President’s Corner

Greetings Operating Staff,

I’m excited to have been elected to represent you all for another term as president of the Operating Staff Council (OSC). Joining me on the executive committee this year are Jeffry Royce (Holmes Student Center), vice president; Stacey Bivens (University Libraries), secretary; Patricia Wielert (College of Education), treasurer; and Jay Monteiro (College of Visual and Performing Arts), parliamentarian. Please feel free to reach out to us.

There are a lot of ways each of you can get involved in shared governance at NIU. Be sure to watch the Monday Morning Announcements for news of university committees that need civil service employee representation. You can also join an Operating Staff Council subcommittee, attend one of our public monthly meetings and run for OSC membership in the spring.

I hope you are having a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you all Aug. 9 at the annual Civil Service Celebration.

Holly Nicholson, president
Operating Staff Council, 2018-2019

New Money Purchase Factors Effective Date Set by Surs

The Surs Board of Trustees recently set the effective date for changes to the Money Purchase factors as July 2, 2019. The changes to the factors are a result of a recent actuarial experience study which recommended a reduction of the assumed rate of investment return and updated mortality tables to reflect an overall increased life expectancy. An actuarial experience study is required by state statute at least once every three years.

The board voted in March to reduce the long-term assumed rate of investment return from 7.25 percent to 6.75 percent. This rate impacts money purchase factors used in calculating retirement benefits. When Surs calculates a retirement benefit, all eligible calculation types are performed and the annuity is based on the calculation that provides the highest benefit. For members retiring on or after July 2, 2019, under the Money Purchase formula, the change in Money Purchase factors will result in an average five to six percent downward adjustment in their monthly annuity. Members can offset the adjustment by delaying retirement by approximately six to seven months for active participants and nine months for inactive participants.

The changes to the Money Purchase factors will not affect:

• Current annuitants.
• Survivor benefit recipients.
• Self-Managed Plan members.
• Members who began participation on or after July 1, 2005.
• Members whose benefit is highest under the General Formula calculation.

Retirement calculations are unique to each individual member. For this reason, Surs encourages all members who are considering retirement in the next two years and who might be affected by the Money Purchase factor changes to log in to their personal account on the Surs member website and utilize the benefit estimator. By calculating estimates for retirement dates before and after the July 2, 2019, effective date, members can gain a clearer picture of how the factor changes could impact benefits.

For more information, visit surs.org.
**Dana Hughes Receives the 2018 Patricia S. Siebrasse Administrative Professionals Award**

She might tell you otherwise, but recognition for Dana Hughes was long overdue.

Hughes, administrative assistant in the Graduate School, recently received the 2018 Patricia S. Siebrasse Administrative Professionals Award for Excellence. The award goes to someone who demonstrates continued commitment and operational efficiency within their organization and provides meaningful contributions to NIU.

“I was honored to receive the award, and I was just humbled to even be standing up there with the other nominees, along with Pat Siebrasse,” Hughes said.

Hughes has worked at NIU for more than 25 years in various administrative professional classifications. She first came to NIU in January 1992 as a secretary in the Foreign Languages and Literatures department. She joined the Graduate School team about seven years ago.

Why hasn’t she been honored sooner?

In the words of one of her colleagues who recommended her for the award, “Well, it’s because every one of us who has broached the topic of an award nomination with her has been met with friendly threats, and that says something deeply important about Dana’s commitment to her job.”

“She comes to work every day thinking about how she can do her job well and improve the operational effectiveness of her office, but she doesn’t do any of it for external recognition,” the letter goes on to say. “She does it all simply for the sake of the job itself and she deserves recognition for it, whether she’s comfortable receiving it or not.”

The nominator wrote about never being disappointed upon hiring Hughes.

“Dana plays the role of an office partner—a collaborator, co-conspirator and colleague. Her role is a high-stress role. There are about 4,500 graduate students, nearly 9,000 applicants a year and almost 700 graduate faculty who teach those students. Dana’s role is by far the most responsible and stressful of any. She is relied upon to serve as the assistant to the dean.”

Another letter writer said Hughes has served with distinction NIU’s largest college, which encompasses 18 departments, five centers and one division. It, by far, has the largest faculty and the highest student enrollment of any college on campus.

The letter writer wrote, “If you’re looking for ‘meaningful contributions to NIU,’ there you have them. No contributions could be more meaningful than those.”

---

**Work/Life Balance Starts with the First Step**

As the fall semester rapidly approaches, it’s important to remember to take time to take care of yourself. This could mean committing to walking more, taking a yoga class, swimming laps in the pool, laughing it up on the basketball court with NIU colleagues, meeting with a trainer to assess your fitness needs or meeting with a nutrition counselor. A FitWell membership can offer you all of this and more. Better yet, it’s right here at NIU and payable with payroll deduction.

**Convenience**

Take advantage of seven different facilities that have a variety of amenities including multipurpose courts, state-of-the-art cardio and weight rooms, swimming pool, fitness studios, locker rooms, saunas, racquetball courts, outdoor turf fields, outdoor softball and baseball fields, indoor tennis, and more. Our facilities offer a variety of privacy levels with some facilities being adult, non-student only.

Facilities include: Student Recreation Center, Chick Evans Field House, Outdoor Recreation Sports Complex, Anderson Hall Pool and Fitness Rooms, New Hall Fitness Room, Gilbert Fitness Room, and Gabel Hall Fitness Room.

**Cost Effective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>NIU Affiliate (faculty, staff, alumni, retirees)</th>
<th>Community (includes significant other)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual (valid one year from date of purchase)</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall AND Spring</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>$114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall OR Spring</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bring Your Children**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent</th>
<th>Any age up to 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall, Spring, or Summer</td>
<td>$30 per dependent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$60 per dependent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Contact Recreation and Wellness for more information about Family Hours and facility access.

---

**Comprehensive**

All memberships include:

- Unlimited Group Fitness classes.
- A free locker (dependent upon availability).
- Towel service at the SRC and Anderson Hall.
- One free personal training orientation/assessment.
- Free equipment orientation.
- One free nutrition coaching session.
- One free physical fitness assessment and exercise prescription.

Walk-in registration will be held at Anderson Hall, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 23 and 24.

For more information or to register, visit go.niu.edu/FitWell.

For additional questions or to request a free trial pass, contact the Associate Director of Programs, Chrissy Tluczek, at ctluczek@niu.edu

---

**Employment Changes**

**MAY 2018**

**Welcome New Employees**

- Mark Andres, Steam and Power Plant I—Heating Plant
- Susan Brandenburg, Payroll Specialist II—Human Resource Services
- Ewa Czaplinska, Building Service Worker—Building Services
- Darby Fisher, Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
- Mangaiah Garikapati, IT Manager/Administrative Coordinator—DoIT-Admin-Finance-Business
- Like Hasek, Assistant Equal Opportunity Officer—Human Resource Services
- Jason Hayward, Program Adviser—Curriculum and Instruction
- Latrice Hudson, IT Support Associate—Operations Services
Lyndsey Johnson, Human Resource Associate
—Human Resource Services
Sarah Kimball, Accounting Associate—Controller
Ryley Martin, Police Officer—Public Safety
Tyler Miles, Security Guard—Public Safety
Symone Scott, Security Guard—Public Safety
George Smith, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Andrew Sotomayor, Police Officer—Public Safety
Rickey Sparks, Procurement Officer Supervisor—Procurement and Strategic Sourcing
Prasanna Vijaykumar, Staff Nurse I—Health Services
Donald Wronkowski Jr., Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
Liao Ying, Staff Nurse I—Health Services

Changes
Laverne Beasley to Office Administrator—College of Health and Human Sciences
Denise Frakes to Cashier—Campus Parking
Marcy Kalvelage to Clerk—Bursar
Joshua Klassen to Building Service Foreman—Building Services
Ryan Maloney to Admissions/Records Representative—Admissions Systems and Processing
Duane Piller to Financial Aid Adviser Coordinator—Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Jeffry Royce to University Union Night Supervisor—Holmes Student Center
Terrence Tate to Building Service Foreman—Building Services

Death
William Keda, Systems Programmer—Application Services

Department Changes
Jennifer Beasley, Clerk to Public Safety
Sonja Fagan, Office Support Specialist to Admissions Tours and Events
Leah Freeman, Office Support Associate to Admissions Tours and Events
Cheryl Fuller, Office Support Specialist to Sociology
John Gianatasio Jr., Information Technology Associate Director to Admissions CRM
Benjamin Gonzales, Building Service Worker to Building Services
Joseph Merritt, IT Technical Associate to Development Administration
Pamela Roesner, Administrative Aide to Development Operations
Joan Smola, Office Support Specialist to Counseling, Adult and Higher Education
Maureen Wallace, Account Technician to Holmes Student Center Administration
Jean Williams, Cashier III to Bursar

Retirements
Denis Bearrows, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Elisha Byrd III, Building Service Foreman—Building Services
Michael Engelman, Building Service Worker—Holmes Student Center
Teresa Gibble, Office Support Specialist—Military Student Services
Charles Jones, Building Service Worker—Holmes Student Center
Gerald Keating, Traffic Manager—Materials Management
Sheila McHugh, Chief Clerk—DoIT-Admin-Finance-Business
Donald Turk, Retail Manager—Holmes Student Center
Frances Vincent, Culinary Worker II—Campus Dining Services
Mary Wyard, IT Support Associate—Operations Services

Separations
Krista Albers, Program Assistant—Development Operations
John Bender, IT Support Associate—Housing and Residential Services
Julie Bower, Telephone Operator II—eSports Network
Joel Cochrane, Facilities Manager—University Libraries
John Gianatasio Jr., Information Technology Associate Director—Admissions CRM
Shelly Hamlin-Rodrick, Office Support Associate—English
Cheryl Henert, Administrative Clerk—Development Operations
Nicholas Jones, Program Adviser—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
David Long, Business/Administrative Associate—Holmes Student Center
Erica Newman, Retail Associate—Holmes Student Center
Jason Redd, Residence Hall Attendant—Public Safety
Elizabeth Schwartz, Program Services Specialist—Human Resource Services
Kelli Vogler, Retail Assistant Manager—Holmes Student Center
Liao Ying, Staff Nurse I—Health Services

June 2018
Welcome New Employees
Oliver Camacho, Program Adviser—CHANCE Program
Christopher Collins, Building Service Worker—Building Services
James Cooper, Program Coordinator—Office of Student Engagement
Eric Estes, Superintendent of Operations—Regional Center Operations
Sarah Gingrich, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Paul Knigge, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Anastasia Kocher, Program Coordinator—Center for South East Asian Studies
Keith Lessert, Information Technology Director—Operations Services
Colette Mahler, Program Adviser—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Karen Pickett, Grants and Contracts Associate—Sponsored Programs Administration
Jeffrey Rexroat, IT Support Associate—Infrastructure Services
Lisa Scott, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Freddy Segura, Cartographer—Geography
Matthew Smith, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Joanne Thomas, Food Service Chef—Campus Dining Services
Gina Unger, Office Support Associate—Family and Consumer Sciences
David VanGorder, IT Technical Associate—University Libraries
Geoffrey Walls, Building Service Worker—Building Services
India Washington, Program Adviser—CHANCE Program
Mary Werman, Financial Aid Adviser Coordinator—Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

Changes
Rebekka Ayres to Special Events Facilitator—Holmes Student Center
Laverne Boyle to Office Administrator—College of Health and Human Sciences
Chelsea Duis to Administrative Assistant—President’s Office
Matthew Gonzalez to Sports Facilities Manager—Intercollegiate Athletics
John Kearsing to IT Manager/Administrative Coordinator—DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
Patricia Kee to Administrative Aide—Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations
Brenda Kehm to Office Manager—Curriculum and Instruction
Sandra McCartney to Administrative Assistant—Facilities Management
Lene Scherer to program Coordinator—Research Compliance, Integrity and Safety
Darius Sias to Human Resource Representative—Human Resource Services
Kimberly Whalen to Assistant Information Technology Manager—Vice Provost
Kim Wilson to Office Manager—Nursing

Department Changes
Angelica Gutierrez-Vargas, Assistant Equal Opportunity Officer to Chief Diversity Officer
Like Hasek, Assistant Equal Opportunity Officer to Chief Diversity Officer
Shari Smell-Drilling, Office Administrator to Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Susan Swegle, Training and Development Specialist I to Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Retirements
Kathleen Carey, Administrative Assistant II—President’s Office
Jeffrey Chandler, Food Service Sanitation Laborer—Holmes Student Center
Sofia Komitas, Culinary Worker I—Campus Dining Services
Marsha Miller, Chief Clerk—Holmes Student Center
Pamela Pittman, Food Service Sanitation Laborer—Holmes Student Center
Patti Schoo, Culinary Worker III—Campus Dining Services
Gendi Shi, Dishroom Supervisor—Holmes Student Center
Jodi Vogeler, Retail Assistant Manager—Holmes Student Center
James Wayman, Retail Assistant Manager—Holmes Student Center
Janie Wilson-Cook, Multimedia Communications Specialist—School of Art and Design
Diane Wrigley, Staff Nurse II—Health Services

Separations
Casey Bahnick, Culinary Worker III—Holmes Student Center
Michelle Batty, Program Adviser—Intercollegiate Athletics
David Bauer, Storekeeper I—Holmes Student Center
James Cardine, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Cameron Clinton-Earl, Program Adviser—Student Athlete Academic Support Services
Jennifer Collins, IT Manager/Administrative Coordinator—DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
Jocelyn Cunz, Maid—Holmes Student Center
Dina Fowler, Office Manager—Educational Technology, Research and Assessment

Matthew Hoffman, Business/Administrative Associate—Illinois Board of Examiners
Christopher Holmes, Security Guard—Public Safety
Justin Kline, IT Support Associate—Operation Services
William Montgomery, Business Manager I—Career Services
Daniel Phalen, Food Service Administrator II—Campus Dining Services
Christopher Poole, Television Director/Producer—Communication
Ecila Scaife, Child Development Supervisor—Family and Consumer Sciences
Ryan Sims, Residence Hall Attendant—Public Safety
George Smith, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Matthew Smith, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Jaquida Wynn, Child Development Supervisor—Child Development and Family Center
Shareta Young, Clerk—Bursar

Service Awards

May 2018
5 Years
Marcia Brown—University Honors Program
Michael Christensen—Physical Plant
Patrick Hickey—Physical Plant
Craig Mulligan—College of Business

10 Years
Jacque Brown—Holmes Student Center
Menelek Shaw—Public Safety

15 Years
Denise Hake—Campus Dining Services

20 Years
Patrick Bernhardt—Operation Services
Tatita Kaus—College of Law
Larry Metcalf—Chemistry and Biochemistry
Jay Monteiro—College of Visual and Performing Arts

25 Years
George Raetzke—Infrastructure Services

June 2018
5 Years
Faiza Aslam—Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Matthew Gonzalez—Intercollegiate Athletics
Justin Kline—Operation Services
Lisa Smith—Gift Planning
Aaron Sturtz—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

10 Years
Karen Eaton—Disability Resource Center
Beatrice Keeken—Mechanical Engineering
Lisa Williams—Integrated Media Technologies

15 Years
Shawna Kahn—Building Services
Frederick Schwantes—Facilities Management
Joseph Thomas—University Libraries

20 Years
Julie Edwards—University Legal Services
Lynda Thomas—Operation Services

25 Years
Michele French—Physical Plant
Steven Miklasz—Campus Dining Services

30 Years
Cheryl Fuller—Sociology