

MINUTES

**University Council Steering Committee
Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 225
DeKalb, Illinois**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado, Barnhart, Bateni, Bolden, Burton, Chen, Collins, Doederlein, Elish-Piper, Pearson, Royce, Siegesmund, Thu

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Millhorn

I. CALL TO ORDER

University Council (UC) Steering Committee chair, **K. Thu**, called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was established.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

H. Bateni moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **G. Chen**. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 17, 2019 MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. ITEMS FOR UC STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

A. Reviewing the structure and processes of shared governance

Input has been sought from stakeholders including NIU shared governance leaders, administration, faculty and students, as well as shared governance leadership from other Illinois universities. There is support across the board for redesigning NIU's shared governance structure to better align with benchmark structures at NIU's sister institutions in Illinois, and to assign academic authority to Faculty Senate.

The plan is to develop a proposal within Faculty Senate and then submit it to UC.

Faculty Senate timeline:

9/4/19	Introduce concept
10/2/19	Present related data
10/30/19	Propose NIU Bylaws amendments

K. Thu noted that caution must be used when discussing any workplace issue that is part of the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations, such as tenure and promotion, or workload policy. **J. Royce** noted that he also uses as a guideline the measure of whether a particular topic impacts constituency members who are not covered by a union.

K. Thu shared a draft shared governance organizational chart. **C. Doederlein** noted that SPS Council, Operating Staff Council and the Student Association are not represented on the shared governance organizational chart. Should these shared governance constituencies be included?

F. Barnhart inquired as to how NIU's shared governance structure is unique from its sister institutions? **K. Thu** replied that the most significant difference is that there is no University Council at other institutions. The closest we can come to it is a sort of executive committee.

I. Pearson shared that he completed some shared governance archival research over the summer and noted that the number of committees seemed to expand significantly during the 1990's.

K. Thu reported that a list of priority issues has been developed for Faculty Senate consideration at its September 4 meeting.

VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DRAFT AGENDA

C. Doederlein moved to approve the proposed September 11 UC agenda, seconded by **F. Barnhart**.

University Press Board amendment proposal – VP for Research and Innovation Partnerships, Jerry Blazey, will present this proposal at the September 11 UC meeting.

Committee on Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence – Chief Diversity Officer, Vernese Edghill-Walden, will present this proposed bylaw amendment for a first reading at the September 11 UC meeting.

Temporary Appointment Timeline Waiver Request – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Dean, Don Peterson, will present this request at the September 11 UC meeting.

Ombuds Day proposal – NIU Ombudsperson, Sarah Klaper, will present this proposal at the September 11 UC meeting.

Policy Library update – Policy Librarian, Rebecca Hunt, will provide this update at the September 11 UC meeting.

UC-Academic Policy Committee – **V. Collins** will give an update on the committee's work regarding the proposed Policies for Online and Hybrid Courses Offered by NIU.

Resources, Space and Budget Committee – **T. Arado** might have a brief update for the September 11 UC meeting since the RSB meets September 7. **K. Thu** reported that President Freeman intends to seek input from the RSB Committee regarding capital budget decisions, as well as budget decentralization. He will make a brief report on this during this RSB report time at the September 11 UC meeting.

Rules, Governance & Elections – No report is anticipated for the September 11 UC meeting.

Student Association – **N. Bolden** plans to bring a report for the September 11 UC meeting, including a recap of summer projects and an introduction to planned fall projects. **I. Pearson** will report on Student Association shared governance goals for the year.

Operating Staff Council – **J. Royce** plans to report on Operating Staff Council goals during the September 11 UC meeting.

Supportive Professional Staff Council – **C. Doederlein** will have a report for the September 11 UC meeting.

Huskie Food Pantry – **K. Thu** plans to report on this topic during the September 11 UC meeting, encouraging people to consider volunteering. This item will be moved from Informational Items to President's Announcements in the agenda.

J. Burton noted that the Student Senate minutes were not included in the Informational Items. This error will be corrected.

Motion to approve the proposed September 11 UC agenda per above discussion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.