

TRANSCRIPT

University Council
Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 315
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Bateni, Block, Bohanon, Bolden, Branch, Burton, Chen, Collins, David, Demir (for G. Chen), Doederlein, Elish-Piper, Farrell, Freeman, Hanley, Ingram, Johnson, Kim, Koss, Ledgerwood, Littauer, Martin, Millhorn, Mooney, Moraga, Nelson, Newman, Owoeye, Park (for Rajagopalan), Pearson, Penrod, Peterson, Polansky, Rau, Rigertas, Rooney, Royce, Schatteman, Scherer, Self (for Hines), Shi, Siegesmund, Skarbinski, Staikidis, Thu, Weffer, Whedbee (for Schraufnagel), Wilson

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Barnhart, Bond, G. Chen, Chmaissem, Drew, Hines, Kassel, Rajagopalan, Schraufnagel, White

OTHERS PRESENT: Blazey, Bryan, Hunt, Jensen, Klaper, McGill, Wesener Michael, Yates

OTHERS ABSENT: Gelman, Groza, Hanna, Marsh

I. CALL TO ORDER

L. Freeman: All right, I have 3 o'clock on my phone, and I generally like to start things punctually, so you can take this as the office call to order for the University Council for the new academic year. Welcome everybody.

We've changed the agenda a little bit, so I'll actually be making more detailed comments toward the end.

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Freeman: But I am going to start with verification of a quorum, which is a necessary first step in this meeting today. I know we have lots of people who are new to University Council, both sitting next to me and out in the audience. And so Pat and I wanted to make sure that everybody who was a voting member knew that it was their responsibility to take a clicker. And I'm going to ask Pat to explain how you use the clickers so that we can verify that all of our technology is working, and make sure that we have the requisite 28 voting members that we need to proceed.

P. Erickson: Hi everybody. When we vote by clicker, or for this exercise, we're all going to vote for the same thing just to see how many people click in. We're going to ask you for this exercise

just to press 1 on your clicker. You don't need to turn it on. You just need to click 1, and then you should see a smiley face or a check mark to know that your vote was registered.

K. Thu: Are we ready?

P. Erickson: We're ready, and they're clicking in. You can see up on the screen how the numbers are going up as people click in. Okay, did everybody have success with that? During the meeting, if we were to vote again, there is no need to erase what you just clicked in. The clicker will automatically erase that for you.

L. Freeman: All right.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

L. Freeman: Our next agenda item is adoption of the agenda. And I'm going to move that we adopt the proposed agenda with one modification. The bylaw change requested under B. under VIII., New Business, will be removed from today's agenda and placed on a future agenda, because of the unavailability of Dr. Edghill-Walden. So I'm going to ask for a motion to approve the agenda with that modification, the elimination of VIII. B.

C. Doederlein: So moved, Doederlein.

L. Freeman: Do we have a second?

Unidentified: Second.

L. Freeman: All in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Any opposed? Wonderful.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 1, 2019 MINUTES – Pages 4-6

L. Freeman: At this point, I'm going to turn the meeting over to the Faculty Senate president and exec secretary of University Council, Dr. Kendall Thu.

K. Thu: Thank you, Lisa. Thanks to all of you for being here. I know shared governance is a sacrifice and a commitment. And it's very important for our university, as well as other institutions. So, by a show of hands, how many of you are a UC rep for the first time to a UC meeting? Well a special welcome to all of you. These meetings are not glitzy or glamorous, but they're certainly important, and I appreciate all of your service.

The next item on the agenda is the approval of the May 1, 2019 minutes. Do I have a motion to approve?

T. Arado: So moved.

K. Thu: I was hoping that my first action wouldn't be turned down. I'm sorry, who made the motion?

L. Freeman: Arado, Therese.

K. Thu: Therese. Second? Any discussion, corrections, deletions? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Thank you.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

K. Thu: Do we have anyone registered for public comment? No, okay, thank you.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

K. Thu: Next on the agenda is our consent agenda. There are three items there that we'll be voting on all together. Do I have a motion to adopt the consent agenda?

I. Pearson: So moved, Pearson.

K. Thu: Do we have a second? Richard? We have four seconds, that makes eight. So there is no discussion of a consent agenda by its very nature, it's consent. So all those in favor of the consent agenda, indicate by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Opposed?

- A. Approve the 2019-20 UC Standing Committee membership rosters per NIU Bylaws Article 2 – Page 7
- B. Approve the 2019-20 University Advisory Committee to the BOT membership roster, confirming Jason Hanna for a three-year term (2019-2022) per NIU Bylaws, Article 17.4.1.1 – Page 8
- C. Approve nominee, Matt Bute, Chicago Tribune, to serve as a community-at-large member of the Northern Star Publications Board for a three-year term (2019-2022) per committee membership guidelines – Page 9

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. Thu: Do we have any unfinished business? No, okay.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Proposed amendment to University Press Board description – Page 10
Jerry Blazey, Vice President, Division of Research & Innovation Partnerships
Amy Farranto, Acquisitions Editor, NIU Press

K. Thu: So we'll move on to Item Roman numeral VIII, New Business. The first item is a proposed amendment to the University Press Board description, which is on page 10 of your packet. And I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Blazey to walk us through that.

J. Blazey: Okay, just had to bring it up on my monitor. Good afternoon everyone. As many of you know, we closed down operations of the NIU Press here at NIU and transferred them to Cornell, as a result of Program Prioritization, which suggested we reduce operating costs. And by moving the press to Cornell and reestablishing it as an imprint, we dropped the operating costs by over 60 percent, basically because we could [inaudible] scale and production. And we added 15 titles to their something like 60 titles per year. So I think that was a great success. We were guided by two principles: reduce costs and maintain NIU's contribution to the academy by maintaining the press.

And that move has pretty much occurred. It was finalized on July 1. Operations have completely moved to Cornell. We do contribute acquisitions editor to the imprint. She remains an employee of NIU. She's located off-site, actually near Cornell. So we still have staff, but we no longer have a director of the press. And that requires a little bit of a clean-up in the bylaws. The University Board still meets twice a year here at NIU, the University Press Board. But we have to change the composition, because we no longer have a director.

I would like the proposed change replaces the director of the University Press as a member of the University [Press] Board with the acquisitions editor. Essentially, she is taking on the role within the Press Board.

The second change – we just removed some ambiguous language. Because we do plan on only continuing with manuscripts or books, that third item is no longer needed.

And then we had to add a third item, which was the ability to hold the University Press Board meetings virtually so that the acquisitions editor could participate. And we also established at least meeting two times a year, which we think is adequate for operations in coordination with the Cornell Press.

So, as I said, this is really the final impacts of the move of the press to an imprint of the Cornell Press, and we just wanted to be sure the bylaws were consistent with the way we think we're going to need to operate.

With that, I'd be happy to take questions.

K. Thu: Well I believe we have Amy Farranto on the phone. Maybe she would like to share a few

words.

L. Freeman: That's our acquisitions editor.

J. Blazey: I'm sorry, Amy, I didn't introduce you. So Amy Farranto is our acquisitions editor. She has been for many years now, and I'm very confident that she'll be able to take on this role. So Amy, did you want to say a few words.

A. Farranto: Hi, no. Just everything you said sounds good. The only change I would say is that we did talk about two to four times a year for the meetings. But that is loose. Sometimes it's less, sometimes it's more.

K. Thu: Okay, so we'll entertain a motion to make the changes.

J. Burton: Motion to approve.

K. Thu: Okay, do we have a second? We need a second. Richard? Richard won. So any further discussion? Hearing none, I think we can do this by voice, can't we? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Any opposition? Abstentions? Okay, very good.

J. Blazey: So Amy, I'm sure you're very welcome to stay here at the meeting. On the other hand, you may wish to ring off. It's up to you.

A. Farranto: Yes, I think I'll ring off now.

L. Freeman: Well Kendall already said it wasn't glitzy.

K. Thu: No, it's not exactly glitzy. It's important, but not glitzy. Well thank you.

A. Farranto: Thank you.

- B. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 15.9.1 Committee for Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence – Composition – Page 11-12
FIRST READING
Vernese Edghill-Walden, Chief Diversity Officer

[Note, this item was removed from the agenda and will be scheduled at a later date.]

- C. Temporary appointment timeline waiver request per NIU Bylaws, Article 19.5.2.2
Pradip Majumdar, Interim Chair, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology – Pages 13-14
Donald Peterson, Dean, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

K. Thu: Well the next item up for action is the temporary appointment timeline waiver request for the interim chair of the Department of Engineering Technology in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Do we have Dean Peterson here? Dean, would you like to say a few words about what we're going to be voting on, which is on pages 13 and 14.

D. Peterson: Thanks. After launching a search last year, we were not successful in filling that role of technology chair. So this year we will be re-engaging. So we ask that individual [inaudible] for another year. It's really a straightforward request of UC.

K. Thu: Do we have a motion to adopt the change?

V. Demir: So moved.

K. Thu: Do we have a second?

V. Collins: Second.

K. Thu: Discussion? Questions for Dean Peterson? I think it's a very straightforward action item. So all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Opposed? Abstentions? Very good, thank you.

D. Ombuds Day proposed proclamation – Page 15
Sarah Klaper, NIU Ombudsperson

K. Thu: Next, item D., which is on page 15 of your packet, is the Ombuds Day proposed proclamation from our ombudsperson, Sarah Klaper. Sarah, are you here somewhere. Oh there you are, sorry.

S. Klaper: Hiding in plain sight.

K. Thu: Do you want to say a few words about what the proclamation is about and then we can either read it first and then make a motion, or we can make a motion and then you can read it. Maybe reading it first would be the appropriate step.

S. Klaper: All right.

University Council
Northern Illinois University
Proclamation

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University is committed to fostering an academic and professional environment that promotes equity, fairness, respect, adherence to policy and

effective resolution of disputes within a richly diverse population of faculty, staff, students and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, disagreements, conflicts, complaints, confusion, and policy questions will inevitably arise in any institution; and

WHEREAS, the fair and effective resolution of such issues is in the best interest of both the individuals involved, and the university as it fulfills its mission of teaching, service and research; and

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University acknowledges the numerous benefits of providing informal and confidential channels for addressing issues such as bullying, bias, discrimination, sexual harassment, academic disputes, employment concerns, interpersonal conflict and unethical behavior; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Ombudsperson is a confidential, neutral, informal and independent resource whose purpose is to assist all members of the university community with a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Ombudsperson at Northern Illinois University was established in 1969 by President Rhoten Smith, and 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Ombudsperson has provided highly valued conflict resolution services to Northern Illinois University through the services of Michael McDermott, David Knowlton, Leon Miller, Patricia Lambert, Arnold Fox, Bertrand Simpson, Stacy Dolby, Tim Griffin, and Sarah Klaper, as well as their staff and graduate assistants; and

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the University Council of Northern Illinois University, do hereby proclaim the second Thursday of October, starting October 10, 2019 and into perpetuity, as:

OMBUDS DAY

and encourage all faculty, staff and students of Northern Illinois University to become familiar with the Office of the Ombudsperson, and to support and utilize these essential services.

K. Thu: Thank you, Sarah. Do we have a motion to adopt the proclamation? Do we have a second?

I. Pearson: Second.

K. Thu: So I looked up online the history of ombudspersons. And apparently, it dates back to early 19th century Swedish governance. Of course, the Scandinavians are the first to come up with an ombudsperson, right? And apparently, this person was originally supposed to

navigate political traffic when the king wasn't around. I should also mention that this has been passed by the Operating Staff Council. Faculty Senate adopted it last week. I believe SPS is going to be considering it tomorrow. And, of course, the Ombuds Office is extremely important to this institution, and we're very fortunate to have Sarah serving in that role.

Any other discussion? Okay, if not, all those in favor of adopting the proclamation, signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Nays? Abstentions? Thank you, Sarah.

IX. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. Thu: I am now going to turn it back over to President Freeman for the president's announcements.

L. Freeman: So in addition to a hearty welcome back to the academic year, which is not that new anymore, although the summer weather is making us feel like it's August once again, I also want to say another heartfelt to you for your participation in shared governance. It's very gratifying to see the new shared governance leaders and new faces represented here at University Council. Kendall asked for a raise of hands from the group, and I thought it was just a wonderful sign of faith in our institution to see so many new members. I also want to point out that Beth Ingram, our executive vice president and provost, is also new to University Council this year.

While we're celebrating all the new faces in the room, it's also important for us to recognize those who've stayed engaged over time, taking on different responsibilities at different times, so that we were able to maintain our momentum. And it's in this context that I am pleased to offer formal thanks to Therese Arado for her service as Faculty Senate president and executive secretary to the University Council, and to present her with a token of our appreciation for her work in that leadership position and for her continued participation as the chair of the Resource, Space and Budget Committee. So, Therese, please come up here to get yet another plaque. And please give Therese a round of applause.

T. Arado: Thank you very much.

L. Freeman: I believe strongly in meaningful shared governance, because focused collaboration generates better decisions, and creates better outcomes than a top-down approach. And that value is seen here at University Council. It's seen in the expanded role of the Resource, Space and Budget Committee as an open committee that provides feedback throughout the year at critical decision points, as well as in the Policy Library. And we'll be hearing from Becqui about the progress on the Policy Library later today. But that initiative arose from shared governance, and now it's being implemented, and we're tracking its progress.

This year President Thu has an ambitious and inclusive agenda to strengthen our shared governance system. And I'm going to ask him to comment on that in just a few minutes. But first I want to

reflect on last academic year and actually take a few minutes to celebrate some good news. First there's a helpful technical clarification that I want to call your attention to in this week's University Council agenda. It's under the item titled Open Meetings Act Reviews. And there you can see by clicking on the link an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General that describes the terms by which a body mentioned in our governing documents would, or would not, be considered an open meetings under state statute. The specific opinions that are provided there as an information item reject an allegation that the president's staff, or senior round table, is a public body subject to the Open Meetings Act. As you may remember, we actually removed them from our governing documents to avoid all such confusion, but I offered these opinions because they've come in since that time. And also more importantly, because they're going to be helpful to us going forward as we consider similar questions. So for those of you who really like that kind of thing, read them. It's actually very helpful and informative to see what our state statute dictates in terms of transparency of meetings and advisory bodies.

More significantly, I want to take a moment to celebrate the momentum generated as our university community came together last year. We revised our mission, vision and values statements. We created a realistic strategic enrollment management plan that reflects those sentiments. And we were clear about who we are and who we aspire to be as an institution and as proud Huskies. And I want to just cite some examples.

The Presidential Commission on the Status of Women surveyed our employees about experiences and perceptions related to the FMLA in 2018 – that's Family Medical Leave Act. Last year they presented a series of recommendations based on those data, as well as on a thoughtful benchmarking effort. And tomorrow we're going to have our Board of Trustees vote on a proposal that reflects their efforts, one that expands our parental leave and our non-accumulative sick leave benefits to provide even more support to caregivers. And the details of that proposal are available on the Board [of Trustees] agenda, which has been posted. I bring it up here as an excellent example of meaningful shared governance.

We can also be proud of the fact that our 10-day enrollment numbers, which are being released today, generally meet or exceed the targets in our Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. Our official 10-day enrollment numbers revealed increases in freshman, transfer, graduate and Law students. Even with those gains in new students, our overall enrollment dropped about three percent to 16,609, and we expected that. That drop was primarily because recent graduating classes were significantly larger than incoming classes, and that was projected in our SEM Plan. So we created a thoughtful plan. We set targets. We managed expectations inside the university and externally. And we met or exceeded our goals. And I think that is something to celebrate.

The academic quality of this year's freshman class is also increased compared to 2018, as evidenced by an increase in the average high school gpa from 3.31 to 3.36, and an increase in the number of students who graduated in either the top 10 percent or the top quarter of their high schools. Overall, our incoming class is larger, more diverse and academically stronger than last year.

For the online programs that were marketed by our partner, Wiley, five masters and one degree completion program, the actual enrollments have exceeded our expectations on the targets that Wiley committed to, and that is also good news.

And this coming year, we're going to have new opportunities to work together as a university community to support each other and to strengthen NIU. And I just want you to know that I look forward to working with all of you to facilitate the work of shared governance, and to improve our relationships with our surrounding communities.

And it's in that spirit that I'm going to ask Kendall to say a few words about his vision for the coming year and for shared governance. And when he's done, we'll ask Becqui to say a few words.

K. Thu: Thank you, Lisa. As a number of you in here know, when I accepted the nomination for Faculty Senate president and UC executive secretary, in my letter I mentioned the fact that I wanted to take a look at our shared governance structure. I've always thought that our shared governance structure is a little bit odd. And then over the summer and early fall, I began looking at our sister institutions in Illinois, SIU, EIU, Western, Champaign, Governors State. And I also had conversations with my counter parts at all of those institutions. And when I tried to explain our governance structure, they sort of metaphorically shook their head over the phone – or in one case I met him in person.

So what we're going to be doing in Faculty, and we started this process last Wednesday, is reviewing our governance structure relative to other institutions in Illinois, and also a few institutions outside of Illinois that Provost Ingram helped me get feedback from.

The basic difference is that there is no such thing as a University Council as our sister institutions. The kinds of things that University Council does, in terms of the academic purview, are vested in Faculty Senate. So what I'm going to be working on, and I can't predict how it's going to turn out, you never can, is to have Faculty Senate come up with a proposal for changes to the shared governance system, such that academic matters are moved over more clearly to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate is then empowered to make policy recommendations.

So far, I've just introduced the concept the same way I've introduced it here. Eventually, if a proposal does come out of Faculty Senate, it has to come here for your vote, because you are vested by the Constitution with power to make policy recommendations that go up to the provost, the president and the Board of Trustees.

So at the next Faculty Senate meeting, I will be presenting background materials that I have accumulated over the summer. And I want to keep you in the loop on an ongoing basis so that it's not sprung on you at the tail end. So essentially, it's going to be trying to change the Faculty Senate and the way it operates and what it does. And it will also include language changes in the Constitution and Bylaws, another glitzy activity. And then some committee changes might have to be made too. In fact, we might be able to get rid of a committee or two, wouldn't that be a change of pace.

So that's all I'm going to say about it now. I will, as I said, it will be a standing item on the agenda so that I can provide you regular updates. Some of you here are also attending Faculty Senate meetings. I welcome you to chime in as well. So, dare I ask, do you have any questions about that at this point? Is that clear enough? Okay. With that, I think I will turn it back over to President

Freeman.

A. Policy Library Update – Rebecca Hunt, Policy Librarian

L. Freeman: So that she can turn it over to Dr. Hunt.

R. Hunt: Good afternoon everyone. For those of you who are new to the University Council and have not met me, I'm Becqui Hunt, and I'm the university Policy Librarian. And the Policy Library, the initiative started a few years ago. And in April of this year, we launched the Policy Library, where all university-wide policies are housed. And as you can see, the home page of the Policy Library is displayed there. And what I'm going to do today is provide a brief update on the library. We've made some changes, and there were some things that were not in operation at the time I was here last academic year to visit you. So I just want to go over those quickly, so that you have an idea of how to navigate through the website. Changes have been updated since last week when I presented at Faculty Senate. So I'm going to go over those today too.

At the very top of the website, you have the tabs. What we've done is we've moved the Policy on Managing University Policy document to its own tab so that you can read through that document. We've added to the Submit or Revise a Policy. We've added a policy template where, if you're going to submit a policy, there's a template that you need to fill out in order to submit the policy. So we've added that, and that will make all policies uniform in format, is what we're trying to achieve with using the template.

If we scroll down a little bit, Pat, we have the Comment on Proposed Policies. What we've done here is, we've added the end date for comments that are being accepted. There's a 30-day window in which you can add comments to the policy proposals and the policy revisions. And what you do in order to do that, is you actually click on one of the policies. So you could click on Disclosure of Economic Interests, and it will bring you to where you need to log in to Sharepoint. And what you will find there is you'll find the policy that's being proposed. And you can read through the policy. And if you scroll down to the end of the page, there is a section there for comments. So you would just click on the comment box and add your comments. And they'll be posted. If you go there, you can also see other people who have made comments also. So that helps so that there is no duplication of comments that we have.

If you scroll down a little bit further, we have Recently Added or Revised Policies. These four policies that are listed here are brand new policies that have gone through the 30-day comment period. This happened over the summer, and these policies are now live in the Policy Library. And we just want to alert you of the new policies that are currently in the Policy Library. So this is a place for you to take a look at those policies in particular and know that they were just recently added. You can click on them from this spot, and the policy will pop up for you to read.

So those are the new changes that we've done to the Policy Library website. Upcoming meetings, which is at the top there, you can always click on that to find out when our meetings are. And we do abide by the Open Meetings Act, so we're posting the agenda and other materials prior to the meeting starting.

Does anyone have any questions?

K. Thu: I just have a comment, Becqui. I just want to clarify that the Policy Library is not a place where policy is made. It's a place where policies are parked. And the Policy Library Committee is there to make sure that the policies that are being proposed fit guidelines and fit the template that you have. That doesn't preclude having conversations about proposed policies in other shared governance bodies. I just want to clarify that.

R. Hunt: Okay, thank you, Kendall.

L. Freeman: All right, thank you, Becqui. From the day that this was proposed when former Faculty Senate president and exec secretary, Greg Long, showed how big our Constitution and Bylaws were, compared to everyone else's – and then we all we commented, for all that's written down, we still can never find what we want to know at the time we want to know it – I think we've made a ton of progress. And so thank you very much for your efforts.

B. [Huskie Food Pantry](#) – volunteers needed – Pages 16-17

L. Freeman: In my comments, I said that part of our opportunity this coming year isn't just to strengthen NIU, but to also strengthen relationships with our surrounding communities. And the conversation and the notification about the needs of the Huskie Food Pantry falls in that latter category, and I think Kendall wants to say a couple words.

K. Thu: Yes. How many of you are aware that we have a good pantry at NIU? Maybe I should say, how many of you aren't aware? I knew we had one, but I hadn't visited it until this summer. And I learned that our graduate students are increasingly using the food pantry, which is open one day a week on a Thursday evening.

I also learned that the director of the food pantry has left for another job in the inner city, and we're currently in the process of replacing that director. Meanwhile, we have one 20-hour a week graduate assistant that is staffing the food pantry, and they really rely on volunteers. In particular what they need are volunteers to shuttle food back and forth from Target or Walmart over to the food pantry. I

If you go to the food pantry website, there's a portal you can click on and volunteer, suggest how you can help. And I'm sure that the current grad assistant will welcome your participation. Thank you.

L. Freeman: And I guess I'll just make two other comments. The times of year historically that the food pantry has most needed volunteers are the time when our students aren't here, because they don't have the philanthropic organizations staffing it. Members of the senior round table and academic leadership try to volunteer around those times, because the people who are hungry stay here even when many of our students are gone. So if you're thinking that this might be something that you want to try, those are excellent times where you can really make an impact.

And I guess the other thing that I would say is, if you're hosting an event and it's not a ticketed event, it's essentially free, but you want to give people a little extra reason to come, it's always nice

to just make the opportunity to donate to the food pantry either in terms of items or financial support, part of the event that you're staging. It makes everybody feel good, and it serves an important purpose in our community.

So with that, I'm going to turn the agenda back to Kendall.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Linda Saborío – no report

K. Thu: Well we turn now to Item X. Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees. The first one is Linda Saborío. I don't believe Linda is here. She has graciously agreed to serve a full year as our contact, or our liaison, to the IBHE. So we're very grateful that she's willing to do that again. So no report there.

B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report
Jeffrey Royce, Catherine Doederlein, Kendall Thu
Alex Gelman, Sarah Marsh, Jason Hanna

K. Thu: Then we have University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees. Just a very brief couple of remarks about the last board meeting. The last board meeting was in August, I believe. And the only two action items that they undertook were to approve two late tenure cases, which were late hires from last year that couldn't go through the normal tenure and promotion cycle. I believe they're both in the health sciences college, and they were, I believe, both administrative positions.

So the board is meeting again tomorrow morning, and so I'll have a fuller report at the next UC meeting. Any other members of the UAC want to comment? Okay, thank you.

C. Academic Policy Committee – Vicki Collins, Chair – report

K. Thu: Next we have a very important report from Dr. Vicki Collins, who is the chair of the Academic Policy Committee. Vicki?

V. Collins: Good afternoon. The University Council Academic Policy Committee is in its final stages of completing work that it started last year. And this was a really productive, wonderful committee. In brief, we were tasked with reviewing NIU's policies for distance education courses carrying undergraduate credit. And while completing our review, we learned that a graduate version of the policy also existed. So in consultation with Graduate School Dean Brad Bond, we reached consensus that only one policy was needed. I think that's interesting as we were just talking about the Policy Library and its function. So the two policy documents were consolidated into one and titled Policies for Online and Hybrid Courses Offered by Northern Illinois University.

The consolidated policy was approved by the Graduate Council at the end of last year, and by the Policy Library Committee on August 19. And the policy is posted on the Policy Library website for that 30-day comment period. And that will end the 20th of this month.

Our committee will bring the policy here to the University Council for final approval after reviewing feedback from the Graduate Council, which was minor but very important, and then feedback from persons who participated in the 30-day comment period.

For a brief preview of the policy and a summary of the steps that were undertaken to develop it, we just encourage you to visit the Policy Library website.

K. Thu: Thank you, Vicki. I think it's important to inform our campus community about the existence of the Policy Library as the go-to place for finding university-wide policies. I might even suggest that in your unit or at your faculty meetings, you bring a link embedded in your agenda so that folks know where to go if they want to comment.

D. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Therese Arado, Chair – report

K. Thu: Next I want to turn to Therese Arado, who's agreed to be the chair of the Resource, Space and Budget Committee. And I want to say I'm very grateful that you agreed to be the chair of that very important committee. So, Therese.

T. Arado: Thank you. The RSB had its first meeting of the academic year last Friday, Sept. 6. And it was basically an introductory meeting where we got together to discuss what will be our topics of focus this academic year. Among those topics are providing input and feedback regarding the developing Facilities Master Plan. And connected to that, we're going to work on a way to find a way or a place for individuals on campus to be able to provide their experiences related to the various facilities, because we all have facilities experience. And we want it from the perspective of those working in various locations.

We discussed the committee's continued input on the multi-year budgeting process and eventual decentralization of the budgets, as well as additional ways to better communicate budget related information in understandable and relevant formats. We discussed ways, we don't have ways yet, just clarifying there. But that is on our list of projects.

We also selected Jeffry Royce, who is here, I believe, to serve on behalf of the RSB on the Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee. And Greg Beyer was selected to be the RSB representative on the Student Fee Advisory Committee. And I want to publicly thank both of them for their willingness to take on these additional roles.

Other than that, I just look forward to working with this group – it was a great group of people – and sharing our work as the year progresses.

K. Thu: Thanks, Therese. For those of you who don't know, we have two committees that are joint committees between Faculty Senate and University Council. And Resources, Space and Budget is one of those committees. The other is Rules, Governance and Elections, which also is composed of both UC members and Faculty Senate. So I just wanted you to be aware of that.

E. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Richard Siegesmund, Chair –

no report

K. Thu: And speaking of that committee, Richard, who is the committee chair for Rules, Governance and Elections, you have no report.

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

K. Thu: That moves us to University Affairs Committee. At least we can recognize who our chairs are, even if they don't have a report. And Hamid is here, where are you, Hamid? He's in the back. Another committee chair. No report at this time.

G. Student Association – report
Naomi Bolden, President
Ian Pearson, Speaker of the Senate

K. Thu: And now I want to turn it over to our new Student Association leaders. I don't know who's going to go first. I guess, Naomi? Naomi Bolden?

N. Bolden: Hi. I'm Naomi Bolden. I'm the president of S.A. this year, a senior. So for those who don't know me, it's nice to meet you all. First I want to start talking about the goals and priorities that I have for S.A. this year. I've been involved in the senate for two years before I was elected as president. Merging on to this side, one big goal that I had was being able to collaborate and work more actively with students and student organizations. I feel that a lot of them don't really recognize S.A. as a resource, and that we can be that for them, not just a funding source or the major org who can give the budgets and tips for finance and things like that. I wanted to be able to make sure that they can come to us to work on other things.

Another thing was trying to be more transparent with the student body, which I know every president says that. But I have a different outlook this year. So one thing that we're going to be implementing is a State of the S.A. Address/Town Hall. With that initiative, we're trying to make ourselves more available to students outside of our office hours. A lot of them either don't know that we have office hours, or know where our offices are. So by hosting this town hall, we're giving them the opportunity to bring their issues and their concerns to us. And Ian and I will be able to relay that through to the administration.

Another thing with inclusivity, last year there was a lot going on within the Student Association. They kind of – I'll say it didn't put the right light on what's important, which is the students. So this year, Ian and I have, I think, really been trying hard to make sure that what happened last year doesn't go on, and that it's a happy environment, a good environment for everybody to work in, as well as for students to feel more comfortable coming to us.

Moving on from that, over the summer, I was able to meet with Kelly Olson, Ariel Owens from the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, as well as a student named – actually I won't say her name, because of the topic. But last year, there was a protest that happened toward the end of the year concerning Title IX and sexual assault on campus. So I reached out to Dr. Wesener Michael, as well as a few other members from Student Affairs. And they were very open about being able to sit

down and discuss this process.

So one thing that I discussed with our Title IX officer was a new training process and trying to see how we can create a more interactive environment for that, instead of having it just be computerized, because we don't feel people are receptive of the information if they're just clicking through a computer.

Another thing was trying to see if we can launch Title IX training during Orientation, versus having it be something that students start when they get on campus. This way, it's quick, it's easy, it's right there, you can get through it, and you don't have to have that hold on your bursar's account if you don't complete it.

We also would like to try and emphasize stalking in Title IX. I think what people think of Title IX think of the domestic violence and the sexual assault, which are very important. But we also want to recognize that stalking can translate into those things and also emphasize the importance of it.

And also removing some of the legal mumbo jumbo that students don't quite understand. We want to be able to talk more directly to them in language that they can understand.

And the last thing that I would like to mention. There was a community meeting about the DeKalb P.D. incident, I'm sure that we're all aware of. And I had opportunity to actually speak with Chief of Police, John Petragallo. He reached out to me and would like to have a meeting with me and see how the S.A. can help the City of DeKalb and see what solutions we have and things that we would like to see. So in the coming weeks, I'll be meeting with him. And I'm actually pretty excited that he reached out to me and it wasn't vice versa. It kind of shows that his concern and that's a priority for him.

Any questions?

K. Thu: Thank you, Naomi.

N. Bolden: Thank you.

K. Thu: Thank you very much. I had the opportunity to meet Naomi earlier this summer, I think maybe a day or two before you left for England. So I hope your study abroad program was rewarding. Good.

Next we have Ian Pearson, who is the head of our Student Senate, Ian.

I. Pearson: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Ian Pearson, and I have the pleasure of serving as this year's speaker of the Student Senate. A little about myself. I'm a senior, double majoring in political science and non-profit management. For these first few University Council meetings, I really want to play around with a couple different reporting methods. In prior experience at UC, you would see student leaders come up and give a long-form, very long-winded report of every single thing we were working on. Even as a student, that wasn't my favorite thing to sit through.

So what I would like to do this year is really focus on the highlights, the big issues that we're confronting in the Student Association, as well as tangible asks, or conversations that we think are relevant to be had in the setting like this.

One of my main priorities upon assuming this position was rethinking the student role within University Council. We have a perennial challenge in insuring adequate student involvement, whether it's just showing up to the meetings or it's being confident enough to talk and present when we're there. While I think full representation is possible, my more immediate goal is to insure that students serving within University Council within its committees feel comfortable to share, and have the knowledge base to be able to effectively contribute, because why have student seats if students aren't able to contribute.

To that end, I want to work with our shared governance leaders, and I spent a lot of the summer and now starting the fall doing so, to do shared goal setting, to have candid conversations about issues that are facing students, as well as to help prepare our students. Something I'd like to see is shared governance leaders helping us in educating new student committee members. So whether it's having a point of contact with the chair or a member of the committee, having someone that we can go to with questions. Or points of conversation that we didn't feel comfortable raising in the meeting, itself.

In closing, I'm really excited to start this year. There's a sense of enthusiasm and optimism that I really hadn't experienced on campus until I came in to student leadership. And I think that working together in the coming year, we can really solve problems facing students. It's been mentioned earlier today, but issues like food insecurity, which is a shared concern with the Student Association and other shared governance bodies, as well as other things like electoral engagement and community engagement among students, are challenges that I think shared governance could effectively address.

So I look forward to working with all of you on our shared governance committees to make this a really productive and fulfilling year. Thank you.

K. Thu: Thank you, Ian. I think our Student Association is in good hands for the coming year.

L. Freeman: I just want to add that I am equally enthusiastic about working with Naomi and Ian. In the short time they've been in office, they've proven themselves to be strongly committed to making sure student voices are heard. They are committed to collaboration, to trust, to transparency. I'm so delighted to hear that Chief Petragallo reached out to you. Naomi and Ian and I had an opportunity to talk to each other after the video tape was released widely, and before the community meeting. I shared with them a letter that I sent to the city leadership acknowledging the pain that was real in our community and also my hope that we were able to move forward together so that the incident didn't divide us forever. And I know Naomi was there at the community meeting. She's been a very good representative. Ian had a quiz that night or he would have been there. But I really do look forward to working with them both on issues that affect our campus and issues that affect our larger community. Our student government is, indeed, in good hands.

K. Thu: Thank you, Lisa. In that vein, I just want to remind everybody that on the 24th of this

month, we will have our sixth annual Unity Walk, which starts out at MLK Commons. If you can show up, it's the 24th at 5 o'clock, starting at the MLK Commons. Thank you.

H. Operating Staff Council – Jeffrey Royce, President – report

K. Thu: Next we have our new Operating Staff Council president, Jeffrey Royce. Jeffrey, do you want to say a few words?

J. Royce: Thank you, Kendall. I'll quickly mirror comments that you and Dr. Freeman just had about our student counterparts here. I've had the opportunity to meet with Naomi and Ian several times over the past few months. And to say that I am impressed and find them to be effective, would be an extreme understatement. My hat is off to both of them, and the Student Association is in the best of hands, I would say.

I do have to admit it's been a bit of a whirlwind for me since I committed myself to preparing a statement for this gathering. I am pleased to mention how I've also observed increased optimism among operating staff of this year. I think it's credited in no small part to the continued positivity from our senior leadership and the less punishing budget climate we're currently experiencing. Of course, there is still a long way to go, but I feel confident that shared governance input is being carefully considered at each step. We look forward to hosting many of our leaders and administrators at our council meetings this year, and I would ask if any of you are interested in speaking to the Operating Staff Council, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. And I continue to look forward, as well, to working collaboratively with Kendall, Cathy, Naomi and Ian on behalf of everyone here at NIU. Thank you.

K. Thu: Thank you, Jeffrey. I've had the opportunity to join two of the Operating Staff Council meetings, and I can tell you I learned a lot. You see things differently when you hear from folks who aren't in your cultural neck of the woods. So thanks, Jeffrey.

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

K. Thu: Next is Supportive Professional Staff Council, Cathy Doederlein?

C. Doederlein: Not to be redundant, but I think I'd be remiss if I didn't also express appreciation for the outreach that Ian and Naomi have had in wanting to connect more with faculty and staff for shared governance purposes, and just generally, and also to my colleagues, Jeffrey and Kendall, in terms of just sort of the overall connection between faculty and staff and students. And so excited for the year ahead.

Not surprisingly, some of my comments will be consistently redundant to last year as far as issues facing supportive professional staff. We are still kind of going through the growing pains, or un-growing pains, related to transitions from supportive professional staff to operating staff. And as always, I think the key there is just insuring that the communication across the campus is as consistent as possible. I would say, if any of you in roles of leadership are experiencing any concerns about communication between your staff and yourself, or you and HR, related to potential transitions, please feel free – if they haven't already been shared directly with our senior leadership

– feel free to share with me so I can share those up, because I think it most often just comes down to issues of communication. Thankfully, in most cases, those folks are transitioning from SPS to Civil Service, we are thankfully not losing them as employees at NIU. It’s just a classification shift, and some of the myths that are out there about what that shift means can usually be pretty easily dispelled with proper communication. So I look forward to another year, and thank you very much.

K. Thu: Thank you, Cathy. And as part of my effort to learn about the history of shared governance, this Friday I’m having a conversation with Dr. Sue Doederlein. She started here in the 1960s, I believe, the late ‘60s. So there’s no go-to place to learn about how we ended up with the shared governance system we have. So I’m having conversations with folks who’ve been here – or used to be here – for a long time.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

K. Thu: So with that, all we have left are the Information Items under Roman numeral XI. And please take note of the Faculty Senate meeting dates. For those of you who were elected to University Council, you are, by default, a member of the Faculty Senate. Some people don’t know that. I was in a conversation with a colleague of mine who had been at Northern almost as long as I have. And we were talking about municipal governance and shared governance at NIU. And I mentioned that University Council, and he said, what is that? And I was shocked. So if you are a University Council member, you are also a member of the Faculty Senate, a full voting member of that body. So please take note of the meeting dates, and I hope to see you there.

- 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 Annual Reports](#)

- S. 2019-20 Faculty Senate meeting dates:
Sep 4, Oct 2, Oct 30, Nov 20, Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 25, Apr 22

T. 2019-20 University Council meeting dates:
Sep 11, Oct 16, Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 29, Feb 26, Apr 1, Apr 29

U. [Open Meetings Act reviews](#)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

K. Thu: With that, I'll entertain a motion – we made it by 4 o'clock, halleluiah. So motion to adjourn the meeting?

J. Wilson: So moved.

K. Thu: Okay, Richard [Siegesmund] is a second over here. All in favor.

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Thank you very much. Have a good week.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.