

April 07, 2004

## Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 04/07/2004

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*Northeastern University*

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TO: FACULTY SENATE  
FROM: CHARLES H. ELLIS, Jr., SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE  
SUBJECT: MINUTES, 2003-2004 FACULTY SENATE MEETING, 7 APRIL 2004

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Present: (Professors) Alper, Alverson, Aroian, Bansil, Barnes, Blank, Brookins, Bruns, Bursey, Ellis, Futrelle, Hansberry, Hunt, Khaw, Krishnamoorthy, Kruger, Lowndes, Margotta, Morrison, Ondrechen, Peterfreund, Serafim, Shafai, Sherman, Sherwood, Vaughn, Wray  
(Administrators) Abdelal, Finkelstein, Greene, Hill, Meservey, Onan, Soyster, Stellar, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Bannister, Flym, Howlett, Metghalchi  
(Administrators) Weiss

Provost Abdelal convened the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

I. **Minutes.** The minutes of March 24, March 31, and April 1 were in progress.

II. **SAC Report.** Professor Lowndes reported the following.

A. **Search Committee.** The Philosophy and Religion Chair Search Committee has been staffed. The search is internal. Members are

Elected:

Professor William J. DeAngelis (Philosophy and Religion)  
Professor Patricia M. Illingworth (Philosophy and Religion)  
Professor Stephen L. Nathanson (Philosophy and Religion)

Appointed:

Professor Laura L. Frader (History)  
Professor James R. Hackney (Law)

B. **Committee Reports.** SAC has received final reports from the Enrollment and Admissions Policy Special Committee, the Faculty Development Special Committee, and the Information Services Committee. In addition we have been informed that we will receive the report from the Academic Policy Special Committee of the Senate, and the report on the final component of the charge to the Financial Affairs Committee, by next Tuesday. As these reports are being received they are being sent on to Senators immediately to give more time to review them before they are considered, hopefully in the final two meetings of the Senate.

We do not expect a report from the Research Policy Oversight Committee to be available before the end of term. At the request of the Committee, Provost Abdelal and Professor Lowndes agreed to serve as the Co-chairs of the new Research Policy Oversight Committee of the Senate. This Committee has been meeting throughout this semester and is making progress to address various significant issues confronting sponsored researchers. However, the work will not be completed in time to allow a report to the Senate this academic year, but it will be made available for next year's Senate.

C. **Next Meeting:** Tomorrow, if necessary, in 308 SN at 2:50 p.m. Otherwise, the next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14, in **320 CSC (McLeod Suite)**.

III. **Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Information Assurance.** Professor Futrelle moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Information Assurance proposed by the Colleges of Computer and Information Science and Criminal Justice as approved by the Graduate Council on 12 March 2004.**

Dean Finkelstein presented a brief background on the origin of the proposal. It was developed by the Colleges of Criminal Justice and Computer and Information Science to satisfy the increasing demand for security professionals who understand the vulnerabilities in our information systems and can evaluate the liabilities, countermeasures, and impact as information assets become increasingly more important to industry, research, academia, and society. Northeastern has been designated by the National Security Agency as a Center of Excellence in Information Assurance Education and is well-positioned to offer a Master of Science program to address a critical shortfall in security professionals.

Dean Greene added that, even before 9/11, the world was changing in terms of security needs in the public sector in connection with Homeland Security, and also in the private sector, which is often targeted for information theft in computer systems.

Professor Peterfreund expressed concern about the admissions criteria on page 5. After some discussion, it was agreed that a “combined Graduate Record Examination score of 1100 and a writing score of 5 or a TOEFL score of 550” would replace the original wording.

Vice Provost Meservey suggested changing “required” to “recommended” in the first paragraph under “Admissions Criteria” and this was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Professor Peterfreund suggested including a requirement for three letters of reference in the same paragraph, and this was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Motion. Professor Barnes called the question, and the motion was seconded.

Motion. Professor Ellis, still acting on the four Senators’ requests, moved for a secret ballot. The motion was seconded.

Vote to hold a secret ballot: FAILED, 9-25.

Vote to approve the proposed Interdisciplinary M.S. in Information Assurance, as amended: PASSED, 34-0-0.

- IV. **Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT).** Dean Zoloth moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy as approved by the Graduate Council on 12 March 2004.**

The floor was yielded to Professor Susan Lowe who explained that the existing MSPT program has been accredited for the next ten years and is now free to file a declaration of intent to offer the new DPT, which will maintain Northeastern’s competitive position. All institutions are expected to have the DPT by 2020.

Professor Peterfreund noted that the program did not seem to offer financial aid this year. Dean Zoloth responded that this was being worked out by the Provost’s Office.

Vice Provost Meservey noted that the formula would be corrected to reflect the additional credits and numbers, but the numbers rounded to 100 students per class, which would make the program self-supporting.

There being no objection, the Senate turned to a vote.

Professor Ondrechen suggested a motion to dispense with the secret ballot. Provost Abdelal replied that it would be faster to simply conduct the ballot vote.

Vote by secret ballot: PASSED, 35-0-0.

- V. **Clinical Doctorate in Audiology.** Dean Zoloth moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Clinical Doctorate in Audiology as approved by the Graduate Council on 12 March 2004.**

The floor was yielded to Professor Linda Ferrier, who explained that the Department of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, which has had a masters program since 1967, is being required by its accrediting agency to move to a doctoral degree by 2012. She added that 100% of our students obtain employment upon graduation.

There being no objection, the Senate turned to a vote.

Vote by secret ballot: PASSED, 35-0-0.

- VI. **Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences.** Dean Zoloth moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on 8 January 2004.**

Dean Zoloth explained that this program builds on the existing program, which has been attracting increasing numbers of students who enter undecided about their majors and find their careers in the health sciences.

Dean Plunkett added that this was a project that involved faculty from a number of departments to respond to a growing national need with a program that will attract high-quality students.

Professor Ondrechen noted that the more rigorous versions of science courses were absent from the program's requirements. Dean Plunkett responded that in terms of requirements this was not a pre-med curriculum. It was, however, based on solid social sciences, basic sciences, and humanities with a number of elective possibilities. Students would work closely with a faculty advisor and, if a student chose a career path in dentistry or medicine, it would be possible to do so.

Professor Ellis pointed out a typographical error in the pre-med section, which should read "BIOU321 and BIOU322." He expressed concern that the core curriculum would not be strong enough for students wishing to go on to medical school, or even to a MPH program. Dean Zoloth responded that the entrance requirements in schools of public health are remarkably light in terms of the basic science requirement.

Dean Plunkett noted that the basic structure of the program contains core requirement courses, in addition to a core of new interdisciplinary health science courses and a more specialized elective focus.

Professor Sherman did not think the statistics course was sufficiently research-directed. Professor Blank replied that the text proposed to be used in the statistics course, *Statistical Thinking*, is considered excellent.

Professor Peterfreund expressed concern at the lack of humanities courses. He recommended adding a component to develop critical analysis skills.

Professor Wray asked whether some of the projected Coop positions would be non-scientific. Dean Zoloth replied that some would be in the social service spectrum.

Professor Bruns, noting that, of those in the room, she was probably the most recent recipient of a MPH degree, urged that basic research methods be included.

There being no objection, the Senate turned to a vote.

Vote by secret ballot: PASSED, 27-7-2.

- VII. **Non-Tenure Track Research Faculty.** Vice Provost Meservey moved the following resolution, and the motion was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate endorse the establishment of the faculty ranks of Research Professor, Research Associate Professor, and Research Assistant Professor, with the duties, rights and responsibilities detailed in the proposal from the Office of the Provost, and to be included in the revised *Faculty Handbook* among Special Academic Appointments (section VI.C).**

Vice Provost Meservey suggested several friendly amendments.

On pages 1 and 2, add the following to “Appointment and Term” and “Reappointment” sections: “All appointments are also contingent upon maintaining the appropriate visa status and work authorization.”

On page 3, “Promotion” section, paragraph 1, last sentence: delete “regular” before “teaching load.”

On page 4, “Benefits” section, delete the following: “Research faculty who are appointed on an academic year basis will not accrue vacation days. Benefits-eligible research faculty whose appointments are not semester based will accrue vacation days at the rate which applies to administrative/professionals Grade 12 or higher”, and add, “Research faculty who are appointed on a two or two and half semester basis will not accrue vacation days. Benefits-eligible research faculty whose appointments are on a 52 week base, will accrue vacation days at the rate which applies to administrative/professional Grade 12 or higher.”

Professor Alper asked who would make the appointments. Vice Provost Meservey replied that appointments would be made by the Provost based on recommendations from the unit and the dean and agreed to clarify the language in the document.

As time had run out, a motion was made to recess until the next day.

Recessed at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Ellis, Jr.  
Secretary