Minutes
Operating Staff Council
January 5, 2017
Sky Room – 9:00 A.M.


Absent: Stacey Bivens, Angela Bollinger, Leah Davis, Angelica Gutierrez-Vargas, Colleen Leonard, Pamela Pittman, Carlos Raices

Guests: Sarah Klaper, Greg Long, Andy Small, Rhonda Wybourn

I. Call to Order
President Nicholson called the regular meeting of the OSC to order at 9:06 A.M.

II. Roll Call
Attendance was recorded by Monteiro, acting Secretary.

III. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Wielert to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Andree and passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of November 3, 2016, minutes
A motion was made by Liberty-Baczek to accept the amended December 1, 2016 minutes. The motion was seconded by Brown and passed by unanimous vote.

V. Treasurer’s Report
No report, but it was mentioned that the only expense was the November meeting catering fee.

VI. Visiting Committees/Guests – None

VII. Public Comment – None

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence
Long announced that he was meeting with President Baker today (1/5/17). One of the items on his agenda was discussion of how faculty and staff felt about the letter the President released on December 22 that discussed reviews of complaints regarding procurement practices. Small suggested that OSC make a written formal response. There was discussion about to whom the letter should be addressed. Hulseberg suggested that rather than writing a letter that OSC should invite the President to OSC. Nicholson will write a statement addressing the President’s e-mail to give to the President, as well as ask OSC members to submit questions to be given to the President ahead of time. Long also asked for feedback of the new centralized printing program. Pros and cons were discussed.

IX. President’s Reports
A. Board of Trustees – The Board met on 12/15/16. IBHE’s budget request included $91 million for NIU for operations (equal to FY15), $59 million for NIU capital renewal, $473 million for MAP and $36 million to fund veteran/national guard grants (previously unfunded).
   There has been a decline in the proportion of students eligible to receive MAP grants and the grants only cover 30% of tuition in fees (down from 100% in 2002).
   Approximately 34,000 college students left Illinois last year to attend out-of-state universities, and only ~17,000 students came to Illinois from other states leaving a ~17,000 student net migration.
   The report from the merit board mentioned a work-study committee formed to review employee benefits. The sick leave policy was expanded. JCAR ruled that any furloughs would be subject to collective bargaining and would not be imposed unilaterally.
   There was a lengthy discussion about differential tuition and strategies going forward.
   The whistleblower policy has been updated.
   Board reports and audio recordings can be found on the BOT website.

B. Faculty Senate – Did not meet.

C. Supportive Professional Staff Council (SPSC) – No report.
D. University Council – Did not meet.

X. Committee Reports

A. Council of Councils Ad Hoc Committee – No report.

B. Elections and Appointments – Did not meet.

C. Employee Morale – Kozumplik stated that the committee had discussed the possibility of employees receiving their birthday as a paid day off. The committee will talk about this more, as no details had been considered.

D. Executive Committee – Did not meet.

E. Legislative Committee – No report.

F. Public Relations/Activities – Andree stated that the Giving Project was going to continue through April and that yarn and crochet hooks are needed. Students are enjoying the items made. The group is looking for plastic shopping bags to make the plastic tote bags that are being used at the Huskie Food Bank. Andre also reported that the OSC Dependent Scholarship is now in Academic Works and that there are currently 11 applicants for the scholarship.

G. Workplace Issues – Did not meet and no report. Comments were made about the new Building Service Worker attendance policy and Jesse Perez will be contacted for clarification. Comments were also made about the Employee handbook still not being on line. Small suggested reviewing with HR and comparing to Merit Board e-mail changes. Wybourn suggested comparing NIU Board Regulations to Merit Board e-mail and commented that NIU’s policies are probably more beneficial to employees than Merit Board policies.

H. Administrative Professionals Advisory Council (APAC) – Did not meet.

I. Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) – Did not meet.

J. University Advisory Committee – Did not meet.
XI. **Prior Business** – None

XII. **New Business** – None

XIII. **Adjournment**
    A motion was made by Brown to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cabrera and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Monteiro, acting Secretary
Operating Staff Council