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Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 10/31/2007

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TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: SHARON M. BRUNS, SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE
RE: MINUTES, 2007-08 FACULTY SENATE MEETING, 31 OCTOBER

Present: (Professors) Bosso, Bruns, Chilvers, Cokely, Daynard, Fox, Hafner, Galligan, Glod, Hall, Herman, Hill, Jackson, Kane, Lewis, Massey, McKnight, Morrison, Portz, Robinson-Wood, Sherman, Starr, Tolley, Touran, Waszczak, Welch, Zarembo
(Administrators) Abdelal, Falcon, Greene, Hopey, Loeffelholz, Luzzi, Moore, Powers-Lee, Stellar, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Reucroft, Sanchez

Provost Abdelal convened the meeting at 11:52 AM.

I. The minutes of 17 October were accepted as amended.

II. SAC report. Professor Glod reported the following:

SAC met twice in regular session. SAC also met once with President Aoun and once with Special Assistant Loeffelholz as follow up to the Provost Search Committee. The SAC Chair also met with the President on the same topic. SAC met with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees regarding the composition of Provost Search Committee, delays and problems with research infrastructure and contract processing, faculty counts, distribution and trends.

The AAC/BoT brought up the issue of classroom occupancy. SAC noted that classroom usage is now at 100% capacity. The AAC also requested an updated on the progress of General Education (or NU Core) implementation.

The SAC has been asked to staff a committee for an internal search for the Department of African American Studies.

Professor Glod thanked Vice Provost Falcon and Professor Hill for agreeing to work on the outstanding Faculty Handbook resolutions. Editorial changes will be sent only to SAC for review; more extensive modifications will be sent to SAC for consideration and then, if appropriate, to the Senate for debate.

Professor Fox announced that the Committee for Faculty Development is nearing the end of their work regarding merit processes and asked those Deans present to prod those chairs and directors who have not responded to the survey to do so.

III. President Aoun.

The President thanked the Senate for the opportunity to meet. He noted that he would speak for 10-15 minutes and would focus his address on achievements and on the Academic Plan.

The core curriculum, which is innovative in that it includes the requirement for experiential education, will assist in retaining students as well as make a public statement about the education offered at Northeastern University. An added emphasis on international Co-op opportunities is underway with one goal being to attract highly qualified applicants and the other to provide educational opportunities that differentiate NU from other universities. The President noted that many highly qualified applicants do not initially apply to NU specifically for Co-op opportunities but 89% of NU students participate once they are here. NU needs to focus on asserting intellectual

and conceptual leadership in Co-op, international Co-op, and experiential education and systematically integrate study and practice.

The second aspect of the academic plan focuses on translational and interdisciplinary research. Northeastern University has historically engaged in more interdisciplinary and translational endeavors than other universities. He asked the Senators why it is that there is little dichotomy between the fundamental disciplines and interdisciplinary enterprise at NU. One reason offered is that Co-op introduces a new manner of viewing education from the students themselves after their having worked off campus. Another is that Northeastern University began with large entities which had to share resources resulting in lower boundaries than at other educational institutions. NU's campus geography also allows people to interact easily with others who also have foundational ideas and can see ways to make them happen.

President Aoun suggested that international partnerships can be approached in a different manner than at universities that pursue them for financial gain. Rather, they can be leveraged first with the students' education in mind and second for an exchange of research and scholarship. For instance, the Greece platform could define NU as the first University to outsource research and, in return, provide NU access to the European Science Foundation. The global opportunities are enormous and must be pursued strategically. The important issue is determining how NU will make a mark, not duplicate what others have done, and create exciting opportunities.

Another aspect of the Academic Plan is the Stony Brook Initiative whose goal is to 1) focus on our local community and 2) partner to provide signature programs that help the community and, at the same time, integrate with the academic scholarship of the University.

The Academic Plan can only become a reality in a maturing university by focusing on the academic endeavor in all its various aspects, i.e. faculty growth and development, infrastructure, graduate and professional education, and Ph.D. programs. Current operations and practices must be re-thought and investments must be made in better retention, increasing funded and non-funded research opportunities, and fund-raising. This happens with the kind of collaboration that enabled the College and Engineering and the College of Business Administration to acquire a \$5 million donation for a joint program.

The floor was opened to questions.

Professor Glod noted a recent resolution regarding faculty governance which was passed by the Senate and asked the President's view of shared governance in light of recent comments suggesting that the Faculty Senate be eliminated. The President responded that this rumor is untrue and that it does not make sense to dispense with the Senate. Rather, in this time of transition and growth, all must assume ownership and collectively tackle issues. He reiterated his support of the Faculty Senate.

Professor Kruger was recognized and suggested that, while the words trust and collegiality resonate, the faculty require the knowledge that concrete steps are being taken to address issues that are important to the faculty, such as finalizing the Faculty Handbook, defining the faculty role in the budget process and addressing tenure guidelines.

The President responded that more than one person needs to address these issues. In the matter of tenure guidelines, each Dean will work with faculty to articulate the processes for tenure. As regards the budget, the Provost and new CFO McCarthy have met with the Senate Committee for Financial Affairs. He noted that CFO McCarthy defined his position as a service position to further the academic enterprise.

The President noted that the Provost search will require a collective University community effort given the nation-wide failure to fill these positions. He noted that the process [to appoint the Search Committee] is a good, collaborative effort and that he did not present a list of candidates to the Senate Agenda Committee.

Professor Kane asked if the University was planning to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of Co-op and the College of Engineering in 2009. President Aoun responded that, in a shared ownership environment, asking the people directly in charge [of Co-op and of the College] is the place to start planning.

In response to Professor Fox, the President acknowledged that faculty growth is essential but will require addressing space needs for labs, classrooms and offices as well. He noted that faculty recruit faculty when talking about the growth and opportunity at Northeastern.

Dean Luzzi opined that more emphasis should be placed on the innovative teaching, research and scholarship that take place at the University but that issues of service and governance appear to receive more attention. New faculty members choose Northeastern for the momentum, the excitement, and for what they can accomplish. Professor Daynard noted that service is an important faculty role that works in partnership with teaching and scholarship. The President asked if faculty are doing enough to provide incentives for Associate and Full Professors to participate in the service obligations of senior faculty. Professor Fox agreed and suggested that more tangible incentives should be considered.

Professor Chandler asked the President to think about contributions in funded research and fundraising that the humanities have made.

Provost Abdelal and Professor Glod thanked the President and he exited the Senate.

III. Provost report.

Provost Abdelal reported [in response to a question posed at the 17 October Senate] that the 28% figure for students of color does not include international students.

The Provost reiterated that he has been working with Senate Financial Affairs Committee (FAC), Vice President McCarthy, and the Chair of the Senate Agenda Committee to understand priorities and share budget information. The Provost reported to FAC that, of 643 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, 233 received market adjustments based on performance. He announced that matchmate lists have been distributed to departments for updates.

IV. Questions.

Professor Hall noted that past brochures from Marketing clearly indicate that the “students of color” percentage includes international students whereupon Professor Robinson-Wood encouraged disaggregating the data.

In response to Professor Sherman, Professor Glod noted that the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors had themselves raised the issue of classrooms. She saw this concern as a shift from several years ago when several reports warned of the classroom shortage. There are proposals being examined to find space for teaching. She suggested that the Senate receive an update of space and buildings at the next senate meeting.

V. 2006-07 Senate Committee for Academic Policy final report and resolutions (Professor Hill)

Resolution #3

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the recommendation of the 2006-07 Academic Policy Committee to establish a consistent University-wide reporting mechanism for all instances of academic integrity violations, including cases that are settled between a faculty member and a student directly as well as cases that faculty refer to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolutions (OSCCR).

Dean Zoloth clarified that the School of Pharmacy is in full compliance with OSCCR, the College and the University as regards an academic integrity reporting system. There is no written policy for such a system and the historic discussion did not include reporting of suspicious behavior.

Professor Hill yielded to Mr. Grant Oberg of the Student Government Association (SGA), who was a member of the 2006-07 Academic Policy Committee. Mr. Oberg reported that the SGA had assisted in drafting the document that the APC reviewed on this topic and the intent is to give faculty flexibility in the process, to institute a campus-wide policy of "two strikes and you're out", and to retain the ability of faculty, chairs, and deans to have alternative methods from those of OSCCR.

Following a brief discussion of how the information collected at the School of Pharmacy had been used, Professor Herman noted that the resolution suggests a means to look at all of the issues debated. Several friendly amendments to adjust the wording of the resolution were made and accepted by Professor Hill. The amended resolution is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the recommendation of the 2006-07 Academic Policy Committee to recommend consistent University-wide reporting mechanisms and report utilization for all instances of academic integrity violations, including cases that are settled between a faculty member and a student directly as well as cases that faculty refer to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolutions (OSCCR).

A motion was made to close discussion.

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

VOTE to accept the 2006-07 APC recommendation on academic integrity violation reporting:
PASSED, 33-0-0

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The Senate adjourned at 1:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Bruns, Secretary
Faculty Senate