

Northeastern University

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

October 07, 2009

Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 10/07/2009

Stephen W. McKnight Northeastern University

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TO: FACULTY SENATE

FROM: STEPHEN W. McKnight, Secretary, Faculty Senate RE: Minutes, Faculty Senate Meeting of 7 October 2009

Present: (Professors) Alshawbkeh, Alverson, Balachandra, Board, Born, Chilvers, Daynard, De Ritis, Gaffney, Gatley, Goodale, Hafner, Herman, Karma, Kruger, Lifter, McKnight, Mierelles, Morrison, Mourant, Muftu, Portz, Price, Rosengaus, Ross, T. Sherman, Thrush, Sherwood

(Administrators) Director, Falcon, Finkelstein, Loeffelholz, Luzzi, Moore, Powers-Lee, Ronkin, Spieler, Zoloth

Absent (Professors) Podlaha-Murphy, D. Sherman

Provost Director convened the meeting at AM

I. Professor Morrison presented the SAC Report.

A transcript of the SAC Chair's presentation at the Town Hall Meeting on Sept 30 is available on the Faculty Senate website.

SAC met twice in regular session.

The Senate Agenda Committee has been asked to convene a search committee for a chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the School of Pharmacy in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. This is an internal search. Staffing is underway.

The following committees have been staffed and charged. A full transcript of charges may be found at the Faculty Senate website.

2009-10 Senate Committee for Financial Affairs

Committee members:

Professor Coleen Pantalone (Chair), CBA-Finance & Insurance

Professor Miriam E. Leeser, COE-Electrical & Computing

Professor Emanuel J. Mason, BCHS-Counseling & Applied Psychology

Professor Emmett G. Price, CAS-African American Studies

Professor Gregory H. Wassall, CAS-Economics

Charge:

- Based on current information and any other analyses that it may wish to undertake, the Committee is asked to make recommendations on resource allocation and appropriate merit and market adjustment raises for FY 2011. The Committee should present its recommendations on these matters to the Faculty Senate Agenda Committee by November 2, 2009 for Senate consideration no later than November 18, 2009.
- 2. Working collaboratively with the Provost, the Committee is asked to review and recommend adjustments, where appropriate, to the FAC's involvement in the budget process.

2009-10 Senate Committee for Research Policy Oversight

Committee members:

Professor Graham Jones, Chair (CAS-Chem & Chem Biology)

Professor William T. Dickens (CAS-Economics)

Professor Slava S. Epstein (CAS-Biology)

Professor Craig F. Ferris (CAS-Psychology)

Professor Vincent G. Harris (COE-Electrical & Computing)

Professor Kim Lewis (CAS-Biology)

Professor Alexandro Makriyannis (BCHS-PharmSci)

Professor Mary Jo Ondrechen (CAS-Chemistry & Chemical Biology)

Professor Nikos Passas (CCJ)

Vice Provost for Research Ken Blank (ex officio)

Charge:

- 1. Consider the appropriate allocation of overhead to principal investigators under the upcoming hybrid management system.
- 2. Monitor the progress of and advise the Vice Provost on the ongoing reorganization of the University's research support and management operations.
- II. Professor Daynard read the following and it was seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate supports the restructuring of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Criminal Justice as described in Provost Director's white paper dated September 7, 2009 and the associated renaming of the College of Criminal Justice to the School of Criminal Justice and of the School of Social Sciences, Urban Affairs and Public Policy to the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs.

The Provost ceded the gavel and reported on restructuring. The motivations for consideration of restructuring were the changes which NU has been undergoing and the upcoming institutionalization of hybrid management. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the College of Criminal Justice (CCJ) are the largest and smallest Colleges and, over time, have had much interaction. The process included an ad hoc committee to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of various models by exposing issues to be considered. That committee produced a report dated 28 May 2009. A one-day retreat including faculty, students and administrative leaders (80 participants in all) as well as outside facilitators was held in June and a recommendation then developed. There were eleven forums in CAS and CCJ from which data was compiled and reviewed. Advantages and disadvantages were revised and comparisons to peer institutions made. The Provost met with CAS chairs and leadership at both Colleges. The Provost noted that Journalism faculty felt more aligned with the proposed College of Arts, Media and Design than with the previous recommendation and that change was made based on their input. The Report did not attempt to resolve all the issues, such as the location of Communication Studies, which require further engagement by the community. The final recommendation is to restructure into three Colleges with CCJ joining the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Other unresolved areas are the locations of General Studies and Education and the issue of undeclared majors.

Some next steps are to support this resolution in order to move forward; create task forces to address identified issues, operational issues and other issues that might arise; and begin searches for Deans of the new Colleges. The Provost extended thanks to the many people involved for their time and effort.

Note: Reports, white papers, and this most recent presentation may be found at the Provost's website http://www.northeastern.edu/collegestructure/

Professor Karma moved to postpone discussion on the motion to 10 November in order to allow the Senate to conduct a confidential vote among CAS faculty on the resolution and was seconded.

Professor Karma submitted that the issues of merit and process are interlinked. He recapped dates of the various committees and open forums. He conceded that the Committee Report is balanced but that page 71 of that report indicates only two departments in favor of the three-College split with the majority being for a two-College option. For this reason, Professor Karma maintains that more input is needed. The Professor also asserted that the June retreat was exclusive and not representative of faculty-at-large. Professor Karma distributed minutes of the CAS College Assembly meeting held on 1 October and read the following resolutions from the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences. He noted that the faculty vote held late last week was rushed and poorly administered and that more time is needed by CAS faculty.

CAS College Assembly Resolution A: In light of the fact that the 'Provost's Recommendation for Restructuring the College of Arts and Sciences and Criminal Justice' calls for the creation of three new academic entities from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Faculty of the College request that the usual governance processes involving vote by the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences be taken prior to the vote of the Faculty Senate. Passed by the CAS faculty 40:1:16

CAS College Assembly Resolution B: The faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences does not, at this time, support the Provost's Proposal for the Restructuring of the College of Arts and Sciences as detailed in the white paper dated 7 September 2009. Instead, it asks that two additional task forces, one on budget and one on interdisciplinary programs, be implemented and that all task forces report back to the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences prior to a final Senate vote on restructuring. Passed by the CAS faculty 25:4:5

Professor Gaffney argued that, while the process may be flawed, there is little to be gained by postponement.

Professor Herman agreed that the Committee adequately presented both sides of the proposals but noted that there were two parallel processes, one initiated by CAS, the other by the Provost. In the latter, CAS faculty were not involved in the Report, and the retreat was selective and narrow. He noted that traditionally the Senate has not taken a vote if College faculty has not voted and that it should do the same today.

A motion was made and seconded for a ballot vote on the motion to postpone.

VOTE to conduct a ballot vote: FAILED: 13-14-5.

VOTE to postpone the Senate vote on restructuring until 10 November 2009 in order to allow the Office of the Senate to conduct confidential faculty ballot: FAILED, 11-20-1.

Professor Portz motioned to amend by addition the motion on the floor and it was seconded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the implementation of the proposed restructuring plan will incorporate the following principles and procedures:

- That discussions and decisions related to implementation of the restructuring plan be inclusive of faculty, staff and administration in the current Colleges of Arts and Sciences and of Criminal Justice;
- That members of the faculty in the Department of Communication Studies and Department of Education have a major voice in the decision to locate their units among the new college structures;
- That faculty, staff and administration in the College of Arts and Sciences constitute the majority of the members of the task forces identified under "Next Steps," page 7, in the Recommendation for Restructuring, dated September 7, 2009;
- That an additional task force be created to address concerns regarding the placement of interdisciplinary programs and the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Professor Portz explained that the intent of the amendment is to recognize that contributions by CAS and CCJ must play a major role in the process.

The Provost proposed to delete 'among the new college structures' from the second bullet and it was accepted in order that those departments not be limited. He averred that this amendment represents a process that would have been followed in any case.

Several Senate members spoke for all of part of the amendment. Concern about the possibility of misinterpretation of the words "the majority of the members" was raised by Professor Gaffney. Provost Director noted that some task forces, yet to be named, may not need a majority of CAS faculty and the process could be disadvantaged by procedural issues. The Senate debated changing these words in light of the importance of faculty representation in the implementation process. Wording in the third bullet was amended from "the majority of the members" to "substantial representation as members".

Professor Karma proposed to amend by addition to the proposed amendment a task force committee to review the implications of hybrid management on implementation of the restructured colleges. This was deemed out of order.

Returning to the amendment on the floor, Dean Luzzi spoke against it noting that the process has been an excellent example of engaging the entire University community. Forward movement should take place in an atmosphere of deliberation and creativity rather than distrust.

Professor Portz acknowledged the Dean's comments but clarified that the process to date had been viewed by faculty as an abstract and, while the white paper clarified the intent, it should have been the beginning of discussion.

A call to vote was seconded. As amended, the amendment reads as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That implementation of the proposed restructuring plan will incorporate the following principles and procedures:

- That discussions and decisions related to implementation of the restructuring plan be inclusive of faculty, staff and administration in the current Colleges of Arts and Sciences and of Criminal Justice;
- That members of the faculty in the Department of Communication Studies and Department of Education have a major voice in the decision to locate their units;
- That faculty, staff and administration in the College of Arts and Sciences constitute substantial representation as members of the task forces identified under "Next Steps," page 7, in the Recommendation for Restructuring, dated September 7, 2009;
- That an additional task force be created to address concerns regarding the placement of interdisciplinary programs and the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

VOTE to amend by addition to the original motion: PASSED, 28:3:3.

The original motion plus amendment was returned to the floor. Professor Karma motioned that an additional task force be created to review the implications of hybrid management on the implementation of restructuring and was seconded. He noted the uncertainty surrounding implementation of both hybrid management and restructuring at the same time and the addition of such a task force would acknowledge that uncertainty.

Dean Spieler spoke against the motion noting that the principles and process of budget planning are fully inclusive thus relating to any college, new or not. The Provost confirmed that the issue is separate from the creation of new colleges adding that the unresolved issues will be discussed by the community.

Professor Karma further explained that the anxiety expressed by CAS faculty concerns the complex issues surrounding allocation of resources to colleges with very different thrusts.

VOTE to amend by addition of a task force devoted to the issues of hybrid management and the restructured colleges: FAILED, 3:26:4.

VOTE to end debate: PASSED, 30:3:1.

The motion on the floor, as amended, is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate supports the restructuring of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Criminal Justice as described in Provost Director's white paper dated September 7, 2009 and the associated renaming of the College of Criminal Justice to the School of Criminal Justice and of the School of Social Sciences, Urban Affairs and Public Policy to the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the implementation of the proposed restructuring plan will incorporate the following principles and procedures:

- That discussions and decisions related to implementation of the restructuring plan be inclusive of faculty, staff and administration in the current Colleges of Arts and Sciences and of Criminal Justice;
- That members of the faculty in the Department of Communication Studies and Department of Education have a major voice in the decision to locate their units:
- That faculty, staff and administration in the College of Arts and Sciences constitute substantial representation as members of the task forces identified under "Next Steps," page 7, in the Recommendation for Restructuring, dated September 7, 2009;
- That an additional task force be created to address concerns regarding the placement of interdisciplinary programs and the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

VOTE to support restructuring: PASSED, 30:3:0.

III. Professor Kruger read the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That Northeastern University establish the Professional Masters Degree in the Regulatory Sciences of Biopharmaceuticals in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences as approved by the Graduate Council on 18 September 2009.

The floor was ceded to Professor Jones who clarified that this is a Professional Science Masters Degree.

Professor T. Sherman added that the goal of the degree is to produce analysts for regulatory issues including whether or not a pharmaceutical works. However, he question that merely one course addresses the process of evaluation. Professor Jones elaborated that the proposed program is specific to regulatory science rather than regulatory affairs and that professionals from the latter would cross-register but the proposal is a separate discipline. Dean Zoloth concurred and added that the proposed program is a complement to currently offered programs and is from a chemistry perspective.

There being no further debate, a vote ensued.

VOTE to establish the Professional Masters Degree in the Regulatory Sciences of Biopharmaceuticals: PASSED, 32:0:2

A motion to adjourn was seconded. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen W. McKnight, Secretary Faculty Senate