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FS Social Justice Committee Minutes 2023-03-08

Northern Illinois University

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MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE – SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 3 p.m.

Altgeld Hall 125

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Books, Hu, McConkie, McGowan, Palese, Scanlon, Vahabzadeh, Valentiner

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Bohanon, Douglass, Johnson

OTHERS ABSENT: Flynn, Montana

I. CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate (FS) Social Justice Committee (SJC) chair, **D. Valentiner**, called the meeting to order at 3p.m.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was verified.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

B. Palese moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2023, MINUTES

B. McGowan moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **D. McConkie**. Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

A. Academic Affairs – Xiaodan Hu

- The second wave of college council conversations has continued with focus on sharing what was learned from the first wave in regard to re-envisioning the promotion and tenure policies at NIU. Response is varied.
- The working group will continue to clarify its message as plans to amend FS Bylaws Article 8, The Academic Personnel Process, are developed.
- A summary of the working group's work will be compiled to be passed on to next year's committee members.

B. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Natasha Johnson

1. DEI Fest Draft Proposal
Biagio Palese

- The committee reviewed and discussed the proposal.
- The working group will refine its proposal based on feedback received from the committee members and bring it back for further review at the April 12 committee meeting.
- Provost Ingram has suggested that the final proposal be submitted to her office and to the Council of Deans for their partnership in shaping the final structure. Incoming Interim Provost Elish-Piper perhaps should also be included.
- The proposal calls for hosting the inaugural event in Fall 2023.

C. Institutional Racism – Beth McGowan

- Reviewing DEI-focused books for book discussion.
- FS Bylaws, Article 4 – Hoping to meet with curricular committees, such as the Academic Planning Council, Baccalaureate Council, Graduate Council, relative to possible Article 4 amendment proposal regarding curriculum. Most of the time, these committees are fairly hands-off, and more inclined to defer to the academic departments.
- Bursar’s Office – Investigating complaints about the book charge program. The charge program is open for six weeks before classes begin and two weeks after. But often books aren’t available in time to purchase within that timeframe.
- Vaccination expense – Investigating an issue relative to student cost for required vaccinations.
- Resource Library – working to create a resource library.
- Shared Equity Leadership – Moving toward implementation. Currently identifying co-chairs and members of what will be six working groups. Once the university goals are approved, these working groups will be responsible for ensuring the goals are met. The model is intended to bring stakeholders across campus together. We should see this project taking more specific shape mid-fall 2023 semester.

VII. ITEMS FOR FS-SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Continuing discussion of request for anonymous survey
- B. Continuing discussion of how to promote academic freedom

Several stakeholders have met to discuss how to foster open and respectful communication. The group will meet next on March 22 in the OASIS Room [HSC lower level]. Possibly this activity will replace the previously discussed need for a survey.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. ADJOURNMENT

B. Palese moved to adjourn, seconded by **B. McGowan**. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.