

MINUTES

**Faculty Senate-University Council Resources, Space and Budget Committee
Friday, October 4, 2019, 10 a.m.
Altgeld Hall 125
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Beyer, Bolden, Creed, Duffin, Johnson, Martin, Millhorn, Riley, Royce, Schatteman, Shi, Slotsve, Subramony

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Doederlein

OTHERS PRESENT: Freeman, Ingram, Klaper, McGill, Pearson, Rogers, Thu

OTHERS ABSENT: Kassel

I. CALL TO ORDER

FS-UC Resources, Space and Budget (RSB) Committee chair, **T. Arado**, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was established.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

No objections were noted, and the agenda was adopted by voice vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

No objections were noted, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. President Lisa Freeman

L. Freeman thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak with the RSB Committee and expressed hope that NIU can continue working with the RSB Committee for guidance on a variety of issues.

1. *Would you provide additional information regarding the proposed new health sciences building. Specifically:*

- *Where will it be located?*
- *If in the far west campus, why?*
- *Is it possible to tear Wirtz down and put up a new facility in the heart of campus, which would have an added benefit of beautifying central campus?*
- *Who will be moved to the new building?*
- *What is the timeline?*

\$77 million for the construction of a new health informatics and technology center and demolition of a to-be-named building to offset NIU's footprint, as well as \$3.1 million for planning and design, has been promised to NIU by the state, over the next several years. However, the realistic timeline will depend on the state selling bonds and accumulating funds from legalized gambling. Nevertheless, it's not too early to start planning.

The university's priorities for the building are three-fold:

- Pull together health professions programs currently dispersed in seven buildings;
- Increase opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration;
- Encourage community and external partnerships.

The process is not completely worked out yet, but typical communication channels (division, college, department meetings, possibly surveys) will be used to ask the university and additional stakeholders to share their ideas about location and programming for the proposed building. NIU's RSB Committee will review the input and advise the president regarding goals and priorities. The plan is to complete this planning phase during the 2019-20 academic year.

Follow-up question: Why doesn't the state's NIU building priorities list represent NIU's building priorities in the same order as NIU lists them? The administration is aware of this discrepancy, and assures the committee that it always re-enforces a consistent building priorities list to the state.

Follow-up question: What guidance is available in the cultivation of external partners? The NIU Foundation and the Division of Research and Innovative Partnerships are in the process of hiring people to assist in this area. **L. Freeman** also noted that NIU must consider what standards it wishes to hold its external partners to. NIU is a values-based institution. What role does shared governance play in the development of these standards?

2. *Would you speak to providing additional resources and funding to DRC and other disability services?*

Plans to relocate the DRC to a more accessible location as soon as possible are underway, and an announcement is expected by the end of the fall semester.

Specific areas of concern include:

- *The elevator in Adams Hall that has been broken for years.*

Adams Hall repairs are on hold, because that building is scheduled to be completely vacated during FY20, and the elevator will be taken offline.

- *The elevator in the Holmes Student Center across from the information desk has been broken since, minimally, November 2018. (affected 2018 polling place)*

Significant HSC elevator repair is scheduled during the upcoming semester break.

- *The elevator in the Health Services building, where the Disability Resource Center is located on the fourth floor, has broken down for extended periods of time in the past.*

NIU Facilities works to insure that at least one of the two elevators is always in working order. More substantial repair to the elevators is planned for FY20. Also, the DRC will be relocated as soon as possible to a more accessible location.

- *City of DeKalb/TransVac merger not meeting the transportation needs of students with disabilities.*
 - *Lack of communication from TransVac*
 - *No drivers available for requested times.*
- *Drivers late for pickup times causing students to be late for classes, internships, appointments etc.*

L. Freeman mentioned this issue in her October 3 meeting with City of DeKalb officials, and administration will follow up with the RSB Committee.

3. *Would you please speak to ways students with disabilities on campus can be provided more authority in the DRC or alternatively to the possibility of creating a disability identity/cultural center led by students and faculty with disabilities.*

- *The inability (due to conflict of interest concerns) of DRC to employ graduate assistants who identify with the individuals served by the*

DRC has a negative impact on those the DRC serves. This occurs through decisions affecting students with disabilities on campus being made without appropriate input from affected parties.

Campuses vary in their approach to making students with disabilities feel welcome and included. There is, appropriately, an emphasis on providing accommodations required by law, and typically, a resource center plays a role. Beyond that, different resources and organizations are dedicated to raising disability awareness, highlighting disability as a dimension of diversity, fostering relationships across various campus communities – honor societies, coed fraternities, clubs and cultural centers.

At NIU, there is the DRC, there are a number of student organizations, and there is the Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities (PCPD). If collaboration across these groups generated a proposal for something NIU lacks, such as an honor society or a cultural center, that proposal would be taken seriously and fairly evaluated. **T. Arado** will share this information with the PCPD.

B. Ingram has reached out to AVP for Student Affairs, Kelly Wesener Michael regarding the real, or perceived, conflict of interest with students working at the DRC, and she will report out her findings to the RSB Committee at a later date.

Follow-up question: Is there any collaboration among state universities to share resources? **B. Ingram** will look into this idea, and **L. Freeman** will raise this idea in her presidents/chancellors phone meeting.

4. *With the minimum wage increase affecting us in January for our student employees, what budget supports or plans have been discussed to increase salaries of those who are very close to that but still making more than the minimum?*

Looking at salary compression across employee groups. New rules regarding minimum wage and FSLA are major considerations as NIU determines next steps forward. The overall cost of the minimum wage increase will be approximately \$11 million by the end of the process.

Follow-up question: N. Bolden has concerns for Student Association budgeting, and the connection with work study funding, as well as student fee funding to support the increase. **B. Ingram** will connect the SA with someone who can assist the SA members with budget modeling for this specific situation.

5. *What is being done to rectify the leaks in newly remodeled Wirtz 326? The leaks raise concerns regarding the possibility of mold and the overall integrity of the room. It is necessary to use the room to meet CACREP accreditation audio/video recording requirements.*

Substantial roof repairs were completed over the summer, and no reports of further leaks have surfaced. If there are leaks, please confirm with **S. McGill** so that she can follow up.

Follow-up observation: The School of Music building leaks are likely impacting student recruitment and retention. The situation was noted. It might be a good idea to include the SOM building in an upcoming deferred maintenance campus tour.

Follow-up observation: Laboratory safety is a concern, specifically as it relates to old machinery, which is still in use, but fails to comply with current-day safety standards. VP of RIPS, Jerry Blazey, is currently engaging stakeholders in a conversation on this laboratory safety topic.

- B. Draft Budget Guidelines
Sarah McGill, Chief Financial Officer
Andrew Rogers, Director, Budget and Financial Planning

How does NIU move from a centralized budget model to one of local/college control? How does administration provide colleges with tools, parameters and oversight for their budgets? What does that look like, and will it help achieve NIU's long-term goals? A proposal on how NIU will begin to prepare its systems to make this move will come to the RSB Committee.

- Transfer of responsibility – the difficult decisions will be made at the college level, by those who have the knowledge to do so, and who will then accept the responsibility that comes with that decision-making authority.
- How can processes be improved for those who are generating their own revenue outside of traditional grant models? All sources of revenue are part of the discussion.
- How can multi-year spending strategies at the local level be protected over the course of multi-year budgeting?
- How can entrepreneurship be developed at the local unit level? And how does that entrepreneurship impact the mission of the university?

In the interest of time, discussion on this topic was paused with the plan to take it up at a future meeting date.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee update – Jeffrey Royce

The NIU Safe App is now live.

B. Student Fee Advisory Committee update – Therese Arado

1. Note update in RSB liaison to SFAC from Greg Beyer to Therese Arado

2. Update – Therese Arado

The SFAC is in the process of meeting, and it will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees later this year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

G. Slotsve moved to adjourn, seconded by **J. Millhorn**. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Future RSB meeting dates: Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 10, Feb 7, Mar 6, Apr 3.

President Lisa Freeman is tentatively scheduled to meet with the RSB on Dec 6, Jan 10, Mar 6.