

## TRANSCRIPT

University Council  
Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 3 p.m.  
Altgeld Hall 315  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Beyer, Bohanon, Borg, Boughton, Chinniah, Collins, Conderman, Costello, Cripe, Douglass, Elish-Piper, Freeman, Garcia, Holmes, Ingram, Johnson, Kozumplik (for Royce), Nicholson, Olson, Saborío (for Weffer), Scheibe, Teso-Warner, Vaughn, Yates (for Monteiro)

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Martin, Monteiro, Royce, Stange, Weffer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bryan, Chomentowski, Falkoff

### I. CALL TO ORDER

**L. Freeman:** Good afternoon. Can everyone hear me okay. It's my pleasure to call this meeting to order.

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m.

### II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

**L. Freeman:** And the next item of business is to verify that we do, indeed, today have a quorum. Pat?

**P. Erickson:** Yes, we do have a quorum.

**L. Freeman:** Wonderful.

### III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**L. Freeman:** In that case, can I have a motion to adopt the agenda.

**J. Holmes:** So moved.

**Unidentified:** Second.

**L. Freeman:** All in favor?

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Freeman:** Opposed, same sign? Great.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 28, 2021 MINUTES – Pages 3-5**

**L. Freeman:** Can I now have a motion to approve the April 28, 2021 minutes that are found on pages 3 to 5 of the packet?

**H. Nicholson:** So moved.

**L. Freeman:** So moved, Nicholson. Second?

**L. Garcia:** Second.

**L. Freeman:** Okay, second, Garcia. All in favor?

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Freeman:** Opposed, same sign? Moving right along.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**L. Freeman:** We have now reached the moment in our open meeting when folks who have signed up for public comment or who choose to come forward for public comment may do so. Pat, have we had anybody register for public comment?

**P. Erickson:** No, we do not.

**L. Freeman:** All right.

#### **VI. NIU PRESIDENT LISA FREEMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**L. Freeman:** We will then move on quickly – I like that – to Roman numeral VI, the president's announcements. I want to start by just giving everybody a warm welcome. We've been back for three weeks, and I don't think that the joy of being together and seeing the positive impact on our students has worn off yet. It certainly hasn't for me. I continue to be so proud of the NIU community and how we've come together to support each other and to protect the pack. And I'm very grateful to Governor Pritzker and to the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#), the IDPH, for their leadership. I can tell you when I talk to presidents in other states, they do not have the same strong support from their state leadership.

We have a lot to be excited about this fall, and I don't just mean our football team, although that was a very exciting victory over Georgia Tech this past weekend. I hope that some of you who didn't have the opportunity to attend the game in Atlanta will come out and see us play Wyoming this coming Saturday.

We've welcomed some dynamic new leaders to the Huskie family. On senior round table, we have Charlie Fey as the interim vice president for student affairs, and Bill Hodson as our chief human resource officer. On the Council of Deans, we have Lynda Ransdell as the dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, and Purush Damodaran as the interim dean of the Graduate School and associate vice president for international affairs. And serving the entire university community, we have Merlynette Griffin as our interim ombuds.

This year NIU is also hosting a fellow of the [American Council on Education](#). Adrienne King from the University of Toledo is here as a learner and as part of that National Higher Education Leadership Program. And I know you'll make her feel welcome and supported. I think some of you know that I was an ACE fellow hosted by the University of Buffalo in 2004-05. And I picked up the phone, and I called people in various positions, and said, "Can I take you to lunch and learn about what you do. I'm here as a learner. I'm here to soak things up at a different institution and share." And it worked out great for me, and I know the Huskie family will make it work out great for Adrienne.

I also want to recognize the new leadership of our shared governance groups. Pete Chomentowski, Faculty Senate president; Felicia Bohanon, SPS Council president; Holly Nicholson, Operating Staff Council president; and from the Student Government Association, President Devlin Collins and Speaker of the Senate Dallas Douglass.

And I have some good news. I can't provide the details yet, because they are embargoed, but I'll present a teaser. Next week, NIU will be recognized by an external organization for excellence in shared governance, as well as a few other areas where we're doing great work. And it is the folks here in person and who have served previously on Faculty Senate, University Council and our staff councils, who have earned this accolade through their efforts and their effective use of shared governance structures to delegate authority and decision-making and to seek collective input, something we can really be proud of.

And I think our university has many examples, not only of effective shared governance, but also effective shared leadership. While similar to shared governance, it differs in that shared leadership structures tend to be cross-functional task forces or teams that are set up to address emerging issues in real time. A recent example is the task force on the future of workplace flexibility and remote working [inaudible]. This group was co-led by Dean Fred Barnhart and Professor Jessica Reyman. They were convened in late April and they delivered their recommendations in July. In addition to Fred and Jessica, the task force had six subgroups with 12 co-leaders and 55 contributors. A [summary PowerPoint](#) and the [full report](#) are posted on the President's Office website, and I really urge to read them in full. The group's work was exemplary, and it's guiding the university's efforts.

In the coming weeks and months, I'm going to be talking more with the NIU community about increasing our capacity for shared leadership through professional development and experiences. So, for now, I'll just say, stay tuned.

Our tenth day enrollment census data are being released this week, and I want to give you some major points before things hit the press tomorrow. NIU saw great gains in the enrollment of new freshmen, as well as new master's, doctoral and law students. This is a testament to how well we've been executing our strategic enrollment management plan. At the same time, there was a small decrease in overall enrollment that is largely attributable to the COVID-related challenges. It's disappointing, but it's understandable that we saw a slip in first-year student retention on the heels of the first full year of the pandemic. With pandemic-induced switches and learning modalities online, in person, hybrid, over the past 18 months, along with financial, time management and personal stresses that were caused or exacerbated by COVID, it became challenging for our students, particularly the freshman and first-generation students. They found it challenging to stay focused on their studies, to engage with the support networks that were designed to help them to succeed, and they really missed the opportunity to connect to us and to each other.

That's why we are so serious about taking the public health measures and following the protocols that allow us to be in person, so that we can connect with our students in class and on campus. I very much appreciate everybody's commitment to our students and our community. I know it's not fun to sit six feet apart in masks, but it beats the alternative. And I think we've felt that as we've come back to campus and interacted with the students who are really the reason that we're here.

Moving forward, our Huskie community, students, faculty, staff and alumni, we're going to need to work together to reengage the students who dropped out and encourage them to return; and make sure they know the resources that are available. In the weeks and months ahead, you'll hear more specifics about how you can help.

But I'll leave you with what I said to our alumni about how I want them to step up and help. When I talk to our successful alumni, regardless of the college, regardless of what their profession is, almost all of them say, "I came to NIU as a working-class kid. My family didn't have a lot of money. There weren't a lot of people in my neighborhood who went to college. I was the first in my family who went to college. And I got there, and I wasn't really sure that I belonged. There were days when I just felt like maybe everyone was right. Maybe someone who told me that I didn't belong was right, and I should just give it up." And at a pivotal moment, someone – in some stories, it's a building service worker; in some stories, it's a faculty member or an advisor – but someone intervened and said, "You can do it. I'm here for you. Let me show you the resources that can help you stay here, help you finish and realize your dreams." And that personal touch, that connection is so important for our students. And when you think about the last 18 months of boxes on a screen, how hard it is. And I know that our faculty and our advisors and our staff have worked valiantly to connect to the students under very trying circumstances. But amidst all of the pandemic-related challenges, the type of connection that we know really works for Huskies was hard to make. And so, it's so great to be back. And as we walk around and we see our students and we remember that our sophomores are like freshmen this year, let's all make a real effort to make them feel a part of the family and to make sure that they know it's okay to ask for help, that they know where to ask for help and that we're all here for them.

And that concludes the president's announcements. And this is my second favorite part of the meeting. This is where I turn the gavel and control of the agenda over to Faculty Senate president.

## **VII. ITEMS FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

**P. Chomentowski:** We'll move to Section VII, items for University Council to consider. We don't have anything at the moment.

## **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve the 2021-22 University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees membership roster, confirming Karen Whedbee for a three-year term, per NIU Bylaws, Article 8.4.1.1 – Page 6
- B. Approve UC Chair Peter Chomentowski to serve as NIU's academic representative to the [State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee](#) (SURSMAC)

**P. Chomentowski:** We'll move on to the consent agenda. There are two things on the consent agenda. A is to approve the 2021-22 University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees membership roster, confirming Karen Whedbee for a three-year term, per NIU Bylaws, Article 8.4.1.1. And B, to approve the University Council chair, Peter Chomentowski, to serve as NIU's academic representative to the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee. Could I please have a motion and a second to approve the consent agenda?

**G. Beyer:** So moved.

**D. Collins:** Second.

**P. Chomentowski:** Thank you. All those in favor, say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**P. Chomentowski:** Those opposed, say no. Any abstentions? The consent agenda has been passed.

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Proposed amendment to NIU Bylaws, Article 1.2, Terms of Office – Page 7  
Holly Nicholson, Operating Staff Council President  
SECOND READING/VOTE

**P. Chomentowski:** We'll move to the next section, which is Unfinished Business. For this, I would like to take a motion and a second to discuss the proposed amendment to the NIU Bylaws, Article 1.2, Terms of Office for a second reading/vote. So, can I have a motion and a second to discuss this today?

**G. Beyer:** So moved.

**F. Bohanon:** Second.

**P. Chomentowski:** Holly, would you like to come up and briefly run through the second reading information for us, please.

**H. Nicholson:** Thank you. Typically, in the past, operating staff have served one-year terms to allow for more participation and just because of the natural turnover in our council. So, here we're proposing that we change the language to say, "except for persons elected as student representatives and operating staff representatives, who shall serve terms of one year." Does anyone have any questions? Pretty simple, non-controversial.

**L. Saborío:** [inaudible]

**H. Nicholson:** It was one year up until this year now, it's two years, similar to SPS Council.

**P. Chomentowski:** Anymore questions for Holly? Anymore discussion?

**H. Nicholson:** Thanks for thinking of a question. I appreciate it.

**P. Erickson:** Okay, we're ready to vote then, I think. I'm going to go back to that page that you maybe saw when you first came in today. It's a list of all our voting members today. If you see your name on that page, or if you're here for someone who's on that slide, make sure you have a clicker. The clickers are – thank you for demonstrating, President Freeman. If you're a voting member today, make sure you have a clicker in your hand.

First, I want to say there's no need turn the clickers on or off. They activate automatically when you vote, and they deactivate after several seconds of non-use. There's no need to erase previous votes. The clicker automatically erases a previous vote when you enter a new one. And in a moment, I'm going to give you the cue that we're ready to vote. I'm going to open the software and, when I do, if you want to vote yes that you approve the motion to approve that proposal, then that's 1, click 1 for yes; 2 for no, you don't approve; 3 for abstain. And as long as the poll is open, you can change your vote anytime you like. Just click another number and your first vote will be erased and the next one will be put in its place.

So, I'm going to give three options, and you can go ahead and click the number that corresponds with your vote now.

**N. Johnson:** What channel is it on?

**P. Erickson:** 45. You can see in that box on the slide up in the upper right-hand corner that we've got 22 responses so far. I think that's pretty close, probably, to how many voting members we have in here, but I'll give you a few more seconds. If anybody is having a problem with their clicker, please have courage and raise your hand, and we'll help you out. Okay, so that clearly passes.

Yes – 22

No – 0

Abstain - 0

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

**P. Chomentowski:** We'll move on to New Business, and we have no new business.

## **XI. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

**P. Chomentowski:** Next section, Reports from Councils, Boards and Standing Committees. The Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, and that's Linda.

**L. Saborío:** I forgot to ask you, Pat, if you could pull up that website for me again on the Fac to the IBHE. I don't have a formal report today folks. Sorry to disappoint you. I just want to take a moment to introduce myself. I am Linda Saborío, and I am the NIU faculty rep on what's called the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. We've got a website that she's trying to pull up here.

We are a council of 36 members comprised of one representative from each of the 12 public universities. Then we have 12 representatives from the private and proprietary institutions and 12 from the public community colleges in the state. And we bring different issues relating to higher

education to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and bring it to their attention. Some examples, for this year, we're looking at forming working groups. And we have mental health as one of the working groups; student debt; diversity, equity and inclusion; dual credit is going to continue – we have some faculty with some concerns with the dual credit and alternate credentialing in higher education; and performance assessment. I may have one or two that are missing there, but those just give you an idea of some of the items that we'll be working on this upcoming year.

If you have any issues pertaining to higher education – because we all have issues, right – but pertaining to higher education that you'd like for me to bring to the FAC for consideration, please contact me. You can reach me through Pat or you can send me an email directly. Does anybody have any questions? Our first meeting in September 17, and we are meeting virtually. We were going to meet at ISU in October, and they decided to move us to online for that meeting. Can't see them smiling, but I may ask you if you're interested in later on, maybe December. So, no reports on my travels until we start meeting in person again.

No questions? Come on, Holly, you can come up with a question, right?

**L. Freeman:** Greg had a question.

**G. Beyer:** [inaudible]

**L. Saborío:** We have 12 public universities, and each public university has a permanent seat on the council. And the private and proprietary and the community colleges, they have like three-year terms. They rotate.

**G. Beyer:** There are more private colleges [inaudible]

**L. Saborío:** Yes, and the community colleges too, definitely. They just amended the bylaws so it's now a three-year term. And then we also have some at large reps.

**G. Beyer:** [inaudible]

**L. Saborío:** Yes. That was established in 1971. I think I was two years old. Any other questions? Please let me know if you have any.

**Unidentified:** [inaudible]

**L. Saborío:** Oh yes, we did try to provide a lot of input in terms of that report.

**Unidentified:** [inaudible]

**L. Saborío:** Yes, that's what I was going to ask President Freeman. I know that summer is a time of kind of recharge and so not a lot may have been done. But we are looking for the next steps in the implementation plan, because a lot of work went into developing the higher education plan in Illinois.

**L. Freeman:** I can summer is not a time off for many of us. I am in the process of negotiating first drafts of our university goals with our Board of Trustees, and they'll be coming forward to shared governance groups. And I have been very cognizant of trying to align our university's goals with

the overarching themes in the IBHE strategic plan. On some of them, we're far ahead; our equity plan is being used as a model for the other public universities' equity plans. But we all have work to do in thinking about alignment. I will also say that I think Dean Elish-Piper has really not had a minute off since the legislative session passed the senate bill that created a consortium for early childhood education. And that working group has continued to meet very frequently to make sure that progress is being made so that the commitment we made to work together with the community colleges to educate particularly the incumbent work force in early childhood education is seen as a serious commitment that's moving forward, because if it's not, then we'll be back to where we were at ground zero talking about baccalaureate degrees at community colleges, which is something that we don't see as in our best interest.

This year I'm serving as convener of the public university chancellors and presidents, which sounds really important, but what it basically means is I get to run the weekly phone call. And when there's a question, I get to answer it from the press or the senate. But I can really feel like much more good will from the community college presidents and the public university presidents. In fact, four of us today, me, President Gibson from NEIU, President Glassman from EIU and Chancellor Whitney from University of Illinois-Springfield, met with about 20 community college presidents to help them think about how to execute the governor's executive order related to vaccines and testing on their campuses, because we're far ahead of our community college partners, and we felt like we could give them some wisdom so they didn't have to go through all of the learning curves that we went through setting things up.

Laurie, do you want to add anything?

**L. Elish-Piper:** We're waiting for some things from IBHE to get going on consortium, but we've been [inaudible] identifying metrics and other sort of enabling conditions so that we can get ready to launch [inaudible].

**L. Saborío:** Will you continue to serve on the strategic plan working group?

**L. Freeman:** That group has kind of been disbanded. We had our impact on the plan, and I would say that both the Faculty Senate and our group had a lot of impact on the final version of the plan. I think the presidents and chancellors will be asked to revisit progress periodically; and we'll always have an input, because Ginger Ostro, the executive director of the IBHE, attends our weekly phone call for at least part, if not all, of the phone call.

**L. Saborío:** I was just wondering then, will there be a committee then formed for the implementation process?

**L. Freeman:** There will be, but it's going to be a separate advisory group for implementation, and they haven't named that group or talked about that structure yet, at least to us. So, it's possible.

**L. Saborío:** We haven't met as an FAC, and I'm sure the president of our council is aware of this, but we haven't met yet. We'll probably get an update when we meet next week.

**L. Freeman:** Yes, you might hear before we do. But I will actually ask Ginger. I'll say that our shared governance group was interested in knowing and see what she says and forward the answer back to Pat.

**L. Saborío:** All right, thank you. Any questions?

**P. Chomentowski:** Thank you.

- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report  
Felicia Bohanon, Holly Nicholson, Peter Chomentowski  
Katy Jaekel, Karen Whedbee, Greg Beyer

**P. Chomentowski:** We'll move on to the University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, and Holly is going to have a report.

**H. Nicholson:** I was honored to be chosen to speak for the UAC, but you may regret it, because I found a lot of things interesting in the board meetings. So, I'll try to be quick. The board met two weeks ago. I was not able to be at the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, but they talked about faculty tenure and promotion for a faculty member. There's a new proposed B.S. in applied management instructional technology training and evaluation. And, finally, faculty emeritus were recognized.

Then in RILLA, Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee. First a state legislative report. A lot going on. We talked a bit already about the education consortium, so I won't go over that again. Also, NIU participated in advocacy efforts opposing [Senate Bill 815, Higher Education Funding Formula](#). The sponsor of the bill did amend the language to establish a commission to look at a funding model that would be appropriate for higher education.

There was legislation passed exempting higher ed from the Grants Accountability and Transparency Act. That act had created barriers for public universities. There was a clean-up bill that establishes quarterly reporting for contracts exceeding \$20,000. Instead of sending each and every one, we get to report quarterly now. Legislation to allow student athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness – and Sean Frazier was a big part of that.

Sandy Lopez and former student, Laura Vivaldo Cholula advocated for the [Higher Ed Dream Resource Bill](#). We already have those resources here at NIU, but this just establishes us as a leader in that area, so something to be proud of.

There was some redistricting that has affected NIU's representation in the Illinois legislature. So, I encourage you to go to the board website and look at the [report for RILLA](#), and look at the new representation.

This is the first time I've given a report in a mask

Then federal relations, NIU and students received funding from three different COVID relief packages, so there was a report on that. And there is a link in the board report to an [APLU list of provisions in the new infrastructure bill](#) that passed that may be of interest if you want to check that out.

President Freeman joined other university leaders in advocating for a higher maximum for Pell Grants and also investing in campus infrastructure, research, innovation, diversity and other things. Vice President Blazey and numerous faculty members also participated in meetings and events with legislators. And that's all outlined in the board report, some really interesting stuff going on. NIU

Sponsored Programs funding is at the highest level in ten years, even if you exclude that COVID funding. So, very monumental year.

Finally, innovation focused on the [71 North Partnership Studio](#), which helps students, faculty and staff take great ideas and turn them into reality. It's a really amazing studio; learn more about it. It was really exciting, especially considering the fact that we need to generate income in other ways than the traditional raising tuition and all that. Some great things happening there.

Also, if you're interested, there's a series called [Innovation Conversations](#). You can see that on the Innovation website or in the [NIU calendar](#) in joining.

For faculty, there's a new program called [STARS](#) [Strategically Training, Academic Research and Scholarship] that helps faculty develop grant-writing skills and build networks. I think that is starting this fall.

There's a new I-Fund launched to support student and faculty innovation. And there's an update proposal to the Intellectual Property policy increasing inventor share from 33 to 50 percent. And that's going to Faculty Senate, so watch for that.

Then, finally, Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee. We had a report on the audit and the corrective action plan. A proposal to extend the Harper College University Center Strategic Partnership Agreement.

There was a discussion about outsourcing print services, formerly known as Document Services, over by the HR Building to [R.R. Donnelley](#) in Chicago. That affected, I believe, six staff members. One will retire, a couple will bump into other positions, and some have an opportunity to interview with R.R. Donnelley. So, I just want to go on the record and thank them for their service, wish them the best in their new career path, and hope that everything works out for them. The board, in the meantime, asked really great questions about the outsourcing, including R.R. Donnelley's alignment with prevailing wage and the speed at which the decision was made. And it just showed that the board is really in tune and engaged and is concerned about staff and faculty. So, just a very good conversation.

This will be interesting. The telephone system is outdated. We have to buy parts on the gray market, which I didn't know was a thing. We are going to get rid of those and use Teams calling. I don't remember when that will start phasing in, but I'm quite excited to unplug my desk phone and give it to somebody.

They talked about the expansion and upgrade of the wireless network and mobile technology needs. Funding was requested and granted for laptops for remote and hybrid staff. And the process is starting to – well I think it's already underway – but they talked about moving building access to OneCards instead of physical keys. My understanding is that it's a phased approach. So, that's really exciting.

Then in the special meeting, all of the action items were forwarded from the committees and approved. It was a long report, but it was a really exciting and sobering day. Lots of good stuff happening. The next meeting, there's a special meeting tomorrow regarding the sale of the Hoffman Estates campus. And I'll be representing the UAC there. If you have any thoughts that you want to send to me, I will include them in my remarks. And, finally, that concludes my report. Any

questions? Yes.

**Unidentified:** Do you happen to know whether [inaudible]

**H. Nicholson:** I don't. Sarah, do you?

**S. Chinniah:** No plans have been made as of yet. I think we're looking at some different options. There are some things under consideration, but I don't think anything's been formalized. It's really great space, because there's a loading dock there. So, we want to be really thoughtful.

**H. Nicholson:** Any other questions? Thanks.

**P. Chomentowski:** Thank you, Holly.

C. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – no report

**P. Chomentowski:** We'll move on to C., Rules, Governance and Elections Committee. We have no report for that committee.

D. Student Government Association – report  
Devlin Collins, President  
Dallas Douglass, Speaker of the Senate

**P. Chomentowski:** We'll move on to D., the Student Government Association. Devlin and Dallas, do you have a report you'd like to give?

**D. Collins:** Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Devlin Collins. I have the pleasure of being the president of the Student Government Association.

**D. Douglass:** And I'm Dallas Douglass. I was elected the speaker of the SGA Senate.

**D. Collins:** We have no formal report for you today, but we did want to just introduce ourselves and let it be known that SGA will continue to be a resource to the campus. Really the only thing that we want to let you guys know is that SGA plans on taking more of an active role in the community that surround NIU's campus. We [inaudible] to our minds this year. We want to be more accessible to students in the community, those that are unaware of what NIU has to provide to the students, more specifically to first-year and second-year and transfer students who are here and never experienced the full campus. This year, we have a massive plan to roll out programs and be able to connect with these different groups of students so that they are able to [inaudible] work better on campus. That's really all that we have to let you know so far. You can reach us in our offices that are in the Holmes Student Center across the way from Starbucks or just send us an email. We can take any questions that you have.

**L. Saborío:** Can you do anything about that really long line at Starbucks?

**D. Douglass:** I wish we could.

**L. Freeman:** If you think about it as revenue generation and action, it makes the wait less painful.

**D. Douglass:** I have a real response to your kind of joking question. We have a couple of SGA-wide initiatives that we're pushing this year, and our racism agenda is a big one. We're also talking a lot about student employment. And I'm sure we're all aware of the extreme labor shortage. The NIU campus is no exception to that. We are workshopping ways to address that from the student perspective. So, that's definitely forefront in our minds thinking about staffing places like the Huskie Den, all the campus dining – we've seen hours just dwindle and dwindle over the last couple years. We have been talking and thinking about that a lot.

**L. Saborío:** [inaudible]

**D. Douglass:** I know. For reference, the Huskie Den is currently open Mondays from 12 to 2. They're closed every other day of the week because of staffing shortages.

**D. Collins:** To be more specific, this is the Huskie Grill, not the actual den, itself.

**D. Douglass:** Right.

**D. Collins:** Any other questions?

**P. Chomentowski:** Thank you.

E. Operating Staff Council – Holly Nicholson, President – report

**P. Chomentowski:** All right, we'll move on to E., Operating Staff Council. Anyone have a report? Linda?

**L. Yates:** I just was asked about an hour ago to come here today. So, I have nothing prepared. However, we have been meeting all through the summer. We meet all the time. We're all working. Holly did ask me to present about the newly established Civil Service Emergency Fund, which we're really excited about. We recognized a need for this. We had civil service employees get let go during the beginning of the pandemic. They've experienced a lot of financial economic crises and weren't eligible for some of the other programs. So, we have a committee established, and there's seven of us, and we have to get \$2,500 to be able to give out ten grants of \$250 a piece. We did brave the very hot weather at CornFest and had a booth all three days, which was really nice. And we raised \$200, which we're very happy to take. And so that brings our balance up to \$582. That's one of the things that we're working on, but we have many different subcommittees. And if anyone wants to join us, OSC is always the first Thursday at 9 a.m., and it's open. Anything else, Holly? Any questions? Okay, thank you.

**P. Chomentowski:** Thank you.

F. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Felicia Bohanon, President – report

**P. Chomentowski:** Now we'll move on to the last committee report, for the Supportive Professional Staff Council.

**F. Bohanon:** Good afternoon. We have really worked throughout the summer trying to work out, particularly in terms of leadership, what happens when a member of the council transitions to civil service. We had a transitional process where the previous president and I worked out where I spent

a part of the time shadowing her to become familiar with the process in terms of the number of meetings, becoming familiar with that. One of the things that we did recently with our bylaws is that they were updated to ensure that, as an individual, particularly with the president transitioning potentially to civil service, that that person is able to stay in their position until the end of the term, basically the academic year, and then the new person, who is the vice president, would move into that position and fill out their term. So, that's one of the things that we worked through this summer, just how we were going to continue to operate.

In the last month, we spent time electing our new officers. We have Tom O'Grady who is the vice president, Lupe Flores, who is our secretary, and Eric Armstrong, who is our treasurer. Also, in the next week, we will have a workplace climate survey, which will be distributed to all SPS personnel so that they can identify what their needs and concerns are. And we anticipate we will have that report before the end of the year.

So, those are the things that we're working on in addition to filling all of our various committee positions. And we anticipate we'll have that completed by tomorrow when we meet.

Thank you.

## **XII. 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](#), Honors Committee
- K. [Minutes](#), Operating Staff Council
- L. [Minutes](#), Supportive Professional Staff Council
- M. [Minutes](#), University Assessment Panel
- N. [Minutes](#), University Benefits Committee
- O. [Minutes](#), Univ. Comm. on Advanced and Nonteaching Educator License Programs
- P. [Minutes](#), University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
- Q. [2020-21 Annual Reports](#)
- R. UC 2021-22 dates: Sep 8, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1, Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

**P. Chomentowski:** All right, we'll move on to Information Items. I would just like to call your attention to R, which is the University Council dates for the rest of the academic year: October 6, November 3, December 1, February 2, March 2, April 6 and May 4.

President Freeman, do you have anything else?

**L. Freeman:** I do not. If anyone has questions for me, since we have a few minutes, I'm happy to take questions. [pause] Everyone's like, nope, we're adjourning. I'll be here if anyone wants to come up and ask me a question.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**P. Chomentowski:** Can I have a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting today?

**L. Garcia:** So moved.

**Unidentified:** Second.

**P. Chomentowski:** All those in favor, say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**P. Chomentowski:** Any opposed? Abstentions? All right, meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.