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Faculty Senate Meeting Agendas

Faculty Senate

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, 21 April 2004
TIME: 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
PLACE: 240 Egan (Raytheon Amphitheater)

Agenda:

A. Written SAC Report (Professor Lowndes)

B. Written Provost Report (Provost Abdelal)

C. Committee of the Whole: Academic Search Procedures

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate adopt the search procedures described in the 23 March 2004 document entitled Academic Search Procedures,and that these replace the search procedures for key academic administrators in Section VI.D of the current Faculty Handbook.

D. Enrollment and Admissions Policy Committee Report (Professor Bannister) (to start no later than 1:00 p.m.)

1. WHEREAS, interdisciplinary initiatives within and across Colleges are a valuable recruiting vehicle for the still higher caliber students the University seeks to attract, and

WHEREAS, a number of interdisciplinary majors currently exist within the University, and

WHEREAS, a single source for promoting these interdisciplinary activities has not existed, and

WHEREAS, interdisciplinary activities between Colleges often present resource and programmatic challenges that require Provostial intervention; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate recommend regular publication of a single University Interdisciplinary Studies promotional piece and that a single University-wide Interdisciplinary Studies web site be created.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate recommend that mechanisms be put in place at the University and Collegiate levels to properly fund and support interdisciplinary programs.

2. WHEREAS, the number of students participating in study abroad has increased regularly, and

WHEREAS, study abroad opportunities are a valuable recruiting vehicle for the still higher caliber students the University seeks to attract, and

WHEREAS, the University must continue to provide these students with challenging and enriching study abroad opportunities; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate recommend that the current inventory of study abroad sites be expanded, where possible and practical.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That study abroad programs be strengthened and expanded through an expanded menu of initiatives including, but not limited to, faculty-led for-credit study trips, special summer programs made possible by the new academic calendar, and alumni/student study trips.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate recommend that representatives from the Office of International Study Programs and other internationally focused units on campus, such as the Bachelor of Science in International Business program, the International Student and Scholar Institute, and International Co-op, work together as a group

in order to explore specific ways in which study abroad and other international activities could be strengthened and could benefit from the heightened synergies arising from such increased cooperation.

3. WHEREAS, the Honors Program is a vital recruitment and retention vehicle for the higher caliber student that the University seeks to attract and retain, and

WHEREAS, the annual Honors cohort comprises slightly more than ten percent of the incoming fall freshman class, and

WHEREAS, Honors students will be required to take at least one Honors Seminar beginning in the 2004-05 academic year, and

WHEREAS, Honors Seminars provide opportunities for Honors students to have enhanced and enriched academic experiences with the University's best faculty members, and

WHEREAS, the present number of Honors Seminars is insufficient to meet the projected demand for honors Seminars; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate recommend that the University provide the necessary support and encouragement to the Honors Program to double the annual offering of Honors Seminars by the 2005-06 academic year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate recommend that all academic units actively seek ways to support the Honors Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate endorse the principle that teaching an Honors Seminar will be considered part of a faculty member's regular annual teaching load.

4. WHEREAS, the undergraduate student population that the university is recruiting, admitting and retaining fits well the profile of students who will pursue graduate education, and

WHEREAS, the University seeks to expand the number of graduate students and programs,
and

WHEREAS, supporting students who are seeking grant funding for their graduate education not only benefits the students but also fosters a positive image of the University, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate recommend that the Provost's office actively implement measures to provide coordinated support for students seeking grant funding for graduate education, perhaps through the creation of an Office of National Scholarships.

5. WHEREAS, students are living in an increasingly internationalized world, and

WHEREAS, employers will increasingly expect recruits to have knowledge of other nations and cultures as well as global economic and political forces, and

WHEREAS, major universities in the US are already moving towards internationalized curricula, and

WHEREAS, the University needs to improve and protect its ability to attract the best students,

BE IT RESOLVED That steps should be taken to ensure that colleges be encouraged to put in place mechanisms to provide an international understanding of their field of specialization, an understanding of global processes in general, and knowledge of other cultures. These mechanisms may include, but shall not be limited to, a combination of

curriculum requirements, special study projects, junior year research projects, and study/work abroad.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That any steps taken towards a common core curriculum for the University take into account the need to internationalize said curriculum.

6. WHEREAS, each academic unit within the University at the departmental level has an annual instructional carrying capacity, and

WHEREAS, the faculty and facility resources within a unit can vary positively or negatively on an annual basis; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That no later than November 1 of each year each academic Dean within the University provide the Provost's office with a projection of their respective college's carrying capacity for the upcoming academic year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Provost's Office work with the Admissions Office to incorporate these projections into the number of freshmen and transfer students that will be admitted to the unit for the upcoming academic year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That increases in enrollment from one student source should be accompanied by a concomitant decrease in other enrollment sources or by an appropriate reallocation of resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That if a unit's carrying capacity must be exceeded, then the Provost's office authorize allocation of all necessary and appropriate resources at the earliest possible moment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That said authorization, in anticipation of trustee approval of the overall budget, be given to the unit heads by the first week in January. In addition the University should work towards improving the alignment of its budgeting cycle with authorizations to hire.

7. WHEREAS, the academic quality of incoming freshmen classes has, during recent years, been on an upward trajectory as measured by SAT scores and high school GPA, and

WHEREAS, during the same period of time the profile of external transfer students has remained relatively static, and

WHEREAS, external transfer students comprise a portion of the annual enrollment cohort for academic units, and

WHEREAS, a number of leaders of academic units have expressed the view that transfer students, as a group, are not as academically prepared as the higher caliber of freshmen that we now attract, and

WHEREAS, these unit leaders report the presence of a potential bimodal distribution of academic performance in some classes; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate commission, under the auspices of this Standing Committee, a study undertaken by Institutional Research that examines a range of data points concerning the academic preparedness of transfer students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That, after receiving the aforementioned study, this Standing Committee, recognizing the impact of increased selectivity on transfer enrollments and in consultation with the Provost's Office and Enrollment Management, be charged with making specific recommendations regarding enrollment, admission and academic performance of transfer students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That such recommendations, if any, be submitted to the Faculty Senate no later than March 15, 2005.

E. Financial Affairs Committee Report on Future Building Plans (Professor Vaughn) (to start no later than 1:45 p.m.)

WHEREAS, the further advancement of Northeastern University toward its goals of academic excellence requires the creation of additional classroom and laboratory space in the coming years, and additional on-campus student housing as well, and

WHEREAS, planning for this construction must begin soon,

BE IT RESOLVED That
(i) the University establish a new master Planning Committee,
(ii) this Committee include at least two faculty members to be appointed by the Agenda Committee of the Faculty Senate, and
(iii) faculty also be included on the university committee which is responsible for allocation and reassigning existing space.

F. Information Systems Policy Committee Report (Professor Bansil) (to start no later than 2:00 p.m.)

1. WHEREAS a significant portion of the information technology (IT) purchase, maintenance and support resides within colleges, units or research institutes and outside of NU's central information services (IS),

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the name of the IS Policy Committee be changed to IT Policy Committee (ITPC).

2. WHEREAS technology has become an indispensable tool in teaching,

BE IT RESOLVED That the University will strive to equip and support 100% of the registrar-scheduled classrooms on the campus with appropriate technology. A suitable replacement-upgrade cycle will be developed for all classroom technology.

3. WHEREAS, academic software is essential for teaching and research,

BE IT RESOLVED That a cost-effective, centralized process be developed for the acquisition, upgrade and retirement of all academic software. Academic software will be supported across multiple platforms as appropriate and will be accessible remotely to the greatest extent feasible.

4. WHEREAS, there is a critical need to develop and maintain a robust infrastructure for research computing and computational training in the university,

BE IT RESOLVED That a central facility for research computing and computational training be supported by IS. A Faculty Committee with representation from various campus research constituencies will provide policy-making functions for this effort. Appropriate mechanisms for sustaining this effort on a long-term basis for serving diverse campus needs in research computing and computational training will be developed.

5. WHEREAS, faculty require a diverse array of up-to-date technology to meet their individual research computing needs,

BE IT RESOLVED That the ITPC will survey and develop appropriate mechanisms for supporting diverse faculty needs with respect to research computing. A suitable upgrade cycle for faculty computers will be developed.

6. WHEREAS, new and emerging technologies are the key to maintaining a cutting-edge IT infrastructure for research and teaching in the university,

BE IT RESOLVED That the ITPC will develop a mechanism for evaluating, prioritizing and recommending the infrastructure for new and emerging technologies (including wireless technologies) appropriate for various

constituencies in the university.

G. Committee of the Whole: Financial Affairs Committee Report on the Budget Process

H. Academic Policy Committee Report on General Education (Professor Sherman)

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate endorses the principles contained in the Academic Policy Committee's Report and Recommendations as the basis for developing a University-wide General Education requirement. The report calls upon the 2004-2005 Agenda Committee to charge the Academic Policy Committee it appoints to construct, from these principles, curricular parameters from which individual Colleges and Units can build major-specific requirements and to test the parameters on a range of specific programs.

I. Faculty Development Committee Report (Professor Serafim)

1. BE IT RESOLVED That

Faculty peer-assessment and self-assessment systems be set up in all academic units to promote faculty development and to provide a comprehensive framework within which to evaluate teaching effectiveness during tenure, promotion, and merit reviews. Be it further resolved that the Center for Effective University Teaching be provided the necessary resources to assist all academic units in setting up their assessment systems.

2. BE IT RESOLVED That

Northeastern University establish a Distinguished Teaching Fellows Program. The duties and responsibilities of Distinguished Teaching Fellows shall include:

a. Collaborating with the staff of the Center for Effective University Teaching in developing projects that enrich learning and teaching at the University;
b. Peer-assessing untenured faculty members in other academic units to promote effective teaching across the university;
c. Helping organize and participating in workshops, seminars and/or symposia in which the results of teaching enhancement projects will be shared with others in the Northeastern community;
d. Publishing the results of their scholarly work on teaching in peer-reviewed journals;
e. Seeking extramural funding to support their scholarship of teaching activities.

3. BE IT RESOLVED That

Tenure and promotion procedures will include a comprehensive system for evaluating teaching effectiveness. The components the system will include:

a. Teaching portfolios developed from the time of faculty member’s initial appointments;
b. Sample syllabi containing clearly defined learning goals and measurable learning outcomes reflecting levels of cognition and skill sets commensurate with course goals;
c. Peer-reviewed publications and other works on the scholarship of teaching;
d. Results of peerassessments [delete -] and responses to them that show significant growth in teaching proficiency over time;
e. Development of innovative teaching methods and materials;
f. Results of standardized tests and other evaluation instruments that indicate exemplary student learning;
g. A sophisticated, research-based teaching philosophy.
k. Awards for teaching excellence.

4. BE IT RESOLVED ThatA sum of $1000 be allocated to each faculty member each year to support the development of his/her teaching effectiveness.