

TRANSCRIPT

University Council
Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 315
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Barnhart, Binderup, Block, Bolden, Bond, Branch, Burton, J. Chen, Chmaissem, Collins, Lindsey, Doederlein, Elish-Piper, Farrell, Fenzia (for Drew), Freeman, Ingram, Johnson, Kassel, Kim, Lang, Ledgerwood, Littauer, Martin, Millhorn, Mooney, Moraga, Nelson, Newman, Owoeye, Park (for Rajagopalan), Pearson, Penrod, Peterson, Polansky, Rau, Rigertas, Schatteman, Schraufnagel, Shi, Siegesmund, Skarbinski, Staikidis, Thu, White, Wilson, Woodruff, Yates (for Royce)

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Bateni, Beyer, G. Chen, Drew, Hanley, Hines, Rajagopalan, Rooney, Royce, Scherer, Weffer

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryan, Blazey, Jensen, Klaper, McGill, Nicholson, Wesener Michael

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

L. Freeman: Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to December.

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Freeman: We're going to start, as we always do, by verifying that there is a quorum. It's important today, because we have some action items. Pat, do you want to remind everybody about how we press number 1 or A?

P. Erickson: Hi everybody. For quorum, we're just going to ask everyone to push 1 or A on your clickers. And then we will know that we have at least 30, which is required for quorum. When we use the clickers later in the meeting, no need to erase your previous vote. No need to turn it on or off. It will automatically do all those things.

L. Freeman: All right.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

L. Freeman: Roman numeral III is Adoption of the Agenda. And I'm going to ask for a motion to

adopt the agenda with one modification. I'm going to ask that Item IX. A. of Unfinished Business be moved in between Items VI. and VII. in the agenda. So if someone would be willing to make that motion and second.

C. Doederlein: So moved.

T. Arado: Second.

L. Freeman: All in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Any opposed? All right.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2019 MINUTES

L. Freeman: Our next item is Approval of the November 6, 2019 Minutes, which are on pages 4 to 7 of the packet. Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

P. Skarbinski: So moved.

L. Freeman: Second?

O. Chmaissem: Second.

L. Freeman: Any discussion, changes? Hearing none, all in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Any opposed?

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Freeman: All right, we are now at Roman numeral V. Public Comment. Has anybody requested the opportunity to comment?

P. Erickson: No.

L. Freeman: Seeing no one rushing to the microphone either, we'll move on to Item VI. President's Announcements.

VI. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Freeman: December came pretty fast after Thanksgiving, and I see everybody looking forward to the holidays, some with a glide path and some with mountains of work between now and then. But I want to be sure to wish everybody happy holidays today. And I just wanted to say, not only

thank you, but I am truly impressed with the accomplishments and the work in progress through shared governance on our campus.

I go to meetings sometimes with people from other academic institutions and sometimes with people from the private sector. And I hear sarcastic comments or jokes sometimes about faculty committees who spend all their time wordsmithing something or another. And I'm always very proud to talk about the excellent work that goes on through shared governance on this campus. And I think we have some really good examples of that that we'll be seeing or hearing about today or in the coming weeks.

The Academic Policy Committee, Vicki Collins, is going to be talking about important revisions to a policy, bringing our distance learning policies into the current century. And doing that through a Policy Library that is up and running and that was given birth to through shared governance through the University Council and the Faculty Senate.

At the same time that we have that coming forward today, we have incredibly active committees having very substantive discussions about the role of standardized tests on our admissions policies, about what shared governance should look like on this campus going forward. We have an item today about adding students to the Resource, Space and Budget Committee. That committee serves a very important function for the university and will continue to be very active going forward. As we try to be good stewards of the state resources and to grow our own so that we can achieve our ambitions and the appreciation of the importance of student voices on that committee is something that I'm very pleased to see recognized.

So, in addition to happy holidays, I want to say thank you. I'm sure everyone has something better to do right now, or something pressing on their desk that they could be doing rather than sitting here or doing the work of the committees of University Council, and yet the university is better for the efforts of everyone in this room, and I very much appreciate that.

With that, we are going to move to Item IX. A., which is the unfinished business of proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 17.2.1, and I'm going to let Kendall take it from here.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

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

K. Thu: With that, I want to turn it over to Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees. And I'm going to start with Linda. Are you here, Linda? I guess Linda is not here. She does have a – does she have a report in our packet?

L. Freeman: We were both at the meeting.

K. Thu: We were both at the meeting, so maybe you and I can tag team it. I came into the meeting late. There was a Faculty Advisory Council meeting to the IBHE that was held here at NIU, was it last week or two weeks ago?

L. Freeman: Two weeks ago.

K. Thu: Two weeks ago. The members of the committee met initially with former representative and current BOT member, Bob Pritchard, and the current representative, Jeff Keicher, in the morning, talking about a variety of issues. I think it's fair to say that, when I got there, the most talked about issue was dual credit from college and high schools. Faculty expressed concern from a variety of quarters. And then we broke out into committees. This is the first one of these meetings that I've been to so I was sort of scoping out how things work than anything else.

I am going to take Linda's place next week at their meeting at DePaul. And then, hopefully, be there for the IBHE meeting as well. Do you want to add anything?

L. Freeman: Sure. This is, I think, the second time I've gone to a Faculty Advisory Committee meeting to the IBHE by invitation. It's very traditional when a campus is fortunate enough to host the Faculty Advisory Committee, for the president or the chief executive of that campus president or chancellor, to address the faculty group. Linda and I met before the meeting to talk about what might be a topic of interest, and we talked about what the data say about marketing and engaging late millennial and Gen Z students. And we talked about what that meant to different areas of the university. And we focused particularly, after a little bit of discussion about the life cycle of a student to an alum, what that means in our classrooms, and what the Faculty Advisory Committee could do in their capacity to encourage the IBHE to restore some of the innovation in the classroom-type grant programs that used to exist so that there would be a mechanism for faculty across our state to pilot different types of learning environment and help each other learn from what would be scalable and referable, based on the types of institutions. And it was just a very engaged and interesting discussion, and I felt very happy to be there and be part of it.

K. Thu: Thank you.

[**L. Saborío** arrived later in the meeting and gave her report.]

K. Thu: Well, Linda, Lisa and I tried to give a summary report in your place, but I don't think we can do as good a job as you can. So we'll give you a chance.

L. Saborío: Well, right, because you don't include any of my funny little anecdotes about traveling around the country or around the state. But no the FAC met on November 15 here at NIU, so I don't have any anecdotes for you today, in the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center. And I was on time for that meeting, yes.

We had an exceptional meeting, and I would like to take a moment to thank Tony [Del Fiacco]. Is Tony here? He's hiding in the closet isn't he? Come out of the closet, Tony. And Terry [Stack] and Pat [Erickson] for their help with organizing the event. Faculty reps were very impressed with the venue, food service and NIU's generous hospitality. So thank you very much.

President Freeman addressed the group with a presentation on Generation Z. I learned about the “okay, boomer,” did not know about that before, that little statement. And that was followed by an informal conversation, so thank you, muy bien, here I go with my Spanish, also to president Freeman for speaking with our group.

We also had an informal conversation with former State Rep. Bob Pritchard and current Rep. Jeff Keicher. Pritchard discussed the need for educational institutions to highlight the value proposition of higher education to individuals and to the state of Illinois. There has been a great deal of focus on K-12 funding, but not on higher education. And he is hoping that that focus will now shift. He has noticed a paradigm shift in higher education in terms of faculty’s role being more instrumental nowadays, both inside and outside the classroom. And he thinks more legislators should be made aware of this. And finally, he asked us to consider how we can work better with the K-12 system.

And then Keicher serves on both the Higher Education Committee and the Higher Ed Appropriations Committee, and he stressed the need for institutions to brag to their communities, primarily through local media, about their accomplishments. He suggested that the method of expressing and sharing our concerns about higher education is through our local reps, so we took advantage of that opportunity and did so at the meeting, right? He also mentioned the idea of a win-back program for students that left early and never finished their degree. Finally, there was discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of dual credit. There was much discussion about this, actually, and the best way to monitor the quality of dual credit course offerings.

The meeting ended with reports from the caucus and working groups. And some items discussed were how to best communicate with Jennifer Delaney, she’s our faculty rep on the IBHE; faculty’s role in a master plan for higher education in Illinois; and is the college report card the best indicator of an institution’s quality.

And next month, actually this month, next week, on Tuesday, we have a meeting at DePaul University. And for that meeting, it’s a truncated meeting from like 9 til around 12, and then we go and we sit in on the IBHE meeting in the afternoon. And since I cannot attend due to my course work and final exams, Kendall’s going to be attending as the NIU rep. Any questions?

K. Thu: You’ll have to let me know which radio stations to listen to.

L. Saborío: Oh, so you don’t hit the country on the way. This is DePaul, so you’re good. You’re good, yeah. Unless you like country. Some people like country.

K. Thu: Any questions for Linda?

L. Saborío: Any questions?

K. Thu: Thank you.

[Discussion now returned to Item X. New Business.]

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

K. Thu: University Advisory Committee to the Board. We already reported out on the primary finding or the outcome of the last board meeting, which was approval of the CBA. The board is going to meet tomorrow. I will be at the meeting and, hopefully, I'll have a report out on that meeting in January University Council meeting.

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

- 1. Proposed amendment to:
Academic Policies and Procedures Manual, Section III, Item 23,
Policies for Distance Education Courses Carrying Undergraduate Credit
Offered by Northern Illinois University
and
Academic Policies and Procedures Manual, Section III, Item 22,
Guidelines for Online Courses Carrying Graduate Credit Offered by Northern
Illinois University

K. Thu: Let's move on. As President Freeman mentioned, Vicki Collins and the Academic Policy Committee have been doing very important work for well over a year now, I believe, correct? And so it's finally coming to fruition, and we're going to turn it over to Vicki to tell us what's going on.

V. Collins: Good afternoon. Today the University Council Academic Policy Committee is happy to present for your review and, hopefully, approval, a consolidated set of policies governing online and hybrid courses here at Northern Illinois University. And before I briefly summarize the work that went into the creation of our proposed policy and share some recommendations from our committee, I want to acknowledge those who worked diligently last year and this semester to bring this work to completion.

If you served on the Academic Policy Committee last year and/or this year as a member or as an alternate, would you please stand. And that includes Pat. And I know there are several of you here, because I walked up with some of you. [applause] Thank you. I just want to make note that this committee included faculty, it included deans, it included the vice provost of undergraduate studies, and we had representation from undergraduate and graduate students. And the work done by this committee was really solid work, so that's why I wanted to do that.

When we first started working a year ago fall, our original charge was to review policies governing distance education courses carrying undergraduate credit offered by NIU. And during our review, we discovered that a graduate version of the policy also existed. So in consultation with Dean Bond, we reached consensus that only one policy was needed. So the policy we're presenting to you today is based on our extensive review of the two policy documents, the undergraduate as well as the graduate one.

What I want to do briefly is talk about what I mean by an extensive review. To begin our review, we solicited input from key stakeholders using an online survey pertaining to the undergraduate policy document. And by stakeholders, I mean we sought input from NIU's executive director of extended learning, Jason Rhode, and online program coordinators or resource persons from each of our seven colleges. And these individuals were identified by the deans of those colleges. And also the Academic Policy Committee members completed that survey. And we asked five questions: Number one, in what ways, if any do the policies need to change? What is missing (if anything)? What no longer is relevant (if anything)? Is anything unclear? And then we provided opportunity for additional comments. And we want you to know that the response rate to our survey was very good. Eighty percent of the participants actually responded. So it went out to 51 individuals across the university, and 41 responded. Once the data came in, we met repeatedly to review the data for recurring topics and considerations, because we wanted to make sure those voices were heard. Some of the topics were things like: The definition needs to be updated; concerns about the statement about accessibility needed to be clearer; making sure the university provided resources so we can do this, faculty would be trained; rigor; and how these courses are evaluated. Those are just examples of some of the things.

In addition to reviewing the survey data, we reviewed some pertinent documents to inform our decision-making, such as looking at policies from comparable institutions such as the Illinois State University's policy pertaining to online programming, and some Higher Learning Commission publications, such as Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education. We also carefully compared the undergraduate and the graduate policies for overlap and uniquenesses. And when we found overlap, we started with the policy statement that was the clearest of the two, and then we worked to further make it clear.

We also solicited input from key people such as Dean Bond, Rebecca Babel from Financial Aid, and Katy White, our information technology accessibility officer, regarding specific items, wanting to make sure that they were worded clearly and had the information in it that was most pertinent.

And then finally this semester, we met to review feedback that was posted on the Policy Library website during the 30-day review period or that was sent directly to my email address.

The policy we're presenting to you is not something, as the chair of the committee, I just did a review and presented it to our committee and they agreed on it. We really like, like President Freeman was saying, we sought input as broadly as we could, and then really tried to really respect that feedback.

The consolidated policy, which is on page 10 of today's meeting packet. It has 15 policy statements. Five of the statements, 1, 3, 8, 9 and 11, appeared in both the undergraduate and graduate policies. Six of those 15, 2, 4 through 7 and 12, appeared only in the undergraduate policy. One, number 10, appeared only in the graduate policy. And then three, the last three, 13 through 15, were created anew based on the feedback that we received.

If you look at the policy, it begins with an operational definition of both online and hybrid courses. And we used language from the Online Learning Consortium. And we looked at multiple definitions, even from the Higher Learning Commission, but we thought the Online Learning

Consortium one was the clearest. And the definition for online courses – this is a significant change or revision – it really needed to be revised because it was no longer aligned with NIU’s current definition for online. This definition is more stringent than what is the Higher Learning Commission definition. We also added a definition of hybrid to improve the clarity of such courses. And the existing policies didn’t have any mention of the hybrid, and we felt that was really needed for clarity purposes.

Overall, our committee believes that what we’re proposing to you today is much clearer than the previous two documents. It’s more current as President Freeman said. And it also takes into consideration feedback obtained by the broader NIU community.

I’m hopeful that you had a chance to read the 15 policy statements. I’m not going to take the time to read them here. I’m just going to jump to the very last slide and offer some recommendations from our committee, and we have three:

To address concerns that were voiced in the survey data from those 41 people who participated, as well as the public comment databases that we felt were beyond the scope of our committee to address, and to facilitate successful implementation of our proposed policy document. Our committee offers three recommendations.

The first one is that NIU’s Intellectual Property Policy would be reviewed and updated to address concerns pertaining to the ownership of online and hybrid courses. So that would be Policy 6. And it’s important for this body to know that that policy, Intellectual Property, was last approved by this committee in 2007, and that was well before the Higher Learning Commission visit and well before NIU’s Strategic Enrollment Plan that emphasizes online learning. And that was one of the recurring themes of concern. So whoever would be responsible for reviewing that, we highly recommend it.

Number two, we recommend that NIU’s course coding system be updated so that it’s in alignment with the new definitions that we have for both online and hybrid courses. The current code, for example, for a hybrid course, which is WF, it’s too restrictive and it doesn’t reflect what we’re currently doing at NIU regarding hybrid course. So that needs to be changed.

And then our last recommendation is for NIU’s course finder to be enhanced so that the course delivery mode online, hybrid, face-to-face, is explicitly indicated. And that maps to Policy 7.

Thank you.

K. Thu: Thank you, Vicki. And thank you very much for your leadership in moving this through the system and all the inclusive feedback that you’ve gotten. And thank you also to the committee members for all of your work. This is the way shared governance really should work. So do we have a motion?

L. Freeman: Maybe before the motion, I can say that I want to echo what excellent work this is. I also think that the three recommendations that are not in the policy are recommendations that I endorse follow up. Vice President Blazey and Provost Ingram are both in the audience, and I’m going to here publicly ask Dr. Blazey to follow up on the Intellectual Property Policy and Provost

Ingram to follow up on the coding system and the course finder, working with the appropriate offices. And ask you to report back to University Council as progress is made on these items.

V. Collins: Thank you very much. I really appreciate that.

K. Thu: So I think it's appropriate for you, Vicki, to make the motion.

V. Collins: On behalf of the University Council Academic Policy Committee, I move that we accept the Online and Hybrid Course Policies proposal.

B. Bond: Second.

J. Burton: Second.

V. Collins: He did that all last year and this year. I love that.

K. Thu: Do we have any discussion, comments, questions? These are changes that are going to go into the APPM [Academic Policies and Procedures Manual] so it doesn't need a first and second reading. We just vote on it. Any discussion or comments? A majority vote, right, it's not like a bylaw. Okay, shall we do it by clicker? I think having a record of the vote is important. Okay, are we ready? One is for; 2 is against; 3 is abstain.

Okay, we have 42 for and 1 against. So congratulations everyone. [applause]

Yes – 42 votes

No – 1 vote

Abstain – 0 votes

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

1. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 2.6.1: Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Composition
FIRST READING

K. Thu: Moving on, we have a report from the Resource, Space and Budget Committee, as well as a proposed change to the NIU Bylaws, so Therese, take it away.

T. Arado: All right, the report part is we don't meet til Friday, so I'll have information for you at the next meeting.

As for our proposed change, that is a change to the make-up of the Resources, Space and Budget Committee to increase the student representation from one student to three students. And it would be made up of two undergraduate students and one graduate student. And they would be appointed through the SA [Student Government Association], same fashion as we do for other committees as well. And this is really in order to bring representation on that committee a little closer to being commensurate with the various constituents on campus that are represented on the committee. So

that being said, this is our first reading so we don't vote on it. So I guess we really just introduce it. So is there any comment or questions.

K. Thu: Exactly, are there any questions or comments on it? We will do a second reading in January then. Okay, fine.

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

K. Thu: If not, moving on to Rules, Governance and Elections. Richard, do you want to give us an update?

R. Siegesmund: The Rules, Governance and Elections Committee met on November 20 to review a first draft of proposed changes to the NIU Constitution, Bylaws and Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, to shift responsibility for academic matters to the Faculty Senate. Although the changes in many ways simply transfer lines of reporting without altering committee composition or functions; nevertheless, the changes have exposed other lacuna and lapses, such as long-standing grammatical mistakes. So there are issues that the committee will continue to work on.

The committee, however, did agree that the best fora for a robust and transparent discussion would be in the Faculty Senate, itself, and then in University Council. And so the committee recommended forwarding to the full Faculty Senate, the first draft of proposed changes. However, the committee will re-convene on January 16 to hammer out a slate of recommended specific changes, get those grammatical changes correct, to the first draft that has been distributed to the Faculty Senate. Both the first draft and the recommended changes will be introduced for first reading at the January 22 meeting of Faculty Senate. The senators will have had over two months to acquaint themselves with the proposed changes. We hope there will be a vigorous debate that will lead to a second reading on February 19. And at that time, the senate may forward a document to University Council for a first reading on February 26.

K. Thu: So I'm very pleased with the work that the committee is putting in. The full set of proposed changes were sent out to the full senate the Monday before Thanksgiving so that people had something to chew on. And certainly they'll have plenty of time over the holiday break to read it as well. The likelihood of that is probably pretty slim, but the time is there for you. So, those of you who attend Faculty Senate meetings from this body, will have received that as well. So I look forward to the robust debate ahead and, hopefully, becoming more efficient, more functional governance structure and process in the future.

J. Burton: Thank you for sending out the first draft of that reading. Something I saw that was missing in there, since this is the time to address it, is there is no mention of instructors in that document. Right now in the Faculty Senate, there is thinking about adding students to that as well. At this time, there should be a discussion of adding instructors to both the Faculty Senate and the University Council, since they are also members of the community and are currently unrepresented.

K. Thu: Right. Right. Thank you for bringing that up. That has been a part of our conversation. Go ahead, Richard.

R. Siegesmund: Yes, that has been part of the conversation. That is also part of what is on the agenda for the January meeting, and that's part of the lacuna that has come in to visit. And that is something that, if we're doing this, now is the time to address those holes in our governing process. And certainly instructors is specifically on the agenda for that.

K. Thu: And I think it's fair to say that there's going to be widespread support for that. The difference with instructors is there's not a body to go to, like there are with the students – you have the Student [Governance] Association, you have SPS, you have faculty, they all have their own organizations. Maybe somebody can inform me otherwise, but instructors don't have the same kind of organization that we can go to.

J. Burton: Just a suggestion, just brainstorming, you could also always contact the instructors union.

K. Thu: Yep, Okay. Dean Block?

D. Block: I hope that when that's considered, it's also considered to include clinical faculty who are also part of our teaching cadre.

R. Siegesmund: One of the things that the committee, when it met on November 20, basically had a choice as to whether it wanted to wordsmith and try to get this all right and then present it to Faculty Senate as this beautiful, perfect document, or whether to have this kind of a discussion and to have that kind of input in an open forum and a transparent forum so that people could, in fact, get that right. And so what we're going to present is acknowledged not to be a perfect word-for-word document, but that one of the reasons of getting it out two months ahead of time was that people would have a good amount of time to think about it, find those holes, think about it, be ready for a robust discussion in January and revise in February so that we are ready to act.

K. Thu: Thanks, Richard, and thanks for the point. We want to make sure that we have appropriate representation for everybody on campus. And that's extremely important for all of us. Similar to the process that Vicki went through, we want to make sure that we're not rushing this process through. This is a major change in our governance structure, and we want to make sure that we get feedback from all corners of campus, and that we get it right as much as possible. It might not be the perfect document, but we want to do the best, most diligent job.

R. Siegesmund: And so there will be first and second reading in Faculty Senate. And then it will come to University Council for a first and second reading. So there are four very public areas where we all get a chance to try to do as best as we can, get it right. And I would say, so far, certainly in the committee, all parties of the committees recognize that this is something that needs to be right, that this isn't something of let's just throw it out there and see if it flies or not, but to really try to bring our best talents together to make sure that we not just simply, as I said, transfer the existing structure, but think about where are there holes in the existing structure that we're correcting.

K. Thu: Thanks, Richard. Anybody else? Okay. We'll keep you informed as that process moves forward.

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

K. Thu: Hamid, we don't have any report from the University Affairs Committee.

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

K. Thu: That takes us to reports from the Student [Government] Association. Naomi, Ian, do either of you want to go first?

N. Bolden: Hello. So I kind of have a special announcement. Ian and I are no longer speaker and president of the SA. We are now called the Student Government Association. We decided that we've been hearing for years that people aren't sure what the SA is. It's not really specific as to the purpose of our organization, and a lot of other organizations have Student Association in it. So it kinds of just blurs the lines between what sets us apart from other organizations. And with that transition came a new logo to reflect the name change and just overall the rebranding that we've been going through this year: the move to the Student Center, updating our logo, updating our name. It's kind of all just came into one bundle. So we are very happy about that. We hope that it also encourages more students to get involved now that they – we hope that they'll understand now what our purpose is and have a little bit better time trying to seek us out and join us. So I'm very proud of that, so yay!

Additionally, we'll be having a few press releases come out. One of them will be regarding the name change. We worked with the Student Affairs Office to issue that, as well as an end of semester press release, just summing up the work that we've done this semester and any plans that we have coming into the future. So be on the look out for that, it will be available on our Instagram or any of our social media pages. And we can also have it available on HuskieLink.

Another thing that we've been trying to implement is the partnership agreement that will be between the SGA and other organizations or departments. This year, we kind of ran into some hurdles with what it means to collaborate versus sponsoring events and sponsoring organizations for their programs. So we've been trying to come up with a document that will clarify all of that and kind of differentiate what the needs are in sponsorship, versus what collaboration looks like with us. So if anybody is interested in working with us next semester that will be a part of kind of like a contract between both organizations, just to clarify exactly what the need is on our part, and also kind of what the benefits are for the students.

Additionally, Dr. Thu invited me to speak at the most recent Baccalaureate Council meeting regarding the new admissions policy, so thank you again for that. Basically, I was just giving my perspective as a student, someone who came in to NIU when we were still accepting the ACT, the SAT, and when the GPA requirement was different. So it was really nice to be able to offer my personal experience and kind of give some insight into how things differentiate from everybody's

experiences. And I believe that will be coming to UC next month?

K. Thu: Well, it will go before the Baccalaureate Council again tomorrow. And then from there, it goes to the Faculty Senate. And then from there, it will come to all of you in University Council. So this is part of the reason why we need to restructure our shared governance process, because there's too much ping pong going on. But you did a marvelous job at Baccalaureate Council. You made a difference, so I appreciate it.

N. Bolden: Thank you. And lastly, SGA is heading into election season. Our election season falls in March. I am currently seeking an election commissioner, which is a paid position within our government. What that person is entailed with doing is overseeing candidates meetings, making sure all the applications that are submitted are verified, hosting candidates debates between president, vice president, trustee, treasurer, etc. That's a very important position. If you know anyone who is interested, I ask that you please let Ian or myself know. There is an application available for students on HuskieLink. If you just go to our [Student Government Association](#), it's right underneath [Forms](#), quick and simple, just a few questions, so anybody know someone, then I encourage you to tell them to apply.

Any questions? Thank you.

I. Pearson: Good afternoon everyone. Naomi took the fun news with the name change. So on the procedural side of it, looking to implement the name change, I'll be working with Pat to make sure that the university Constitution and Bylaws are updated accordingly. We're working on updating all documents, forms, things like that. Since I last spoke before you, I've been focused on shared governance reorganization as I'm the student representative on the Rules [, Governance and Elections] Committee, as well as updating the informal grievance policy. We had a rigorous discussion this morning about changes to the grievance policy, and it looks like we're getting closer and closer. And I wanted to thank everyone for a productive semester. I've actually had the opportunity to get to know a lot of you and work alongside a lot of you. And that's not always something that my position has the time to do. Running the senate is time-consuming. But I'm really appreciative of all the time that has gone into the semester.

Looking ahead, next semester we're going to be getting situated in the Holmes Student Center. If you haven't had a chance, go check out the renovation. It is gorgeous. I'm really excited to move into that office space and get going.

And then additionally, I want to get back working on food insecurity, which I think I've talked about here before, as well as still advocating for mental health resources. And me being the policy nerd that I am, working on policy reform within the SGA to ensure that it's as efficient as it can be. So with that, I'll take any questions.

K. Thu: So I'm just curious, Ian, where are you with the move to HSC. Have you started?

I. Pearson: We've been getting ready for the last month and a half. We've been in our office suite for 25 years, and that means there's about 25 years of paperwork. So I and a number of us have spent the last three months archiving, packing, shredding, throwing out everything so that we're at a

point where we can move efficiently. So we move on Friday. Our office is a mess right now, full of boxes and such, but it should be concluded Friday. And when we come back from break, we'll be ready to open up for business.

K. Thu: Sounds good. Well, everybody, go visit. Thank you, Ian.

L. Freeman: Get a Starbucks.

K. Thu: Get a Starbucks, there you go. Speaking of throwing things away, I brought my bag to collect plastic cups again. So I see there's a recycle bin over there so you can use that one. But if you want to, you can just put your cup down on your chair or the chair next to you, and I'll just run around and pick them all up and make sure they get recycled.

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

K. Thu: Next, Jeffry. I didn't see Jeffry here anywhere.

N. Johnson: We'll give our report from last month, because we meet tomorrow. Last month we had a visitor, which was Sarah Klaper, our ombudsperson. And she presented to the Operating Staff Council to give us our annual report. She kind of notated that they've seen an increase in complex cases, over 71 cases per year; and that pretty much there has been an influx of just people coming to their offices being seen. And so a question was asked, how does she feel about becoming a new reporter for campus security authority. And she notated that she was concerned about it, because she didn't want it to erode the office's confidentiality that they have right now. And that was pretty much the gist of it.

L. Yates: Cindy [Kozumplik] has been the chair for the 125th Celebration, and there's going to be very exciting things to come. And the kick-off is going to be Thursday, January 30, I believe from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Student Center [Sky Room]. I'm not sure exactly where, but we can get that information to you. And we wanted to remind everybody there's a deadline coming up for the scholarship for OSC. And for dependents, for seniors and enrolled students. And that was it. And we meet tomorrow then.

K. Thu: Well maybe we can have a little more discussion about Sarah's position and reporting at another meeting. I think that needs to be clarified for everyone.

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

K. Thu: Okay, we're going to move on to Cathy. And then, Linda [Saborio], I see you in the back of the room. So I have you in my sights for after Cathy. So, Cathy.

L. Freeman: Although we kind of gave your report in absentia.

K. Thu: Well my attempt was pretty cryptic. But, Cathy, go ahead.

C. Doederlein: Thank you. Just a couple quick things. I know I mentioned last time that we'll have announcement going out for nominations for SPS awards, so we've had a little bit of a delay, but we are definitely still doing that, and I just want to keep it top of mind, because our turnaround time for the application deadline will probably be pretty tight, or tighter than usual, I should say. So definitely be keeping in mind SPS colleagues that you may want to recognize for our presidential award of recognition. We have four of those that we're able to award and would love to have some great nominees to consider.

Also want to make sure that September [December] 17 is our SPS Council hosted sort of holiday potluck. SPS Council members will be making dishes. It's a bit of a competition that I never lose, so please feel free to come and be prepared to vote. But it's from noon to 1:30. It will be hosted in Barsema Hall, the College of Hall Barsema Hall atrium, again from 12 to 1:30. Even though it is hosted by SPS Council, it is open to all. But the competition is just the SPS Council members and, again, why bother because I'm going to win.

K. Thu: Thanks, Cathy. There's nothing like confidence, right?

[At this point in the meeting, the discussion returned to Item VIII. A. so that Linda Saborio could give her report.]

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 17.2.1 University Benefits Committee
Composition
SECOND READING/ACTION

K. Thu: Thank you. Thank you, President Freeman. As you may remember, we had a first reading of this proposed amendment. This is basically changing the membership of Resource, Space and Budget by adding two additional students to the committee. And so if you look ... Am I on the wrong one? I'm sorry I got that mixed up. There is another item. That item's coming up. This one's about the composition of the University Benefits Committee on page 16. So as you may remember, obviously I didn't, the Faculty Senate got rid of one of its committees, the Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession. And some of those duties have been transferred to the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee. So previously, the University Benefits Committee had to have one member from the Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession. Since that committee no longer exists and some of the functions have been taken up by Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, we are suggesting a change so that one representative comes from Faculty Rights and Responsibilities.

So I will entertain a motion to ... Oh, we have to click in for that. So this is why we changed the agenda so we made sure we have enough people here. I'm catching up quickly. So we need to click in to make sure we have enough people to make this change. A or 1 to indicate you're here. So we're going to need two-thirds of whoever is here, correct?

P. Erickson: Or 30, it depends on which is greater.

L. Freeman: We had a couple people walk in. And I see Dean Block rushing to get a clicker, which will be very important.

K. Thu: Okay, we have 38. Now we have 40. Are we good? All right. And now I'll entertain a motion to amend the bylaws as I indicated. Vicki Collins. Do we have a second?

S. Farrell: Second.

K. Thu: Any discussion? Pretty straight forward stuff. All in favor, click 1 or A. And the results are – everybody was in favor.

Yes – 40 votes

No – 0 votes

Abstain – 0 votes

L. Freeman: Wow.

K. Thu: Yeah, I wonder if that's ever happened before.

Before we move on to Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees, I just wanted to. I don't think this body has met since the CBA [collective bargaining agreement] was passed. Is that correct? I know we made the announcement in Faculty Senate. I don't know, President Freeman, if you want to say a few words about that before I do?

L. Freeman: Absolutely. I'd forgotten too that we hadn't met because certainly we met with the Board of Trustees for the approval. I think that we have a collective bargaining unit with the United Faculty Alliance and our tenured faculty that is something everyone at this university can be proud of. And it took a while to negotiate, which is pretty typical of the first contract, but it was done thoughtfully with mutual benefit in mind. And the fact that preserving shared governance and making sure that collective bargaining and the topics of collective bargaining, wages, hours and working conditions, were considered, the excellence of our faculty was recognized and honored by what was agreed to in the agreement, and the importance of University Council and the things that go with it were also left largely intact, I think is a credit to the bargaining teams on both sides of the table who came to that table caring deeply about our employees as individuals, our faculty as the heart of the university and those shared governance voices that make this university what it is as all things that needed to be respected in the process. And I'm very pleased with the outcome. The trustees are very pleased with the outcome. And I think it's a watershed moment that we can all be proud of in NIU's history.

K. Thu: Thank you. I also agree and appreciate President Freeman's leadership from the university side of the equation. I had the opportunity to sit in on some of the negotiating meetings over the summer. It's not an easy thing to do, but there was a lot of dedication on both sides of the aisle, so to speak. And I was very gratified to be present before the Board of Trustees when they voted on it. And they got a round of applause, which doesn't always happen at a Board of Trustees meeting. So I think the terms of the CBA are very fair, and I think that most of all it shows how much the university values faculty in all that we do. So thank you.

Also just a reminder, we didn't reject the previous layout of chairs for this meeting.

L. Freeman: We have a board meeting tomorrow.

K. Thu: A board meeting tomorrow, which is a reminder that, if you're interested in it, I think they start meeting at 9 o'clock in the morning in this room. So I'm sure they have a full agenda, which I haven't completely looked at yet.

[At this point, the meeting returns to VIII., Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees.]

B. Update: Rethinking Faculty Senate and Shared Governance

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws 19.7.1 Performance Reviews – The President
FIRST READING

K. Thu: We've already done Roman numeral IX.A. and actually B. as well. B. was kind of conflated with Richard's report. So I'm going to skip over to New Business, Roman numeral X. This is the proposed change to the NIU Bylaws for the performance review of the president. This is a first reading. If you go to the last page of your packet or look up at the screen, you can see that previously the performance review of the president was stipulated as a fixed period of time. In this case, it was six years of service as the president and last year, the sixth year, the president would get their performance review.

I think President Freeman told me that by state law now, that presidents can only have a four-year contract. But to make sure that we accommodate any kind of changes, actually Pat suggested, well why don't we just say penultimate year of their contract. That way it will cover us in whatever situation we're in. And so this is a first reading. We will vote on it in the January meeting. And I don't know, President Freeman, if you want to comment at all on this?

L. Freeman: No, I think that all of our leadership welcome the opportunity to be evaluated by the whole university community as part of reappointment consideration, and this is entirely appropriate.

K. Thu: Questions or comments about that? Okay, I thought I had one other thing that I was going to add, but well it alludes me now. Any other new business? Any comments?

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

K. Thu: If not, before I entertain a motion to adjourn, have a happy holiday. Good luck with the rest of the semester, and we'll see you next year. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

O. Chmaissem: So moved.

Unidentified: Second.

K. Thu: All in favor?

Members: Aye.

K. Thu: Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.