

TRANSCRIPT

University Council
Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 315
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Barnhart, Beyer, Block, Bolden, Burton, G. Chen, J. Chen, Chmaisse, Collins, Doederlein, Elish-Piper, Falkoff (for Rigertas), Freeman, Ghoman (for Branch), Hanley, Ingram, Johnson, Kassel, Kim, Lang, Ledgerwood, Littauer, Millhorn, Mooney, Moraga, Nelson, Newman, Nicholson (for Royce), Owoeye, Pearson, Peterson, Polansky, Rajagopalan, Rau, Schatteman, Schraufnagel, Self (for Hines), Shi, Siegesmund, Skarbinski, Staikidis, Thu, Weffer, White, Wilson, Woodruff

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Bateni, Binderup, Bond, Branch, David, Drew, Farrell, Hines, Martin, Penrod, Rigertas, Rooney, Royce, Scherer

OTHERS PRESENT: Blazey, Bryan, Dawe, Edghill-Walden, Jensen, Klaper, Klonoski, McGill, Wesener Michael

OTHERS ABSENT: Ferguson, Gelman, Groza, Hanna, Kortegast, Marsh

I. CALL TO ORDER

L. Freeman: Good afternoon, everybody. It's 3 o'clock on my watch, and to be respectful of everybody's time, I'm going to start by calling the meeting to order. Welcome to winter, and welcome to University Council.

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Freeman: Item II is Verification of a quorum. I'm told that 30 is the magic number that we need for a quorum, and I'm going to ask Pat to remind you how we use our clickers to determine whether there are the right number of the right people in the room. So if you are a voting member, and you have not yet picked up a clicker, this is your opportunity to go seize one, and make sure that it is functional, and follow Pat's direction.

P. Erickson: And I'm getting an error message on the clickers, so I'm going to work on that. If you are new or if you've forgotten, there's no need to turn the clicker on. All you need to do is press 1 to tell us that you're here, 1 or A. But I think I'm going to ask everyone not to click yet. I'm going to close the program and start it over.

L. Freeman: So anyone who didn't get the delicious snacks or coffee, this might be a time to change your mind. Another good use of your time might be to peruse the October 16 minutes in case you have not taken the opportunity to read them before today.

P. Erickson: We need 30 here for quorum. I'm quite sure we have 30 here, so I think I could just verify that.

L. Freeman: Okay, so if you are a voting member, you may raise your hand.

P. Erickson: Yes, we're good.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

L. Freeman: So, now that we have verified a quorum, Item III is Adoption of the Agenda. May I have a motion to accept the agenda. So moved, and second? Any discussion? All in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Any opposed. The agenda is adopted.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2019 MINUTES

L. Freeman: Item IV is Approval of the October 16, 2019 Minutes, which are found on pages 3 to 5 of the packet. Do I have a motion to approve those minutes?

C. Doederlein: So moved.

L. Freeman: Doederlein. Second was Siegesmund. Any discussion? All in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: All right.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Freeman: Item V is Public Comment. Have we received any requests for public comment, or is anyone so moved?

VI. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Freeman: All right in that case, we will move to Item VI President's Announcements. And I don't have a lot of announcements, because we just came off the State of the University, and a lot of the press that followed that, and our homecoming weekend.

And so I thought I would just take a couple of minutes and tell you something that I really love about this campus. And I'll be short about it, but it's a sentiment I really feel is worth expressing.

You know I love being the bearer of good news. I love it when I get to talk about Ian Pearson who is our Lincoln Laureate and a finalist for a Marshall scholarship and was a page in Springfield. [applause] I love it when I get to go down to Springfield to a joint caucus with our legislators and the University of Illinois legislators, and tell them that we were 159 in a prestigious global ranking of research universities for our research contributions, and that in the state of Illinois, only Northwestern, the University of Chicago, Urbana/Champaign, UIC and Rush were ahead of us. So as you would expect, the R1s and the medical centers were ahead of us, but we were pretty high. IIT was actually followed us closely, and there was a pretty big space between us and ISU and some of our other public institutions. And I think that's something for us to be very proud of.

But there are a lot of things I see as president that nobody else gets to see, that are still really cool. And I just want to talk for just two minutes about that. So I love to say that relationships are resources, and when I'm out there saying that, I'm generally talking about collaboration across institutions or entities or working with the community. And yet, the relationships that our students form with each other and with you, our faculty and staff, and those personal relationships that form on this campus and carry through to graduation, to alumni, are incredibly special. And I just had a couple of really good examples of that over the course of the last week or two.

We saw a large number of alumni organize their own events against the background of our homecoming, using their own social media, renting out spaces in DeKalb, and coming home to DeKalb to a place that they felt special about, but really leveraging the network that has stayed with them since they left. And that was great to see.

On Saturday night, we had the 60th anniversary of NIU's School of Nursing and nursing program. And we had Northern nurses from many different decades there. And just to see how much they loved each other, how much they embraced the mission of this university and their college, and how happy they were to meet our younger graduates and incorporate them into a network of leadership development and professional advancement. It was really super to see. And I saw that at Geology's 50th anniversary, and I've seen that as we're celebrating a lot of program-level anniversaries. And it's really wonderful to see.

Saturday afternoon, I went to the Phi Sig Family Weekend, and I got to see generations of fraternity members meeting with each other and talking about leadership development and professional networking, and what it means to represent a fraternal organization, and how you leverage that to give back to the university that introduced you to your fraternity brothers and friends. And it was really, really good to see that as well.

And then Saturday morning, I went out to the MAC cross country championships. And if you remember Halloween, we had significant snow. And we had a little more precipitation on Friday, and the race was Saturday morning. And on Friday afternoon, the Athletic Department, who was hosting all of the MAC schools here had to change the course and had to shovel snow. And to see the great collaboration across our own faculty, students and staff, as Administration and Finance, and Athletics, worked together to pull some trucks that got stuck out of the mud, and to talk to the student athletes and the members of our community, former student athletes, some of them about picking up a shovel and just moving the snow off the course, because it was important that NIU looked good to people who came from the outside, that we were good hosts, that we lived up to our

reputation. And to see the smiles as they were talking about being out there in the freezing cold and shoveling together, because they had so much fun.

These types of memories are the memories that I see in the making, and that I get to see when I go out and I talk to our alumni and donor base. And it's a real privilege of the presidency to get to parachute into these situations, and then be able to put the tapestry together over time. And I would not have this great experience if you all didn't care so much about the students, about each other, and about this institution.

And I'm going to give you just one more example before I ask you to give all of yourselves a round of applause. You may notice that Vice President Jensen isn't with us here today. He got an excuse to come in late. And he got an excuse to come in late, because English 203, the research writing course, had their students, Jen Justice and her students, do a simulation where they were hired by NIU Admissions to come up with recruitment tools to increase recruitment or support new students. Each of the groups within this English class picked a specific demographic that they wanted to recruit. And they're creating an interactive campus map. And they're presenting their results science fair-style. And they wanted admissions vice president to go, and the admissions director to go. And they were like, oh my gosh, this is so super. And so to see like the students today caring about the students of tomorrow, to see the faculty and staff leveraging things the university cares about in their classroom, this is a really great place to be president. And it's a really great place to graduate from. And it's a really great place to get to put on your resume. And that's because of the people and nothing else. So please give yourselves a hand. [applause]

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

L. Freeman: We are now moving to the Consent Agenda, where I get to turn the gavel and the agenda over to Kendall.

K. Thu: Thank you, Lisa. There is something a little bit different about this meeting. I don't know if you noticed it, but we're trying out a new format. And I don't know whether it's interesting or whether it's disturbing. The one problem we have here is the sight line with the podium. And most of you have sat behind that sight line. So maybe we'll run an experiment where we put the table over there and see whether you all end up on this side. The idea here was to try out a different format that's a little more, I don't know. This is the Board of Trustees room, the board is the power center. And shared governance is a little bit different than that. We should be sort of on equal footing. And that's the purpose of this.

We will not be able to do this at the next University Council meeting, because the board meets right after we meet, so it's going to be the same layout as before. But I'd just be interested in your take on what we're doing here, maybe after the meeting when we linger a little bit.

L. Freeman: And when you cast your vote, if you are the group that's playing Angry Birds or Candy Land behind the projector, identify yourself as such so we know from where your voting. I see a wrist, I don't know who it is.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Linda Saborío – report

K. Thu: Let's return to Roman numeral VIII, Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees; and, Linda, you're up first.

L. Saborío: Good afternoon everyone. The FAC did not convene in October as a full committee. Instead we met in our caucus groups, and the public caucus met via Zoom, which presented, in itself, many challenges. But we did discuss several topics that we would like for us to focus on this academic year in our working groups. And these include dual credit, competency-based assessment, student mental health, shifting demographics and the impact on higher education in the state, and finally, rebuilding universities in a post-budget deficit. For November, next week, we will be meeting here at NIU. And that concludes my report this month.

I did want to just share something with you. It's an event taking place on November 21 at DePaul University in case you're not already aware of this – Dean Barnhart, right? You might already be aware of this. This event will be an exchange of ideas about the role of instructional materials in the 21st century with key post-secondary stakeholders. If you're interested in attending, I could forward you a link to RSVP to the event.

K. Thu: Linda, where is the meeting going to be held on campus?

L. Saborio: We're going to be in the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, in the mail ballroom there.

And then I have to leave you today on a rather somber note. Some of you may have known Evelyn Gonzalez Jacobo, one of the nicest, sweetest students to come through our teacher licensure program. Evelyn was driving back from her student teaching placement at South Elgin High School on Halloween, in the snow, heading for her apartment in DeKalb and her 7-year old son. And she was in a car accident. After two days on life support, there was no hope for recovery, and her family let her go. A la familia de Evelyn, mis colegas y yo quisiéramos expresar nuestro más sincero pésame. [To Evelyn's family, my colleagues and I would like to express our most sincere condolences.] We have all lost a truly generous and sweet soul. Thank you.

K. Thu: Thank you, Linda.

B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – no report
Jeffry Royce, Catherine Doederlein, Kendall Thu
Alex Gelman, Sarah Marsh, Jason Hanna

K. Thu: Next we have University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees report. There was no board meeting, so I have nothing to report. However, the board is meeting next Thursday, Nov. 14, in a special meeting, where the primary agenda item for the full board is approval of the collective bargaining agreement between the faculty union and the board. So please show up if you can.

L. Freeman: I just want to build on that, that the board is doing a special schedule. They're starting at 8:30 with the special meeting that will have the single agenda item, which is approval of the collective bargaining unit's contract. They're doing that so they can guarantee that that item will come forward at a predictable time and be respectful of faculty's ability to attend. So that will be the first item in the 8:30 special meeting. The board will then adjourn the special meeting, do all their committee work, and come back together to a special meeting just to go into closed session. But it's hard sometimes, I know, for predicting when the board can do something. But the board has really gone out of their way to make this a predictable item so that folks can attend and celebrate.

K. Thu: Thank you.

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

K. Thu: Next we have a report from the Academic Policy Committee, Vicki?

V. Collins: Good afternoon. I have a brief update. The University Council Academic Policy Committee met last month to review feedback received on our proposed policy governing online and hybrid courses at NIU. The feedback we received was posted on the Policy Library website or sent directly to my email address during the 30-day public comment period. We, the committee, plan to present the proposed policy to all of you during our December University Council meeting, with hopes that it will be approved.

K. Thu: Thank you, Vicki. Any questions for Vicki? Okay, thank you.

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

K. Thu: Next we have Rules, Governance and Elections Committee, Richard, do you want to say a few words? Oh, I'm sorry, hold on, I skipped over Therese. Sorry, Therese. We have Resources, Space and Budget report, and I know she's all the way in the back row.

T. Arado: I am all the way in the back, and I have a microphone. The RSB Committee met on Friday, Nov. 1. The committee will be putting forth a proposed change to the make-up of the committee. The proposed change increases the number of students from one to three, two undergraduate and one graduate student. So look for a proposal to be coming to a UC meeting near you soon.

The committee also began a discussion of what the RSB may look like in the future with potential changes to the structure of shared governance and with the shift in budgeting to local control of funds.

And then connected to local control, Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram and Vice President McGill sought feedback from the committee on what people thought of when they hear local control – expectations people have of colleges and divisions in a local-control environment, and what level of budget details is needed to insure a fully informed campus. There was a good discussion on those topics, so you can speak to your constituents on the committee for more information on that. Additionally, there was a discussion of what should be left as centrally funded.

The next meeting of the RSB is on Friday, Dec. 6, and President Freeman will be attending that meeting. And we plan to focus the discussion with her on strategic planning. So if you have questions that you would like to post to President Freeman, or you would like the committee to pose at that meeting, please send those to [Pat Erickson](#) by Friday, Nov. 29.

K. Thu: Thanks, Therese. Any questions for Therese? I think congratulations are in order for Provost Ingram and CFO McGill for the announcement yesterday about moving toward a decentralized budget. It's coming along a little more quickly than some of us anticipated, so very much looking forward to making that work. Thank you.

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

K. Thu: Okay, now Richard – Rules, Governance and Elections.

R. Siegesmund: So this is more of an information item, than a report. But the specific changes to the Constitution, Bylaws and Faculty Senate Bylaws have been distributed to the committee. And the committee is now reviewing them. And we will be meeting later this month. So at the next meeting, we should have a report back to University Council.

K. Thu: Thank you, Richard.

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

K. Thu: Okay, moving on, Hamid, no report from University Affairs.

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

K. Thu: That brings us to the Student Association. So, Naomi, I saw you somewhere.

N. Bolden: Hello. This is going to be a little brief. First off, as we know, the SA is transitioning into the Holmes Student Center, where our new office space will be from now on. We've had a couple discussions with technology and what it's going to look like concerning new office space. We do have a somewhat large staff, so we're just trying to figure out where everybody is going to be at come January, if there's going to be – what the scheduling is going to look like concerning office hours, and things of that sort.

And also the benefits: We're very excited about moving over. We think we'll have some more input and some more interaction with the student body now that we're not going to be in the Campus Life Building where we're a little closed off. We'll be in a more open space. So we're hoping that we'll have some more people come and visit us, come and see what we're doing, try to hop in and figure out where they can fit in with the SA.

And along with that, we're also having some updates to our logo. So even though we are moving

over to the Student Center, currently in our logo, that is the building that's in that circle, but we are trying to see what some other options may look like so that before January we will have kind of like our territory will be marked by then. Hopefully, we'll have something new coming. When that is done, I'm not sure if we'll have it done by this semester – or sorry, not this semester – by the end of this month. We are trying to shoot for that so that we can get some more promotional materials and some more things that have our name, kind of get our brand out there before the new semester starts.

Along with that, I've had some discussions with the Black Student Union, specifically. Their president, Elexus Hughes, and we've kind of had some concerns with student programming and student turnout at events that aren't necessarily fun, but more so, important. For example, that could be voter registration and information about upcoming elections, things about financial literacy, and just things that it's great that we have game nights and things that can kind of de-stress us, but we're looking to do a call to action to our student body and kind of bring up, you know, that it's great that we're going out and supporting those other types of events, but when it's time to come down to business and be able to come together for the important issues, that we're also showing up to those events as well.

And then lastly, we do have some upcoming events. So, of course, tonight is the Diversity Ball. So I hope that everybody can come out to that. SA is one of the co-sponsors, so we'll be there. It starts at, I believe the doors open at 5 o'clock, and it's going to be at the Holmes Student Center.

And then also we are going to be doing a program with the Center for Black Studies on November 14. It's called The Soul and Mental Health of a Nation. And what that is about is basically mass shootings, gun violence, white supremacy, and things that all contribute to the soul and mental health of the nation. That kind of directly aligns with some of the things the SA has worked on in the past concerning gun violence and mental health, so it's great that we're able to tie that in with the Center for Black Studies. And that's 7 to 9 p.m. November 14 in the Caven Auditorium in Gabel Hall. If there's any questions, just let me know.

K. Thu: Questions for Naomi? Thanks, Naomi. Ian.

I. Pearson: Hello everyone. First of all, I'd like to thank President Freeman and members of the State Advocacy Team for inviting a few of us down to Springfield. We had the opportunity to attend the NIU Caucus breakfast, serve as house pages for the day, and meet with our state representative to discuss issues in higher ed.

I'd like to – Therese mentioned it already, but – I'm really excited that Resources, Space and Budget was able to pass a proposed change to the structure of the committee, increasing student representation. We really believe this will enable us to be more effective contributors, because it allows us to share resources and discuss questions we might have. So I'm really excited to see that at University Council at the next meeting.

Within the Student Senate, we recently passed two resolution in the last two weeks that I'd like to draw your attention to. The first was calling on members of the faculty to include all four mental health resources in their syllabi in the coming semester. I will be formally sending this to Dr. Thu so

that we can talk about it at Faculty Senate at a meeting, because, as I've said, all semester, we're committed to making sure that mental health resources are not only available, but also visible to students. And this is the latest in our work trying to make sure that happens.

And then additionally, we've also passed a resolution calling for no plastic November. We're encouraging members of the campus community to cut back on plastic consumption. You'll see fliers around campus to that end, discussing ways you can cut back on plastic and some of the incentives we're offering for that.

So I think that's about it. If there are any questions, I can answer those.

K. Thu: Thanks, Ian. And that's a great segue to something I forgot to mention. If you have a plastic cup, just leave it on your chair before you leave, and I'll come and collect it and make sure it's recycled. I have my little bag up here, and I'm willing to do that, so please don't throw your plastic cups in the garbage.

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

K. Thu: Okay next we have Operating Staff Council. Is Jeffrey here? Jeffrey Royce? I thought he was on vacation this week, so I guess we have no report.

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

K. Thu: SPS, Cathy Doederlein, I know you're here.

C. Doederlein: And just a brief report, sort of a heads-up, warning of a positive thing, but I'm just alerting you that we will be getting out information soon regarding the SPS Presidential Awards, encouraging people to nominate supportive professional staff to be considered for that recognition. We have four Presidential Awards that we're able to offer each year to recognize staff for their efforts, and then we also will have general SPS awards that call for nominations for those, will be out shortly thereafter. Usually the nomination deadline is end of the year, beginning of the next calendar year. So just be looking for that, and please consider nominating some of your SPS colleagues for those opportunities. Thank you.

K. Thu: Thank you, Cathy.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 15.9.1 Committee for Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence – Composition
SECOND READING/ACTION
Vernese Edghill-Walden, Chief Diversity Officer

K. Thu: So that brings us to Roman numeral IX, Unfinished Business. We have a couple of second readings that signify bylaw changes. The first is A. It's a membership change in the Committee for Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence. You can find the change on page 6. Vernese introduced

this last time. I don't know whether you want to say anymore about it, Vernese.

V. Edghill-Walden: [inaudible]

K. Thu: If you want to, you can. But it's not necessary, I don't think. So since we do not have clickers, we're going to have to do this by hand. I do want an actual numeric count. So I'd entertain a motion to adopt the change.

P. Erickson: Should we give it one more try?

K. Thu: Yeah, why not. [electronic voting system not working]. So we'll need a motion and a second, Holly. Do we have a second? We have several seconds. Any further discussion on this change. Okay if you are in favor of the change, raise your hand. And then I'll give a chance for those who are opposed to it, because we do want to get an actual count. Is there any opposition? Any abstentions? Okay, so the motion is passed.

Yes – 37

No – 0

Abstain - 0

- B. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 15.6.4.2 Committee for the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience – Duties
SECOND READING/ACTION
Ed Klonoski, Associate Vice Provost, Undergraduate Curriculum

K. Thu: Secondly, we have a change in the proposed bylaws for the Committee for the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience. This is on page 7. I don't know if you want to say anything about this, Ed. This is to correct the reporting line in the bylaws, which was inadvertently – it originally had that committee reporting to University Council. It's not reporting to University Council. It's reporting to the Baccalaureate Council, correct? So that's the change that was read at the last meeting. So again, entertain a motion to adopt?

J. Burton: So moved.

S. Self: Second.

K. Thu: Okay. Any further discussion? Again very straight forward, so, those who are in favor of the motion, please raise your hand now. Any opposition? Abstentions? The motion carries, thank you.

Yes – 41

No – 0

Abstain - 0

C. Update: Rethinking Faculty Senate and Shared Governance

K. Thu: Item C is Rethinking Faculty Senate and Shared Governance as a standing item on the agenda. You've already heard from Richard where we are. We should have a lot more to say about that, hopefully, at the next UC meeting in December. So I'm looking forward to that.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 17.2.1 University Benefits Committee
Composition
FIRST READING

K. Thu: Moving on to New Business, we have a proposed amendment to bylaws concerning University Benefits Committee composition. The change here is that Faculty Senate, at its last meeting, voted to actually do away with a committee, surprisingly enough. And that committee has representation on the University Benefits Committee. So we moved a little bit of the function of that committee to Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. And so that committee, Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, will have a representation on the University Benefits Committee, instead of the committee that was deleted. This is just a first reading. We don't need to vote on this, but we will be voting on it next time. Are there any questions about what, again, is a pretty straight forward change? Okay. Things will not go this quickly in the spring.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. [Policy Library](#) – Comment on Proposed Policies (right-hand column on web page)
- B. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- C. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- D. [Minutes](#), Baccalaureate Council
- E. [Minutes](#), Board of Trustees
- F. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- G. [Minutes](#), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- H. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- I. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council
- J. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council Curriculum Committee
- K. [Minutes](#), Honors Committee
- L. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- M. [Minutes](#), Student Senate
- N. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- O. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- P. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee
- Q. [Minutes](#), Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
- R. [Minutes](#), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
- 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

K. Thu: Otherwise, the other items in your packet are informational items. And please do visit the Policy Library on a regular basis, because that's the venue for new policies coming through the system. There's a 30-day comment period, and we just need to get in the habit of regularly visiting that website.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

K. Thu: I have nothing else. A move to adjourn and leave your plastic cups? Oh, go ahead, Jim [Wilson]. Oh, you're going to move, okay. We have a motion to adjourn. Patricia [Skarbinski] second. All in favor?

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Any opposed? All right.

L. Freeman: All right, this might be a record.

K. Thu: Have a good evening everybody.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.