

Northeastern University

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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TO: FACULTY SENATE

FROM: SHARON M. BRUNS, SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE RE: MINUTES, 2007-08 FACULTY SENATE, 9 APRIL 2008

Present: (Professors) Bosso, Bruns, Chilvers, Cokely, Daynard, Fox, Glod, Galligan, Hafner, Hall, Herman, Hill, Kane, Lewis, Robinson-Wood, Sanchez, Sherman, Starr, Suciu, Vaughn, Waszczak, Welch

(Administrators) Falcon, Hopey, Loeffelholz, Moore, Powers-Lee, Stellar, Zoloth

Absent: (Professors) Jackson, Levine, McKnight, Morrison, Portz, Tolley, Touran, Zaremba (Administrators) Greene, Luzzi

Interim Provost Zoloth convened the meeting at 11:54 AM

- I. The minutes of 12 March were approved as written.
- II. SAC report. Professor Glod reported that SAC met twice in regular session. There are two Senate mtgs remaining. All proposals should be submitted to the Office of the Faculty Senate no later than Friday, 11 April. Professor Glod extended thanks to Vice Provost Falcon and Professor Hill for their effort in reviewing the draft Faculty Handbook. SAC and the Deans have reviewed the recommendations that refer to the 15+ pending resolutions and reached general agreement. The four needing review by the Senate will be on the 16 April agenda. These are changes to previously passed resolutions.

SAC also met with the Chair (Professor Bishop), Vice Chair (Professor J. Miller), and Professor Rappaport of the Provost Search Committee. They reported that the Committee is working well together and has a good pool of candidates.

III. Provost's Report. Interim Provost Zoloth reported that the Dean's Council is reviewing the Faculty Handbook amendments. He was pleased to report growth in NU study abroad which now boasts 1,000+ students. International Co-op placements have also increased from 80 to160 students.

Executive Vice Provost Powers-Lee reported that the NU Core program has now been launched after five years of work by several Senate committees. She extended thanks to those who have volunteered their time repeatedly to this endeavor such as Professor Herman, who served on every committee.

IV. TRACE. Professor Fox provided a brief demonstration of the online TRACE program which went live this morning. He noted that a report of results will be available to faculty on the day following the grades due date. He also reported that faculty will have one week to request removal of offensive comments. Obscenities will be automatically expunged by the system.

V. Questions.

Professor Fox did not know whether reviews would be available if grades are not submitted on time.

Professor Hall suggested that the deadline for faculty review of the evaluations be 31 May and Professor Fox agreed to pass along that suggestion.

VI. Professor Sherman read the following and it was seconded.

WHEREAS the Faculty Development Committee has been charged with examining merit procedures across the University and to consider the extent to which unit-based practices should be standardized; AND

WHEREAS, while there are arguments for local control, certain principles and practices should be common to all units;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the following be implemented by academic units in time for the spring 2009 raise pool and be adopted for addition to the Faculty Handbook:

FDC resolution #7

Evaluations for merit shall be performed early in the spring semester, with the assessment covering the previous calendar year. A general timetable for the merit process is as follows:

- Faculty submit annual dossier for merit review—end of January
- Faculty receive merit reviews (score and commentary)—end of February
- Submission of faculty appeals—mid-March
- Faculty receive outcome of appeal—end of March
- Unit head receives merit reviews and scores—beginning of April
- Faculty notified of raise and report of unit results after the Provost releases this information.

Professor Herman moved that, as the introductory statement is the only statement that is able to offer any certainty, the remainder of the resolution be deleted. The friendly amended was seconded but not accepted by Professor Sherman who stated that the wording was sufficiently flexible.

Professor Hall suggested that "normal" replace "general".

Vice Provost Falcon noted that most of the items can be performed internally, within the Colleges, without need of the budget timetable and prior to knowledge of the actual dollar pool. Several faculty agreed. Following brief debate, a motion to vote on the amendment was made and seconded. There being no objection, the Senate voted.

VOTE on the amendment to delete all verbiage following the introductory statement: PASSED, 17-6-1

The amended resolution reads as follows:

Evaluations for merit shall be performed early in the spring semester, with the assessment covering the previous calendar year.

VOTE on the resolution as amended: PASSED, 24-1-0

VII. Executive Vice Provost Powers-Lee read the following resolution and it was seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University add a reading day to the spring semester calendar.

The Executive Vice Provost noted an effective date of spring 2009. The change was suggested by the SGA; Registrar Allen has indicted that it can be done.

Professor Vaughn suggested that Patriot's Day be a designated reading day so as not to further shorten the number of classes, however Professor Bruns noted that Patriot's Day would not always

fall at the appropriate time on the academic calendar. There being no further discussion, the Senate voted.

VOTE to add a reading day to the spring semester academic calendar: PASSED, 25-1-0

VIII. Professor Robinson-Wood read the following resolution and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the University suspend admission to the Athletic Training Program in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences beginning with fall 2009 admissions as approved by the UUCC on 7 February 2008.

Professor Robinson-Wood provided the following background: the decision was contested within the Bouvé College of Health Sciences (BCHS) and department faculty members do not support it. On January 17th, BCHS faculty voted viva voce 52-4-1 in favor of the suspension. Professor Robinson-Wood further explained that enrollments have not declined over time, the percentage of graduates who pass their exams is more than twice the national average, and the students had met with Dean Zoloth last week to express their confusion and disagreement with the decision. Professor Robinson-Wood did not support the resolution.

The Chair recognized Ms. Lauren Ziaks who spoke on behalf of the Athletic Training (AT) Program students and against the resolution. AT has been at the forefront in its field for the 34 years that it has been in existence; its graduates hold the highest pass rates at 96% compared to the national average of 30%; AT is ranked at the top nationally. Ms. Ziaks noted that AT students were notified of the proposal on 3 April which did not allow adequate time to take part in the process. She requested that the Senate vote against the resolution or at the very least postpone its vote to allow student input into the decision.

The Chair recognized BCHS Acting Dean Reynolds who spoke in favor of the resolution as follows: there has been fair and adequate discussion of the proposal over the past year at various committee and faculty meetings and, given the strategic direction of BCHS and despite positive program history, it is difficult to justify continued funding. Dean Reynolds provided strong assurance that present students will continue to receive the high quality of instruction that has been provided in the past and noted that the motion is to suspend admissions, not close the program. Suspension will allow further analysis of how AT fits into the strategic direction of both BCHS and NU as well as how it may be incorporated into other areas such as SPCS.

Professor Welch pointed out that programs are not normally suspended during the strategic planning stage but as a result of the conclusion of strategic planning.

Senate Chair Zoloth handed the gavel to Vice Chair Glod to speak to the motion. He explained that he had approved the suspension as Dean of BCHS after several years of discussion which included AT faculty. These discussions encompassed the future of the program as well as continued employment and a guarantee of quality for the next six years. The decision, while difficult, is part of strategic realignment and is not a statement about the quality of the faculty, students, alumni or coop education group. He reiterated the BCHS faculty vote and noted that AT Program faculty had thoroughly represented student interests throughout the discussions. He noted, too, that AT faculty have been working with SPCS to develop courses.

Several Deans offered their support of the proposal.

Professor Waszczak noted that she was present at both BCHS faculty meetings when votes were taken on this issue. At the first meeting, BCHS faculty voted against suspension based on strong representation by AT Program faculty. The second time the issue came up at a faculty meeting it

was represented as being promoted by AT faculty which Professor Waszczak, and presumably others, interpreted to mean that AT Program faculty were now in favor of the proposal to suspend admissions. It was for this reason that the second faculty vote was strongly in favor.

Motion was made and seconded to table the proposal until such time that more robust information may be provided including a statement from AT faculty, a rationale, and plans for the future.

VOTE to table the proposal to suspend admissions to the Athletic Training Program: PASSED, 24-0-2

IX. Professor Cokely read the following motion and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Public Advocacy and Rhetoric program to replace the Public Communication concentration in the Department of Communications/College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the UUCC on 7 February 2008.

The floor was yielded to Professor Goodale who explained that this new concentration replaces the Public Communication concentration which was not focused. It promotes interdisciplinary collaboration (with the Department of English) and citizenship. In response to several questions, he also noted that, while Communication programs at other institutions differ in terms of offerings, most include a rhetoric concentration. He defined rhetoric as persuasive reasoning with a commitment to citizenship.

Professor Loeffelholz added that the potential for collaboration with English Department faculty has long been anticipated.

VOTE to approve the proposed Public Advocacy and Rhetoric concentration: PASSED, 26-0-0

X. Motion was made to consider the following resolutions as one was made and seconded. Professor Starr read the following resolutions and they were seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Dual Major in Multimedia Studies and Digital Art in the Departments of Art & Design and Multimedia Studies/College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the UUCC on 7 February 2008.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Dual Major in Multimedia Studies and Graphic Design in the Departments of Art & Design and Multimedia Studies/College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the UUCC on 7 February 2008.

Professor Herman noted that these are essentially name changes precipitated by the change to Visual Arts passed by the Faculty Senate last year. Professor Starr concurred but added that the scope of program content had also been upgraded.

A friendly amendment to "Departments of" to "Department of" was made and seconded as it was noted that Multimedia Studies is not a department.

Professor Baron explained that Multimedia Studies is and has been a dual major, first with what was visual arts and music, and has evolved over time. These modifications are in response to changes made last year in the curriculum of the Department of Art & Design and the BFA it now offers.

There being no further debate, the Senate voted.

VOTE to accept the Dual Major in Multimedia Studies and Digital Art and the Dual Major in Multimedia Studies and Graphic Design: PASSED, 26-0-0

XI. Professor Hill read the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Dual Major in Psychology/ Education in the Departments of Education and of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the UUCC on 7 February 2008.

The floor was yielded to Professor Murrell who explained that the proposal serves to formalize what is already taking place and to improve the quality of the elementary education teaching program both academically and pedagogically. In addition, it provides academic identity to students. He confirmed that the majority of elementary education students are dual majors in Psychology. The next most popular major for elementary education students is Sociology.

Professor Herman further explained that, due to decertification in Massachusetts, it is impossible to major in education, although dual majors are allowed.

VOTE to approve the Dual Major in Psychology and Education: PASSED, 23-0-3

XII. Dean Hopey read the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the Doctorate of Education (EdD) in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies as approved by the Graduate Council on 26 March 2008.

Dean Hopey elaborated that the Senate had approved the School of Education in SPCS and had discussed reactivation of the suspended EdD at that time.

The floor was yielded to SPCS Associate Dean Leach who noted that forty percent of all school administrators will be leaving their positions in the next few years creating a great void and large demand for a program such as this. This EdD will focus on a doctoral project rather than a thesis.

It was clarified that the SPCS School of Education houses graduate programs while the College of Arts and Sciences School of Education houses undergraduate programs. It was also clarified that SPCS currently offers two non-traditional doctoral programs whose focus is on practice and scholarly research (as opposed to innovative research). There is a national trend toward doctoral programs offered under the aegis of schools of professional and adult education.

Professor Robinson-Wood expressed concern that no statistics courses are offered, and that the degree may be earned in less than two years. Professor Bruns asked for reassurance that the quality of the many programs being moved to or initiated within SPCS is carefully monitored.

Professor Bosso reiterated the trend toward professional doctoral programs as the traditional PhD is not attractive in some disciplines. The adult market is demanding these types of programs, and SPCS is reacting with foresight to upcoming market needs. Dean Hopey further explained that six faculty presently serve on the SPCS Academic Council which provides oversight and quality assurance. Also, SPCS presently includes 35 full-time faculty and 75-80 faculty with PhDs. He expressed openness to any suggestions to improve the operation of SPCS.

Professor Daynard called the question. As an objection was made to closing debate at this time, a vote was taken.

VOTE to close debate: PASSED, 17:8:0

VOTE to approve the Doctorate of Education (EdD) in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies: PASSED, 20-1-4

The Senate adjourned at 1.30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Bruns, Secretary Faculty Senate