VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Arado (for Falkoff), Bohanon, Elish-Piper, English, Freeman, Hartman, Johnson, Middlemist, Monteiro, Mooberry (for Stoker), Morris, Myung, Nicholson, O’Grady, Phares, Pitney, Richter, Sutcliffe, Walther, Ziarati

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Beyer, Falkoff, Howell, Larkin, Martin, Njue, Stoker, Vaughn

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryan, Creed, Gill, Heckmann, Kettering, Kruse, Nicklas, Roller, Schomer, Silva Tovar, Sumner

I. CALL TO ORDER

L. Freeman: Good afternoon, everybody. It’s such a beautiful day that I know nobody wants to stay inside for a minute longer than necessary. And we do have a couple of presentations, including one from some guests outside NIU, so I want to try to move the meeting forward in a timely fashion.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Freeman: So, with that, Pat, do we have a quorum?

P. Erickson: We do have a quorum.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

L. Freeman: All right, given that we have quorum, can I have a motion to adopt the agenda, please? Motion by Hartman, do we have a second? Second by Pitney. Terrific, I have a motion and a second; all in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Any opposed?
IV. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 3, 2024, MINUTES

L. Freeman: All right, let’s do that again for the April 3, 2024, minutes. May I have a motion to approve the minutes. I heard an “aye,” but I don’t know who said it.

C. Walther: So moved.

L. Freeman: Okay, got it. And a second, please.

D. Phares: Second.

L. Freeman: Okay, we have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Any opposed? Wonderful.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Freeman: We’ve now come to item, Roman numeral V in the agenda, Public Comment. Pat, have we received any requests for public comment?

P. Erickson: No public comment requests today.

VI. NIU PRESIDENT LISA FREEMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Budget and Planning Update

L. Freeman: All right, moving right along. In that case, we will go to Roman numeral VI, and that is actually my announcements on budget and planning update. So, I’m going to actually move to the center so I can use the microphone and see the slides simultaneously.

And before I go through this brief presentation, I just want to say to everybody, thank you. This is an incredibly busy time on our campus. Whatever your position is, you’re scrambling to meet a deadline, you’re helping students get across their finish line, you’re still doing the business of the university and yet you’re celebrating something every evening, every afternoon. It’s a time that can be both exhausting and exhilarating. And I just want to say it’s a time of year when I really think about how much I really appreciate each one of you and what you contribute to our campus. I enjoy celebrating faculty, staff and students at this time of year, and I hope you’re enjoying it as well.

With that, may I have the next slide, Pat. This is an abbreviated and updated version of a presentation that we gave to the monthly leadership group yesterday. And I say updated, because, as we were leaving the room, there was breaking news on the FAFSA front. I don’t want to steal Vice President Jensen’s thunder, but he’ll be here to talk about that. The topics we covered yesterday and that I want to update you on today, is talk about where we are in terms of multi-year budgeting and covering the structural deficit. I want to talk about the FAFSA situation, I mean situation is a nice word; I would call it the FAFSA fiasco, the incredibly flawed federal roll out full of delays and technical issues, hurting our students and our institution. And then our response and what you can do to help. Can I have the next slide, please?
As I talk about the deficit or deficit mitigation strategy, our FAFSA concerns and our call to action, I just want to remind everybody that everything we do, all the actions that we take, are taken within the framework of guiding principles that emphasize access and affordability, student success, investing in our employees and, in the particular framework of the budget. We had a very thorough set of recommendations that were developed by a budget planning work group about two years ago, through extensive campus conversation with shared governance groups, with departments, with individuals who control budgets. And we’re trying very hard to follow the road map that they laid out for us, at least at a high level. And so, as I move on in the presentation, you’ll see that we are, in fact, addressing our deficit through a combination of revenue generation and expense reallocation and reduction as they urged us to do. One piece of what they asked us to do that we’re not delivering on as well as we should be is accelerating the budget and planning timeline. And that is directly related to the FAFSA concern, and I think you’ll see that as I speak further and then as Vice President Jensen comes in. If I can have the next slide, please.

Just to remind everybody, this is the university’s revenue budget at the highest level, and there are just a couple of points I want to make on this slide. The first is that we have two major sources of operating revenue: the state and our students. And how do I say that? If you look at the green slice, that is our operating appropriations that we get annually from the state of Illinois through the process of budget development, our request, the IBHE request, the governor’s budget and what the General Assembly ultimately approves in May. And I’ve been updating this group on that all year. We’re looking forward, as you’ll see, to a two percent increase over last year’s appropriation this year.

The blue piece of the pie is tuition and student fees. That makes up 40 percent of our operating budget. And then the pink-orange sales and services piece is also very student-dependent, because things like our auxiliary revenue, our housing and dining revenue, depend on enrollment. So, a large faction of our revenue budget is enrollment dependent. In fiscal year ’24, the board approved a revenue budget of just over $400 million – $401.4 million – as you’ll note in the lower right calendar, it’s highlighted. Next slide, please.

This is our expense budget. Most of our expense budget is in personnel services, that’s about 54 percent of the budget. Other big pieces are scholarships and contractual services. Our personnel services are about 54 percent. If you look at other universities, it’s very often a larger number. That’s because we don’t pay the benefits to our employees. The way it’s structured in Illinois is that the state of Illinois pays benefits. If we included benefits, it would be more like 70 percent, but that’s why it’s 50 percent. It’s still the largest piece of our budget.

Scholarships and financial aid make up a large portion of our budget. And contractual services make up a significant portion too. These are vendor partners; these are contractors that help us with building repairs in the very short building season over the summer. There are a lot of things that are in there, but in any case, this is our expense budget.

The real take home here is that our total expense budget approved by the Board of Trustees in fiscal year ’24 was $433.2 million, a number that was bigger than the revenue number that you saw on the previous slide. Can I have the next slide, please?
I don’t think I need to tell anybody that 433 is bigger than 401, and that the difference is about $32 million. And so, that was the deficit that we were approved to operate with this year, and we were approved to operate in a structural deficit with the understanding with our board that we would identify strategies during fiscal year ’24 that would reduce the deficit by half for fiscal year ’25 through university-wide efforts focused on revenue generation, as well as expense reduction and reallocation. And we put revenue generation first, because I think we all understand you can’t cut your way out of this. You have to grow, and that was certainly our commitment, and that’s how we attacked this problem. Also, it was phrased in this way to identify strategies during fiscal year ’24 that could be realized in fiscal year ’25, because there’s just not a lot on a university campus that you can envision, execute and realize the savings or realize the growth in one year. That’s just not the timetable that we operate on, and our board is understanding of that. Next slide, please.

This slide summarizes, at a high level, the results of our deficit mitigation efforts performed in fiscal year ’24 for fiscal year ’25. And you’ll see the left-most column is the actions. The middle column is the impact, approximately, that we expect to see in the next fiscal year, fiscal year ’25 that starts July 1. And then things that are in the far column, are potential multi-year impacts, recurring impacts. Some of those are known and some of those are not.

If you look at what we have accomplished in total, we have identified $23.3 million that we can comfortably say could be applied to deficit mitigation in fiscal year ’25. If you look at the individual components there, you’ll see tuition and fee pricing, reenrollment and retention, is about $5.4 million of that. Those are things that impact our enrollment. Maximizing our existing residence hall space, we actually added 160 beds by making some of the singles in Neptune doubles, that could account for $1.8 million. We are getting that two percent increase in our state appropriation. And then we have revenue generation across some of the other units. Athletics increased their guarantee games and has a new media licensing rights contract that results in an increase of about $1 million. And then, we have additional initiatives in sales and service, facilities and infrastructure across multiple units. For example, OERD has found clients for space in Naperville that was previously not rented at as a profitable margin. And so, we have things like that going on.

Then, in terms of scholarship and financial aid deployment, this is an expense reallocation rather than actually new revenue. We have been able to take money that we’re spending on scholarships for students that was money that could also be spent on operations, and reallocate it to more restrictive fund source. So, we have been able to more effectively deploy private scholarships available to the Foundation, available through the Foundation. That’s a good thing, because it honors donor intent. It makes us have more flexibility in our operating budget, and it prevents us from doing things like over-awarding students. So, I think that’s good all around.

We also received increased flexibility from the state of Illinois in what they would consider as matching funds for our AIM HIGH money. So, you may remember, AIM HIGH is money that we get from the state outside of our appropriation that allows us to do the AIM HIGH Huskie Pledge, which guarantees, as coming up in fiscal year ’25, students whose families have an income of $100,000 or less, not to pay tuition and fees at our university. When the state created the AIM HIGH program, they required the universities to match, because they wanted us to have skin in the game. And they had specific requirements, not only on the amount of match, but the categories of match. The state has recognized that [inaudible] could benefit from more flexibility and, as a result of that flexibility granted to us, we’re able to reallocate some of our financial aid expenses.
And then, I don’t want to go into a lot about our expanded community college partnerships, the provost can talk about that at another time. We have a developing community college strategy, but next year, we will be launching one additional program at Harper College and their university center, and launching five programs for the first time at McHenry County College. We don’t expect it to do much more than break even in the first year, because we’ll have smaller classes, and we’ll have some start-up costs. But over the two years following, we expect that to generate about $1.5 million.

So, we’re actually doing fairly well in thinking about how to grow revenue, how to reallocate expenses. And the only thing I have to caution about this is our administration and finance department has developed a really good predictive model for enrollment, but that model is based on assumptions, as all models are based on assumptions. And those assumptions are grounded in an understanding that you don’t have drastic changes in your operating environment. And so, we have been worried about the FAFSA situation being just one of those things. Could I have the next slide, please?

So, I’m going to give you just a little preview. I think everyone who watches the news knows that there was an incredibly flawed roll-out of the student financial aid form changes by the Department of Ed. This was something that was done to benefit students, particularly the most vulnerable students. It decreased the number of questions on the form; it had the form populating with tax data automatically; and it was supposed to make things really great for students and families, particularly those who were low income or first generation or from minoritized communities and historically underserved. But they didn’t really test it well before they rolled it out. They didn’t really think some things through, like the fact that undocumented students and mixed status families don’t have Social Security numbers, and they didn’t provide an alternative. And so, when the form came out, students and families couldn’t fill it out. When they filled it out, they found out that the data that was populated was wrong. They couldn’t log in to correct it. And this has just dragged on and on and on forcing all universities to extend their admissions deadlines and worry a lot about what’s going to happen.

I will tell you that, when we gave the presentation yesterday morning to a large group of university leaders, it was sobering to look at how many students had not filled out their FAFSA and what that impact could be. And at that moment, at 10:30 yesterday morning, we had not received enough information about student financial need to have any idea of when we were going to be able to put packages out.

As we were leaving the room yesterday, we got two very large tranches of student data, and our people in Financial Aid are scrambling right now to get those out. And so, we feel much more optimistic knowing that we’ll be able to get freshman packages out, God willing, by the end of next week, barring a lot more technical details and returning students thereafter. We’re also seeing a lot more action at the state level for coordinated activities, and we have ISBE and ISAC, the public schools, the agency that oversees MAP, the governor’s office and the IBHE all working together to get out messaging, to send out people to help fill out financial aid forms, to try to get students while they’re still in school. We have added at NIU an additional admitted students day on May 17. And we’re doing everything we can to catch up. And I’m optimistic that we can, but we still have to be nervous that there could be some lasting impact.
I said this in my testimony to the state Senate, one of the senators said, well, I don’t know why you’re concerned about FAFSA, because it affects everybody. And I said, you know, if you have a high school graduate who’s choosing between the University of Chicago and Northwestern or Urbana-Champaign, they may not know where they’re going until they get their financial aid, but they know they’re going to college. But the students that we serve are so often the first in their family to go to school, they don’t have the social support networks. And for some of them, they’ve been told their whole lives that they don’t belong in higher education. And so, how many times are they going to log in or are they going to log in with their families and try to fill out a form that just keeps telling you nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, before they walk away. And so, I’m, obviously, worried about the impact on NIU, but I’m really worried about the impact on human capital and all of those students who have talent and who deserve to be here. So, we’re going to do everything we can. Next slide.

But, we are worried about the financial impact on NIU, because every time we have a one percent change in enrollment, up or down, it’s associated with a $1.3 million change in our anticipated tuition and fee revenues. And as you saw, tuition and fees makes up 40 percent of our operating budget. And the housing, dining and any other unit that’s enrollment dependent will also be affected.

So, this is what we are going to ask everybody to do, and this is what we’re doing. Next slide, please. I don’t have to say this: We’re in a dynamic environment. There are things we need to do right away to try to get this done, and there are things we continue to need to do long term. We’re going to continue to work on reducing our deficit by $16 million next year, that’s a commitment that we’ve made, and it’s a commitment we need to honor. But we have unknowns, because of what has happened with FAFSA, and we need to be prepared to respond to a different situation than the one we anticipated in the absence of the FAFSA fiasco. The leadership team were working through multiple scenarios. We’re working through a scenario where FAFSA resolves by the end of May, beginning of June. We’re working through a scenario where there are some lingering and extended effects and uncertainty. And we’re continuing to work on the things that are related to multi-year budgeting, because we have to continue to make those changes so that we’re fiscally sound in not just 2025, but ‘26 and ’27 and beyond.

This time of year, we would normally have much more budget guidance out to the campus, but I think you can understand with the situation as volatile as it has and changes in FAFSA completion rates of 10 percent or more on a weekly basis, it hasn’t been really been possible for us do what we would like to have done in terms of sending you something to predict.

The last thing I want to say is: What can you do to help us? And I said this yesterday, and I’ll continue saying it. We hope that this resolves in a very positive way, but not knowing how exactly we’re going to settle, I’m going to ask everybody now to just be extremely frugal with their year-end spending and to be very thoughtful about hiring vacancy refill over time all the things that we control in terms of personnel expense, not because I think we’re going to necessarily be in dire consequences, but because I can’t tell you that there’s not going to be an impact. But I do know that it’s easier not to spend year-end money on things that are wants and not needs now, than it will be two weeks from now to make the same change. And I think the same thing is true as we think about hiring and vacancy refills and other things.
So, that is the end of my presentation. When he gets to go, Vice President Jensen will tell you more about the details of what’s going on in FAFSA world, probably with an update even from the one that I shared as far as yesterday morning. But that’s the end of my presentation, and if there’s time for questions, I’ll take them, but I know we also have guests waiting.

**B. Creed:** If there are one or two questions, we can field them. Otherwise, we can move along. Seeing nobody coming up to the mic, I think that we can move on.

**L. Freeman:** You’re on.

**B. Creed:** Then I’ll take over the role of running the meeting then.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Temporary Appointment Timeline Waiver Request per NIU Bylaws, Article 10.5.2.2

Acting Dean, College of Education

Laurie Elish-Piper, Executive Vice President and Provost

**B. Creed:** Up next is item VII, which is New Business. We have one item, which is the temporary appointment timeline waiver request per NIU Bylaws. Before I turn it over to Provost Elish-Piper for a presentation and discussion, we need a first and a second on this. So, could I have a motion to grant the temporary appointment timeline waiver request? Nicholson, first. A second? Thank you, Therese. With that, I’ll invite up Provost Elish-Piper to lead us through discussion of this.

**L. Elish-Piper:** For this particular item, Bill Pitney is currently serving as the acting dean of the College of Education. He was appointed July 1 of 2023. We are asking to extent that appointment for a year. It is due to the fact that the search for the executive vice president and provost did not resolve until March. And when that resolved in March, there was not enough time to launch a national search to identify the next dean of the College of Education. I had the opportunity to meet with the College Council in the College of Education to seek their input and counsel on this matter, and also to meet with the College of Education Senate. Their input was very positive and very supportive of moving forward with asking for the ability to waive that timeline to extend an additional year to Acting Dean Pitney.

**B. Creed:** Thank you, are there any questions or comments?

**C. English:** I’m assuming there is, but I just want to confirm, is there a hiring plan for that search?

**L. Elish-Piper:** Yes, the plan is to launch a national search in the fall. And we’ll go through the normal processes to do that for a dean. But we will launch that in the fall, which is the normal academic hiring timeline to get a pool of highly qualified and diverse candidates to apply for that position.
B. Creed: All right, seeing no other questions, we will take a voice vote to approve this motion. All in favor of granting the temporary appointment timeline waiver request, please signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

B. Creed: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, Pitney abstains. Great, that then passes.

VIII. ITEMS FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

A. FAFSA Update

Sol Jensen, VP for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications
Samantha McCarron, Director of Financial Aid

B. Creed: All right, that brings us to item VIII, Items for University Council Consideration. We’ll get an update on the FAFSA from Vice President Sol Jensen.

S. Jensen: I apologize that I just missed whatever the president said, but we’ve been in enough meetings over the last couple of days that I have a good idea of what she said. I want to in a little bit deeper about how this is impacting NIU and then be able to share a little bit about that. This slide, which is probably hard to see anyway, but it’s showing the number of FAFSA completions, student financial aid completions, both in the state of Illinois and nationally. The orange line is the Illinois line, so you can actually see that state of Illinois is higher than the national average. This should not be too big of a surprise, though, because we have a high school graduation requirement in the state of Illinois that students complete the FAFSA at the time of graduation. The concerning part about this is what you see at the very top, which is hard to see, but there is a negative 30 percent change. In the state of Illinois, we are seeing, currently, 30 percent fewer students who have completed the FAFSA compared to the same exact time of year last year. So, that’s about 27,000 students fewer that have completed the FAFSA across the state. This is, obviously, a very big concern for us, and what’s not shown here, but what is very relevant to NIU and really all across the country, is that where most of the significant decline is happening is in students from underserved communities, students who are first in their family to go to college and students who are lower income, students who, quite frankly, this FAFSA simplification was meant to help.

Across the state and across, really, the country, there has been a stronger effort to try and get FAFSA completion. I can tell you that NIU has held dozens of FAFSA completion workshops, both on campus and virtual. So, we’ve met with a lot of students to be able to help them complete it or at least to help them navigate the process so they can complete. We actually have three more that are coming up this week and next week. So, we continue to do this work, and it’s very important. Did you already mention some of the things statewide, President Freeman?

L. Freeman: A little bit.

S. Jensen: There’s also a lot happening across the state, too, that NIU is being a part of, and I want to commend President Freeman, because she has really been the one raising the alarm across the state and reaching out across various governmental departments.
If we go to the next slide, this now will show how it’s impacting NIU specifically. This is not enrollment, but these are the numbers of students who have sent us their financial aid information that we have received as of just a couple of days ago. And it’s comparing it to what it looked like about a week ago. Again, just about a week ago on April 22, we were showing over 30 percent, ourselves, being down in FAFSA completion compared to last year. Now, we also have made quite a few efforts within the institution, reaching out to incoming students, their families, reaching out to our currently enrolled students through Navigate. So, we feel like just in that one week we saw pretty significant gap reduction down to that 23 percent. So, we’ll continue to monitor this and, obviously, be very, very aggressive to get students to complete the FAFSAs.

One great piece of news, and for those of you who were in the presentation yesterday, it’s an update, we did receive two very large files from the Department of Education yesterday. These are files that we needed so that we can start to process financial aid. Across the country, it made up about 20 percent of all FAFSA filers – this was the Department of Education – that had errors. These were errors and the students did nothing wrong. The students couldn’t do anything really about it. We were waiting for the Department of Education to get those fixed and get them back to us. We received those yesterday, and what we’ve been told is that now any new student that files a FAFSA, we should have that information within one to three days. So, moving forward, hopefully, things will improve.

We now are able to go into our final testing of our financial aid, and we should by next week be sending out our first financial aid awards to our incoming students. And then probably a couple weeks after that, be able to get out to the rest of our currently returning students. We’ll be able to get the financial aid out, probably not necessarily before the end of this semester for our current students, but at least very soon after that. And we’ll be communicating heavily with them. We are continuing to provide a lot of opportunities to meet individually. Our Financial Aid Office will be encouraging students to meet with us so that we can walk through the financial aid that we have with them, because not only were there a lot of challenges with the FAFSA, but the FAFSA has also changed. And so, some students are going to see differences in their financial aid, especially those who have been here already. So, there could be some differences, and we need to walk through that with them.

The final thing that I’ll just mention that we also got yesterday, which is exciting news, because at least across the country – we don’t know how much it impacts NIU, but across the country – it’s been reported that it’s hundreds of thousands. But these are students who come from mixed status families. And they have had the most challenging time trying to complete the FAFSA. And this means that the students, themselves, are U.S. citizens, but maybe one or both of their parents are not, at least don’t have a Social Security number. And they have had the hardest time, even if at all, to be able to complete it. In fact, at last update, they’re being encouraged to complete a paper FAFSA and mail that in. That was the latest great idea that the Department of Education provided as a fix. As of yesterday, these students and their families are able to go through the process. It’s still not the same, but it absolutely does allow them to move through the process. It will quicken the process and now we’ll be able to start receiving that aid from those students, those mixed-status families.

Any questions? I know that’s a lot.
B. Creed: Sol, I have a question. I know earlier President Freeman mentioned about trying to model out some of the impacts of the FAFSA delay and the fiasco along that on the budget. I’m wondering, in the modeling, does this receipt of information from the federal government put us more toward the better version, or is it still undetermined how this will impact those projections.

S. Jensen: I don’t think we’re going to have a really good answer for that for at least another month. Probably until a little after June 1. And there are a couple reasons for that. One, almost all schools, almost all schools that had a May 1 deadline, have pushed it back. Urbana/Champaign, I believe is May 15. Other schools have moved it back to June 1 or later. We don’t have a hard and fast deadline; however, in years past, other schools that had a May 1 deadline, we were also very much impacted, because students just knew that was a date they wanted to make a decision. So, knowing that a lot of schools have pushed back to either May 15 or June 1, I think that’s going to be our next good barometer. But we’ll really see what it looks like in the next couple of weeks after that, and the moving forward after that. We’re going to host another event on May 17 for admitted students, which is a new program, but just another opportunity for students and their families to come visit campus and work one-on-one with a financial aid counselor while they’re here. And we’re going to continue throughout the summer to offer programming like that for admitted students that we haven’t done before, because typically those students have already made a decision, and they’re moving toward orientation. But just knowing that things are just delayed so much, we’re going to continue to recruit all summer long.

L. Freeman: Anecdotally, you and the provost have both told me that our last two admitted student days this spring were the largest we’ve ever had, more than 800 students. And we hard from many, many students and families that they wanted to come to NIU, but they were waiting for their financial aid. So, being able to start the outreach and the packaging now does really encourage us.

B. Creed: Thank you.

B. Normal Road Update

George Middlemist, VP for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer
John Heckmann, Associate VP, Facilities Management and Campus Services
Bill Nicklas, City Manager, City of DeKalb
Zac Gill, City Engineer, City of DeKalb

B. Creed: Next up is item B, Normal Road Update. We’ll have a presentation from CFO Middlemist, Associate VP Heckmann; and we have two guests from the city of DeKalb, City Manager Nicklas and City Engineering Gill.

G. Middlemist: I can’t help but notice that I’m the least dressed person up here, and I’m the CFO, well, wanna be student. The first thing I want to say is, I want to thank everybody for the couple of months ago when we had the conversation around Normal Road and expressing your concerns and frustrations. I really appreciate that. That kind of dialogue helps us to get a little bit better, hopefully, going forward. To that, we’re really here to follow up on that conversation and inviting our city partners to join us to talk about the projects that we have coming up and answer questions from you. I’m really pleased that we have our city manager, Bill Nicklas, is a long-time friend of the university and strong partner of NIU, and also the city engineer, Zac Gill, who is also a strong partner for this institution. The city of DeKalb, in cooperation with NIU, is actively leading three major projects on Lucinda Avenue and the Normal Road corridor. Both Bill and Zac and their teams
have had a long partnership, like I said, with the university, and they’ve been working closely with our team in admin and finance. We appreciate the positive relationship that we have with the city, and are looking forward to continuing to work with them.

The next several months and years, the city of DeKalb will complete one important project and take major steps forward on the other two. To share those details, I’m going to invite Zac and John to come up and walk through what’s going on, and then to be able to answer questions from you all.

Z. Gill: Good afternoon. As city engineer, I oversee capital improvements in the city of DeKalb, and one of the sources for that is what we call STU funds – Surface Transportation-Urban. They’re allowed to be applied on what we call federal aid routes, and those are determined by the federal and state government. So, we can’t just use them anywhere, and they are used to do regional or transformative things that benefit more than just your small local city of DeKalb street; we have our own funding source for that. So, we like to be very aggressive and get our more than fair share of those funds whenever we get the opportunity.

Lucinda Avenue is one of those federal aid routes, as are Annie Glidden, as are Normal Road. So, you kind of get the picture for those areas. The condition of Lucinda, a few years back now, we had that scheduled for attention. We don’t have to declare exactly what that is, just that this is an appropriate route to now receive these funds. Then, it’s my job to look around at what we want to do and take those concepts, those thoughts, idea, through city leadership, through our city council; and then in a scenario like this, to coordinate with my counterparts at the university. So, we began that process several years ago.

The intersection of Lucinda and Normal needs quite a bit of attention, and that is due to it severely lacking ADA accommodations now. Even if it were to stay a signalized intersection in its current geometric configuration, it is of an abhorrent standard for accessibility. So, there would be a lot of work to do either way. Given the nature of how invasive and expensive that is, I felt a little bit of a mandate to explore: How do we really idealize this? We’re going to make a mess; let’s have something really nice at the end when we make this mess.

So, I explored the idea of a roundabout, and that is because, operationally, they are vastly superior for traffic throughput and even for pedestrian throughput. So, I explored that idea: How feasible would it be for the surrounding existing facilities, so on and so forth. Then the one thing that jumped out to me when looking at that was the southern leg, Normal Road, and the outstanding pedestrian facility you have there, that 10-foot mixed use path, bicycles and pedestrians, move that from Annie Glidden across the whole campus. And I thought how outstanding for a student to walk across that without a single hint of fear, without having to look around, without having to negotiate all kinds of different variables.

So, that led to looking at Normal Road and, while obviously, there are going to be changes in traffic patterns, inconveniences, other things like that, is there a fatal flaw in this model? Can we look at our partners and say we can achieve closing this down to public personal vehicle transportation? It came back in our determination that we could. So, I’ll step into, we needed to make that decision a while ago, because these are two very independent projects; we need to understand that. Normal is its own animal. But, because we have to design and get through our state and federal partners the Lucinda intersection, I obviously have to tell them, is this three legs or four. I have to do things like decommission it as a federal aid route for that segment, because they won’t permit me to build a three-leg intersection where an existing four-leg federal aid route is. So, now you understand why
we kind of did some things, which maybe seemed like they were rushed, but when you’re back in the weeds, this has gone on for years, and there are steps that we had to achieve in order to advance Lucinda, which is on a financial timeline not under our total control. This is money that we have to commit within a certain timeline and execute within a certain timeline.

Normal is a different story. Normal is ours. Normal is a city street now – well, always a city street, but it’s no longer an FAU route. It also won’t be local funding. So, we have much more latitude with what we do and the timeline in which we do it. So, I wanted you to understand those two things before we go into details of each.

We’ll start with the intersection vision. When we get the three-leg roundabout and then you’ll that the generous path continued through there. Again, the traffic is a no-brainer; it’s a significant operationally superior vehicular throughput. Then we look at how we treated our pedestrians, which for this area, I’ve been vociferous, is the most important factor involved here. That was what drove the closure of Normal Road previously when I spoke with the president and her staff. The way I put this was, these are competing uses. Is this a campus or is this a street, because two blocks with six speed bumps isn’t really a street. These are competing uses. So, let’s make a choice on which one that we’re going to prioritize.

So, we look at how we get the pedestrians through there. One thing I like about the roundabout for pedestrians – and I will speak specifically to some of the disabled community, as well, but just for general pedestrian usage – the points of conflict are significantly reduced. If you just imagine the intersection, if you want to cross that, you’re crossing 40 feet of pavement, you’ve got traffic coming both ways, left turns, right turns, you have everything going on. When you cross a roundabout, you are making a single-lane decision to negotiate traffic. You are looking to your left, you are crossing one possible conflict a vehicle there. You have a refuge island, pretty robust refuge island. So, you then make a single decision on another conflict. Is the vehicle coming this way? You’ve made a single decision each time.

Now, I will speak to the fact that all vehicles are always supposed to yield to pedestrians in that crosswalk. We have done every measure available and allowable for this. There will be rapid activated beacons. So, again, you would push your button to sit there and then wait for the cycle to go through, and wait for your countdown, wait for your little white flashing hand. Now what you’ll do is you will tell the cars this beacon has started, it has illuminated the pedestrian signal, it’s right there, you’ve been notified to yield. And then you can make that decision to cross. Additionally, you’ll see that they are set back a little bit further from the inscribed circle. That gives people a little bit of room. If someone’s looking to enter the roundabout, there is still at least a [inaudible] length on some of these legs too, where a vehicle could release from that inscribed circle, not worry about stopping in the middle of the circle and gumming the whole works up, but they say, oop, I better tap the breaks, I want to let this person cross. And the third thing, and this is particularly for the visually disabled, but in the day of the cell phone swipe and looking down, it will help everyone, I think, is we are doing – real low tech – we are putting, essentially, I’ll just call them rumble strips for lack of a better word. But what they will do is, just like any other rumble strip, as a vehicle approaches, you’ll be able to hear that. So, particularly for the visually impaired, but for anyone, anyone who is maybe chatting, maybe on their phone, you will hear that distinct sound (I’m not a sound effect guy, sorry, can’t do it). You’ll hear that distinct sound of a vehicle approaching. You’ll also be able to say, does that vehicle sound like it’s slowing down, or is it just burning through those rumble strips and perhaps this is one where I want to take a beat and attempt to cross a moment later.
So, those are a lot of things that I’m really excited about implementing here to make this work for everyone. And just a final note on the roundabout and what it does for pedestrian throughput, again, you’re not at the mercy of a machine, well, there might not be anyone there, but our little hand says you can’t go. In this case, you have an accommodation and, more importantly, you’re given agency, you can cross when you’re ready to cross. And so, I like that too. I know I need to steer toward brevity here, but just on Thursday I was inspecting something else in the city, and I was waiting to turn left. I was southbound on Normal to turn left onto Lucinda. My light turned green, green arrow. Someone had already decided to cross. I’m sure you all see it all the time; people that cross against the light and do this and that. Now we’ve put them in a very precarious scenario; they’re crossing against the light, against the traffic rules. I know I’m supposed to yield regardless, but does everyone know that? Or, do they say, I’m hitting the gas, I’m getting in front of them. Now, you’re in a worse scenario than some people that may be skeptical of a roundabout, because now you’ve got no rules whatsoever. So, again, I feel confident that we can really make this a nice amenity for everyone using the area.

I’ll go to the next slide. So, I actually bled into some of this, talking about the existing walkways, you can see it there. Everything will still be completely interconnected, enhanced in some ways with that unimpeded east/west movement on the south end of the intersection. We talked through some of the high points of the pedestrian access and all of those. And we are cognizant of during construction the access that needs to be maintained, some of these drop-off points that can be reached maybe from the back side or along Normal Road to allow people to get where they’re going even during the “pardon our dust” phase of the construction.

**J. Heckmann:** Let me tag in a little bit. Just a little bit more on the drop-off points. In thinking through probably three different scenarios where this is more likely the situation that people will face. Williston, how do you get close enough to Williston to drop someone off so they don’t have to go a long distance to get to the accessible entrance, which is on the south side of the building. So, going along Wirtz Drive is probably the most likely scenario to drop someone off and then get on to the accessible sidewalk and up to the front entrance. Similarly, with Swen Parson, a little different. Probably going to the south side of Normal, dropping someone off around the Davis parking lot right there and then walking or accessing a short distance to get to that accessible entrance to Swen Parson there. And then Founders Memorial Library, of course, the most logical drop-off point there is probably a little different than what you would imagine. It would probably be going up Carroll Avenue to our visitor parking lot to get to the closest point to reach the front entrance of the library. So, just wanted to clarify; that was a comment we received and, yes, these are things we’ll need to think through and get people comfortable with and accommodate where they can best do that.

**Z. Gill:** Yeah, I just want to touch on it real quick. Yeah, that’s on here, Normal Road transition. So, again, this is not part of the Lucinda project. Again, Normal is its own project here with no immediate set timeline for deliverable. It allows for some rumination, some more collaboration on that. So, again, what we have now on Normal, there was no parking on either side, there were no drop-off points, there was no anything. And so, I understand there is some concern there about when we’re done with that. So, this is an opportunity; we can look at where do we really want to cease that southern end. We know that it can’t go all the way through to Lucinda at this point, but we can look at that balance of where do we want that cut-off to occur. We chose where it is right now, because it’s logical. It allows people to loop around Davis Hall and leave, not send someone another 50 feet up and say, boy, I’m doing the 20-point turn to get back out of here. So, we used a
logical point, but it doesn’t mean that we can’t build it to accommodate a different turnaround point or drop-off point. I just want to make sure that’s clear, that nothing’s written in stone on Normal Road yet.

The timelines, we are about to be let, out to bid, for the intersection improvement, the roundabout. That should be awarded, contracted, so on and so forth, here by this fall. We have set that then for a spring 2025 start. So, probably about a year from now we’d like to get the main bulk of the students off campus and then get to work. The timeline would allow us to be completed then by the fall semester, starting in ’25.

Normal Road, as you can see, our intent was always to kind of have that fall right in behind. Let’s let the dust settle, literally, on Normal Road, while we have these conversations about what we want that ultimate treatment to be. This is a great beta test out here. We’ve already seen awesome stuff with the food trucks. What a thrill for me to see that. You put something out there for the world for people to use, and it’s like, whoa, even beyond my wildest expectations. So, it let’s us have these conversations. What are our sensitive points here for functionality with the remainder of this. We’ll work through that, have those plans done and look for maybe in 2026, the subsequent year, to actually execute those final physical treatments of that roadway.

Just a final note there, too, as part of this whole decision, West Locust is being reconstructed, specifically to host the bus traffic. So, pavement will be thicker, the drainage will be improved and there will be two dedicated bus loading zones. And my understanding from the transit department is probably shortly to follow with some shelters. And as you saw, we already established a new loading zone for the Greyhound bus. So, those are kind of the other ancillary things going on, as well.

**J. Heckmann:** One thing I wanted to emphasize here on this slide, as well, is our commitment to come back. We’ll talk to you more about the Normal Road transition. As we develop some initial plans with the city, we’ll come back and get some feedback and comments on that so we can continue to develop what do we want this space to become for our campus. Look forward to that, please.

And then lastly, I wanted to make the point that we created a web page where we can kind of keep tabs on where we are with our various points with these projects. So, I leave that address up there for you to look at. It’s an active address. Please go look at the updates as we make them. As we continue to engage with the city on these projects, we’ll update this to the best of our ability and try to keep you all apprised. That’s where we have our presentation for today, and we’ll stand by for any questions right now.

**B. Creed:** Please, Therese.

**T. Arado:** Thank you very much for coming today, and I really appreciate getting the city’s perspective on this. A lot of people in this room know that I live in Swen Parson; therefore, when the closure happened, it had a significant impact on us. And I just want to say these things. I’ve said them before, but: I love that you’re being thoughtful in where possibly the end of the Normal Road closure would happen, because I think that’s really important for accessibility for our building. We have one accessible entrance, and you started talking about accessibility at the roundabout, which is great, but we have one accessible entrance and it’s in the middle of the building. And I have spent the better part of this academic year watching people struggle from the Davis parking lot to get into
the building. We have a safety issue with the southwest corner there that’s also being addressed, just for our building, not, but people thought oh, that door can be used, and it’s not a door that’s meant to be used. They all have staircases until you get to the middle of the building. So, the thought that maybe that stopping point could be in a different place is, at least until it happens, comforting to me, to know it’s a possibility.

Just a couple other things I’m wondering if are being considered in all of this is, the Greyhound bus stop was relocated, but it’s actually in a very odd spot for the people who have to wait for the bus. They use the parking garage as a shelter and run across the street to get to the bus when it comes. There is nothing there to provide protection. Is there talk of that being moved somewhere? And then also, everybody exiting onto Carroll Road now has created quite an entertaining afternoon everyday when you’re trying to get out of the parking garage.

**J. Heckmann:** Let me try to address some of the points that you’re making there. The Greyhound bus – yes, we do have plans to put a shelter there. So, that, in addition, it’s separate from the city; NIU is going to do that ourselves, since it’s not part of the bus program for the city. But, yes, we’re going to look to put a shelter at that location so that will provide some weather refuge for people that are waiting there. We know it’s not as convenient as the prior stop where they could wait inside the Holmes Student Center. That was ideal. But again, trade-offs when you close down Normal Road. There were going to be some consequences, and that was going to be one we would have to face in some manner. So, yes, recognize.

**T. Arado:** It’s also the safety for those individuals. They have their luggage. They’re not folks with nothing. There’s a lot of stuff, so the shelter would have to be a significant size to provide appropriate accommodation for them, because the parking garage gives them that shelter. And just in the planning, it’s five-six people with luggage, a little different than running to catch the Huskie bus.

**J. Heckmann:** I understand your concern, yep. We’ll have to see what really is reasonable and what we can do at that point.

**T. Arado:** Thank you.

**J. Heckmann:** And then as to the other, we’re going to have to continue to look at the traffic situation coming out of the garage. There is an adjustment time. As people get used to the new normal, if I can use that word, of how they commute, how they exit and enter campus, that’s going to adjust over time. And I think I’ve even seen that in the time that we closed Normal, people have adjusted. So, that traffic pattern is going to continue to evolve a little bit to some point in time.

**T. Arado:** I absolutely agree. It’s the everybody funneling out in that one area that hasn’t really changed, because people had come down Carroll Road to get into campus to the visitor lot, and you have the buses, people that come out of the parking garage that go around it instead, people coming out of the parking garage, the two roads coming from Gabel, DuSable and I don’t even know if that road has a name that’s behind McDonald’s and the apartments. It’s like five points right there that – I’m fine with stop lights, I mean, some sort of controlled mechanism, because it’s five points all gathering and it’s a challenge most days still to do that. But, just something in the whole planning process. I always feel I like to say these things so they’re at least out there. Thank you.
Z. Gill: I might ask for some clarification while you’re here. You mentioned for the hall there that they’re parking in Davis. Where were they parking previously to get to that?

T. Arado: Because Normal Road was there, you could drop somebody off at the door.

Z. Gill: Okay, so they were just using like

T. Arado: They were being dropped off.

Z. Gill: Okay, I just wanted to make sure.

T. Arado: Oh, absolutely, I’m not – you know, if somebody is parking in the garage and making their way there, that’s not something [inaudible]

Z. Gill: Because we can certainly look at appropriate loading zones, and we can [inaudible] that as much as we think is appropriate.

T. Arado: No, it’s people who are unable to get themselves there for whatever reason. We’ve had in the past, individuals who use wheelchairs that weren’t driving.

Z. Gill: Not to belabor it, but the real prize here was at Lucinda, that we allow that path to go straight through without interrupting it. Everything else is a bonus, and the university can largely drive what the amount of that bonus is. I mean, we would still, we want to have the excellent space we have now, but there’s no hard rule, hey, you can’t go more than 30 feet, oh no. We’ll find what works.

T. Arado: And I agree, the food trucks are great. I love seeing the students, it really is an awesome thing.

Z. Gill: And when we do count our intersections every year, they get counted every year. So, we use that as a tool to adjust those signals. Now that is a signal on a state route, so there’s a little bit of give-and-take with them. But when we have things like this study to show numbers, to show our traffic alterations, that’s how we justify with them, hey, we’re extending some green left-turn time, we’re going to up the frequency of certain turnover of certain things. So, yep, we have the tools to study it, but – sometimes we need you to do it – we don’t know where everyone’s going after school. We only know they started here. We don’t know who’s going where. So, we need to see a little bit of that behavior.

T. Arado: Thank you, I appreciate you coming today.

C. English: You made some mention of allowing the pedestrian access for the intersection crossings. I know that, especially for business students and engineering students, a large crossing, especially since most of them live south – or that way – on campus. How extensive will those be, or what will those paths be, if we know at this time?

Z. Gill: Clarify where?
C. English: Going from Patterson, Stevenson, Neptune, all those house most of our students. A large percentage of those students then have to walk to Anderson Hall, the Music Building, the Engineering Building, Barsema Hall. So, it’s a large transition of students from this side of campus, through this intersection, down to that side of campus. And I know you talked about some pedestrian walkarounds. Can you be a little bit more explicit about what those are, because it’s a large volume of students, and it looked like it was all going under construction. So, I just wanted to know where they would be suggested to walk.

Z. Gill: You talking about just during the construction or long-term?

C. English: Long term, I’m assuming they would use the pedestrian facilities there. I’m talking about during construction.

Z. Gill: That’s what we were really trying to facilitate was that they have uninterrupted access. During construction, typically something like that, it will just slightly be offset. So, there will probably be some sort of a temporary type facility. And what you see, there may be just five to 10 feet south of what you see here. And we simply set up our work zone. We work, and when we’re done, we then turn it over to the public. Again, I’ll have to see these – the contractors, there are different things we call method of traffic. This intersection will be closed very tightly. It won’t go past Holmes or won’t go past the police station entrance. But with this closed, there’s no reason they couldn’t maybe go to the north side and across, because there literally is no other traffic in there, it’s closed, and then flip them back. That’s a lot of times what we do even in a conventional intersection. We just have to do kind of one corner at a time and keep flopping people around until they’re all fully constructed.

M. Pasley: My name is Molly Pasley; I’m a professor here in the Special and Early Education Department, specifically in visual disabilities. I am a certified orientation and mobility specialist, so I have personal and professional stake in this, because I teach people who are blind how to cross streets. Thank you for taking into account a number of the things that you’ve mentioned as far as accessibility features are concerned. The first question I have is: Are you currently consulting with anybody who specializes in accommodations for people with vision loss? Or how are you getting that information in terms of which accommodations to select?

Z. Gill: This work was done by a large consulting firm team. They have many resources, including meeting all the ADA standards. We also met with the Disability Resource Center very early on in this process before even choosing this method. My understanding is they were very in support of what we presented to them. So, we looked right here in our own backyard. We spoke to the Disability Resource Center here.

M. Pasley: Okay, thank you. As far as the rectangular rapid flash beacon that you mentioned that I know are on the map there or the picture, are those going to be – I know if you add them to the auditory to let someone who is blind to know that the signal is going on, that that could conflict with the other auditory information. So, is there the option of making that vibrotactile so that, if a person is deaf/blind, that it doesn’t give you that auditory sound, but it could give you some vibration? I guess what is your, how are you accommodating for people with no vision with the RRFBs?
Z. Gill: That’s something that I can look into. Right now, they thought they would be auditory, that, when they were actuated, it would give that announcement of what you’re crossing, that the beacons activated. Again, we’re not building it tomorrow, we’ve got time to research. I’m very happy to look into those things. Those are the type of details we can fold on as we get closer to next spring. Very happy to have you bring that up.

M. Pasley: Okay, great. Another thing now based on the color image, if you look to – if you wouldn’t mind going back, thank you. So, on the right side, or the east side of Lucinda, where you have the pedestrian walkway, to the east of that, it’s gray. I know best practice for roundabouts is, as you’re having that approach, blocking that area off that’s not crossable, would be to include a planter or some kind of a grass line so that a person, who doesn’t have the benefit of vision, can locate that easily without being confused, because a lot of times, that goes straight into the street. Does it make sense what I’m saying?

Z. Gill: I know exactly what you’re talking about.

M. Pasley: Okay. One, is that something that we can add into the plan? And then, two, making sure that it’s low enough so that whatever it is, if a person is a wheelchair user, that they’re not obstructed by whatever is put there to let the blind person know that that’s not a crossable area.

Z. Gill: Yes, certainly. And some of this goes back to when we [inaudible] facilities, obviously, it was quite an investment to build that corner up as to what it is functionally and aesthetically. So, sometimes, we’re hesitant to rip all that out, where you can see it’s in place everywhere else. It was more traditional. If the university has no objection to us continuing that sort of pattern through there, we certainly would. We can make minor adjustments and that sort of thing all together. Yeah?

M. Pasley: Okay, those are all my questions.

Z. Gill: Thank you very much.

T. Hartman: My name is Taylor Hartman, and I work at the university. I’m an instructor representative for the University Council and also the president of the Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities. We were looking at this ahead of time, and I provided an email to you. So, I appreciate you giving all this information today. You checked off many of the questions that I had, and I want to say that I really appreciate you considering those things. The city of DeKalb in the future and NIU will work together to provide accessibility. I think that is awesome, and I want to thank you for that.

Z. Gill: Thank you very much.

B. Creed: Are there any other comments or questions?

M. Pasley: I wanted to tell you that, if you want to consult with anybody, I’d be more than happy to support this project.

B. Creed: I just want to echo the comments from Taylor. I do appreciate, and I think I speak on behalf of everybody here, the careful response and description of the two projects, how they connect, the timeline, the willingness and the desire to come before this body and share and get feedback from campus. I just think it’s welcome and appreciated, so thank you.
L. Freeman: If I can just add to that. I get asked a lot in my role as president what your town/gown relationship is, how do you work with the city of DeKalb. And I always say that I think our relationship has never been better. We cooperate. We’re not afraid to have hard conversations with ourselves. We’re not afraid to own things that could have been done better. And I think this was evidence of that, and I really appreciate the city making time in their schedules to join us.

B. Creed: All right, well, thank you very much for the presentation.

IX. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – report
   Linda Saborío, NIU Representative to FAC-IBHE

B. Creed: That brings us to item IX on our agenda, which are reports from councils, boards and standing committees. The Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, Linda Saborío is not able to be with us today, which is a shame on two points. One, we don’t get to hear her report; and two, we don’t get to say thank you for her time serving in this capacity as this would have been her last report to us as she takes on her new role as chair.

B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – no report
   Felicia Bohanon, Natasha Johnson, Ben Creed
   Larissa Garcia, Karen Whedbee, Brad Cripe

B. Creed: We have no report from either the University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees,

C. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – no report
   Marc Falkoff, Chair

B. Creed: Or the Rules, Governance and Elections Committee.

D. Student Government Association – report
   Chris English, Deputy Speaker of the Senate
   Landon Larkin, SGA Treasurer

B. Creed: Chris, do we have a report from the SGA? Thanks.

C. English: Hello. Those of you who went to Faculty Senate, this is going to be a very similar report. First of all, we’ve had a successful election season where we’ve seen a whole new swath of people elected. For the executive board, we’ve had Ja’kobe Jones elected as president, James Innis elected as vice president, Ethan Pesavento elected as treasurer and Aidan O’Brien elected as student trustee. For the legislative branch, we have had Manny Corpuz elected as speaker. Elections were great, and we had a bunch of new people put into a bunch of new positions, and they’re working on that transition stuff right now.

On the financial front, we’ve given almost $60,000 to 86 different student organizations throughout the year to help support events, fundraisers, meetings, a bunch of different things that bring students together and make this campus great. In addition to that, the legislative side passed over 60 pieces
of resolutions and 30 bills, so in total right around 100 pieces of legislation this session. And we have approved 41 new student orgs. And actually that number has increased since this was written last week to 44 new student orgs. So, we’ve gotten a lot done this year, and we hope to continue that effort going into the future. I don’t know if we do questions? I’ll stand for questions if anyone has any.

B. Creed: Thank you, Chris, and I look forward to working with the new SGA crew in the new academic year.

E. Operating Staff Council – report
Natasha Johnson, OSC President
Jay Monteiro, Tiffany Morris, Sara Richter, Holly Nicholson

B. Creed: Natasha has a report from Operating Staff Council.

N. Johnson: Hi everybody. The Operating Staff Council is looking to hear from NIU chief of police tomorrow on safety and security. We’re also looking to fill our positions for our committees. It has gotten quite difficult since a majority of the council works completely from home, remote. So, we’re looking at updating our bylaws to say that certain, specific committees, like the ones that have Open Meetings Act, you actually have to be here. That way, it’s not just three or four of us doing all of the committees. We’re also looking to work with our PR Committee so that we can come up with some additional activities for team building since a lot of people are on the computer screen versus in the room. We want to make sure that we gather people together so that they understand what the mission is, why we exist and what’s happening. So, that way, we can keep strengthening the relationships. And then we’re just looking forward to the end of the year. We do have elections going on right now, so we will be doing all of our elections, figuring out who the next folks will be and the committee, getting them acquainted, helping them understand what we do at the university as a whole. And then we’re just looking forward to getting a little bit of relaxation as we wind down to the end of the semester. There is light at the end of the tunnel for those of us who are pounding the [inaudible]. That’s what we have, thank you.

B. Creed: Thank you, Natasha.

F. Supportive Professional Staff Council – report
Felicia Bohanon, SPSC President
Tom O’Grady, Shannon Stoker, Christina Sutcliffe

B. Creed: Next up is Felicia sharing an SPS Council report.

F. Bohanon: We have many of the same issues. We had a successful end of the year awards program. We had a great turnout. We were really pleased with that. We recently ended nominations for SPS Council president, as well as nominations. And those elections will be taking place starting next week. And we’ll have one additional activity for the end of the academic year for both, basically, for campus, in general. And then next Thursday, we also have a wellness program, and that will be on the calendar, basically, dealing with wellness and how to deal with stress. So, those are things that we have upcoming. Thank you.

B. Creed: Thank you, Felicia.
X. 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**, Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
G. **Minutes**, General Education Committee
H. **Minutes**, Graduate Council
I. **Minutes**, Honors Committee
J. **Minutes**, Operating Staff Council
K. **Minutes**, Supportive Professional Staff Council
L. **Minutes**, University Assessment Panel
M. **Minutes**, University Benefits Committee
N. **Minutes**, University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure
O. **Minutes**, Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE
P. **2024-25 UC schedule:** Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 29, Feb 26, Apr 2, Apr 30
Q. **Spring Commencement**
   Graduate School – Friday, May 10, 4 p.m.
   Undergraduate – CLAS, CEET, CVPA – Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.
   Undergraduate – CEDU, CBUS, CHHS – Saturday, May 11, 2 p.m.

**B. Creed:** Before we go into information items, I just want to say thank you to this body for submitting questions and for doing the work this year, not just for the Normal Road conversation, but generally the service to this body over this academic year, as this will be our last meeting of the academic year.

That brings us to informational items. A through O are the standard ones, the minutes and the Policy Library. Item P, I just mentioned this is the last meeting of the academic year, so don’t show up in a month. I guess you’re welcome to, but nobody else will be here, hopefully.

And then we have spring commencement, and I do want to just take a moment to celebrate all the work of the people here, the students that we support and we work with and we work for, to getting a number of students to that, both graduate and undergraduate students. So, if you are able to participate in commencement to show that final support on the way out for the families, for the students, for those who come to support them, that would be welcome, and the dates are there.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**B. Creed:** With that, I will take a motion for adjournment. Johnson, a second? Thank you, Jay. All in favor?

**Members:** Aye.

**B. Creed:** Thank you all.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.