

9-13-2017

## UC Transcript 2017-09-13

Northern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://huskiecommons.lib.niu.edu/ua-univcouncil>

---

### Recommended Citation

Northern Illinois University, "UC Transcript 2017-09-13" (2017). *University Council Archives*. 19.  
<https://huskiecommons.lib.niu.edu/ua-univcouncil/19>

This Transcript is brought to you for free and open access by the Administration & Leadership Archives at Huskie Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Council Archives by an authorized administrator of Huskie Commons. For more information, please contact [jschumacher@niu.edu](mailto:jschumacher@niu.edu).

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING TRANSCRIPT**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 3 p.m.**  
**Holmes Student Center Sky Room**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andree, Arado, Barnhart, Bateni (for Carlson), Bishop, Boughton, G. Chen, J. Chen, Chitwood, Chung, Click, Cordes, Doederlein, Freeman, Haji-Sheikh, Hathaway, Hunt, Jacob, Krmeneč, Ledgerwood, Lesnicki, Maddali, Martin, McCord, Millhorn, Milot, Mogren, Naples, Newman, Patro, Penrod, Pluim, Powell (for Scherer), Prabhaker (for Rajagopalan), Rheineck, Saborío, Schmidt, Shi, Siblik (for Kassel), Song, Staikidis, Tahernezhadī (for Peterson), Thu, Torres, Walker (for Elish-Piper), Wang, Wilson

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Baker, Block, Bond, Briscoe, Carlson, Elish-Piper, Flores, Hernandez, Kassel, Nicholson, Peterson, Rajagopalan, Scherer, Stephen, Ward

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Blazey, Bryan, Gelman, Heckmann, Jensen, Klaper, Small, Wesener Michael

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Kortegast, Pinkelton, Stoddard

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**L. Freeman:** Wow, I get to use the gavel, so consider that your call to order. Welcome to the first University Council meeting of this 2017-18 academic year.

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**L. Freeman:** Item II is move to adoption of the agenda, so can I have such a motion.

**W. Penrod:** Move to adopt.

**L. Freeman:** And is there a second?

**C. Doederlein:** Second.

**L. Freeman:** All right. All in favor, please say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Freeman:** Opposed same sign. All right, I will consider the agenda adopted.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2017 MEETING**

**L. Freeman:** Item III is approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2017 meeting. May I have a motion?

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** So moved.

**L. Freeman:** Thank you. Second?

**T. Martin:** Second.

**L. Freeman:** Thank you. Any comments, corrections? Hearing none, move to approve, all in favor?

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Freeman:** Opposed same sign? All right.

#### **IV. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**L. Freeman:** Then we get to move on to the president's announcements. And this is my first University Council meeting as the acting president, and I want to start out by just saying, it's really wonderful to see everybody.

This has always been my favorite time of year. I love the fall weather, and I love fall sports, and I really love the positive energy that accompanies the beginning of every academic year. And I want to share with you that, at every meeting and event that I've had the opportunity to attend as the acting president, I felt that positive energy: at meetings of our shared governance groups and presidential commissions, at alumni gatherings, at arts and athletic events, at community events, move-in, Welcome Days, Family Weekend. And I think it's that sense of family, of us as an extended Huskie family that is both caring and committed to one another, that is one of the best aspects of NIU. And it's always worth of celebration.

It's also what compels us as Huskies to continue to work together to support those among us who are facing particular challenges. And in that spirit, I want to start out with a few compliments. I want to compliment the ways that our faculty, staff and students, and members of the larger community, have come together to support our undocumented students and to advocate for legislative relief at the state and national level. Tomorrow at the Board of Trustees meeting, there will be a presentation by some of our DACAdmented students, and there will be a resolution of support by the board.

I also want to compliment Student Affairs and the Student Association for the #No Shame campaign that they are undertaking to frame mental illness as a public health problem and to let members of our communities know that it's okay to ask for help. And I know that the S.A. representatives will be telling us more about that, both today and in the weeks to come. Once again our students are leading the way and showing leadership on an issue that challenges all campuses and communities. So kudos to you guys.

Finally, I want to show gratitude to the staff in International Programs, Athletics and Student Affairs, who have been providing support and resources to the 44 students whose families were

impacted by the weather events that affected Texas, Florida and the Caribbean. And I also want to ask David Walker from the College of Education to come to the microphone and tell us how we can help support their Education U.S. partners in the Houston Unified School District. And Pat will be showing you a link at the same time.

**Houston Independent School District** – <http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/164281>

**D. Walker:** Thank you. My name is David Walker. I'm associate dean in the College of Education. I'm here on behalf of Dean Elish-Piper who couldn't make it. As most of us have seen online, on TV or witnessed in person the devastation affiliated with Hurricane Harvey, the Houston Independent School District is the seventh largest school district in the United States. It has about 215,000 students and about 287 schools. Of the 215,000 students, 75 percent are classified as coming from low-income homes.

The College of Education has a long-standing relationship with Houston Independent Schools. For about four or five years now, we've employed our Educate U.S. program, which is a fully 100 percent donor-funded program. We give the opportunity every academic year in January for 40 of our best and brightest student teachers to go to Houston Public Schools, teach alongside teachers and administrators their students for an entire week. Essentially, they live the life of an educator. They live with these teachers, they live with families, and they live with the administrators. And having done the evaluations for this program, I can tell you it's a unique and phenomenal program for NIU and certainly for the College of Education.

It's become apparent to us in the College of Education with our contacts back at the Houston Public Schools that a lot of the students that our students impacting teacher learn alongside with, and their families, are suffering. A lot of them are renters that had no renter insurance, and essentially they've lost everything. So if you could donate, you can go here and help out the families and the students. You know, these are colleagues and partners, but more than that, we've all been involved a long time, they're our friends. These people are our friends, and they're in need. And this is a long-term, as you know, effect on the students and the parents in the community. We're hoping we can send our 40 students again this January to teach and learn alongside the students of the Houston Public School District.

If you have any questions for me, David Walker, my email is [dawalker@niu.edu](mailto:dawalker@niu.edu), I'd be happy to answer them or interact with you. Thank you.

**L. Freeman:** Thank you for making us aware of that opportunity. I know many people here want to do something, and it was great that we can make them aware of an opportunity if they so choose, to help fellow Huskies who have been impacted by Harvey.

So today, the day after the 10-day count comes out, I also want to say something about our fall enrollment, and I want to say there's reason for optimism. There's good news. A three percent increase in new freshmen after a number of years of decline and decades-highs in GPA, 3.28, and in our overall retention rate. And these were achieved as our undergraduate diversity continued to increase. In NIU's official statement, I shared that we're excited to see improvement in these areas despite the challenging times and that the positive results should be attributed to contributions from

every corner of the university, and I meant that.

We've been able to attract more qualified students because of the work that's been done to insure the quality of our academic programs and our student experience, to provide students with a safe campus – for those of you who aren't aware, we were just recognized among the top 100 safest colleges in America in a ranking that's based on FBI and National Center for Education statistics crime rate data.

And our grounds folks have done wonders to make our campus look attractive during a time of severe resource constraints. But I think we all recognize there are parts of campus that need significant renovation to remain both functional and attractive for the university community. And there are data that show when parents and students are looking at universities, the physical plant is an important consideration. So we're striving to improve our physical plant in ways that will enhance campus life and grow potential for revenue using funds that can't be invested directly in salary increments or academic programs.

We're also asking Springfield to protect the state investment in our crumbling academic and administrative buildings by providing funds for refresh, repair and renovation. On Tuesday, Senators McGuire and Castro were on campus, and this was a point of discussion. I mentioned to them, frankly, not just my surprise but also my displeasure at learning from a Chicago Tribune article that the state invests in buildings on the campuses of Illinois' well-endowed private universities. I think that inexcusable. Associate Vice President Heckmann also met with senators to make the same point. He showed them pictures of our crumbling classrooms.

In this context, I asked John Heckmann here to show us more aspirational and inspirational images than the ones he showed the senators, images that are related to the Holmes Student Center renovation, something that there's a lot of interest in, and we certainly want to make sure that everybody here is aware of what's going on. So, John.

### **Holmes Student Center and Stevens Building [update](#)**

**J. Heckmann:** Thank you for the opportunity and, if it's not apparent, I am very excited about this project. This is just a 3D rendering. It's kind of hard to really get into the feel of what it's going to look like in the end state, but I will point out that, if you have the opportunity, go to the HSC website, they've got a button up there that I think is entitled Renovations. And you can go down to that page and then click on images, and we'll show you a way of kind of walking around this new corridor that we're going to develop on the ground floor and give you a 3D view of what it's going to look like at different spots. I think that's going to be the best way until we actually get into the construction period to kind of visualize how this is going to turn out and look.

So, let me orientate you a little bit. This is the bus turnaround area where we'll have a transit lounge zone where students can wait for the next bus to show up outside of the weather so they can watch outside the windows and wait for their bus to show up. Right adjacent to that is going to what we call a c-store, a convenience store, a quick kind of grab items, sandwiches and whatever else might be very conveniently taken.

Behind that's going to be a revised bookstore. If you can picture what it looks like right now, that bookstore is on the right-hand side. We're going to shift that away to the interior of the building so we can take advantage of new windows out to MLK Commons, and that's going to bring in nice light, especially during the winter season, a fresh perspective for this whole area. And so as we have a nice wrap-around corridor, I kind of relate it to being mall-like or airport-like in big hallways as we wrap everything around.

And you'll easily be able to find your way back to the Blackhawk Café. We're not going to call it Blackhawk. We're going to change that image to a Huskie sports grille. But how many of you have trouble finding where Blackhawk is? It's not very easy to find your way around in that ground floor. And so that's one of the major redesigns that we're going to do for all of this.

As we turn the corner, you're going to have lots of lounge space. As I come up on the corridor on this side right over here, there's going to be a new entryway direct out to the MLK Commons that doesn't exist right now. And so where the bookstore currently is, all lounge space and a new entryway.

And then we're going to come up where there's going to be a new welcome desk and the hotel reception. And right on the corner there is going to be a great coffee shop. I'm not going to tell you what brand yet. We're still in the process of deciding what the brands are. And once that gets confirmed, we'll come out with some communications on that.

As we turn the corner on the top of the slide up there is where we're going to re-introduce the students back into the Holmes Student Center. Previously when we built the Campus Life Building, that student leadership, Student Association, was pulled to Campus Life. This is going to be an opportunity to bring students back to the Holmes Student Center and really invigorate the life and the attraction for students to come back to HSC.

So that's going to be an open concept. As you walk the hallways there, there's not going to be big walls to say, what's behind that area. It's going to be open hallways there. They'll be able to see into the area, interactive, and have more involvement, I hope, with the Student Association.

As you come around the corner, we're going to have a reinvigorated Huskie Grille, as we're calling it, the old Blackhawk Café, a new entrance that's going to come out to Lucinda. There's an entrance there now, but it doesn't go direct into the ground area. So this is going to be a more direct entrance from Lucinda, and we'll have another restaurant venue at that location as well.

A new addition that's going to be, hopefully, exciting to reinvigorate the Huskie Den, is we're going to have a direct entrance from that grille area down into the Huskie Den. So this is going to be an opportunity for the Holmes staff to bring in venues that they can perform down in the Huskie Den and activate that grille area and make it more inviting for students to want to come over there.

So that's the overall concept of what we're trying to invigorate on the ground floor. It's just a ground floor renovation for the most part, 90 percent of the work is going to be right here. We're going to do our very best to minimize any other disruptions to Holmes so the rest of the building is all going to be open and active. We're not going to close all of Holmes during the construction

period. But this is where most of that activity will take place.

And then on the outside, just to give you a little view, we're going to try to freshen up the landscaping around the corners. But this is going to be new and different. This is where that new entryway into the ground floor is going to exist. So we're going to be re-landscaping and reshaping the overall elevations to that area. And hopefully add a new landscaping image to MLK Commons and make that a little bit more inviting.

And I say this all with the caveat that, hopefully, there's enough money in the budget that we're planning all this. There's always a risk as we enter into the construction period of what our contractors are going to bid, but I'm hoping there's enough money to do all that landscaping and even to the point of reinvigorating the whole bus turnaround and bringing in some new paving and making that a lot smoother for the buses to come into that area.

Then the last project I wanted to talk about is one that's been under construction, unfortunately, for a long time. But it's getting to a point where we're excited about it coming to an end. This has been one that's gone through a lot of challenges. It's been on the books since about 2010 when it got authorized and finally got into construction a number of years ago, but then went through an unfortunate pause in FY16, but not got reinvigorated throughout FY17, and we'll wrap it up in FY18. I'm very confident about that at this point.

So this is where we're going to add a new wing to the Stevens Building. The existing wing is getting renovated. This wing got replaced and totally reconstructed for Anthropology and for the Theatre programs. The Theatre program is going to have a new Black Box Theatre, which I think they're getting very excited about, and a new scene shop area. So that's going to add to what they didn't have in the past, from what I understand.

So where are we at and when's it going to be done is probably in your mind right now. My best prediction at this point – and it's always a difficult thing to understand how things are progressing – but I believe the wings have a very good chance of getting completed around the turn of the calendar year. So I'm hoping that December-January timeframe, they'll be at a point where we can take beneficial occupancy of those wings and start putting people into them. I'm still a little hesitant on that, but that's what I'm predicting at this point. The one area that's going to take a little bit longer to get it done is where we're constructing the new Black Box Theatre and that new entryway into the theatre. That's still under construction; that's the biggest impact that got hit by the pause that we had in FY16. But I'm fully anticipating during the spring semester we'll bring that to a conclusion, and definitely by fall we'll have that fully open. So I'm anxious to see when the theatre has their first performance back in the theatre there.

I'll pause for questions if anyone has any quick for me.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** The original bond at \$12 million for Holmes, and now I'm reading it's \$20 million. Now what projects are not going to get \$8 million? That's something that we ought to know.

**J. Heckmann:** I don't have those details in front of me right now, but that was something that we

went through with the Board of Trustees a while back. It was a number of projects – some of them were focused on reshaping some parking lots. And we felt as we looked at, where's the priority of where money should best go, what would best influence our attraction of students, our retention of students, we felt like we needed to put more money into Holmes. And looking at the desired renovations and what we needed to do in Holmes, \$12 million was not going to go as far as we anticipated. So we re-prioritized that.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** But you did ask to raise parking fees to cover the difference, I think.

**J. Heckmann:** Not to \$12 million difference, or \$8 million difference.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** [inaudible]

**J. Heckmann:** I'm not prepared to talk to the details today. I'm sorry, I'm just not up on those details right now. But yes, we did raise some parking with the intent that we were falling short on keeping up with our maintenance and repairs, yes.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Well that's what I mean. You have \$8 million reshaping parking. Now you're coming back for more money from faculty and staff, that's what I mean.

**J. Heckmann:** Yep, but let me help make an understanding here. That wasn't \$8 million taking away from the parking program, those were bonds. Any bond money needs to be paid back. So if it stayed in the parking program, we still would have had the demand to raise permit fees to pay those bonds back. That's not free money. And so either way, we had to make a choice where we felt it was

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Oh I agree, absolutely. It's just that there's this thing called the bond reserve fund, which is for repairing, it's supposed to be a set-aside for repairing.

**J. Heckmann:** And there is. And for parking, there is a reserve that we set aside, but to make sure there's enough money in there, we felt like we needed to balance our budget overall. And parking permit increases was part of the equation there.

If that's it, thank you very much for the opportunity. Again, try to get excited about these projects. There's not a whole lot of facility issues I can get excited about, but here's a couple right here. So I hope you share that enthusiasm.

**E. Mogren:** When you anticipate the Holmes Student Center being completed?

**J. Heckmann:** Good question. I didn't cover that earlier. So the rough schedule right now, we're anticipating that we want to start construction at the end of the academic year, so in May of 2018 is when we're hoping, as soon as students move out and we can start the shift of people in Holmes to other alternative locations out of that ground floor. And then we're anticipating it's going to be about a year-plus. So we're hoping that August of the following year might be our target completion date.



**L. Freeman:** I'm happy to take questions as well, and I see that Sol Jensen, our vice president of enrollment management, marketing and communications, is in the back row. So if there are enrollment questions, he and I could probably both help with those. Any questions? All right, thank you.

## V. CONSENT AGENDA

**L. Freeman:** At this point, I'm going to ask Linda Saborío, the executive secretary of University Council and Faculty Senate president to take us through the business part of the meeting, starting with Item V, the consent agenda.

**L. Saborío:** Good afternoon everyone. So for the consent agenda, we have four items. Generally, for the consent agenda, there is no discussion unless somebody would like to make a motion to move one item out of the consent agenda. And if not, then we can go ahead and ask for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Do you want me to go through and read them? For A. we have the 2017-18 UC Standing Committee membership rosters. B is the University Advisory Committee to the BOT membership roster. We have Alex Gelman sitting here. He's going to be serving a three-year term. And Mark Riley a one-year term, is filling in for someone who accepted an administrative position. The nominees for C are the senior associate director for Student Involvement and Leadership Development and Associate director for student involvement and leadership development, and student affairs coordinator. And then we have the Ombudsperson Review Committee, which is the review that we do in the fall semester of the last year of the three-year term for the Ombudsperson. Any questions?

Can we have a motion to approve? Okay, Kendall [Thu]. And a second? Thank you, Terry [Bishop]. All in favor?

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Saborío:** Any opposed, sustained? Okay, the consent agenda passes. Should I pass it back to you?

- A. Approve the [2017-18 UC Standing Committee membership rosters](#) per NIU Bylaws Article 2– Page 3
- B. Approve the [2017-18 University Advisory Committee to the BOT membership roster](#), confirming Alex Gelman for a three-year term (2017-20) and Mark Riley for a one-year term (2017-18) per NIU Bylaws, Article 16.4.1.1 – Page 4
- C. Approve nominees, Dain Gotto, Senior Associate Director for Student Involvement & Leadership Development; Morgan Brickley, Associate Director for Student Involvement & Leadership Development; and Kelly Olson, Student Affairs Program Coordinator, to serve on the Student Conduct Board.

D. Establish [Ombudsperson Review Committee](#) per NIU Bylaws, Article 20.5 – Page 5

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. [Temporary appointment timeline waiver request](#) per NIU Bylaws, Article 19.5.2.2  
Katy Saalfeld, Acting Director of Admissions – Pages 6-7

**L. Freeman:** Okay, we'll tag team here. We have nothing under Item VI Unfinished Business. Under New Business, we have a request for a waiver of a temporary appointment timeline for Katy Saalfeld, who is the acting director of admissions. On page 6 and 7, you can see the details related to that request, both the bylaw language and the rationale for waiving the timeline on the temporary appointment. Katy was appointed to the position of acting director of admissions on February 1 of 2017 following a departure of the incumbent of that position. That line reports directly to Sol Jensen who is, himself, new to the position, joining us in June of 2017. So he has requested appropriately more time to consider the search committee and hiring plan. In addition, the current period without extension would have started the search late enough in the normal cycle that it would have impacted the applicant pool in a negative fashion. For that reason, we're asking for an extension. Katy has worked in the Office of Admissions at NIU since 2006 in various roles of increasing responsibility.

Can I have a motion to approve the waiver of timeline?

**J. Siblik:** I'll motion.

**L. Freeman:** I have a motion and I think a second from Wang. Any discussion? All in favor, please say aye.

**Members:** Aye.

**L. Freeman:** Opposed same sign? Abstentions? All right, thank you.

## VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Paul Stoddard – report

**L. Freeman:** We will now move on to the reports from councils, boards and standing committees. And I'll ask Linda to take us through the reports.

**L. Saborío:** The first report is from Paul Stoddard, but I don't see him here, the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE. Paul, are you here, and I just don't see you? No.

B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – no report  
Barbara Andree, Catherine Doederlein, Alex Gelman,  
Mark Riley, Linda Saborío, Kendall Thu

- C. Academic Policy Committee – Terry Bishop, Chair – no report
- D. Resources, Space and Budget Committee – Jim Wilson, Chair – no report
- E. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – Therese Arado, Chair – no report
- F. University Affairs Committee – Reed Scherer, Chair – no report
- G. Student Association – Rachel Jacob, President; Christine Wang, Speaker of the Senate – report

**L. Saborío:** Not a lot of reports today, it's the first meeting. Next we have Student Association, and they are here.

**R. Jacob:** Hello everyone. I just want to introduce myself, my name is Rachel Jacob. I am a senior double major in history and political science with a minor in Southeast Asian studies. And I'm currently serving as the Student Association president for this year. This is my third year involved in the Student Association. I previously served as the director of academic affairs my sophomore year, and then vice president last year. I spent my whole summer in Indonesia at the University of Milan under a State Department Critical Language scholarship, so still trying to get caught up a little bit.

So what I have to report to you guys today is that we actually have a meet-and-greet for the Student Association leaders from both the executive and the legislative branches. That's going to be September 20, it's next Wednesday, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Campus Life Building. So if any of you are interested in meeting any of the student government leaders, please come out. We would love to meet all of you. We also have free food.

And we released a statement last week in favor of our DACA students. We as a Student Association are working very hard to see what we can do maybe to start privately-funded scholarships, just to make sure that all students on campus know that we are here to support them, and that we are going to do everything in our power to know that they can always come to us with any concerns that they may have.

This week Speaker Wang and I also met with two state legislators from Illinois. We met with Senator Castro and Senator McGuire on this Monday, and we discussed student loans, MAP grants and DACA, as well. It was kind of a quick meeting; we only had about 20 minutes, but we tried to see what we could do and what we could inform them on based on our priorities.

And then we also have plans to return to Springfield this year to continue lobbying for MAP grants, DACA students and things like that.

And then the last thing is we are going to be discussing our No Shame Campaign, which President Freeman had already mentioned, but we'll discuss that after Christine gives her report from the senate side. Does anyone have any questions for me?

**C. Wang:** Hello everyone. Some of you may remember me from last year, because this is my second term, but just to re-introduce myself, my name is Christine Wang. I am a double major in human resource management and political science with a minor in Spanish. I'm a senior, and I was also away from Illinois this summer. I was in D.C. interning for Congresswoman Cheri Bustos. I really loved it. This will be my fourth year in S.A., so I'm very excited to see where this takes me. But we have a couple of things.

Our first meeting actually a retreat was held this Sunday, on the 10<sup>th</sup>. It was very successful. I want to say thank you to Acting President Freeman for coming out, both to the retreat and to the actual meeting to talk about, first of all to introduce herself and to welcome the senators, and then also to talk about what's been going on and give us a little bit of a transparent look at what's happening with NIU. It's been a bit interesting this summer in case you guys weren't aware. Dr. Wesener Michael as well for coming out to also close our meeting and to talk about what she's also been up to as well. It looks like a really good group this year, I'm very excited to work with them this year.

I actually served on the panel for Jesse Jackson when he came out. It was a really great discussion on civil discourse, and it was very well received by the students. President Jacob and I also met with Mayor Smith to discuss a collaboration between the NIU Student Association and the City of DeKalb. We talked a lot about homecoming and how we can actually improve relations between the City of DeKalb and S.A. for that event going forward.

We also talked about the Annie Glidden North Corridor Task Force, and actually we met on September 6 with the City of DeKalb, the city manager, to talk about that issue. And Jason Michnick from City of DeKalb will be speaking to the senate on this Sunday, which will be the 17<sup>th</sup>, which will be looking into improving living situations for families and students who are living there.

We also were invited to speak with Board of Trustee Wheeler Coleman and Vice Chair Dennis Barsema, so we invited 26 students to speak with them as well. So we talked about certain characteristics, timing and the process of the presidential search.

And then we're also looking into potentially holding an Illinois gubernatorial forum. We are aware that there is one set for October 3; it's not supported by the S.A., although, of course, we definitely will be attending that one. But we want to invite all of the candidates for another one in the spring. The one on October 3 is just the Democratic gubernatorial candidates. So we'll see how that turns out, but we just wanted to put that on your radar.

So with that being said, I wanted to first of all open it up to questions, and then after questions, I wanted to talk about the No Shame Campaign. It's a very big campaign that the both of us are working on. It's very close to our hearts. First of all, are there any questions about anything that I talked about earlier?

Hearing none, I'm going to move on to No Shame Campaign.

**R. Jacob:** Okay, so the No Shame Campaign was actually started two years ago by former President Nate Lupstein. And when he started it, it was at the end of his term so it didn't gain a lot

of traction. But it's something that Christine and I thought would be a very good way for us to kind of focus our terms this year. So this campaign is aimed at de-stigmatizing mental health issues. Our first launch event is going to be tomorrow actually, September 14, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the MLK Commons. So please come by if you can. And basically, we're not going to be just having one event, this is going to be an ongoing series of events this entire year.

**C. Wang:** So as part of that, we worked closely with Counseling and Consultation Services, especially the director of that department, which is Brooke Ruxton. She actually helped with our pledge language, and we're going to be approaching this with two prongs. The first one is awareness, making people aware of the resources on campus for mental health and that it's okay to suffer from mental health issues and to talk about it.

The second thing is policy change. We're going to try to make it easier for those who have mental health issues to seek help and to adjust the academic policy to be more inclusive of those who struggle from mental health issues. If you're not already aware, the academic policy is currently the Disability Resource Center and the academic policy go hand-in-hand, of course, but right now the policy is very much more inclusive of people with physical disabilities and physical illnesses, and so we want to make sure that it also includes mental illness as well.

We will also be supporting forums. We are going to be doing minorities and mental health, for example, community and hazing, suicide prevention, etc. And so that will be ongoing throughout the year. We have a lot of social media that's going on as well.

And then finally on September 21 at 7 p.m. in the Carl Sandburg Auditorium, Counseling and Consultation Services actually sponsored a speaker to come to campus. The speaker is Jordan Burnham, who was a suicide survivor and someone who lives with depression. And there will actually be a student panel afterwards. I will actually be serving on that one and talking about my own experiences as well.

So to end with all of this, we want to recite the pledge together. Our pledge is right here. There will be pledges in MLK Commons tomorrow that you can sign. We would really appreciate it if all faculty, administrators, everyone, students, would come out and support this. This is something again that is very close to our hearts in many different ways. And I'm sure someone you know in your life who you love suffers from mental illness in some way. So with that being said, here is our pledge.

**R. Jacob and C. Wang:** I pledge to see the person, not the condition. I pledge to educate and promote awareness about mental illness and recovery. I pledge to create a better tomorrow by modeling healthy coping skills. I pledge to reach out to, listen to, and accept someone living with emotional distress. I pledge to ask for help if I am suffering or think I am suffering. I pledge to make it okay to get help for someone who is suffering. I pledge to start the conversation and/or share my story. I pledge to end the silence and to stand up for mental health.

**C. Wang:** Are there any questions about the campaign?

**L. Saborío:** Thank you Rachel and Christine. I do plan on stopping by tomorrow at your event.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** I forgot I wanted to ask one question. Have you reached out to the County Health Department too? They do have a mental health.

**C. Wang:** I have actually looked into it. Right now we're focusing on campus-only resources. And then we're going to expand later on, probably within the next month to include community resources as well.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Okay.

**C. Wang:** It's something that's definitely on my radar.

**L. Saborío:** Because this is ongoing, right?

**C. Wang:** Yes, this is going to be going on for the year. We're going to try and get it out and have other universities support it as well. So, hopefully, it will spread from not just NIU's campus, but to other campuses as well.

**L. Saborío:** Fantastic. Anyone else? Any questions? Fantastic.

H. Operating Staff Council – Barbara Andree, President – report

**L. Saborío:** So next we have Operating Staff Council. President is here, Barb Andree, and she has a report for us.

**B. Andree:** Hi, I'm the president of the Operating Staff Council and am here to make a brief report on what Operating Staff Council is currently doing and planning for the near future. I'd like to introduce Andy Small. He's going to talk briefly about an event we have coming up in October called the Council of Councils.

**A. Small:** Thank you, Barb. I appreciate the opportunity to address the University Council. As a long-time member of Northern Illinois University, 29 years, and coming to this body for 25 years and reporting one way or the other, something that crosses my particular mind today, in the 25 years that I've been coming here, this is the first time that all five presidents of the shared governance system here at NIU are female. I congratulate all of you. I think we've moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, potentially. And I think that it's a situation that is worth acknowledging, so congratulations to all of you [applause]. Well deserved.

Council of Councils started here in this room 20 years ago. We had the opportunity to invite members from what we call our Operating Staff Council, your Faculty Senate, your Supportive Professional Staff Council-type people, to this room and talk about events, issues that affect all of us in the state of Illinois in the university system. It's a day of sharing issues, knowledge, rallying around each other, motivation, relaxation, talks from the State Universities Civil Service System about what's happening for our employees and also a report from the State Universities Retirement System about what we can expect when we all get to that golden age of retirement from the State Pension System.

One of the main topics that we'll be talking about, very pertinent, probably the most important topic in a couple of decades, the Office of the Inspector General has asked the Merit Board to determine exactly what the classifications are between Civil Service and Supportive Professional Staff, and we have been asked to come up with a definition of that. For those of you who don't know what the Merit Board is, everybody who's a State Universities System has a Board of Trustees member on the Merit Board. Ours is Trustee Herrero. The Merit Board determines all of the job classifications and determinations of who is in the Civil Service system and who can be exempted out or into the Supportive Professional Staff system. This will be determined and given a report to the Office of the Inspector General, hopefully yet this year, and we will have the opportunity to have the definition of Civil Service employees and job classifications for the first time. It could affect job classifications for Supportive Professional Staff and Civil Service employees on this campus, and its potential impact is approximately 3,000 employees in the state system. So, very important topic.

We appreciate the support of the administration for this Council of Councils event. We hosted the first, the seventh and the twentieth. And it will be here on October 20 of this year, and we look forward to a great day of sharing knowledge with our fellow folks around the state. So with that, I will answer any questions, otherwise, my congratulations to all the presidents.

**B. Andree:** Thank you, Andy. I'd just like to say a couple of things about the Operating Staff Council. We recently had our Civil Service Celebration in August. We had a great time, it was very successful. We'd like to again thank Acting President Freeman for being in our dunk tank and others of the administration and faculty and staff. We use that as a fundraiser for our Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship that we award every year. This fall we awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to dependents of NIU employees in the Civil Service/Operating Staff. And so we had a good time, we had lots of fun, and again, we're very grateful for that opportunity.

I'd just like to mention that the Operating Staff and Civil Service employees are a very large contingency, as you well know, here on campus. And we're very happy to be increasingly included in the shared governance of NIU. Many of our Civil Service employees are now part of collective bargaining units, and some are negotiating for an initial agreement, and some are now re-negotiating existing agreements. We have a very diverse population within what's called generally Civil Service. All of us are deeply invested in the ongoing success of NIU as a vibrant university. Many of us are alums, as I am. And so we were here long ago in our youth, and some of us immediately started working at NIU. I ran away for 20 years, but I've come back, and now I'm an employee. So most of us, I'd be willing to say, have a very deep connection to NIU, and we're very committed to making it a success, especially for our students, because many of us are directly working with students, directly supporting them on a daily basis. Or we're supporting the faculty who are, in turn, serving students. And we're very happy to be part of this process.

And if anybody has any questions for me about Operating Staff Council, I'd be happy to answer them. Thank you very much. If you have anything ongoing, please be sure and let me know. Thank you.

I. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Catherine Doederlein, President – report

**L. Saborío:** We have one more report with Cathy Doederlein, SPS president.

**C. Doederlein:** Really quick updates. Actually just want to echo the sentiments of President Freeman thanking everyone for the support our DACAmented students. I really appreciate the message that the president had sent out previously and am really pleased to see the board taking action tomorrow to show support for it as well. And also to thank the Student Association for their efforts with the No Shame Campaign, as well as folks involved with that campaign, and the candor that they've had in sharing their own experiences as it is, indeed, something that impacts so many of us, directly or indirectly.

In terms of SPS, I just wanted to kind of provide an update that we did select an SPS personnel advisor. We were able to do this as a pilot role. There is an existing faculty and SPS personnel advisor, but for a variety of reasons, felt it was reasonable to do a pilot program and got approval for that. Jeanne Meyer has been selected as that initial advisor for SPS, and in the coming months, we'll be coming forward with some additional recommendations in that regard.

And just really look forward to working together with this body to insure that we have some parity across the three faculty and staff shared governance bodies, and just really appreciate that support.

## **IX. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

**L. Freeman:** Item IX is comments and questions from the floor and so the floor is open. Michael.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** I just want to remind everybody that one of my groups, the NIU College Democrats, is putting on the Democratic Gubernatorial Forum October 3 at 5:30. It'll be Daniel Biss, Bob Daiber, Scott Drury, Tio Hardiman, Alex Paterakis, Ameya Pawar, and J.B. Pritzker will be there. So, thank you.

**Unidentified:** Where?

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** Regency Room.

**L. Freeman:** Thank you, and I would like to remind everybody that, regardless of the party affiliation or the candidates that you support, that it's very important for all of us to continue to use our voices this year to keep higher education in the dialog. We're going to be entering a very challenging, and a very expensive, gubernatorial election. And if we don't remind people that higher education is essential to the future of this state, they're going to forget about it.

When Jesse L. Jackson was here, he spoke to our students very frankly about the importance of using your vote, because your voice without your vote does not have the same impact. And I want to remind everybody here, one of the benefits of living in a democracy is that privilege, and we should all be exercising it.

Other comments or questions from the floor?

## **X. INFORMATION ITEMS**



- A. [Minutes](#), Academic Planning Council
- B. [Minutes](#), Athletic Board
- C. [Minutes](#), Baccalaureate Council
- D. [Minutes](#), Board of Trustees
- E. [Minutes](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- F. [Minutes](#), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- G. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- H. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council
- I. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council Curriculum Committee
- 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. [2017-18 Meeting Schedule](#) – Page 8
- R. [2016-17 Annual Report](#), Athletic Board
- S. [2016-17 Annual Report](#), Graduate Council
- T. [2016-17 Annual Report](#), University Assessment Panel
- U. [2016-17 Annual Report](#), University Benefits Committee
- V. [2016-17 Annual Report](#), University Council Personnel Committee
- W. [2016-17 Annual Report](#), Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

**L. Freeman:** Hearing none, I'll accept a motion to adjourn.

**M. Haji-Sheikh:** I move to adjourn.

**L. Freeman:** Okay.

**L. Saborío:** So adjourned.

**L. Freeman:** So adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.