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Northeastern University

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes : 09/22/2010

Stephen W. McKnight
Northeastern University

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Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: STEPHEN W. MCKNIGHT, SECRETARY, FACULTY SENATE
RE: MINUTES, 2010-2011 FACULTY SENATE, 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present: (Professors) Adams, Alper, Barberis, Basagni, Board, Bruns, Chilvers, Fox, Gaffney, Hafner, Hanson, Herman, Kruger, McKnight, Morrison, Muftu, Poriss, Portz, Ramirez, Sherman, Strauss, Suciu, Thrush, Waszczak, Zaremba
(Administrators) Director, Falcon, Finkelstein, Loeffelholz, Moore, Powers-Lee, Ronkin, Spieler, Zoloth

Absent (Professors) Alshawabkeh, Karma, Lane, Lifter, Sherwood,
(Administrators) Yener

Provost Director convened the meeting at 11:49 AM and extended welcome to all members of the 2010-2011 Faculty Senate.

I. The minutes of 28 April 2010 were approved as written.

II. Professor Kruger welcomed the Senate and visitors to the 50th Faculty Senate, noting the rise of SAT scores and of Northeastern in *US News & World Report* rankings. Reasons for the University's improved academic status include President Curry's 'smaller and better' strategy; President Freeland's pursuit of higher rankings and beautification of the campus; and President Aoun's decision to continue hiring tenured and tenure-track faculty during fiscally difficult times. Other notable rationales are sound fiscal management; mutual respect; collaboration and advancement of diversity; identifying and building upon strengths, such as cooperative education; the strengths of the University family in striving toward excellence; and the partnership between faculty and administration in the form of the Faculty Senate.

Professor Kruger noted diminishment of the authority of faculty senates at some universities which has led to an upset of shared governance, tenure, and academic freedom. The broad responsibilities of the Faculty Senate at Northeastern have been mutually agreed upon by faculty, administration, and Trustees, including establishing academic goals and standards as well as collaboration on all policies, proposals, and issues of faculty concern. He elaborated that the Faculty Handbook governs the relationship between faculty and administration and that both parties must ensure that the functions, policies, and procedures within the Handbook are abided by. *A full transcript of Professor Kruger's address to the Senate may be found at http://www.facultysenate.neu.edu/documents/Kruger_Address_to_the_92210_Senate.pdf*

A. **SAC report.** Professor Kruger reported that the 2010-2011 SAC met ten times in regular session over the summer and once with the Provost. He thanked SAC members and Professors George Adams, Sharon Bruns, John Portz, Steve McKnight and Jamie Fox. Professor Kruger also met four times with the Provost and once with the President. SAC is scheduled to meet with the President and Provost this afternoon [22 September].

Professor Peterfreund has agreed to serve as Senate Parliamentarian.

Staffing is underway for two external chair search committees in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities for the Department of Political Science and the Department of History.

B. SAC priorities for the 2010-2011 year

1. Completion of the Faculty Handbook. Since the publication of the 2000-2001 Edition of the Faculty Handbook, approved in 1999, many resolutions have been passed and approved without being integrated. There is a strong sense of urgency for this priority. The remaining priorities are in no particular order of urgency.

2. Clarification and confirmation of tenure policies and procedures. The Senate Committee for Faculty Development will review the significance of establishment of the Provost's tenure advisory group.

3. Within the broad priority of shared governance:
   - determine the status of shared governance at Northeastern University and clarify the Senate's role;
   - strengthen the Senate's involvement in major academic initiatives and policy-making;
   - improve communication between the Senate and faculty and between the SAC and the Senate;
   - promote transparency, communication and collaboration with the Office of the Provost;
   - increase faculty participation in the Senate and in Senate committees;
   - enhance the deliberative process of Senate meetings.

   Several committees are assigned tasks relating to issues of shared governance: The Senate Committee for Academic Policy, an *Ad Hoc* Committee for Governance, and an *ad hoc* committee, consisting of a Senator from each College, which is responsible for building communication bridges between the Senate and the Colleges

4. Clarification and affirmation of the values of collaboration and mutual respect between faculty and administration.

5. Assess the University's commitment to diversity and reaffirm its importance as a core value.

6. Improvement of the implementation process of TRACE.

C. The following Committees have been staffed and charged. Full transcripts of the charges may be found on the Faculty Senate website.

2010-11 Senate Standing Committee for Athletics

Members
Professor Frederick Wiseman, Chair, CBA-Info/Ops & Analysis
Professor Cynthia M Jackson, CBA-Accounting
Professor Bruce A. Wallin, CSSH-Political Science
Professor Alan J. Zaremba, CAMD-Communication Studies
Mr. David B. Thornton, Office of the Registrar

Charge
To assist in the NCAA recertification process, as appropriate

Professor Kruger extended special thanks to the following committee members who have worked this summer on the following committees:

Ad hoc Senate Committee to Review the Faculty Handbook

Members
Professor Dennis R. Cokely, Chair, CSSH, American Sign Language
Professor Sharon M. Bruns, CBA, Accounting
Professor Judith Hall, COS, Psychology
Professor Gerald H. Herman, CSSH, History
Professor Malcolm Hill, CSSH, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Charge

1. Review the status of the draft Faculty Handbook approved by the Faculty Senate in 2005
2. Review recommendations from the AAUP and other national organizations, and faculty handbook language at peer and aspirant universities, with respect to the definition and scope of both academic freedom and tenure

2009-10 University Standing Appeals Committee for Tenure

Elected members
Professor Stuart Peterfreund, English
Professor Carl W. Nelson, CBA
Professor Kenneth Baclawski, CCIS
Professor Mary O'Connell, LAW
Professor Dagmar Sternad, Biology
Professor Samuel Matthews, BCHS

Appointed members
Professor Judith Barr, BCHS
Professor Judith Hall, Psychology
Professor Thomas Koenig, Sociology and Anthropology
Professor Joseph Meador, CBA
Professor David M. Phillips, Law
Professor Marjorie Platt, CBA

III. Introductions

IV. Provost's update. Provost Director presented a slide presentation and reported that the past year saw 38,000 applications for admissions and enrollment of 2,800 into the freshman class. Average SAT scores are at 1309. The distribution of freshmen showed an increase in the College of Information Services, the Bouvé College of Health Services, and the College of Science. The Honors Program has doubled with average SAT scores above 1420 and average GPAs over 4.0. The Honors Program has been expended and enriched which has attracted high quality students in large numbers.

Northeastern has expended its international focus with more international Coop placements and increased study abroad participants. In additional, Northeastern received the 2010 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization from the NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Undergraduate programs show strong Co-op placement, increased engagement in undergraduate research and service learning, improved FACT, and an increase in smaller classes.

Graduate programs have experienced a record number of applications and have admitted the largest class ever at Northeastern. As well, Ph.D. programs increased to 262 over last year's 218. Several new graduate degree programs have been instituted and the NSF IGERT Nano-medicine program was renewed for five years.

Research funding at Northeastern has doubled over the past four years to $82,000,000. There is Increasing recognition of Northeastern's commitment to use-inspired research. The Provost highlighted NIH grants at Bouvé. Additionally, Northeastern has been invited to join CIMIT (Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology) and Governor Patrick's green High Performance Computing Collaborative with Harvard, MIT, BU and UMASS.

Northeastern remains committed to increasing the number of tenured/tenure-track faculty. Fifty-seven searches were launched last year of which 40+ have been filled. Others are in various stages of ongoing negotiation.

There remains an ongoing commitment to improve the academic infrastructure with classroom upgrades, the creation of new classrooms, classroom and laboratory renovations, new faculty offices, and improved animal facilities. International Study Programs has returned to the main campus, and construction of the Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security is underway at the Burlington Campus. In addition, the new hybrid budget model continues to be implemented.

The Provost reported that he will begin a comprehensive periodic review of Colleges with CBA scheduled first. This will entail a systematic overall view.

Three new Colleges have been added and three new founding deans hired.

Provost Director presented the rankings of both the University and various NU programs.

Looking ahead, the Provost reported the University's intent to ensure the four-year, two Co-op option, increase curricular flexibility, continue development of unique undergraduate programs, enhance the first-year academic experience including encouraging some of our best faculty to teach first-year students, , continue core curriculum assessment including expansion of intensive writing courses, increase participation in out-of-region and international Co-ops, and undertake a task force to review approaches for on-line education.

In the area of research, Northeastern will continue to define and develop major institutional research themes and to launch the COEUS electronic research administration system.

The Provost continued that there will be ongoing emphasis on the faculty hiring initiative including building diversity, taking advantage of cluster hiring opportunities, and actively recruiting top candidates with long-term strategic priorities.

Future infrastructure improvements include leasing the Forsyth Institute building (100,000 square feet) and completion of the Kostas Research Building.

In addition, the college review process will be undertaken and implementation of the hybrid budget model will continue.

Provost Director reflected that it would be difficult for anyone to disagree that the University has momentum. Co-op remains a central core value of the undergraduate program and is being recognized both nationally and internationally. Globalization continues to dramatically impact on what Northeastern teaches. He urged continued focus on research themes noting that Northeastern must continue to pursue quality in all areas.

V. Question and discussion (5 minutes)

Professor Gaffney noted that there is insufficient faculty in the Mathematics Department to teach more undergraduate students in smaller classes. The Provost acknowledged that there are local issues which need to be addressed. To Professor Gaffney's other question, the Provost noted that pharmacy and computer engineering faculty, among others, will be located at the Forsyth Institute Building which has a ten-year lease.

Professor Fox inquired of the situation with the City of Boston regarding new dorms and classrooms. Provost Director deferred to Vice President of External Affairs Michael Armini who responded that the master plan showed dormitories for 600 which is being renegotiated in order to move the project forward.

Professor Strauss inquired how many applicants were accepted and the yield. The Provost responded that the acceptance rate was 37.9%, down from 41% in 2009. He noted that sooner or later the number of applications will decrease as students will know they will not be admitted. Professor Strauss reported that in some cases, applications can stay elevated in the next tier.

Professor Herman expressed support of upcoming college evaluations and wondered if push toward interdisciplinarity across the curriculum would involve faculty to suggest potential opportunities from outside the individual College being evaluated, and what role the Senate will play in selecting these faculty. The Provost expressed appreciation of the point made.

The business portion of the Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen W. McKnight, Secretary
Faculty Senate