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TRANSCRIPT

University Council
Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 3 p.m.
Altgeld Hall 315
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Beyer, Bohanon, Costello, Douglass, English (for Majeed), Falkoff, Freeman, Garcia, Hunter (for Geller), Ingram, Jaekel, Kassel, Miguel (for Scheibe), Middlemist, Monteiro, Nicholson, Olson, Rogers, Srygler, Tatara, Vaughn, Walther

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Cripe, Geller, Hulseberg, Majeed, Pietrowski, Scheibe, Simonson

OTHERS PRESENT: Blazey, Bryan, Brinkmann, Edghill-Walden, Hughes, Lee-Gordon, McEvoy, Montana, Saborío, Vinson

I. CALL TO ORDER

L. Freeman: Good afternoon. It's 3 o'clock, and it's my pleasure to call this meeting to order.

II. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

L. Freeman: Pat assures me that we actually have a quorum.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

L. Freeman: If I could have a motion to adopt today's agenda.

F. Bohanon: So moved.

L. Freeman: So moved, that was Bohanon. Second?

W. Vaughn: Second, Vaughn.

L. Freeman: All right, all in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Opposed? Great.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 1, 2023, MINUTES

L. Freeman: May I now have a motion to approve the March 1, 2023, minutes?

B. Ingram: So moved.

L. Freeman: We have a motion. A second?

M. Falkoff: Second.

L. Freeman: Falkoff – I thought you were going to burst into song there for a second. Please feel free, Dean Kassel, but while he’s warming up his vocal chords, all in favor?

Members: Aye.

L. Freeman: Any opposed? Great.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Freeman: Do we have any requests for public comment this afternoon?

P. Erickson: Not today.

L. Freeman: All right.

VI. NIU PRESIDENT LISA FREEMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Freeman: In that case, we’re going to move to agenda Roman numeral VI, which are the president’s comments. And I have a presentation to give later today, so I’m going to keep my comments very brief. But I want to say that I hope everyone is enjoying the arrival of spring. I think March is supposed to either come in like a lamb or go out like a lamb, but we have not experienced that this year. So, I hope with the challenging weather we’ve been having, that everybody’s houses and pets and families and trees are all safe. And good wishes for all of the holidays that people may be celebrating now. Ramadan, Passover, Easter, other festivals of spring.

It's been a very busy time at the university, and I think all of you know from all of the appointments that have been populating your calendars, that we’re searching for new Huskies in a number of leadership roles. I want to say thank you to everyone who’s been attending the open forums and the private meetings and making their thoughts about new leadership opportunities and new candidates known to us. And I just want to say very briefly, I think that we’ve had very high-quality pools of candidates for all of the positions we’ve been searching for, and they’re all moving forward quickly and positively. I’m going to give the two-second overview, and then I’ll just ask if anybody has questions about a particular search at the university level or in Academic Affairs.

The Board of Trustees on Monday approved the appointment of our new dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. We had the last dean candidate for the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology in this week, and I know the search committee is meeting, and that will also be moving forward. We are about halfway through four candidates in the vice president for research and innovation partnerships search. And we have been interviewing at the semi-finalist

Zoom interview level candidates for our next chief HR officer. And the pool is building, and building in a very positive fashion from what I understand, although I haven't seen any of the resumes for our vice president for DEI and chief diversity officer. So, there's a lot going on, but it's all moving forward. And with that, I'll just pause and say, does anyone have questions about searches in progress before we move on to the next item?

All right. Again, thank you for showing up, but also just thank you for representing the university positively. In all of the searches that I've just mentioned, Provost Ingram and I have heard repeatedly from the candidates a lot of respect for the sense of community at this institution. Their observations are that we are a values-driven institution, and eagerness to join us because of the students that we serve and the values that we share.

VII. ITEMS FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

A. Athletic Board – Overview

Courtney Hughes
Associate Professor, School of Health Studies
Faculty Athletics Representative

Courtney Vinson
Senior Associate Athletic Director, Sports Administration
Intercollegiate Athletics

L. Freeman: With that, I'm going to move on to Roman numeral VII, and VII.A. is a presentation from the Athletic Board. Ismael, do you want to introduce this presentation, or should we just let Courtney and Courtney go?

I. Montana: The only thing I would add is that this is part and parcel of the effort to make University Council a venue to share information with this body and also receive feedback from the body. With that, it's our pleasure to welcome the two Courtneys today with us – Courtney Hughes and Courtney Vinson, who are going to share an overview presentation. I believe they will take comments, questions after the presentation. Without further ado, please, the floor is all yours.

C. Hughes: Ismael, thanks, President Freeman. My name is Courtney Hughes, and I'm an associate professor of public health and the faculty athletics representative here at NIU. In that role, I help ensure the academic integrity of our athletics program and serve as a liaison between our institution, Athletics, and monitor the student athlete experience. I'm joined here today by Courtney Vinson, who is a senior associate athletic director, sports administrator and a senior woman administrator.

We'll start off just going through some of the work we do at the Athletic Board and then leave some time for questions if you have any. To give an overview, the Athletic Board reports directly to President Freeman, and it's comprised of a number of individuals around campus. So, there's faculty from all of the colleges on campus. There are student athletes on the board. There are also students who are not student athletes on the board. We have representatives from the Alumni Association, NIU Foundation, staff, athletic director. And all of these individuals are appointed for three-year staggered terms, except for the students who are on for one-year appointed terms. Also, as the faculty athletics representative or the FAR, I serve as the chair of that board.

Our focus, really, is to focus on policies that relate to athletics here at the university. And one of our charges is to ensure equity between men's and women's athletics. And then also, there are working groups. So, we have the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging group. We have finance and facilities. And then we have external affairs.

One of the areas we focus on in every meeting is the performance academically for student athletes. Overall, I just want to point out that we do really well here. As of fall of 2022, our average GPA of student athletes was 3.3. And 14 of our 16 teams last year had a 3.0 or higher. Around 60 students or so each semester achieve a 4.0 as student athletes. And then at the conference level – we're in the MAC conference, there are 12 schools in the conference, and each week of the year the conference designates a student athlete of the week from males and females. So far, just this academic year, we've won that six times. And I was looking at the records for that, and we're tied for second place among the 12 schools in the MAC, so we're doing well at the conference level from a student athlete experience perspective.

At the last Athletic Board meeting, we zoomed in on majors that student athletes are focusing on. So, for us at NIU, we have 69 different majors that our student athletes have declared. So, there's a wide variety. You can see some of the top majors: kinesiology, sport management, business administration, communications, health sciences. And this is pretty typical for student athletes. We also looked at data from the NCAA Division I schools across the nation, and the breakdown, they have about 10 categories, and the breakdown for the majors really mirrored the breakdown that we have at NIU. And not just among these five, but across majors. There's really no red flags, and I take that as a good thing, that we're kind of on par with how other Division I schools are doing in that department.

At the Athletic Board, we think about areas that we need improvement and talk about those. We also celebrate the wins, and I wanted to highlight a couple here. We had a wrestler this year who was a MAC champion, Isaac Olejnik. He's also an All-American, so that's a big accomplishment. We had Kadeja Campbell, who is a 2023 MAC Outstanding Performer, that's indoor track. And then also at a team level, last year – and you are probably aware of this – but our football team won the MAC championship, so that was great. We also had our men's soccer team, we won the MAC championship, we won the regular season MAC and then also got to the second round of the NCAA tournament. So, that team's been really performing well. At this last Athletic Board meeting, we had Sondra Parys, who is our new head volleyball coach, come to the meeting. She was introduced to the board, and Courtney and I were both on the search committee for that position. She's really hit the ground running since she's started. But, it was just nice to see so many great, highly-qualified candidates who wanted to come here, be at NIU and coach at NIU, to President Freeman's point earlier.

With that, I'm going to turn it over to Courtney Vinson.

C. Vinson: Some of the work that we do in the Athletics Department is similar to what we do on campus. We have a focus on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. NIU is the first institution to win the NCAA/MOAA Award for Diversity and Inclusion. We won it in 2016, and we also won it in 2022.

As a part of our DEI program, we decided to do something unique this year with the help of Vernese. NIU ADEI, Student Affairs and the Alumni Association co-sponsored 18 students to go to Tulsa to go on the Black Wall Street tour. The 18 students were regular NIU students. We were

playing a football game in Tulsa, so it just made sense to combine those units to provide that experience. The awesome thing about that was that it was something where President Freeman was with us, and other VPs joined us as well, along with alumni and different people within the department and university. So, it was just a really awesome experience to have for our students, and it's something that we're going to look to grow as we have some other football games in other cities.

We also celebrated Title IX this year. We had the 50th anniversary of Title IX. We had our brunch in October, 2022, when we essentially honored our 50 best student athletes who were female. We had this brunch where we were able to honor them, but we also were able to have a panel discussion. And in the panel discussion, we had people who were administrators at NIU in that 1972-ish area to now, who were student athletes, who were administrators, coaches. And we were able to see the evolution of Title IX and how it grew at NIU during that time span.

And now, the focus on which the NCAA is taking is on health and wellness and the overall student athlete experience. Very similar to campus, our student athletes are experiencing mental health issues and concerns, and that is something that has come up quite a bit from the NCAA level. We are looking at different ways to support mental health from an association and how we can connect our campuses, making sure that our student athletes are healthy and able to perform from a physical health standpoint. But also, this is a unique time. I was a student athlete back yonder; but, it's an interesting time in that our student athlete voice is really important. I don't know that I was asked that much about my opinions when I was a student athlete. But now, our student athletes are dictating what they want their experience to be. And the positive in that is that we are able to be flexible and be amenable to some of those things – to a lot of those things, to be honest. And the other part is making sure that we're actually preparing our student athletes for graduation and for a life after their student athlete experience. So, we're looking into different programming and different experiences in which we can provide a full college experience for our student athletes so they can be productive citizens in society after graduation.

C. Hughes: Questions?

I. Montana: Questions? Are there any questions or comments?

G. Middlemist: Just a comment. I'm kind of new to NIU, but how much I appreciate the student athlete experience and the work that you do to ensure their safety, both mental health and physical health. If there's ever anything I can do, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I think athletics is a really important part of the university experience for our students and for our faculty and staff. It builds community and a sense of belonging, so I just thank you for that.

C. Hughes: Thank you.

C. Vinson: Thank you.

I. Montana: Maybe I would also like to chime in with a question. Forgive me, being a faculty member, I should know better. For Courtney Vinson, I got a sense when you spoke, you referenced that student athletes are unlike other students on campus. As a faculty member, I deal with student athletes from time to time. So, I'm just wondering, how different are they from other students on campus?

C. Vinson: There's not a huge difference. The biggest difference, honestly, is schedules. Because of the amount of time that our student athletes practice, and add the part where you're talking about competition which involves travel. Those are the biggest differences. But, in terms of what they're experiencing from a mental health standpoint, they're, for the most part, pretty similar. Just add competition anxiety

I. Montana: We have more time. Are there any other questions or comments? Seeing none, please join me in thanking the two Courtneys for meeting with us.

B. Budget Update

Lisa Freeman
President

George Middlemist
Vice President of Administration and Finance
Chief Financial Officer

I. Montana: We will move now to agenda item VII.B., which would feature a budget update from NIU President Lisa Freeman and NIU Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist. So, without further ado, I would like to turn the floor to Dr. Freeman and George Middlemist.

L. Freeman: Great, and Pat, can you advance the slides for me. There'll be one point where I may ask you to click on a hyperlink. Thank you, and if we could move on to the next slide. What I want to go over with the University Council today is budget updates, kind of in two different contexts. One, I want to talk about what's going on in Springfield and the state of Illinois relative to the appropriations process and also the activity of the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding that's been doing its work this session and whose work will end at the end of this session. And then, obviously, I want to talk about what's most important to us, Northern Illinois University. And I'm going to do most of the formal presentation doing a summary of our progress on University Goal 6A, showing you the new landing page on the president's website where you can go to look for information about resource development and fiscal responsibility. And then, in addition to my co-presenter and co-conspirator, which I mean in the nicest way, Vice President George Middlemist, I'm going to ask the provost to comment, as well as the members of the budget and planning work group, whose report is now public on the president's website, to just reflect a little bit on where we are and where we're going; and then open it up to UC for comments.

If we can have the next slide, I think the next slide is just a spacer to say that I'm going to start talking about what's going on in the state of Illinois. As those of you who have been around for along time know, there's just a series of steps that happens every spring as part of the appropriations process for the university.

And it starts with budget recommendations for higher ed from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. And those typically happen at their January board meeting ahead of the governor's budget address, which generally occurs in February. So, this year, the IBHE recommendations were advanced on January 19. They recommended a 7.5 percent increase in appropriated operating funds for public universities. They recommended that those be distributed the way the funding that they shared for COVID relief was distributed, using an equity lens. And the equity lens that they

recommended was distribution-based on how many Pell-eligible students are at each public university. And because about half of our students are low-income, Pell-eligible, for us the equitable distribution, the equity lens distribution, would have been actually an 11.5 percent increase to us. There are some universities that would have gotten less than 7.5 percent to enable us to get more than 7.5 percent.

The IBHE recommended a \$50 million increase to MAP and continuation of the AIM HIGH grants with funding maintained at the current level of \$35 million. And AIM HIGH is the foundation for our Huskie Pledge, our scholarship program that allows students, who come from families with a median income of \$75,000 or less, not to pay tuition and fees. AIM HIGH provides the last dollar to allow that program to go forward. We also have some other AIM HIGH programs focused on transfer students. It's been really important to our enrollment management efforts. It was authorized as a pilot three years ago, and so recommending that the pilot be continued and, hopefully, institutionalized was something we were very pleased to see.

The governor gave his budget address on February 15. He recommended a 7 percent increase for public universities, which is the largest increase in operating funds proposed in more than two decades. Both the IBHE and the governor's increase were very welcome. The governor, because he's really interested in making college education as accessible and affordable as possible to all Illinoisans, actually recommended a \$100 million in MAP, twice what the IBHE recommended. And this will have a significant impact on our students, half of which are MAP eligible, 48.8 percent, so just about half, which are MAP eligible. And the governor also recommended continuation of AIM HIGH with the funding maintained at the current level.

The legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 19 this year. And so, between the governor's budget and the adjournment of the legislature, our job as the leadership of the universities in the state, the leadership of higher education in the state, is to advocate for the budget proposals that we support.

And so, I think, for reasons that you will all understand, NIU enthusiastically supports the governor's higher ed budget proposal. And the statement that's on the slide in front of you is a statement I put out the day of the governor's budget address, and we shared that immediately with, not only the university community, but also the Governor's Office and the media. This is a budget that is better than one that we've seen for a long time, and it reflects the belief of the current administration that higher education is an investment in economic prosperity and social mobility and in good things for our state.

And then the other part of the governor's budget that wasn't new, but that recurred, is the Rebuild Illinois program. And so, Rebuild Illinois supports construction initiatives and critical infrastructure projects, which are essentially repairs and renovations. And I don't think I have to tell anyone who works on this campus that we need this capital funding to address life and safety issues, the deferred maintenance backlog. Almost 80 percent of our buildings are 50 years old or more, and they've been neglected as a result of the budget impasse and underinvested historically from the state. And so, the continued appropriation of funding through Rebuild Illinois is very important for us. And in addition to all the things that need to be fixed like buildings and roofs, we have two new building projects that are moving forward in the design phase or later. And we expect to have cranes on campus for our new Health Technology Center and for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability, and this is very exciting.

So, how do we advocate? What do we do? I already showed you that the day of the governor's

budget, we issued a statement supporting his budget. And you may ask why we supported his budget, and we didn't go out and say, "well, we want the governor's budget, but we really thought the IBHE did a better job with appropriations." And the truth is, when the IBHE gives you 7.5 percent and the governor gives you 7 percent, you say, "thank you." And advocating for an equity lens this year probably isn't the best use of our advocacy time and energy and effort, because the public commission that I'm going to talk about in a minute, is going to come out with a formula, and we're probably just as well to wait for that and be super excited.

So, what does advocacy look like beyond issuing a statement? Every year, the leadership of this university testifies in front of both the house and the senate higher ed appropriations committee. This year in Springfield, because we have such a Democratic general assembly as a result of redistricting, the leadership has asked the higher ed committees to have bipartisan leadership. And I say that, when we testified, as always, we got asked questions about what was going on on campus and how we were investing in our students. But really, it was really pretty friendly, and there was bipartisan support for the higher education portion of the budget.

Another thing you'll note on this slide is that we were able to coordinate our senate appropriations hearing on March 22 with NIU's Alumni Association's Advocacy Day in Springfield. So, on the day before our hearings, whether it's house or senate, George and I and Katie Davison, our state relations person, and Matt Streb, we go down and we visit the offices of all of the members who are on the Appropriations Committee, as well as the leadership of the house and senate, to let them know about the great things that are going on at NIU, to find out if there are any particular points they want us to address in testimony or on that day. Before we get invited to testify, we are required to turn in to the state of Illinois a very large notebook of forms. It's like hundreds of pages of answers to questions. And sometimes our answers to those questions raise questions, and we're there to address them. But it was just really nice to see students and alumni and leadership – we had a lot of deans there – in red and black going office to office just saying, "NIU is an institution that makes a difference in the lives of our students." That's something that we're proud of, and it was very, very fun to be down there. And you don't often think testimony is fun, but it was fun.

Conversations are going on to advocate for investment in higher ed, and equitable investment in higher ed. The Partnership for College Completion, which is noted on this slide as PCC, is hosting community conversations across the state of Illinois featuring panels of members of advocacy groups, students from higher ed, and then higher ed leaders. I did one in Rockford last week on March 30. Kianna Graves, one of our students, was also on the panel, and so was President Glassman from Eastern Illinois University, and then some people from Rockford Promise and Rock Valley College. Again, it was a nice way to just let the general public know about what's going on in Springfield, the history of funding in Illinois, the importance of investing in higher education. And it was a very positive vibe in the room.

I am serving currently as the convenor of the presidents and chancellors. And so, on their behalf, we've been trying to get an editorial published to express our support and thanks for the governor's budget. I can tell you it's been hard to get it into the Chicago media, possibly because of the mayoral election that was going on simultaneously. But we've now submitted the editorial to the Register Journal, which is a statewide paper, and we're waiting to see if that will be published. And then I think those of you, who got up and read the newspaper beyond the elections results this morning, saw that Governor Pritzker was actually on campus yesterday, along with our state senator, our current and immediate-past state representatives. We had an amazing student also testify yesterday, and that recipient. And I think we got relatively good coverage for the event.

So, the short thing is, we're doing our jobs. We're doing everything that we can do as leadership. I'm working closely with my colleague presidents to talk about the higher ed budget. There really isn't a lot of pushback or controversy about the higher ed budget, but you know higher ed is only a small portion of the governor's budget. So, while there's bipartisan support for our piece of the budget, it's not over till it's over, and we don't want to see anything happen to the proposal in the wee hours between now and when the legislature adjourns. So, we're just going to keep on doing what we're doing.

I do want to say that, when you look at the picture on this slide, you can see Speaker Welch with me and also with our student, a different student from the one who testified yesterday. This is Rebecca Gonzales; she went down with us to Springfield to testify in front of the senate. And Speaker Welch was so impressed with her that, when I first went into his office, Rebecca was in another office. And I said to him, "I hope you tune in to the testimony tomorrow to hear her speak, because her story is compelling, and it's quintessential NIU." And he said, "Well, bring her back. Go find her and bring her back." And so, I thought that along was really lovely. He's the speaker of the house; he's very busy. We went and got Rebecca, and I really thought we were going to walk into the office, maybe not even get all the way in the office; he was going to come and do a selfie with her; he was going to shake her hand and we'd be moved on. And that would be incredibly gracious. He called her into the office. He asked her to tell him about herself, and then he gave her a challenge coin, and he gave her a special commemorative pin that he had made when he became the first African American speaker of the house. And he told her to keep those with her and to keep him posted on her progress as she took her first job as a medical lab tech in Rockford. And it was just really a very special experience. And so, as Courtney said, our student voices are very important. And Beth and George and I and Matt and Katie can talk and talk and talk; but it's the students we serve who tell our story the best and that works in Springfield even with all of the cynical people who are in Springfield sometimes.

All right, switching gears a little bit, still in the state portion. The Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding was established by Senate Bill 815 in 2021. You can see the goal, this is language right out of the statute. It's supposed to establish specific, data-driven criteria and approaches to the General Assembly adequately, equitably and stably funding public universities in the state and then to evaluate the existing funding methods. This was born just as we completed Thriving Illinois, the strategic plan for higher ed in Illinois, there was much discussion in making that plan about how to equitably, adequately, predictably and stably fund universities. And given the history of the budget impasse, I don't think it's surprising that anybody wanted all of those things emphasized. But also, we are dealing with a funding formula in this state that is historic and has no rational basis. So, every year the formula used to appropriate funds is the one that was essentially used the year before with an increment up or down. But no one can explain what the formula is based upon. And so, there is a desire to have a rational funding formula for the universities.

There is also, as you probably know if you follow what goes on in the state, a few years ago, the state concluded a lengthy and intensive effort to figure out how to adequately fund K-12 education, and created a formula that was adequacy based. And so, there was a lot of interest in the Board of Higher Ed, in the legislature and across advocacy groups for education at all levels, to see if there could be an adequacy-based formula developed for higher ed. And that's a very bold goal, because at the time in 2021, when the commission was made, there was no adequacy-based formula used in

higher ed anywhere in the country. About two months ago, one of the Texas community college districts came out with an adequacy-based funding formula, but really, most of the funding formulas that are used for higher ed are performance based or outcomes based or enrollment based, based on something other than adequacy.

So, the approach that was used by the public funding commission was to look at content from around the country, look at what other states are doing, hear from experts in the field, and then ultimately use the feedback they got from within the state of Illinois and without, to model a funding formula and craft recommendations that will be coming out in a report that's due to the General Assembly on July 1. And that's a statutorily established deadline, so there will be a report on July 1. I will say they broke the funding commission into three work groups and then added some expertise to those work groups. So, there's been a work group based on adequacy, a work group based on resources and a work group called the technical modeling work group. And I'm really proud of the fact that NIU was well represented on the commission and on the work groups. In fact, we might be the best represented university in the state. All of the 12 public university presidents and chancellors are members of the public funding commission, along with some politicians, some members of advocacy groups. And then there's a consulting firm that's helping us that meets when we're convened.

In addition to me, Simón Weffer-Elizondo, faculty member from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, I guess now an associate dean from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was selected statewide by the union to represent faculty. So, he is the statewide representative for faculty on the funding commission. He and I worked together on the adequacy work group. He was also appointed to the resources and technical modeling work groups, or at least definitely the technical modeling work group.

When they formed the technical modeling work group, I suggested that Provost Ingram, because of her background as an economist and her incredible knowledge of higher ed funding, be the representative for NIU in the technical modeling work group, and that was accepted. And then they called me back again and said, "Can Andrew Rogers, our budget director, also please serve on the technical modeling work group, because he's well known because of the work that he did when he was in Oregon on their board." So, NIU is really well represented. That doesn't mean that we'll get what we want, and it doesn't mean that the report is going to have an easy outcome.

On the next slide, I'm just going to very briefly walk you through what we know the model is going to be. But we have at this point in time really no point how this model will be translated into a funding formula. And the [IBHE website](#) under Work In Progress, does have links to all the commission PowerPoints, etc. These are public, so you can go and track the progress.

Pat will distribute this PowerPoint to everybody, but I think I can summarize this really quickly. If you look at the blue bar, it is labeled Components. And this is what the commission believes stack up to be the components of adequate funding. The dark blue boxes represent instructional and non-instructional student services; so basically academic and non-academic support services for students, core instructional program costs, academic advising, curricular design, career services, outreach, recruitment, admissions, retention, the things that are generally in enrollment management in academic affairs and in student affairs. The bar below it, that sort of medium blue with white print, is a nod to our research and public service missions. And the statement there is that a lot of this is externally or separately funded, but it is inseparable from instructional adequacy and equity, and there is some requirement for this to happen at every university. And so, it will be somehow

represented in the adequacy bars. And then the very bottom line, that little blue bar, is operations and maintenance; and it's operations and maintenance on an annual basis. The capital investment for either new construction or the deferred maintenance backlog is not going to be put in the formula; it will be handled separately in a capital process. So, those are pretty much everything that people think goes into adequacy. And I don't think this part is particularly controversial. I think most things you could name, we could say, have been considered in one of those boxes.

As you move to the orange bars, the orange bars basically say in this model that there are costs associated with all of these things that are in blue. There are costs to support recruitment, outreach, admissions, enrollment activities; costs for high-impact academic supports; costs for instructional programs, etc. And then figuring out what those costs are and how they go in the formula is one of the first big challenges that I think is still being struggled with.

Then, if you look at the green box, the green box is really the box that talks about equity in the sense of to be equitable, you need to meet students where they are. There is robust literature that suggests students who are first in their families to go to college, students who come from well-incomed backgrounds, students whose parents don't have professional jobs or networks, students who come from marginalized communities, all of those students need more support. And it costs more to make sure they can succeed in higher education, not because they're different in their talent, but because they've been underserved before they've come to the university. And so, there has to be some type of multiplier built into the formula that reflects the students who are at each university. It goes to that equitable distribution formula that the IBHE recommended. If you serve a large student body that is in a group that needs more support, you should get more money to do that.

This is the theoretical depiction of where the model is going. I think that it's very unclear what's going to come out. The legislation itself said that all of the universities' budgets would be held harmless, so nobody's going to lose money to have money given to another university from the existing appropriations. The formula will only go to new money. That's the way the K-12 formula was largely done also. But I think that there are just more questions than there are answers as to what the formula is going to look like and what the report is going to say. Now, when the report is issued, it doesn't automatically go into law. The report is issued to the General Assembly. The General Assembly will debate it, and then there will be a lot more advocacy and lobbying from all of the universities' advocacy groups, etc. [inaudible] where it goes. So, this is important; it's something that we're watching very carefully; it's something that we've been involved; and it's something where we may be coming to the members of the university community at a certain point after the recommendations are released and gathering feedback from you and asking you to advocate for the university and the students. So, that was very complicated, but I think very important, and I'm just going to ask – I thought I saw Andrew walk in, and I know Beth is here – if anybody wants to say – I think Andrew is like hiding behind Dean Kassel. If either of you wants to say anything before we move on to the NIU budget update.

All right, great. In that case, Pat, we're going to move on to the NIU budget update. What I really wanted to talk about was the progress that we're making in meeting the objectives we set forth last year in University Goal 6A, which was related to our multiyear planning and budget process. And we were very specific about what we wanted to do, but we also knew as we were making our objectives known, that we would be onboarding a new CFO and that the new CFO was going to

play a very important role in prioritizing the steps that needed to be taken and also setting the timelines. So, I just want to go over a little bit from my perspective where I think we are, and then again, ask the leaders in the room that I mentioned previously to weigh in, and then open it for questions.

If you look at the first bullet, we promised we would continue to do quarterly updates to the Board of Trustees and we did institute a new format this year, very, very much with Andrew Rogers' expertise and help, to start distinguishing recurring from one-time revenues and expenses and the way we express the quarterly budgets. We've introduced that, we're going to have gone through all of fiscal year '23 displaying our budgets in that format. We don't think that the format is exactly perfect yet. We have a couple terminology issues to work out. We haven't quite figured out how to express grants and contracts the most appropriate way. But it's been a really important change in helping folks understand the difference between one-time revenues and expenses in the budget. And so, we're going to continue to evolve that, and as fiscal year '24 starts, we'll probably see a slightly tweaked version of the format that we've been using. But Andrew did an amazing amount of work to get us to that point, lots of conversations internally and with the Board of Trustees. And I want to recognize him for that effort.

Then, George is sitting next to me, and I couldn't be happier about that. One of our goals was to hire and onboard a CFO, vice president for administration and finance, and we did that. George has been engaging with the campus, developing and implementing our budget planning process, talking to people about his philosophy, and just getting the knowledge that he needs, and will continue to need, to know which steps we can take when, how fast and what's going to be the most effective and the least disruptive to our operations.

We also waited until George was here to release the administration's response, the leadership's response to the report from the budget and planning workshop. And, Pat, if you could hit that hyperlink that says President's webpage. You may remember that they delivered their report in the fall. And I was hearing, at that time, concern – would we pay attention to the report? Would the arrival of a new CFO just cause us to do everything differently? I tried to reassure the campus community that we were all moving forward with these recommendations and that the momentum would not stop. In about November, we had Dr. Blazey make a presentation to the Tuesday monthly leadership group that's posted on the president's website at that link. So, you can see right now, if you go under University Goals and Priorities, off of the president's webpage, we have a new landing page for [Resource Development and Fiscal Responsibility](#). Right now, on that webpage, we have the presentation that Dr. Blazey made from the budget and planning resource group to the Tuesday leadership in November. We have the full report from that group. And we have a letter from Vice President Middlemist, Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram and I talking about our reaction to the report, how we've embraced the recommendations, what we think we could do when. And Pat, if you could maybe just click on that first bullet where it says, "NIU leadership's," I'll just show them what that looks like. It's basically a "Dear colleague" letter. It acknowledges the priorities set forth in that report. It states that we embrace the recommendations. Many were incorporated into the University Goals. And then if you scroll down, it talks about what we plan to do for realizing each of the recommendations and where we think that we might do something slightly different than what was recommended, that's explained also.

In addition to the update that's there, and I hope you'll all go visit it. And this will be a place where we continue to post updates on what's going on with our budget and planning process for the year for the university community to see, I want to call out the fact that George has been talking to

various shared governance groups on campus and shared leadership groups on campus about what he thinks is reasonable to meet the goals put out in the report. He's committed to having a budget process and timeline, not for fiscal year '24, but for fiscal year '25 shared with the community by October of 2023, and a budget education program being piloted by December of 2023, and I think that's very realistic. In the budget and planning work group report, they recommended continuing to invest some of our funds in innovation. We committed to repeating an innovation pitch. The first one we did was based around investing in things that generate resources. This year's innovation initiative was launched in the form of a new curricular innovation grant program. I understand that the award letters from that competition are going out in mid-April, but I think Provost Ingram could give us even a little more of an update.

The last slide is really another opportunity just for me to recognize Drs. Blazey, Edghill-Walden and Brinkmann for the work they did listening to campus and developing the budget and planning work group report. And I'd like to give them, but before them, George and Beth, an opportunity to add to anything I said about the report, how we're going to move forward, an update on the curricular innovation program. And then we'll hear from the VPG and then, obviously, from the rest of UC if you have questions.

G. Middlemist: Thank you, Dr. Freeman. Many of you have heard from me, and I don't think I've deviated much in the groups that I've met with, and I've got a few more, I think one more tomorrow. So, you know, the budgets are complicated, and it can seem really overwhelming as you're trying to work through a budget deficit, work through a planning process. My approach is the same as I think I've shared with the leadership on more than one occasion. Being from Colorado, I make it sound like I did this a lot, but I've only done it once, when you climb a 14er, you don't focus at the peak, you focus at the rock in front of you when you get to about 12,000 feet. Because if you focus on the peak, you'll never make it. But you focus at the rock that's ten feet in front of you, and you get to that rock, and you celebrate that accomplishment, and you go to the next rock. And before you know it, you're at the top of the peak taking your picture with your kids and saying you'll never do this again.

And that would be with the budget rebuild process, too. We're going to take it one day at a time. I'm excited to have the report; it becomes kind of our guidepost. And I agree with Dr. Freeman; I think that the goals we've set for ourselves, the timeline we've set for ourselves, are realistic. We're not going to be perfect when we get to October for a budget process, and we're not going to be perfect with training. But we'll be able, with both of those, to begin the process of being a lot more disciplined in how we do our budgeting, which is my ultimate goal, really being mindful of the resources that we have and strategic with them. But we've got a lot of work to do, and I think one of the biggest pieces in front of us is really getting our hands around how we manage this deficit to get it back to a balanced budget and what the timeline is for that, because it's really about the resources that we have here today. And I have a sense of urgency to get that addressed, because that leads to NIU's future, which is so very important, not just to this community, but to Illinois. We serve a population of students that may not have an opportunity to further their lives, and so this institution cannot fail. And I feel a great responsibility to ensure that we don't.

L. Freeman: Provost Ingram.

B. Ingram: As we're thinking about the budget, one of the things that President Freeman has always said is that we need to grow for the future too. So, we can't just look backwards, we've got to look to the future and what we can do to enhance the educational experience of our students, grow revenue and make NIU better. Curricular innovation has been a part of our goals for a year now, and it's a goal for this year. The university goal for this year was to create a process to do a grant program to faculty, and staff if they were interested, for curricular innovation. We were supposed to create a process, have that process in place this summer and do something next year. And when President Freeman and I developed that goal, I went to Jason Rhode and I said, "Well, could we do something this year? Do we need to wait?" And he said, "No, I'll get my team together, and we'll go down that road." And so, he created a pilot program this year of something that may be a bigger program next year. We put out a call for proposals in February asking for faculty who might be interested in adopting virtual reality in their courses or artificial intelligence or working across disciplinary lines to create a new kind of course, anything that was innovative and might enhance the experience of our students. We did it very quickly. I shouldn't say "we." Jason and his team did it very quickly, and we got 48 applications, which was amazing, and I think is a true testament to the creativeness and innovation of our faculty, who had to put those proposals together in a really short timeline. Proposals are being reviewed by a faculty committee, and we had initially decided we would fund ten of them; we're going to fund 20, because of the great response that we had from faculty. The grant is \$5,000 to do the innovation, plus \$500 in extra support if you need to buy software, if you need materials, if you need extra help. And so, this summer, we'll have 20 faculty, up to 20 faculty, working on really innovative things that are going to enhance the experience of our students across – I wrote this down – 29 different departments, 29 different departments. So, I'm really excited. President Freeman actually hasn't seen the proposals yet, because we're kind of waiting to put them into a good form for her, but they're really exciting. We will be announcing the grant recipients in mid- to late-April, and then we'll put out some information so that everybody can see what great things are going on on campus. I'm really excited.

L. Freeman: I know, I want to get to questions from UC, and we want to keep moving, but Dr. Blazey and Vice President Edghill-Walden and Dean Brinkmann, we've been working on this together for a long time, and if one of you or all of you just want to share your thoughts and expectations about the process, where we are and where we're going.

J. Blazey: Thank you, President Freeman and Vice President Middlemist. I really like your comparison of this to rock climbing, because it was a slog, and we really did have to keep our head down and keep focused for what I think was almost a year's effort. And I'd like to thank Drs. Edghill-Walden and Brinkmann for all the effort that they and I put together in getting these recommendations together. It wasn't mentioned here, but I want to point out that it really was everybody's work, because we reached out to as many communities, as many stakeholders, as we possibly could, to understand what the aspirations and what the concerns were over our budget process. And I know we talked to many of you here and across the campus. Our focus really was on improving the process going toward a multi-year budget, increasing what I call the financial literacy of the community so we could all participate in the conversation around our budget and our finances. And I'm really gratified to see – and I believe I can speak for my colleagues – that the administration, the president, the provost and the VP, have accepted those recommendations. I guess my main comment is that it really represents a consensus of the entire university.

L. Freeman: All right, we have thumbs up from the other two members of the group who are here. Questions from UC? Dallas has a question.

D. Douglass: Hi everybody. Dallas Douglass, Student Government Association. I had a question about something that you mentioned much earlier in your presentation, Dr. Freeman, so apologies. You were talking about the capital funding coming in for infrastructure, and I seem to recall a few months ago a conversation that we had where John Heckmann was talking about how capital funding was going toward new projects, rather than deferred maintenance or current infrastructure. Is that correct? Or, could I get more information about that somewhere?

L. Freeman: There is capital funding going toward both. John has a system – there's new construction, but then he has two different categories for what's a little bit of a remodel and what's a big restoration, and I can't remember off the top of my head the terms he uses for those. But there is actually money going in all three directions. I don't know, Provost Ingram, you go to the capital planning meetings, do you have anything to add?

B. Ingram: The only thing I would add, and I think you're aware of this, because you are on the Student Fee Committee. We did set aside some money in the student fee process to do some renovations on classrooms this summer, and that process is moving forward. And George has also found some additional money to do some really necessary technology upgrades in some of the lecture halls where the technology is not up to par. And so, that would be in the category of smaller things. I realize they're big things to the students, but I think those are really important that we are investing this summer in technology and upgrades, paint, better equipment in classrooms due to the support of you and the other students in bringing those issues to our attention.

D. Douglass: Thank you, Dr. Ingram. Just want to make sure that I'm representing the students. We hear a lot of concerns about infrastructure in buildings, so that's great to hear. I'd love to hear more about the pocket that you found for more renovations, that would be interesting to hear. And I'll contact you to see.

L. Freeman: Absolutely, thank you.

D. Douglass: Thanks.

L. Saborío: I'm not a member, can I ask a questions?

I. Montana: Yes.

L. Saborío: Can you talk a little bit about how faculty research is going to be configured into the adequacy funding model? It may have been on that first blue column, but I couldn't see it in the back, because I'm old.

L. Freeman: Linda, I think you ask a very critical question. At the start of the process, I think all of the public university presidents agreed that there were three things that needed to be reflected in the formula. That is size, because your headcount actually does matter. If you have 15,000 students, you need more money than if you have 1500. On the other hand, if you have 1500 students, you probably don't get quite the economy of scale you get at 15,000, so size would matter. Then I think the type of students you have matters, and that's the equity piece we've talked about. And then third component that all of the university presidents agree on is that mission matters. And I think that, when I say mission matters, I'm fighting with everything that I have for our distinctive identity as a research university, a high research activity university, that offers the opportunity to create knowledge to students who are from historically and currently underserved communities. And I do

not want to see our mission get lost in this formula. I think that there was appreciation on the commission for the distinct missions of the university. But I don't think that there was universal understanding of how that translates, not only into resource needs, but into resources that the universities have. So, there was a lot of time spent trying to educate people who don't run universities or work at universities about what external funding for research does and doesn't cover, what indirect costs can and cannot be used for, and how inadequate they are to really reimburse us for our existing research costs – that's the former VP-R in me talking – but making sure that that essential piece of research funding. I don't want to see this end up with a commission's recommending a formula that leaves the U of I system as the only research university in the state, because SIU and NIU and ISU do important work, as do some of the non-high and very high research activity universities. And so, I think there's like a big question about how that mission piece is going to be built in to any kind of funding formula. And when we see that, I think we'll know what arguments we need to make to protect NIU and make sure that we continue to do what we do so well. And in our advocacy this spring, and in our meeting with the governor yesterday, I tried to emphasize that point over and over and over again. So, I share your concerns that drove that question. I don't really have an answer to your question.

L. Saborío: Can I ask a question that's not really.

L. Freeman: Yes.

L. Saborío: The mental health act – can you talk about where we are in terms of that funding? I heard there was an early release of funding to help with it.

L. Freeman: I don't actually have an update on that. I will get Katie or Matt to give the details to Pat so that she can share them with University Council.

All right, Ismael, I think we can move on. And I'm sorry I took so long, but I think it was a good update, and it was a good conversation. So, thank you all.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – Linda Saborío – report

1. Early College: What to Consider?
2. Equity Tools & Resources for Faculty Engagement

I. Montana: Okay, so, we will move on to Roman numeral VIII., reports from councils, boards and standing committees. Item VIII. A. is the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, and we have Linda Saborío, who is going to give the report. Linda, welcome back, the floor is yours.

L. Saborío: For our March meeting of the FAC, we met at Chicago State University. I was just checking online; it looks like they are still on strike. Let me tell you, I do appreciate the administration's response at my university to the needs of the faculty, and shared governance, and the transparency that we have between faculty and administration. Thank you very much for that.

The March meeting at Chicago State University, we met with the president and vice provost; had a great conversation with them. Asked about their advising system, civic engagement, community involvement with the campus and much more. We had a presentation on the [Rise Academy](#), and I

have those slides if you're interested in seeing them. And then we had another presentation on mental health in academia, and I learned to say, "not now." I thought about having a t-shirt made that says, "not now," but some might take that the wrong way.

The FAC chair also shared with us the Student Advisory Council resolution that was presented at the last IBHE meeting at Malcolm X College in Chicago. If you're interested in seeing that – is that posted on the IBHE website – I think it is. It's a great resolution if you're interested in reading that.

And then I have two items – I don't know if Pat's going to pull them up here or not. They were posted to the [Faculty Senate FAC web page](#). One is from the early college credit working group, and it's aimed at high school students, parents, counselors and more. Information about what to consider when it comes to early college credit. More of an informative document there. And it's to foster awareness of the potential benefits and drawbacks associated with taking early college courses. And then we have another item, which is a collection of tools and resources for faculty, administrators, staff and more, to support their ongoing DEI initiatives. A lot of information on this page. It was presented by Julie, who is in our DEI working group at the last IBHE meeting. It was well received. A lot of different cites there that you can click on. Be careful, it's like a rabbit hole of information I've been told.

And I think that's it. In April, they're sending me out to Western Illinois University, so I may have some more stories to add to my travel adventures around the state of Illinois, thank you very much.

One more thing quick, I just received an email from Stephanie from the IBHE regarding some proposed changes to administrative rules for SARA and nursing grants. Do you know anything about that? It was just recently shared with me. No, it's too new, fresh off the press, okay. If I can find it here, "Proposed changes to administrative rules for SARA and nursing grants. And it says that at the March meeting of the IBHE, they voted to advance to the state's ruling making process changes to several sets of administrative rules as outlined below. And there's a summary of the proposed changes. If you're interested, I can forward this to anyone. There's a long list of different changes they're proposing here.

And that concludes my report. Are there any questions? Okay, thank you.

- B. University Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees – report
Felicia Bohanon, Holly Nicholson, Ismael Montana
Katy Jaekel, Karen Whedbee, Brad Cripe

I. Montana: Thank you, we will move on to item VIII.B., University Advisory Council to the Board of Trustees, members of which include Felicia Bohanon, Holly Nicholson, Katy Jaekel, Karen Whedbee, Brad Cripe and myself. I'm going to very quickly give some highlights and will invite my colleagues who are present to add anything that they may like.

As many of you probably know, the March 23 BOT meeting was rescheduled due to the expiration of the terms of four members of board. But this past Monday, April 3, the board reconvened and kick started the meeting with an off-cycle election of officers for fiscal year 2023. As a result of that election, Eric Wasowicz is now the new chair of the board; Dennis Barsema is vice chair, while former chair, Montel Gayles, retained his seat on the board and Rita Athas will continue as a board member.

As for the meeting itself, the agenda was mainly comprised of three different items. The first two items were reports and university recommendations from the board committees, many of which were forwarded from previous sessions for the board approval, so I'm not going to go into details for that.

But what I'm going to focus on would be the third part that included six action items directly from the president's report. These included university recommendations for the trustees to approve a four-year agreement with NIU's tenured and tenure-track union, United Faculty Alliance, Local 4100 of the University Professionals of Illinois representing approximately 532 employees in the Division of Academic Affairs. This agreement is retroactively effective from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2026. The United Faculty Alliance president, Dr. Kerry Farris, from the Department of Sociology, was present, along with a number of the union members, to express their support and encourage the trustees to approve this agreement. The trustees, themselves, many of whom expressed supportive sentiments while driving that morning to NIU and listening to news of what was happening elsewhere at Governors State University and expressed their support. We also want to thank the senior administration at the university for working to make NIU at this point in time a model and envy for many of our peer institutions.

The second action item was the university recommendation for the board's approval of dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Dr. Freeman already mentioned that. That hire followed a national search that culminated in the hiring of Dr. Kelly Fiala, who accepted an offer to be the dean of College of Health and Human Sciences. Dr. Fiala was recommended for appointment at the rank of professor with tenure in the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions in the College of Health and Human Sciences.

After postponing a vote affecting law student tuition and fees from the previous board meeting, the trustees approved the university recommendation to increase fee costs to cover the costs of operation, probably part of what Provost Ingram mentioned in terms of capital projects. As a result, law students will see an increase in health and wellness charges by 25 percent, university advancement fee for capital improvement charges and transportation access by 45 and 70 percent respectively. The law excellence charge will increase by \$40, while tuition will remain the same, seeing a zero increase.

The other three action items revolved around the sale of real estate property, which the board previously determined as surplus to the university's needs and authorized to be sold per the updated provision of the Illinois Property Control Act, 30 ILC S605. A reasonable offer for a lease to purchase arrangement has been tentatively developed with the DeKalb Community Unit District 428 and the approach was approved at their board meeting held March 7, 2023. And the university recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this.

The last action item presented was the university recommendation to the Board of Trustees to approve the fiscal year 2024 Master Agreement Facility Contract renewal.

And lastly, a non-action item was a presentation from Dean Bob Brinkmann of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who gave an overview of the various workings of the CLAS. One of the highlights of his presentation was the college's implementation of the 8-week courses that have been deemed as very, very successful. We had the student trustee, who had, himself, taken it and gave a very good testimony to the utility of this course that is making a significant difference in terms of student graduation and also helping students to overcome other issues.

At this point, I will ask my colleagues if they have anything they would like to add. I can see Holly and Felicia.

H. Nicholson: Just a quick clarification, because Trustee Wasowicz' and Trustee Athas' terms expired, and they were reappointed, they had to do an election. But they remained chair and vice chair. And then there will be another election later in the summer.

I was really excited about those courses, as well. And just another detail, it's for students who are DFW, which is an acronym I learned. They're struggling with their grade, and so they have this 8-week condensed course for an opportunity for a second chance for that course. It's improved that DFW rate.

I. Montana: Great. Any other UAC to BOT member who would like to add anything? If not, the minutes of the BOT meetings can be accessed using the link provided in your agenda packet. The next BOT meeting will be held May 11.

C. Rules, Governance and Elections Committee – no report

I. Montana: With that, we will move on to item VIII.C., and that would be Rules, Governance and Elections Committee. We don't have a report.

D. Student Government Association – report
Raaif Majeed, President
Dallas Douglass, Speaker of the Senate

I. Montana: Item VIII.D., Student Government Association, I see Dallas.

D. Douglass: Hi again, Dallas Douglass, speaker of the senate, Student Government Association. Currently, the SGA is primarily focused on our elections. Our first election concluded last week. We filled our executive cabinet. We are looking for candidates for our special election, because we did not meet quorum for our legislative branch. I'm on the board of elections, so just a little bit of info on that. We are having candidate meetings tomorrow and Friday. The paperwork deadline is next Wednesday, and the election will take place on Wednesday, April 19. I do have election materials that I'll be providing; so, hopefully, if you could distribute those, I would greatly appreciate it. They are posters, so if you wanted to print them and put them in your offices, that would be awesome. Speaker elections will also take place April 28. I'm graduating this year, so I will not be reapplying for speaker. I'll have more info on that at our next meeting.

And then finally, as a funding update, the finance committee met this Monday to review close to 50 requests from student organizations for funding from our supplemental funding. Unfortunately, we were not able to fund all of them. We did have a lot of excess funding that we were able to access this year that's been monumentally helpful to student organizations. I have with me Chris English, who is an engineering student and the clerk of the senate. I know that he's been instrumental in getting funding to engineering clubs, but it's not just those. I wish I had a number for you. If our treasurer, Morgan, was here, I could tell you, but a lot of student organizations really benefitted this

year from the finance committee's efficient distribution of funding. So, we're looking forward to the next year. We wanted to express our condolences to the student orgs we weren't able to fund, but that's how it is. We do run out eventually. Yep, just elections and funding. Any questions? Chris, do you want to add something?

C. English: This is more a statement. It was almost \$100,000 funding for supplemental. I think it's a little bit under, but almost \$100,000.

D. Douglass: There you have it. Questions? All right, thank you.

E. Operating Staff Council – Holly Nicholson, President – report

I. Montana: Item VIII.E., Operating Staff Council, Holly Nicholson, no report.

F. Supportive Professional Staff Council – Felicia Bohanon, President – report

I. Montana: Supportive Professional Staff Council, Felicia Bohanon?

F. Bohanon: This is really short. We're accepting nominations for the SPS Council at this time, and Friday is actually the deadline.

I. Montana: Thank you.

IX. 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](#), Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee
- G. [Minutes](#), Comm. on the Improvement of the Undergraduate Academic Experience
- H. [Minutes](#), General Education Committee
- I. [Minutes](#), Graduate Council
- 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. UC 2022-23 remaining meeting dates: Apr 5, May 3

I. Montana: The last agenda item is item IX., information items. They're just what they are. The only thing of note would be IX.Q. indicating the date for the next University Council meeting, which will be May 3.

X. ADJOURNMENT

I. Montana: And with that, I would like to entertain a motion to adjourn. We have Holly. Second? Katy. All in favor, say aye.

Members: Aye.

I. Montana: Okay, thank you, the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.