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Northeastern Voice

Electronic edition, Vol. 1 No. 6, Feb. 13, 2008

In This Issue

Main Page

Building momentum: Aoun expands faculty hiring

Library acquires Chinese activist group's papers

Faculty Senate briefs

Featured Article

Building momentum: Aoun expands faculty hiring



A heightened focus on interdisciplinary research and scholarship is driving a faculty hiring initiative at Northeastern, which will advance the university's leadership position in translational research — research aimed at solving real-world problems — and when finished will have added nearly 150 new faculty members.

Library acquires Chinese activist group's papers

In the latest in a series of acquisitions from local grassroots organizations, University Libraries has received the historical records of Boston's Chinese Progressive Association, a community organization that works for equality and empowerment of the Chinese community.

Faculty Senate briefs

The Faculty Senate on Wednesday unanimously added its backing to a new master's degree in international business.



- Reader's Digest ranks Northeastern among [tops in the U.S. for student security](#).
- [Video from Lunar New Year](#) on Northeastern's YouTube Channel
- Associate professor of journalism Alan Schroeder [writes about the intriguing nature](#) of this year's potential presidential debates.
- Study by the Center for Labor Market Studies is central to a [TV story on why teens can't get work](#).

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Main Page

Building momentum: Aoun expands faculty hiring

Library acquires Chinese activist group's papers

Faculty Senate briefs

Building momentum: Aoun expands faculty hiring



President Aoun, at October's Town Meeting: "What I stand for is very simple: A commitment to the academic enterprise in its entirety."

In October, pointing to the University's investment in 37 new faculty positions in the first year of his administration, President Joseph Aoun told the university community: "This is only the beginning."

The implementation of the academic plan now provides the occasion to expand the breadth of the Interdisciplinary Faculty Initiative (IFI) beyond the thirty faculty members originally envisioned in the 2006 launch of the IFI. This week the president announced that his administration projects funding a total of 50 new faculty members under the auspices of the IFI over three years, at the rank of associate professor or higher, with a number of these appointments to start as early as fall 2008.

This announcement reflects a further investment of resources in his top priority. The president cited the quality and work of the first class of hires, who started in fall 2007, and said he wants to continue to build on that momentum.

"The quality of the faculty we are attracting from leading universities across the country and around the world is evidence that leading researchers and scholars are drawn to our innovative environment," said Aoun.

"Their enthusiasm creates more interest among their colleagues and peers and we are seeing that our faculty members are our best recruiters."

"By attracting faculty who are dedicated to working with experts in other disciplines, we will generate groundbreaking research and distinguished scholarship that will benefit students and society," he said.

Said Provost Ahmed Abdelal: "We have built strong disciplinary foundations under the Academic Investment Plan. This advances

Northeastern to the forefront of universities that address global challenges through interdisciplinary scholarship and collaborative translational research."

Adding faculty at the tenured level will strengthen Northeastern's academic reputation, advance the Ph.D. and research initiatives and increase the educational opportunities available, said Susan Powers-Lee, executive vice provost.

"We want to add tenured academic leaders across the university," she told the Faculty Senate this week.

Powers-Lee called the president's announcement of an expanded IFI "a celebration."

Faculty with shared interdisciplinary interests in all areas of the university are encouraged to work with their dean, within and across colleges, to identify potential areas, candidates, or clusters of candidates aligned with the themes of the university's academic plan. Questions or inquiries regarding implementation of this initiative can be directed to Susan Powers-Lee in the provost's office.

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Main Page

Building momentum: Aoun expands faculty hiring

Library acquires Chinese activist group's papers

Faculty Senate briefs

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Support for new degree

The Faculty Senate on Wednesday unanimously added its backing to a new master's degree in international business. CBA Dean Thomas Moore, at right, told senators the new one-year M.S. would be "a way of reaching out to business minors," of whom there are about 600 in Northeastern's undergraduate population. The matter now goes to Northeastern's administration and to the trustees for final approval.



Thomas Moore

Proposal merits approval

Senators on Wednesday passed the first of seven resolutions regarding merit pay for professors. The resolution calls on academic units to "finalize their workload policies so as to rationalize their merit processes," and to separately evaluate teaching, research and scholarship, and service, combining those assessments into one weighted score. Consideration of the other six was postponed to a further meeting, pending provision of more information about current regulations to senators.

Applause for library 'Web'

As the Senate session broke up, Malcolm Hill, interim chair of earth and environmental sciences, offered congratulations to libraries dean Will Wakeling for introducing the Web of Science research tool to Northeastern's library system. Wakeling, in attendance, got a round of applause. Web of Science is a leading citation-analysis online tool that is expected to speed up and focus faculty and student research.

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"These organizations do not have the funding or expertise to preserve their own history," said Joan Krizack, the university's archivist and head of special collections. "Without the Northeastern program, the history of these organizations would be lost to younger generations, and the voices of these communities would be unheard."

Founded on July 17, 1977 in the Chinatown neighborhood, the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) supports adult education, civic empowerment, workers' rights, youth leadership, and community information and referral services.

It also participates in citywide and regional coalitions, including the Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition, Boston Tenant Coalition, Civic Engagement Initiative, Fair Wage Campaign, Immigrant Workers Center Collaborative, New Majority, and Whose Boston.

Among its early activities, the CPA helped found the Chinatown Housing and Land Development Task Force, worked with other activists to conduct voter registration and organize the first mayoral candidates' forum in Chinatown, and joined African-American and Latino community leaders to file a successful lawsuit against gerrymandering of state electoral districts.

In 1986, CPA organized with dislocated garment workers from P&L Sportswear and from Beverly Rose, another sportswear manufacturer, to win the first Chinese bilingual retraining programs in New England. The following year, the CPA Workers Center was established to continue organizing immigrant workers to advocate for their rights.

In 1993, CPA worked with other Chinatown organizations and the American Friends Service Committee to organize a plebiscite on the Parcel C parking garage proposed for the center of residential Chinatown, eventually winning the designation of the parcel for community development.

More recently, in 2005 the organization launched its Immigrant Workers Center Collaborative to build immigrant worker organizing and solidarity in the Chinese, Brazilian, and Latino communities. In 2006, CPA strengthened ties with communities of color, tenant organizations, and housing advocates to secure changes in Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy and its definition of housing affordability in an effort to stabilize Boston neighborhoods.

The 19 linear feet of material from 1977 through 2005 includes board and committee minutes, correspondence, grant proposals, newsletters, press clippings, and audio/visual material.

"This collection fits with the archives' mission to collect the records of Boston-area social justice organizations that serve the African American, Chinese, Latino, and GLBT communities," Krizack said.

She said the archives are being used not only by Northeastern researchers but by the organizations' own members, to prepare histories as well as exhibits and publications.

"Students and faculty from across the country use them as sources for papers, theses, dissertations and articles as well," Krizack noted, "and filmmakers have made quite a bit of use of images in these collections too."

For a list of all collections available for research in the Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections Department, please see: http://www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collections/manuscript_collections/.

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