

## MINUTES

University Council Steering Committee  
Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 3 p.m.  
Altgeld Hall 225  
DeKalb, Illinois

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barnhart, Bateni, Burton, Chen, Collins, Doederlein, Elish-Piper, Millhorn, Nelson (for Arado), Pearson, Royce, Siegesmund, Thu, White (for Bolden)

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Arado, Bolden

### 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

**I. Pearson** moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **H. Bateni**. Motion passed.

### IV. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 28, 2019 MINUTES

**J. Royce** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **I. Pearson**. Motion passed.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENT

### VI. ITEMS FOR UC STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

### VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DRAFT AGENDA

**Convener** – Provost Ingram will convene the October 16 UC meeting in President Freeman’s absence.

**FAC-IBHE** – **L. Saborio** will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

**UAC-BOT** – **K. Thu** will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

**UC-Academic Policy Committee** – **V. Collins** isn’t sure if she’ll have a report; we will check back with her before agenda distribution.

**FS-UC Resources, Space and Budget Committee – T. Arado** was not present, but it is anticipated that she will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

**Student Association** – It is anticipated that **N. Bolden** and **I. Pearson** will have reports at the October 16 UC meeting.

**Operating Staff Council – J. Royce** will have a report at the October 16 UC meeting.

**Supportive Professional Council – C. Doederlein** will not be in attendance and isn't sure if there will be a report. We will check back with her before agenda distribution.

**FS-Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession – K. Thu** reported that Faculty Senate, during its October 2 meeting, will review a proposal to eliminate this standing committee.

**Update: Rethinking FS and Shared Governance – K. Thu** reported that this will be a standing item on all UC agendas this year for the purpose of keeping UC updated on a proposal being developed in Faculty Senate. He called the members' attention to the Powerpoint included in the draft UC agenda packet.

Discussion of NIU's current shared governance system, and a draft concept in which academic authority transfers from University Council to Faculty Senate, included the following points:

- All other public institutions polled have one faculty shared governance body (as opposed to two at NIU – Faculty Senate and University Council).
- NIU Constitution upholds that faculty predominate in academic matters; therefore the proposal is to move academic-related matters to Faculty Senate.
- Do faculty already predominate on UC, because they hold majority membership?
- The proposal could be interpreted as a diminishment of UC authority; however, UC retains its authority in all non-academic matters.
- Does NIU need two bodies? Should an option for merging the two bodies be considered? Or should Faculty Senate be eliminated?
- Could UC be redesigned with a smaller membership? Some institutions do retain a much smaller executive-type body (see EIU, page 18 of draft UC agenda packet, for example).
- The plan calls for Faculty Senate to develop a proposal for UC consideration.
- Recommendation that any forthcoming proposal from Faculty Senate identify, early on, the problems that we're trying to solve.

**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 October 16 UC meeting.

**Committee for the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience** – Vice Provost Ed Klonoski will present this proposed bylaw amendment for a first reading at the October 16 UC meeting.

**2020 Proposed University Holidays for 2020** – This proposal will be presented at the Oct. 16 UC meeting.

There was consensus to approve the proposed October 16 UC agenda per above discussion.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.