's going to be a total of ten in our General Assembly. All three of those are going to be members of the Illinois House. And I believe at least one of them is a [College of] Law grad. So that made me happy too.

So I just wanted to give you this summary, but it really is – yes it's time-consuming to go to the meetings – but take a look at the minutes or take a look at the agenda, because you can get some great information to share with colleagues about just some things that we know are going on, but we don't have a more detailed impact.

So that's my little summary and my pitch to get the information you can out of those when you have a chance.

C. Academic Policy Committee – Vicki Collins, Chair – [report](#)

T. Arado: Our next report is actually Academic Policy Committee, and it's Vicki Collins. But she is under the weather, so it's me. And she submitted a report for us today. And the UC Academic Policy Committee has been tasked with reviewing policies governing distance education courses carrying undergraduate credit offered by NIU. To guide the review, they agreed to send out a survey to the following stakeholders on campus: executive director of extended learning; online program coordinators from the seven colleges; members of the UC Academic Policy Committee. And they've created a survey in Qualtrics. The list of names and email addresses have been compiled, and they're going to send the survey out at the start of the spring semester, and hope to get a good response rate. And so that is the update from her committee.

D. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Jim Wilson, Chair – no report

E. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Richard Siegesmund, Chair – no report

F. University Affairs Committee – Hamid Bateni, Chair – no report

G. Student Association – report
Khiree Cross, President
Tristan Martin, Speaker of the Senate

T. Arado: The next committee on our list with reports, actually, we have from the Student Association. Khiree and Tristan, are you both here?

T. Martin: Hi guys, how's it going today. So a lot of stuff going on in the month of November. Even though we had that week off, it was still a very strenuous month. We got a lot of things done. The first thing that I want to talk about is that we had a meeting with Dr. Sarah Klaper, sitting right over here. It was a really good meeting, very productive, talked about a lot of the things that are

going on, that have been going on in her department, in regards to just the students that she sees, the demographics that they talk about, etc. So I think it was a really productive meeting, and it's going to be a really good relationship going forward.

The other thing that I want to let you guys know too – the Student Association Senate has a new advisor. Alex Pitner has actually been moved to being the director of Sorority and Fraternity Life. And we have gained Bethany Gary, who is the complex coordinator for Neptune, to our roster. So it's going to be a really good thing going forward, and she's already proved to be a very valuable resource to us.

Next, starting at the beginning of the month, we finished up promoting elections. NIU saw four times increase in voter participation compared to the 2014 mid-term elections. So I credit that to everyone, all the people who did work, especially those within the Student Association as well, such as Ian Pearson, Khiree Cross, Michael Cain, Devonte Johnson and many, many others. So it was a really good turnout. And actually I have a really close relationship with Jeff Keicher, who is our new state representative, and he told me that he was excited and very happy about the turnout. So it was a good time. A lot of good things happened. It was a really good race, as well, for the state representative race, one which the Student Association looks towards

Just a couple of other things too. We did a lot of research in regards to the Health Services and Northwestern Medicine things that were going on, especially before the Board of Trustees meeting that happened. We wanted to insure that the info provided was both beneficial and accessible to students. And we found that it was. I want to give a huge shout out to Cassandra Kamp, [inaudible], she did a lot of work in a lot of the things that needed to happen to go into just our research into it. We met with people like Andrew Digate who is the director of Health Services and also Dr. Sarah McGill who knew a lot about some of the things that were going on with that. And we're still continuing to have conversations about what's going to be happening with tele-psychiatry. It's looking very good for students going forward. Khiree and I talked about it, and we're really happy with some of the things that we've been seeing. So we want to thank the university and thank Dr. Lisa Freeman and everyone else that's been involved in that process.

Just a couple of other things too. So we've been having budget presentations with the Finance Committee of the Student Association, and we've been hearing out different departments and different student organizations that have been applying and coming up to funding from the Student Association. It's been a really good process so far. It's been a really good thing to see. We've gotten an increase, actually, in the number of organizations that have been requesting funding. So with the same budget levels that we have, we're trying to make sure we can split it between everyone that we can. Can't say it's not hard, but I know it's hard all around.

The other thing that happened too is that we had a textbook affordability meeting with director Madalynn Mershon. She was the one that led the meeting, and I want to give a shout out to her, because she brought a lot of people that have been working on textbook affordability and the issues surrounding it for months, brought them all together. And we kind of collaborated and kind of worked on some of the things that we've been working on individually. We all came to a kind of a communication and conclusion that future meetings like this need to happen. And I'm happy to say that we're going to be continuing those meetings as well.

We also had a 50th session planning anniversary meeting. I know I said we decided on a gala, but the committee actually came together and decided that a series of events, rather than just one big event, would be good for the Student Association. So we're going to have some more details and updates for you on that coming forward, hopefully, a lot more coming next semester.

We also sat down with upper administration and other people, such as the renovators of the Holmes Student Center, to talk about the Holmes Student Center renovations. And there are a lot of things going on with that. We've still got a lot of thoughts and conclusions that we within the Student Association need to make, but there's a lot of things we still need to do some research on, so we're looking forward to that.

Also just a couple of other things too. Today I met with Dr. Kristen Borre, who is a Ph.D. director within the Department of Anthropology. And we talked about the issue of food insecurity and homelessness among students. There was a survey conducted and conveyed in 2019 talking about this and kind of hoping to gauge some interest. And we sat down to follow up on that. And I kind of gave her advice on how to move forward. I believe that she's going to be forming some sort of committee going forward, some sort of commission. So please be on the lookout for that. I'm excited to see how that's going to go as well.

There's a lot of other things that happened too. For example, we elected and approved our election commissioners. We also have a very tentative timeline to go off, so looking towards beginning of February to start off just with some meetings that candidates can come to. And then the process being strung all the way to the end of March.

So we've got a lot of things going on. I'll hand it over to Khiree, and then we can take questions.

K. Smith: Thanks, Tristan. My report is like cut in half now, so it will be a lot quicker. How are you guys doing? Rough week for me; I've got finals coming up; you can see it on my face.

Some things that Tristan didn't touch on that I'll talk about. So something big that we're planning for next semester is that we're going to have Angela Davis. I'm not sure if you guys are familiar with her.

Members: Yes.

K. Smith: Okay, okay. [laughter] So we're going to have Angela Davis come and speak to students. I think Angela Davis is a wonderful speaker. I don't know if you guys have ever seen her actually speak. She cultivates her audience and she talks about imperative things. So we're going to have her – we're looking to have her come February 21. We've been working with the Office of ADEI [Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion] and also Campus Activities Board. And we're looking to collaborate more, so just be on the lookout for that.

We've also been working on Project Orange. Project Orange launch date will be January 31. And seeing the climate of the campus, Project Orange is an initiative to raise awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence, hate crimes and gun violence. By educating NIU students about these

issues, Project Orange aims to spark discussions regarding these topics, as well as provide resources to students where they can seek [inaudible]. Project Orange is a non-partisan, apolitical initiative that is not intended to influence students' political ideologies or promote the agendas of any political party. Project Orange, for me, is definitely going to be a special place in my heart. I've lost family members to violence. And especially with recent events that are going on in DeKalb, not just NIU specifically, I think Project Orange is imperative to have for students.

Also we're going to start something new called Huskie Legacy: Leave Your Paw Print. So what that will be is a tangible document where students will be able to access how to create a student organization. It's a catchy catch phrase – Leave Your Paw Print – creating a student organization so you'll leave your legacy here forever. So I think that will be something new for NIU and SA. I think it will bring a lot of exposure to student involvement, not only just for SA, but for all around campus in general. A lot of students have a lot of great ideas, and they always want to come up with different organizations. Some organizations are already here, some organizations aren't. So this will just be a good way for students to get involved and for SA to get exposure.

We've also had a successful Behind Happy Faces event on November 28. We partnered with IFC [Interfraternity Council] and Phi Kappa Psi. And to be very honest, I was not expecting a big turnout. Telling Greek communities to come out and talk about mental health, you wouldn't think that you would get about maybe 250 students to come. So I think that was a great turnout. I wanted to give – even though they're probably not here – a special shout out to IFC and Phi Kappa Psi for helping to put forth that initiative.

And lastly, we're doing a State of NIU. So Citrick Davis, he is also my chief of staff, but he's also the president of the MPAC. He's hosting an event tonight at 6:30 in the Center for Black Studies to discuss the events that happened this weekend – not necessarily discuss, but to be solution-oriented. I think it's better for the student body to be proactive rather than reactive. How can we, as students, assess who we invite to our campus. Essentially, how can we take back our campus from these recent events of violence? How can we partner with DeKalb to continue these efforts?

And I open the floor for questions. Thanks.

L. Freeman: I think everybody probably reads the newspaper, but for those of you who may not know the specifics of what happened this past weekend, there are things we can say and things we can't say, but let me give you an overall view. Let me start by saying the safety of our students is our number one priority. We had an altercation involving a knife this weekend that involved two individuals who were not affiliated with NIU officially as students. One was a registered guest of an NIU student in a residence hall. And the other entered the residence hall unlawfully. And there was injury. Fortunately, the injured party is in stable condition. And our officers were on the scene within one minute. There was an arrest made in less than 24 hours. And we're trying to figure out what we can do to strengthen what is already considered best practice security around our residence hall. Just for those of you who don't know, we have all exterior doors locked at all times. Students are required to swipe or present ID for entrance. The residence hall desks are staffed around the clock, and there are trained security officers manning the desks. And some, but not all, of the entrances have video monitoring equipment. And we have been communicating frequently with members of campus to dispel rumors that can circulate on social media. But we are certainly open

to trying to do everything we can to keep our students safe. And I want to commend the Student Association and the framing of the dialog tonight. We want everyone to be doing everything possible to make this the safest place possible for everyone who works here. And this is like a small city. It's not like an elementary school where you can have a check-in desk and a closed campus. And it's on all of us to make sure that we are careful about who we invite and who we let in and how we report things and how we watch out for each other. But there was not a general threat. Things were handled. It was very unfortunate. At least it was less tragic than it could have been. But I do applaud our Student Association for trying to be very constructive in the face of a very challenging time. So thank you.

K. Thu: I'd just like to commend the message that Kelly Wesener Michael sent out. That's the first time that I've seen it go out in that format. And I think it was very effective in being very pithy and articulating the rumor and what the reality is. So I would like to see that moving forward.

L. Freeman: Thank you. She does a message to the students, as the dean of students, every Monday. But we pulled the normal content from that message, because we thought the most important thing we could do was try to make sure everyone had the facts. And thank you for recognizing that. And I'll convey to Kelly, who had an emergency meeting come up that that was communicated. So thank you.

H. Operating Staff Council – Holly Nicholson, President – report

T. Arado: Okay, our next report is from the Operating Staff Council, Holly Nicholson.

H. Nicholson: Thank you. It's that time of year for scholarships. The deadline is coming up the end of January, and we just want to remind you, if you're working with any staff – Operating Staff or SPS – that have dependents coming to NIU, both of our councils offer a scholarship. And so we encourage anyone to apply for that. That's all

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

T. Arado: Okay, now we have Supportive Professional Staff Council, Cathy Doederlein.

C. Doederlein: So Holly stole my thunder again.

H. Nicholson: That's why you hate me.

C. Doederlein: That's why I hate her. But continuing, it's shocking that I would have something to say about the ongoing process of looking at potential conversions of SPS to Operating Staff, but tomorrow at the Board of Trustees meeting, one of the topics will be an information item that the board, I gather, requested. Just some more information to understand the differences between SPS and Civil Service, and the similarities. So appreciate that HR will be making that presentation. And appreciate the opportunity to provide some comments on that at the start of the meeting. And look forward to just sort of the ongoing discussions about how we can best proceed for the best outcomes for all of our individual staff, and for the university as a whole.

L. Freeman: I do want to say – and I think this is a credit to our campus – that Trustee John Butler was recognized by the presidents and chancellors, informally, at our meeting, as being a voice of reason, a great communicator and someone who is trying to bring people together to discuss this issue, and especially its impact on individuals, as well as institutions. I’ve known that about John Butler in many contexts, but I was really pleased to see it recognized. He is the trustee who represents us on the Merit Board, and that is the place where we can have the most input into this conversation.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

T. Arado: Okay that brings us to Unfinished Business, under which we have nothing.

X. NEW BUSINESS

T. Arado: And New Business, under which we have nothing.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

T. Arado: Under Information Items, I just want to point out all the little minutes up there that are blue. Those are links, and when I was saying about UAC to the BOT, those are some of the links you can use to get more information. It’s a nice, easy thing that comes out to all of us from Pat. We can use those links to get to some of these reports to update ourselves on the goings on. It is just hard to try and be at everything.

- 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](#), Student Senate
- M. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- N. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- O. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee
- P. [Minutes](#), Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
- Q. [Minutes](#), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
- R. 2018-19 University Council remaining meeting dates: Jan 30, Feb 27, Apr 3, May 1

- S. NIU liaison to [State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee](#)
SURSMAC [sample meeting agenda](#)
SURSMAC [Constitution and Bylaws](#)
NIU HRS is recruiting one academic and one non-academic employee to serve as liaisons to the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee.
To learn more, contact [Celeste Latham](#) or [Liz Guess](#).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

T. Arado: So that brings us to adjournment. Do I have a motion to adjourn our meeting? Kendall. And do we have a second? Khiree. Thank you. All those in favor?

Members: Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.