

January 25, 2012

## Faculty Senate meeting minutes: 01/25/2012

Louis J. Kruger  
*Northeastern University*

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**Northeastern University**  
*Office of the Faculty Senate*

**TO:** FACULTY SENATE  
**FROM:** LOUIS J. KRUGER, VICE CHAIR, FACULTY SENATE AND CHAIR, FACULTY SENATE  
AGENDA COMMITTEE  
**SUBJECT:** MINUTES, 2011-2012 FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF 25 JANUARY 2012

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

(Administrators) Costa, Director, Gibson, Lane, Loeffelholz, Soyster, Spieler, Van Den Abbeelee

Absent (Professors) Adams, Bansil, Katula, Sandler, Sherwood, Strauss, Finkelstein

(Administrators) Deans Finklestein, Fulmer

Provost Director convened the meeting at 11:46 AM.

- I. The minutes of 11 January were approved as written.
- II. Professor Kruger reported that the Senate Agenda Committee had met twice in regular session, once with Provost, and once with the Senior Leadership Team since the last Senate meeting. He reminded Senate members to complete the annual budget priority survey sent by the Senate Committee for Financial Affairs and to encourage colleagues to do so as well.
- III. Provost Director encouraged Senate members to attend the upcoming talk by Dr. Susan Ambrose, Associate Provost for Education, Director of the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence, and Teaching Professor in the Department of History at Carnegie Mellon. Her topic is how students learn, which is significant to current conversations at NU about instruction. The event will be on 7 February at 3:00 PM in Faculty Pavilion.
- IV. Professor Waszczak read the following and it was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That Northeastern University establish the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences in the School of Pharmacy in the Bouvé College of health Sciences as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on 8 December 2011.**

The floor recognized Associate Clinical Professor Gonyeau who summarized that the purpose of the program is to strengthen the Pharmacy School, to increase options and flexibility for the students, to respond to opportunities within the pharmaceutical industry, and to retain students. The program could provide a gateway for students wanting to attend graduate programs. The proposed program will accept only internal transfer students estimated at between five and ten student initially. It has received strong support from the department, the school and the college.

Professor Gaffney asked where interested students are currently being educated. Professor Gonyeau responded that some were leaving NU to pursue other types of bachelor programs and a very small percentage transfer within the University.

Professor Hanson questioned the rationale for the 2.0 GPA for continuance and requested more specificity concerning what graduate programs the students might attend after completing their undergraduate degree.

Professor Amiji, Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, responded that the Pharmacy Sciences graduate program is attractive and strong. Others are biotech masters programs and others both within and outside the University

Professor Hanson reiterated that the 2.0 GPA appears low and asked what type of non-academic positions graduates would pursue.

Professor Amiji responded that entry-level positions in biotech, medical device firms, and others would be appropriate and, while there are a number of competitive programs, NU's coop opportunities are attractive. Coop sites are being fostered.

Professor Boisse, Pharmaceutical Sciences, explained that the proposal originally called for a 2.75 GPA for continuance but was informed that the standard at NU is 2.0. A 2.5 GPA is required to enter the program.

VOTE to approve the proposed Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences: PASSED, 31-0-1

Professor Herman pointed out that the program routing form contained no place for a department faculty vote which should be the first level of approval. Provost Director responded that the colleges need to monitor their processes and that the form is for the Provost's Office.

- V. Continuation of the presentation on campus space. The Provost reminded senators that this discussion concerns the "backfill plan" as a consequence of moving to 140 The Fenway (Forsythe).

Vice Provost Loeffelholz reviewed the objectives, key recommendations and current status. These may be found at <https://sharepointportal.nunet.neu.edu/NEUSites/Faculty%20Senate/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

In answer to several questions, the Vice Provost explained that this backfill plan is the beginning of a more encompassing plan and that all renovations meet University standards.

Regarding the possibility of purchasing Forsythe, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) has expressed interest and NU has not pursued the possibility at this time. The Master Plan assumes that NU will not have the facility in ten years and must again accommodate those departments moving into it. While there is risk, the amortized rent is still less than other nearby property considered. Professor Zgarrick expressed the additional concern that the building physically separates faculty from many doctoral students and suggested that the Master Plan address the matter of reuniting faculty and students.

Provost Director acknowledged that the issue is important. The Master Planning process is in the data-gathering phase with forums being held at the Colleges. In addition, Vice President Martin will attend an upcoming Senate meeting to share priorities and gather input.

Professor Fox suggested that the Ruggles MBTA station undergo improvement in order to reflect the presence of NU.

In response to Professor Gaffney's question concerning the process for making decisions about the Master Plan, Vice Provost Loeffelholz responded that Colleges were asked to provide data about projected faculty growth, their current footprint, limitations of spaces, and immediate hiring projections. Deans, facilities, and Provost's Office members were involved. Professor Gaffney responded that it has not been a transparent process for faculty. Dean Gibson noted that all departments at the College of Science had been included in the discussion.

Provost Director explained that moves are dependent upon expiration dates of leases in some instances and that they could take three to four years.

As there was no further discussion a motion was made to adjourn. Being no objection, the Senate adjourned at 12:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Louis J. Kruger, Chair  
Senate Agenda Committee