

September 15, 2004

## Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 09/15/2004

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*Northeastern University*

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TO: FACULTY SENATE  
FROM: CHARLES H. ELLIS, Jr. SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE  
SUBJECT: MINUTES, 2004-05 FACULTY SENATE MEETING, 15 SEPTEMBER 2004

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Present: (Professors) Bannister, Bansil, Blank, De Ritis, Ellis, Futrelle, Glod, Hansberry, Herman, Krishnamoorthy, Kruger, Lowndes, Margotta, Marshall, Melachrinoudis, Peterfreund, Powers-Lee, Robinson, Schaffer, Sherwood, Vaughn, Wiseman, Wray  
(Administrators) Abdelal, Finkelstein, Hill, Meservey, Onan, Spieler, Stellar, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Bobcean, McKnight, Morrison, Reynolds, Shafai  
(Administrators) Moore, Soyster

Provost Abdelal convened the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

I. **Minutes.** The minutes of the April 21 organizational meeting were approved.

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

A. **Senate Membership Changes:**

Professor Lowndes welcomed Dean Thomas E. Moore of the College of Business Administration back to the University and, especially, welcomed him back to the Faculty Senate.

For differing personal reasons, Professors Bursey, Howlett, and Hunt, from the College of Arts and Sciences, have had to resign for the remainder of this year. The College will hold an election to replace them shortly. Professor Lowndes thanked these Senators for their efforts over the past year, and hoped they will consider returning to the Senate in the future.

B. **Senate Meetings.** Most Senate meetings will be held in Raytheon Amphitheater, 240 Egan, but some will be in 450 DG and one will be in the McLeod Suite. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesdays, 11:45 – 1:25:

September 15 (EC)  
September 22 (450 DG)  
September 29 (EC)  
October 13 (450 DG)  
October 27 (450 DG)  
November 17 (McLeod)  
December 1 (450 DG)  
December 15 (EC)

January 12 (EC)  
January 26 (EC)  
February 16 (EC)  
March 9 (EC)  
March 23 (EC)  
April 6 (EC)  
April 20 (EC) (11-2:30)

Thursdays, 2:50 – 4:25:

March 31 (EC)

April 14 (EC)

- C. **Parliamentarian.** Professor Peterfreund has agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.
- D. **Grievance Coordinator.** Professor Morrison has agreed to serve as Grievance Coordinator.
- E. **SAC Meetings.** Since its election last April, the Agenda Committee has met four times, twice in extended session. The Agenda Committee will meet with Provost Abdelal and Vice President Meservey later this afternoon.
- F. **Senate Agenda for the Year.** The general focus for the Senate will again be to pursue initiatives and changes that support NU's quest for top-100 status. SAC expects the full details about charges and membership for the standing and *ad hoc* committees of the Senate to be finalized by late September. The tentative agenda for Senate meetings this fall semester will be: consideration of reports outstanding from last year from the Academic Policy Committee, the Faculty Development Committee, and the Information Systems Policy Committee (September meetings); an annual report on admissions and enrollment issues from Provost Abdelal and SVP Mantella (October 13); the FAC report on merit raises and equity (October 27); the Faculty Handbook (starting October 27 and to be completed this fall); and the annual meeting with President Freeland (November 17).
- G. **President's Response to Senate Resolutions.** President Freeland has responded to a number of 2003-04 Senate resolutions. These responses will appear in the Annual Report, which will be distributed shortly.
- H. **Administrator Evaluations.** The evaluation reports on Deans Buchanan, Soyster, and Stellar have been released for reading by the faculty of their respective colleges.
- I. **Searches.** The Provost has asked the Agenda Committee to establish chair searches for the departments of Chemical Engineering and Electrical & Computer Engineering. Both searches are to be external. The search committees have been established with the following memberships:

**Chemical Engineering:**

Elected Members:

Professor Gilda A. Barabino (Chemical Engineering)  
 Professor Daniel D. Burkey (Chemical Engineering)  
 Professor Albert Sacco, Jr. (Chemical Engineering)

Appointed Members:

Professor Graham Jones (Chemistry & Chemical Biology)  
 Professor Hameed Metghalchi (Mechanical & Industrial Engg)

**Electrical & Computer Engineering:**

Elected Members:

Professor Dana H. Brooks (ECE)  
 Professor Jeffrey A. Hopwood (ECE)  
 Professor Eric L. Miller (ECE)

Appointed Members:

Professor Paul M. Champion (Physics)  
 Professor Mishac K. Yegian (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

**J. Senate Financial Affairs Committee. Members are**

**Professor Louis J. Kruger, Chair (Counseling and Applied Psychology)**  
**Professor Yiannis A. Levendis (MIE)**  
**Professor Joseph W. Meador (Finance and Insurance)**  
**Professor Michael T. Vaughn (Physics)**  
**Professor Bruce A. Wallin (Political Science)**

**The Committee has been convened and charged to report back to the October 27 meeting of the Faculty Senate on its recommendations for merit salary and equity pools for 2005-06. The full details of the charge will be provided to the Senate shortly.**

**K. School of Professional and Continuing Studies (SPCS) Academic Council on Lifelong Learning. SAC has appointed the following seven faculty members to the School of Professional and Continuing Studies' Academic Council on Lifelong Learning. The full Council membership is:**

**Vice President Christopher E. Hopey, Chair (*Ex Officio*)**  
**Vice Provost Malcolm D. Hill (*Ex Officio*)**  
**Vice Provost Luis M. Falcon (*Ex Officio*)**  
**Associate Dean Todd J. Leach (SPCS) (*Ex Officio*)**  
**Dean Mary E. Watson (School of Health Professions)**  
**Associate Dean Yaman Yener (Engineering)**  
**Professor David Boyd (HRM)**  
**Professor Dan T. Dunn, Jr. (Marketing)**  
**Professor John F. Cipolla, Jr. (MIE)**  
**Professor Gerald H. Herman (History)**  
**Professor S. James Matthews (Pharmacy Practice)**  
**Professor Stuart S. Peterfreund (English)**  
**Professor Wallace W. Sherwood (CJ)**

**L. Next Meeting: September 22 in 450 DG.**

**III. Provost's Report.** Provost Abdelal reported the following.

- A. Academic Investment Plan.** In this, the first year of the Academic Investment Plan, twenty-one new tenure-track positions were added across the colleges; the library budget was enhanced by \$600K, a significant increase in their \$8M budget; professional staff positions were added to three colleges; and a large part of the budget was used to remedy the structural deficit in CAS and CBA. This looks to be a good budget year in that a number of improvements, as conceived and discussed, will be implemented.
- B. Enrollments.** Although we do not yet have the final figures, the number of undergraduate enrollments, in terms of credit hours, exceeds those of last fall by about 2%, and graduate enrollments also appear to realize the expected 2% increase.
- C. Research Funding.** Indirect costs realized in the past fiscal year lagged, but we will not know by how much until the end of the year. The budget projected for the last fiscal year was \$8.2M in overhead. What was actually realized was \$9.7M, which is another reassuring indicator of a healthy budget picture.
- D. Provost Office Staff Changes.** As previously announced, Luis Falcon, formerly Associate Dean of CAS, has been appointed Vice Provost for Graduate Education, and Distinguished Professor Srinivas Sridhar of Physics has been appointed Vice Provost for Research. Professor Maureen Kelleher has been appointed full-time Honors Program Director, replacing Professor John Portz who has been appointed Chair of Political Science.

- E. Vice Provost Meservey will be leaving at the end of the month to take the position of Provost at Suffolk University. Provost Abdelal expressed great appreciation for her work, in which she has applied exceptional talents across a number of areas.

IV. **Question and Discussion Time**

Professor Robinson asked in which colleges the new faculty positions were filled. Provost Abdelal recalled that nine or ten went to Arts and Sciences, three to Engineering, four to Bouvé, one each to Business and Criminal Justice, and some went into replacement positions.

- V. **Report of the 2003-04 *Ad Hoc* Senate Committee on Information Systems (IS) Policy.** Professor Bansil, Chair of the Committee on IS Policy, moved Resolution #1 and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

**WHEREAS a significant portion of information technology (IT) purchasing, maintenance and support activity resides within academic units outside the purview 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).**

Professor Bansil explained that Information Services (IS) is only a part of Northeastern's technology-related maintenance and support. An estimated 30% of the IT budget is outside IS. Thus redesignating the committee recognizes the variety of policy issues and constituencies involved.

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

Vote: PASSED unanimously by voice vote, 25-0-0.

Professor Bansil moved Resolution #2, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

**WHEREAS there is a critical lack of faculty governance and lack of a coherent overall structure with regard to informing campus-wide decisions on IT-related issues,**

**BE IT RESOLVED That the ITPC serve as the primary Faculty Senate body for making policy recommendations on all IT-related issues. The ITPC will develop a coherent plan for IT infrastructure applicable to teaching, research and service needs on a university-wide basis.**

Professor Blank asked whether the ITPC should be mandated to report to the Senate on a regular basis. Professor Ellis responded that it was voted by the Senate to be a standing committee, and will be included as such in the Senate By-laws in the new edition of the Handbook. As such it will be expected to report regularly to the Senate.

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

Vote: PASSED, 25-0-0.

Professor Bansil moved Resolution #3, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That ITPC membership be expanded to include a representative of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies. ITPC membership will continue to include a representative of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). The ITPC will communicate with other relevant committees and groups in the university, including, but not limited to, IS, the Senate Library Committee, the Senate Research Policy Committee, the Providers' Group, the Teaching and Learning with Technology**

### **Roundtable, and the Office of Sponsored Project Administration.**

Professor Bansil explained that the expanded committee would play an important role that would necessarily interact with the other groups.

Professor Blank asked whether EdTech should also be formally represented and suggested adding it as a friendly amendment. Professor Herman responded that one of the mandatory liaisons is from the Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable (usually an EdTech person) and noted that the committee would become unmanageable if all the small, specialized groups on campus had to be included as full members.

The floor was yielded to Professor Ayers pointed who pointed out that one of intent of the committee's resolutions was a return to faculty governance of computer and information technology policy..

Professor Robinson asked how the committee had been composed in terms of college representation. Professor Lowndes responded that, when the committee was originally approved as a standing committee of the Senate, the suggestion for representatives from individual colleges had been suggested but was voted down because the Senate viewed this as a discipline issue not a college issue.

Professor Bansil noted that the words, "including, but not limited to," provided for the inclusion of other liaison representatives.

There being no further discussion, the Senate turned to a vote.

Vote: PASSED, 25-1-1.

Professor Bansil moved Resolution #4, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That in order to ensure continuity of purpose and effectiveness, the Senate Agenda Committee make an effort to limit the turnover in ITPC membership from year-to-year to no more than 25% of its membership.**

Professor Bansil explained that it would be important for this committee to undertake multi-year projects, and therefore it would be helpful for the group to be able to work together over time without the disruption of a large annual turnover of membership. He asked whether this would conflict with other Senate rules. Professor Peterfreund responded that it was operative, not prescriptive.

Professor Vaughn suggested deletion of "to no more than 25% of its membership" and deletion of the hyphens in "year-to-year." These changes were accepted as a friendly amendment.

Vice Provost Meserve expressed concern that a member might continue for ten or fifteen years on the committee. Professor Peterfreund responded that mandating turnover on a standing committee would be inconsistent with Senate bylaws, as no term limits are specified for any other standing committee. Professor Vaughn added that it could be a bylaw issue but he was not in favor of constraining the SAC.

Dean Finkelstein expressed concern that the main focus was on policy and not on IT deployment. He suggested that the membership should to be able to be refreshed at a higher rate, as needed, and that new members really can get up to speed on the issues.

Professor Peterfreund explained that the spirit behind the motion was simply a recognition that the committee, as envisioned, will to be asked to carry out complex, multi-year projects and may benefit from greater continuity of membership because institutional memory is valuable.

There being no further discussion, the Senate turned to a vote.

As amended, Resolution #4 read as follows:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That in order to ensure continuity of purpose and effectiveness, the Senate Agenda Committee make an effort to limit the turnover in ITPC membership from year to year.**

Vote: PASSED, 22-0-3.

Professor Bansil moved Resolution #5, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

**WHEREAS technology has become an indispensable tool in teaching,**

**BE IT RESOLVED That the University undertake 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 this technology.**

Professor De Ritis explained that 35% of labs on campus are not established under IS supervision, and ultimately need continuous support and maintenance. This is not currently a part of the IS mission or budget. Also, the University does not have a general policy to provide or support technology in, for example, a music classroom where a stereo system is essential. He suggested that discussion is needed on the notion of what a registrar's scheduled classroom is because some classrooms also serve as labs and have different daytime and evening uses.

Professor Vaughn pointed out that for 160 classrooms, a \$15K upgrade would come to \$600K per year over the four-year period during which IT equipment will become obsolete.

Professor Peterfreund noted that, implicit in its name, ITPC will discuss what constitutes appropriate technology for every registrar-scheduled classroom, but such accommodation should not be legislated on the Senate floor. He suggested adding "laboratories and" before "registrar-scheduled classrooms". Professor De Ritis suggested adding "instructional laboratories" instead.

Professor Herman suggested the following wording: "BE IT RESOLVED That the University undertake to equip and support 100% of the instructional facilities on campus." He explained that discussion could then follow as to what is appropriate in different instances.

Professor Lowndes cautioned that the resolution might be too general to elicit a positive response from the President. He recommended that the committee propose some specific mechanisms for determining the appropriate technology and upgrade cycle and that funding be in the base budget.

Dean Finkelstein favored more focus on "informational technology," reminding the Senate that the precursor committee, UTC, had also dealt with requests for non-computational instructional technology.

Professor Blank asked if the University has a budget line for IT upgrades. Provost Abdelal replied that this was the case.

The floor was yielded to Vice President Weir who reported that until last spring the recurring University budget did not fund maintenance of current equipment. When the former UTC's monies were reallocated at the end of last spring, \$100K was set aside for the maintenance, not expansion, in the rest of the classrooms but that amount was \$150K short of next year's need. He urged the body to make the resolution more specific and to include some priorities.

Professor Bansil withdrew the motion so that the committee might revise it.

Professor Bansil moved Resolution #6, and the motion was seconded. The resolution read as follows:

**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 extent feasible.**

Professor Futrelle thought that, since many people do so much of their scholarly work off-campus, it should be possible for the University to buy an unlimited or large-quantity license for certain software. He suggested adding “distribution,” after “acquisition,” and this was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Vice President Weir admitted that the delivery environment is piecemeal with central distribution primarily aimed at desktops connected to the University network. The group of IT providers, composed of representatives from each of the academic units and a couple from the administration, has been working on the widely varying licensing arrangements for different technologies and on the constraints set by specific software companies. He noted that if this problem exists for faculty it is also a problem for students off campus on Co-op.

Provost Abdelal suggested deleting “all” before “academic software” and this was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Dean Finkelstein pointed out that, because of the strong budgetary implications resulting from restrictive licensing procedures, general licensing will require some heavy negotiation as well as additional costs.

Professor Ellis noted that the thrust of the resolution is to develop a process, cost-effective and centralized, that may deal with details that are not necessarily stated in the resolution.

Professor Kruger lauded the committee for its efforts to support multiple platforms.

The floor was yielded to a graduate student who pointed out that graduate students, on- and off-campus, also need access to University-supported software packages.

There being no further discussion, the Senate turned to a vote.

The resolution, as amended, read as follows:

**WHEREAS academic software is essential for teaching and research,**

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

Vote: PASSED, 25-0-0

Adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Ellis, Jr.  
Secretary