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Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 10/05/2011

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Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: LOUIS J. KRUGER, VICE CHAIR, FACULTY SENATE
SUBJECT: MINUTES, 2011-2012 FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF 5 OCTOBER 2011

Present: (Professors) Adams, Alper, Alshawabkeh, Aroian, Aslam, Bannister, Basagni, Fitzgerald, Fox, Gaffney, Hanson, Herman, Kruger, Muftu, Poriss, Rappaport, Sandler, Sherman, Strasser, Strauss, Todorov, Yang, Young, Waszczak, Zgarrick

(Administrators) Costa, Director, Finkelstein, Gibson, Lane, Loeffelholz, Spieler, Van Den Abbeele, Yener, Zoloth

Absent (Professors) Bansil, Barberis, Daynard, Katula, Sherwood,

Provost Director convened the meeting at 11:49 AM and introduced Terry Fulmer, new Dean of BCHS.

- I. The minutes of 21 September were approved as amended.
- II. Professor Kruger reported that, since the last Senate meeting SAC has met twice in regular session and once with the Senior Leadership Team. Professor Kruger met once with Provost Director.

The following committees have been staffed and charged. Full transcripts of charges may be found at www.facultysenate.neu.edu

Department of Political Science Chair Search Committee

Elected members of the Department

Professor Denise M. Horn
Professor William G. Mayer
Professor Michael C. Tolley

Appointed members:

Professor Judith A. Hall, COS-Psychology
Professor Simon I. Singer, CSSH-Criminology and Criminal Justice

An organizational meeting is scheduled on 12 October.

Department of Economics Chair Search Committee (internal)

Elected members from the Department:

Professor Kamram M. Dadkhah
Professor John E. Kwoka
Professor Maria Jose Luengo-Prado

Appointed members:

Professor Christopher J. Robertson, CBA-International Business & Strategy
Professor Barry Bluestone, CSSH-Public Policy/Urban Affairs

An organizational meeting is scheduled on 13 October.

2011-2012 Senate Committee for Faculty Development

Members:

Professor Ella Barberis, Chair, COS-Physics
Professor Akram N. Alshawabkeh, COE-Civil & Environmental Engineering
Professor James R. Hackney, Law
Professor Thomas K. Nakayama, CAMD-Communication Studies
Professor William Sanchez, BCHS-Counseling & Applied Psychology

Charge: Diversity of Faculty

Review the University's relative success in recruiting and retaining faculty from diverse backgrounds; review the University's relative success in placing faculty from diverse backgrounds in administrative positions; submit a written report no later than March 15, 2012.

The Senate Agenda Committee has been asked to constitute a search committee for a Dean of the College of Engineering. This is an external search. Staffing is underway.

- III. Provost Director reminded all of the Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, 12 October and announced that he would need to leave today's meeting at 12:40 PM.

As Senior Vice President Martin had not yet arrived, Provost Director moved to reverse the order of business. There was no objection.

- IV. Professor Poriss read the following and it was seconded:

WHEREAS, it is important that the University support its tenured and tenure-track faculty in balancing the demands of work and home life; and

WHEREAS, parenting a recently born or recently adopted young child is particularly demanding;

BE IT RESOLVED that the University adopt the policy and procedures described in the Provost's Office's proposal entitled "Policy and Procedures for New Parents Requesting a Period of Modified Duties."

Professor Poriss thanked the Committee on Work-Life balance for their work. Vice Provost and committee member Loeffelholz, explained that the charge was developed in response to recommendations by faculty and to assist Northeastern in remaining competitive with parental policies at peer institutions. The Senate Agenda Committee has reviewed the proposal which complements the existing tenure-clock extension policy of 2008 and Family Medical Leave Act provisions. Professor Hanson spoke in favor noting that the proposal addresses many issues for younger faculty.

Professor Sandler noted that among peer and aspirant universities many similar policies are extended to non-tenure-track faculty. Vice Provost Loeffelholz explained that the Senate represents tenured and tenure-track faculty. However, the Provost's Office can explore costs. Provost Director added that the proposal will generally affect faculty on the tenure track rather than those faculty who are not. Several Professors offered further support.

Professor Fox called for cloture and, there being no objection, the vote ensued.

Vote for "Policy and Procedures for New Parents Requesting a Period of Modified Duties":
Passed, 33-0-0.

Dean Spieler requested that the Provost's Office investigate the impact of including non-tenure track faculty.

Professor Strauss inquired whether policies regarding the care of aging parents were being considered. Vice Provost Loeffelholz reported that many universities have struggled with this issue as it is difficult to define the boundaries of that type of policy. Northeastern is currently in step with its peers. Dean Spieler suggested that Northeastern could lead.

Professor Gaffney suggested that care in the event of catastrophic illness of children be investigated whereupon Provost Director agreed to consider all suggestions made.

V. Northeastern University Institutional Master Plan (IMP)

Ralph Martin, Senior Vice President and General Counsel introduced himself and stated that he has enjoyed the complexity of work at Northeastern University. Mr. Martin expects the IMP to be completed, filed and approved in fourteen months.

Boston's housing report of the late 1990's encouraged universities to erect dorms in order to relieve pressure on the private housing market. The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) requires ten-year IMPs from large institutions.

IMPs identify the broad contemplated uses of parcel; they are not development or design specific. Approval is acquired for these 'contemplated uses' which can then facilitate the subsequent approval process when the University is ready to proceed with a specific use. Without the IMP there is a protracted regulatory process.

Northeastern's IMP should be consistent with the academic plan and the long-range plan. Mr. Martin reported on the fulfillment of the 2000-2010 IMP noting that the functionality of the campus had changed from 'car-centric' to residential.

The main external constituency is the BRA-required community task force. NU informs the process of developing that task force but does not determine the members. NU has developed good relationships with some of the new local officials. The goal of the task force is to benefit the local community as well as the NU community.

The previous IMP focused on developing the residential campus; the upcoming IMP must now support Northeastern's new goals by providing space for all functions. Internal constituencies will have input into the IMP through various methods, such as possible focus

groups and town hall meetings. The University must move with purpose and cannot proceed by consensus at all times. The deadline must be met; Mayor Menino will have final approval.

While this process is underway, NU will attempt to rationalize its entire real estate portfolio, notably Burlington, Nahant, Dedham and others.

Questions

Professor Kruger noted that both undergraduates and graduate students should be shown on the chart of internal constituencies.

Professor Gaffney suggested that as all area communities are concerned about the impact of all the universities and colleges in the general vicinity, perhaps a coalition could be formed to answer questions from local residents which would mitigate the need for residents to contact multiple committees. Mr. Martin agreed and offered that such a coalition could become stewards of the various fields at the Fenway and could rationalize mutual benefits with the community. Professor Gaffney further suggested that other constituencies, such as the many hospitals in the area, might be included. Mr. Martin did not disagree.

Professor Fox questioned where one could make a proposal for shared use (with Wentworth, Suffolk and the Boston City Schools) of the Carter playground. Mr. Martin noted that much discussion must occur before the question could be addressed.

Professor Strauss suggested that housing for guests be considered as well as graduate housing in conjunction with other area universities. Mr. Martin responded that collaboration is in the forefront of initial discussions and that flexibility of space is a consideration. For instance, there could be ways to reuse housing when students are on coop to accommodate different populations.

Professor Strauss urged NU to also consider the purchase of properties that could be useful to which Mr. Martin responded that, while this is not off the table, cost benefit is a consideration as NU is surrounded by very expensive properties.

Professor Gaffney opined that current graduate housing makes it difficult to recruit high caliber students.

Professor Waszczak requested an update on development of a dorm on Gainsborough at the YMCA space. Mr. Martin responded that the process has been convoluted and, while negotiations are proceeding there is, as yet, no definitive end date. Provost Director reported that this development is left over from NU's previous IMP and that NU is obliged to proceed.

In response to Professor Alper's question concerning space over the MBTA tracks, Mr. Martin reported that many ideas have come forth and NU is pursuing discussion concerning that space. There is a complicated negotiating process and a need for much study and analysis.

Professor Kruger extended appreciation to both Vice President Martin and Director of Communications Chiavelli for the presentation. It is one of the Senate Agenda Committee's

priorities to be included in the genesis of large projects such as this which directly affect the academic environment. The senior leadership team has been receptive to SAC's proposal.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The Senate adjourned at 12:39 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Louis J. Kruger, Vice Chair, Faculty Senate
Chair, Senate Agenda Committee