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Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 03/28/2007

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TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: STUART S. PETERFREUND, SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE
RE: MINUTES, 2006-07 FACULTY SENATE MEETING, 28 MARCH

Present: (Professors) Alper, Bruns, Cokely, Daynard, Fox, Gilbert, Glod, Hall, Hansberry, Herman, Hill, Kane, Krishnamoorthy, McKnight, Meador, Peterfreund, Reynolds, Robinson-Wood, Sanchez, Sherman, Starr, Wallin, Willey, Zaremba
(Administrators) Abdelal, Falcon, Finkelstein, Hopey, Metghalchi, Powers-Lee, Putnam, Stellar, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Bosso, Hafner, Janikian, Reucroft, Strauss, Touran, Welch
(Administrators) Moore

Provost Abdelal convened the meeting at 11:52 AM.

I. The minutes of 14 March were approved as posted.

II. SAC Report. Professor Glod welcomed Vice Provost Powers-Lee and Chief of Staff Putnam to the Senate. The Senate Agenda Committee met twice in regular session and once with the Provost.

The following combined bachelors/masters programs were approved by the UUCC:

BS/MS in Computer Science
BS/BA/MA in Political Science
BA/MA (special entry) in English

The search committee for a dean of the School of Pharmacy has been staffed as follows:

Elected members:

Professor Richard C. Deth (Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Professor Louis J. Kruger (Counseling & Applied Psychology)
Associate Clinical Specialist Jennifer Trujillo (Pharmacy Practice)
Senior Clinical Specialist Thomas J. Williams (Physician Asst. Program)

Appointed members:

Professor Slava S. Epstein (Biology)
Professor Mary Jo Ondrechen (Chemistry & Chemical Biology)
Professor Mary E. Watson (Interim Chair, Dept. of Health Professions)
Ms. Katherine Reny (SGA Representative)
Ms. Shraddha Babaria (GPSA Representative)

IV. Provost Abdelal opened the floor to questions.

Professor Fox expressed frustration with the communications regarding the change in schedule during Inauguration week and the apparently acceptable view that scheduling classes on Friday is optional.

In response to Professor Wallin's question, the Provost indicated that the first interdisciplinary faculty hire has been made and will be announced by the end of March.

V. Proposed Master of Science in Electrical & Computer Engineering Leadership in the School of Engineering (Graduate Council vote: 9-0-1) (Professor McKnight)

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering Leadership in the School of Engineering as approved by the Graduate Council on 13 February 2007

In response to Professor Hafner's observation at the 14 March meeting, Vice Provost Falcon clarified that the proposals were distributed prior to the meeting of the Graduate Council via email and paper copy, and Council members were asked at that meeting if they were ready to discuss them. He assured Senate members that the proposal was thoroughly reviewed.

Professor McKnight yielded the floor to Professor Silevitch, who indicated that many companies and government agencies had been contacted and had indicated that the lack of engineering leaders will be addressed by this program. The Army Night Vision Lab in Virginia committed to it immediately upon review. Dean Metghalchi added that the entire College is supportive of the program and it will propagate similar programs soon in other fields of engineering.

A friendly amendment to change 'School of Engineering' to 'College of Engineering' was accepted by Professor McKnight.

Professor Bruns said that the College of Business Administration had reviewed the proposal and determined that it does not compete with their high-tech MBA program but cautioned the Senate concerning the potential to infringe upon existing programs.

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

The amended resolution is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering Leadership in the College of Engineering as approved by the Graduate Council on 13 February 2007.

VOTE to approve the MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering Leadership Program: PASSED, 30-0-0.

VI. Proposed restructuring of the Department of Visual Arts. Professor Starr read the following resolution and it was seconded.

[Resolution #1: Department name change](#)

BE IT RESOLVED That Faculty Senate approve the name change of the Department of Visual Arts to the Department of Art and Design as approved unanimously by the Department of Visual Arts and the College Council in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Professor Starr explained that the proposed restructuring of the department was precipitated by a study performed by the National Panel of Educators in the Arts and reflects their recommendations. He yielded the floor to Professor and Department Chair Andrews who spoke of the new direction of the department. In response to a query, Professor Andrews confirmed that the BA is the typical degree given in the arts, thus the change in degree names.

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

VOTE to accept resolution #1 to change the name of the Department of Visual Arts: PASSED, 30-0-0

Professor Starr read the following resolutions and they were seconded.

Resolution #2: Proposed BA in Art (UUCS vote to approve: 12-0-0)

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Art major in the College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in February 2007, with the concomitant suspension of the Bachelor of Science in General Art (as previously approved by the CAS Council).

Resolution #3: Proposed BFA in Digital Art (UUCS vote to approve: 12-0-0)

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Art major in the College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in February 2007, with the concomitant suspension of both the Bachelor of Science in Art with a Concentration in Animation and in Photography (as previously approved by the CAS Council).

Resolution #4: Proposed BFA in Graphic Design (UUCS vote to approve: 12-0-0)

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design major in the College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in February 2007, with the concomitant suspension of the Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design (as previously approved by the CAS Council).

Resolution #5: Proposed BS Dual Major in Multimedia Studies and Digital Art (UUCS vote to approve: 12-0-0)

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Science Dual Major in Multimedia Studies and Digital Art in the College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in February 2007, with the concomitant suspension of both the Bachelor of Science Dual Major with Concentration in Animation and Media Studies and in Photography and Multimedia Studies (as previously approved by the CAS Council).

Resolution #6: Proposed BS Dual Major in Computer Science and Digital Art (UUCS vote to approve: 12-0-0)

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Science Dual Major in Computer Science and Digital Art in the College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in February 2007.

Professor Andrews noted that the proposal seeks to remove the Bachelor of Science from the Department, to be replaced by the proposed programs in order to more accurately reflect the degree. These fit with a new emphasis on video production as well as with the joint programs with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts previously by the Senate.

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

VOTE to approve the six resolutions to restructure the Department of Visual Arts: PASSED, 30-0-0

V. Proposed Senate Bylaw Revision Resolutions

Resolution #1:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate Bylaws be amended with the following language regarding the composition of the Faculty Senate to replace the first paragraph of section I.A.2.a of the Faculty Handbook, effective for Faculty Senates convening in 2007-08 and thereafter:

The membership of the Faculty Senate will consist of thirty faculty members elected from the College faculties.

Discussion continued from the Senate meeting of 14 March. It was noted that two members of the Co-op faculty have been elected to Senate seats from within the Colleges since the last meeting.

Professor Robinson moved to amend by substitution the first resolution to state that the thirty-first Senate seat be retained for Co-op but that it be held by a tenured faculty member in order to recognize the importance of Co-op within Northeastern. This was seconded. Professor Herman, Senate Parliamentarian, noted that since this negates the Bylaw, it is not an amendment and would require a new motion and two additional meetings following a negative vote on the current resolution. Discussion returned, then, to the resolution currently on the floor.

The Senate debated the fundamental nature of faculty governance in regards to academic policies and programs and those best suited to addressing those issues. While term faculty members are highly qualified and valued members of the institution, creating a special class of representatives from among Co-op coordinators is poor precedent and defeats the purpose of faculty governance. In addition, a founding principle of the Senate is that its representatives are elected from academic bodies of the University. As Co-op has ceased to exist as a School, there is no rationale for maintaining a seat on the Faculty Senate. Professor Peterfreund reminded the body that Co-op has traditionally been well represented on the Senate even prior to the 2001 vote to create the 31st seat.

Several Senators argued that voting for the resolution marginalizes Co-op, which is an integral facet of Northeastern's identity in terms of excellence and distinctiveness. It was argued, too, that removing direct Co-op representation may be short-sighted in that other constituencies are as directly involved in the academic mission of Northeastern as are the tenured and tenure-track faculty who currently comprise the Senate. It was suggested that administrators who are appointed to the Senate contradict the mandate that only tenured and tenure-track faculty may serve.

Professor Kane proposed the possibility of retaining the Co-op seat as an eleventh administrative appointment. At this juncture, Provost Abdelal explained that the administrative appointments to the Senate represent the academic management of the University in order that issues are not debated in isolation. The Senate continued to debate the amendment and the role and expertise of administrators serving on the Senate. Professor Hall noted that several administrators had been appointed whose expertise is not strictly academic, and he suggested that the nature and role of the Senate is undergoing change. Several Senate members then spoke in favor of the resolution.

Professor Glod submitted that, after careful consideration, it is her opinion that the tenured and tenure-track faculty hold responsibility for governance, curriculum and academic programs, and for the stewardship of Northeastern's mission as it changes and evolves. There are many groups of highly qualified people performing with excellence that are not eligible to vote for or serve on the

Faculty Senate as they are not tenured or on the tenure track. A vote against this resolution creates a special group which, in turn, sets a precedent that does not represent the fundamental nature of faculty governance. She also noted that several of the Faculty Handbook resolutions, passed by the Senate that have yet to be acted upon by the Provost/President clearly delineate the specific roles and responsibilities of tenure-line, term, and other groups of faculty. Professor Glod urged that faculty service needs more tangible award and recognition.

Professor Reynolds suggested that all faculty groups be eligible to vote for representatives to the Senate, who would continue to be chosen from among tenured and tenure-track faculty in accordance with current Bylaws. The Senate discussed the merits of this with Dean Zoloth noting that 40% of Bouvé faculty members are not eligible to vote for Faculty Senate representatives, causing disenfranchisement. He noted, too, that there are a large number of term faculty members delivering a significant portion of the curriculum. Professor Kane then suggested that a committee be created to look into this and that the decision be delayed until a report is completed.

A motion to call the question was made and seconded. A subsequent motion for a vote by secret ballot was seconded. There being no objection or further discussion, the Senate moved to a vote.

VOTE to accept Resolution #1 of the Senate Bylaws amendment: PASSED, 21-11.

Professor Glod read the following resolution and it was seconded.

Resolution #2:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate Bylaws be amended by substituting the following language for the respective sections in the Faculty Handbook, effective for Faculty Senates convening in 2007-08 and thereafter:

Section I.A.2.c: Only Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors from the College faculties, who are actively engaged at the University as full-time teaching and research personnel as defined in V.B.2.a and who do not have academic appointments which make them eligible for appointment as administration members, shall be eligible for election from their college to the Faculty Senate and shall have the right to vote in the election.

Section I.A.2.e: The thirty faculty members of the Senate shall be elected proportionately from the degree-granting colleges and the School of Law. Each of these units shall have at least one Senate representative, but those with larger faculties shall have correspondingly more representatives.

Section I.A.2.f: Elections to the Faculty Senate shall be conducted by each college by the tenth week of the spring semester in accordance with the following procedures and regulations:

Section I.A.2.f.2)b): Each Teaching Faculty member of a college may cast one nominating vote for each college Senate vacancy.

Section I.A.2.f.3)a): Each Teaching Faculty member of a college may vote for one person for each college Senate vacancy to be filled.

Section I.A.2.f.4)b): The Deans of the colleges will provide their respective faculties, one week prior to elections, with a list of those faculty members eligible to vote, indicating those who are not eligible to be elected as defined in A.2.c.

Professor Glod explained that this resolution encompasses the editorial changes needed in light of the vote in favor of Resolution #1 regarding the 31st Senate seat, plus a change in I.A.2.f. to reflect the academic calendar change from quarters to semesters.

The question was called and seconded.

VOTE to accept Resolution #2 of the Senate Bylaws amendment: PASSED, 27-1-1.

The Senate meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart S. Peterfreund, Secretary
Faculty Senate