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Northeastern University

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

April 27, 2011

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes: 04/27/2011

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, 27 APRIL 2011

Present: (Professors) Adams, Alper, Alshawabkeh, Bansil, Barberis, Basagni, Bruns, Chilvers, Daynard, De Ritis, Fox, Gaffney, Hafner, Hanson, Herman, Kruger, Lifter, McKnight, Morrison, Muftu, Poriss, Portz, Sherman, Strauss, Suciu, Waszczak, Young

(Administrators) Director, Falcon, Finkelstein, Lane, Loeffelholz, Powers-Lee, Spieler, Van Den Abbeele, Zoloth

Absent (Professors) Board, Sherwood, Thrush

(Administrators) Luzzi

Provost Director convened the meeting at 11:11 AM

I. The minutes of 20 April were approved as amended.

II. The following are the results of today's 10:00 AM election for the 2011-2012 Senate Agenda Committee (a full list of Senators is available at www.facultysenate.neu.edu

Senate Vice Chair/Agenda Committee Chair:	Professor Louis Kruger
Secretary:	Professor Arun Bansil
Remaining members:	Professor George Adams
	Professor Neil Alper
	Professor Richard Daynard
	Professor Hilary Poriss

III. Professor Kruger thanked all those faculty who contributed their service on the Athletics, FAC, FDC, APC, RPOC, EAPC, and the AEOC and all their evaluation teams. Also the Handbook Review Committee, Work/Life Balance Joint Committee, College Liaison Committee, Committee for Governance, TRACE, at least six search committees, Tenure Appeals Committee, grievance committees and the UUCC and GC. Particular thanks were extended to Professors Adams, Bruns, Fox, McKnight and Portz for their service on the SAC.

There was no Provost's Report and the body moved directly to questions and discussion.

IV. Questions and discussion

Professor Strauss, pointing out that the interest and applications to Northeastern are greater than ever, expressed concern about the low yield of those accepted students who decide to attend the University. Can we improve the yield over the 20% figure from recent years? Will admissions start to consider majors in decisions about acceptance, and could that affect the size of units? She expressed concern that Admissions would begin to make decisions affecting disciplines without faculty input.

Provost Director explained that Admissions does not use anticipated yield as a criteria for admissions. Goals are set by regular discussions between Enrollment Management and the deans and advised interested faculty to consult with their deans.

Professors Strauss and Gaffney continued that admissions decisions are a university-wide issue that transcend the colleges. Decisions that affect the departments are being made now and if yields are expected to increase the units need to know as soon as possible to make preparations for larger classes.

Dean Zoloth noted that Admissions and Enrollment Management have been very responsive and have provided extensive data predicated on a very accurate model. There is no evidence supporting a large yield at this time. Dean Finkelstein added that discussions are held daily throughout the spring.

Professor Hafner indicated her appreciation of the improving quality of the admitted students which has added to the quality of her life as a professor. She expressed her gratitude for the great job that Enrollment Management has been doing. The Provost noted that the quality of the faculty and the programs has driven the higher quality of admitted students.

V. Athletics update. Presentation was made by Madeleine Estabrook, Executive Director for University Health and Counseling Services, on the certification process and its goals, committee work thus far, the standards to be met, oversight and compliance with rules, academic standards and support, the general framework of equity, and the required institutional plans. A final report with an executive summary will be completed by 13 May. Follow this link to view the report: http://www.facultysenate.neu.edu/about_faculty/documents/documents/NCAA_Certification_42011.pptx

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

> ***BE IT RESOLVED*** **That Northeastern University establish the Doctoral Program in Personal Health Informatics in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences and the College of Computer and Information Science as approved by the Graduate Council on April 5, 2011.**

The floor was ceded to Professor Patel who explained that cost drivers mandate the creation of technologies that provide care at lower costs which will therefore drive this program. Building on the existing MS in Health Informatics, the focus of the program will be on developing patient-based technologies that help people navigate through the health care system. Students will be enrolled from CCIS and health science technologies, building on those programs' strengths. Experiential learning will be employed to train people to build and test these systems.

Professor Hanson expressed concern that the program will train but will not produce scholarship or research. Professor Intille explained that this program trains researchers and enables those with ideas to not only build the system but to then test and analyze it.

Dean Zoloth reported that the program is a unique cutting-edge joint effort between health sciences and information technology. Technology is moving rapidly into the health care system; this program looks specifically at personal health devices. Dean Finkelstein added that many companies are introducing "gadgets" with no scientific foundation whereas the purpose of this program is to develop technologies on a solid scientific foundation that can be assessed and pass FDA guidelines.

Vice Provost Falcon stated that the program is well aligned with University interdisciplinary goals, includes research faculty from all over NU, and will attract students who wish to work with these faculty.

Professor Young objected that no financial numbers, projection of revenue, or prediction of student enrollment is included with which to make an informed assessment. Provost Director responded that the process now is that the financial analysis to ensure enrollment opportunities and availability of funding is completed prior to it coming to this body.

Dean Finklestein clarified that there is an expectation of admitting five students per year for five years to a steady state enrollment of 25 students.

Professor De Ritis asked about the inclusion of digital media design, to which Professor Patel responded that engagement is desired at that level so that people will use the equipment.

Professor Gaffney questioned the value of attempting to train someone to do what a team of people normally do, i.e. taking products developed by team and trying to put that expertise in one person. Professor McKnight requested an example of a dissertation title and the journal in which it would be published.

Professor Intille proposed that a thesis could be titled 'Diagnostic Intervention Tool for People with Motor Disabilities' or 'Effect of Electronic Monitoring of Medication Adherence on Patient Outcomes' which would be published in scientific or medical journals. Others might be 'Diagnostic Tools for Speech: How is Change Monitored?' for publication by the Acoustical Society of America.

Professor Hafner explained that within schools of information science, human computer interaction is a core discipline equivalent to networks and computer science. This proposed program will increase that work in the health segment as well as provide the opportunity to develop large grants and projects where students will be able to work and contribute. There is a strong intellectual foundation within the program as well as in behavioral change theories.

Professor Alshawabkeh suggested adjusting the language describing the program so that it does not give the impression that it is more training than research.

Dean Finkelstein added that researchers working in this area are very well funded. The goal is to interface for helping patients getting discharged which must be accomplished by working with health care professionals to design such a device. There must be scientific theory to underscore this. He also explained, in response to Professor Strauss's question concerning funding, that there is guaranteed funding for five RA stipends for the first five years from donor and industry support.

A call for cloture received no objection and a vote ensued.

<u>Vote to approve the Doctoral Program in Personal Health Informatics</u>: <u>Passed, 26-2-5.</u>

VII. Vice Provost Falcon read the following and it was seconded.

> ***BE IT RESOLVED*** **That Northeastern University establish the Certificate in Advanced Graduate Study in Education Leadership and Management in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the Graduate Council on 5 April 2011.**

Dean LaBrie was recognized and explained that relevant context is that CAGS are common in the field of education. Those who already hold a masters are awarded the CAGS when they have accomplished coursework for a second masters but have elected not pursue the research component. Responding to various questions, Dean LaBrie reported that there are currently 550-600 students in the education program. There are three full-time faculty who do not teach in the EDD program; all those teaching in the EDD program have Ph.D.s or EED's. There are a total of 22 full-time education faculty and 13 part-time with searches for six to eight full-time positions in the upcoming year. There are currently three tenured and two tenure-track faculty among the total number.

There being no further discussion, the vote ensued.

Vote to approve the CAGS in Education Leadership and Management: Passed, 27-1-1

VIII. Vice Provost Falcon read the following and it was seconded.

> ***BE IT RESOLVED*** **That the Faculty Senate endorse suspension of enrollment in the Master of Science in Technological Commercialization in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the Graduate Council on 5 April 2011.**

Dean LaBrie was recognized and explained that the degree was being discontinued as AACSB-qualified faculty were not available to teach it and CBA has recommended suspension as enrollments have not merited hiring full-time faculty.

Vote to suspend enrollment in the Master of Science in Technological Commercialization: Passed, 29-0-0

IX. Vice Provost Falcon read the following and it was seconded.

> ***BE IT RESOLVED*** **That the Faculty Senate endorse suspension of enrollment in the Master of Science Liberal Arts in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the Graduate Council on 5 April 2011.**

Dean LaBrie was recognized and reported that the program was created when CPS was redefining its mission toward professional training and the MS in Liberal Arts is not longer consistent with said mission. Only one student is presently enrolled in the program.

Vote to suspend enrollment in the Master of Science Liberal Arts: Passed, 28-0-0

X. Vice Provost Powers-Lee read the following and it was seconded.

> ***BE IT RESOLVED*** **that Northeastern University policy limits the number of advanced standing credits that students may apply toward undergraduate**

degrees to 32 SH. Advanced standing courses may be used to satisfy any appropriate explicit degree requirements without regard to the number of credits used. This was approved by the UUCC on 14 April 2011.

The Vice Provost explained that there is currently no limit on credits for Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (APIB) applied to students' degrees and incoming students are arriving with increasingly more credit. Many peer institutions have limits. The University desires that students engage in the college experience rather than graduate with a large number of credits from high school courses. Additionally, the recruiting team indicates that the absence of a cap is confusing for students.

Josh Coombes from the Student Government Academic Affairs Committee was recognized and reported that the SGA is against a limit and cited research showing that students with 32+ APIB credits out-performed others. Limiting the allowable credits will be a disincentive to those small numbers of students who have more than 30 APIB credits.

Several senators spoke for the resolution suggesting even further limitations and noting that honors students are graduating early because of it. Several others suggested raising the number of allowable AP credits as the number is small in any case.

In answer to Professor Daynard's question about whether students would be attracted or turned away by the limit, Vice Provost Powers-Lee admitted that it is possible that the number of APIB credits allowed attracts more qualified students. However, Admissions and Enrollment Management supports the limit on APIB credit because it indicates that the NU experience is worth staying for and we are presently not making as strong a statement about the value of our on-campus experience as our competitors are.

Professor Herman noted that the limit on the number of AP credits doesn't mean that the advanced placement does not count – the student is not required to take the courses that would be equivalent to their AP course and can take another courses instead. . Both the University of Southern California and New York University have the same limits. Dean Zoloth added that a recent article in the New York Times stated that many of these credits are substandard and depend upon the high school.

Mr. Coombes was recognized again and pointed out that NU allows students with AP credit to pass on to the next course, so we must consider AP credit equivalent to NU courses. When students see the 32-credit limit they will not understand that their AP credit will still allow them to place out of a class even if they can't get graduation credit for the class. .

<u>Vote to approve limitation on advanced standing credits: Passed, 23-5-1.</u>

XI. There being no objection to Professor Bruns' request to rescind reading the entire resolution, the following was moved and seconded.

***WHEREAS* the modular Faculty Handbook includes all Faculty Senate resolutions that are appropriate for inclusion in the Faculty Handbook and have been approved at the University levels required for inclusion in the Faculty Handbook; and**

***WHEREAS* the Faculty Senate's *Ad Hoc* Handbook Committee asserts that the modular Handbook represents an appropriately updated version of the 2000 Faculty Handbook; therefore,**

***BE IT RESOLVED* that the modular Faculty Handbook to be posted on the Faculty Senate website and its downloadable equivalent are the official versions of the Faculty Handbook;**

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Faculty Senate retain responsibility for updating the Faculty Handbook and its downloadable equivalent on the Faculty Senate website, including any links to external documents or websites;**

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that when any changes are made to the Faculty Handbook a copy of the updated Handbook be dated and archived for historic and reference purposes;**

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Provost provide the Senate Office the funding and technical support necessary to update and maintain a web-based Faculty Handbook and its downloadable equivalent;**

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the web-based Faculty Handbook site and its downloadable equivalent be titled *Faculty Handbook* and that its modules be:**

Faculty Governance
- The Faculty Senate Bylaws
- Dismissal Proceedings
- Policy Regarding Faculty Discipline
- Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Grievance Procedure
- Grievance Procedure for 2.7 Academic or Clinical Specialists and 2.8B or 2.8F Lecturers

Faculty Appointments, Promotion and Tenure
- Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Rights & Responsibilities
- Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Performance Expectations
- Appointments and Compensation
- Tenure
- Promotion
- Sabbatical and Professional Leaves
- Vacation and Other Leaves

Faculty Rights in Teaching, Research and Scholarship
- Academic Freedom
- Patent and Copyright
- Instructional Media
- Conflict of Commitment and Interest

Faculty Personnel Policies
- Loads
- Presence at the University
- Policy on Outside Professional Activities
- Tutoring for Fees
- Retirement

Academic Organization
The General University Faculty and Bylaws
Clinical or Academic Specialists
The College Faculties
Procedural Guidelines in the Appointment of University Administrators

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that, if the Senate Agenda Committee and Provost agree on the presence of one or more error(s) in the official web-based 2011 Faculty Handbook or its downloadable equivalent, then the Senate Agenda Committee shall inform the Faculty Senate of the error(s) and have the authority to correct the error(s) in the Faculty Handbook.**

Professor Bruns gave a brief presentation on the history of the Faculty Handbook, how the proposed resolutions affect the Handbook, the specific charge to Provost Director, and the auditing process. The presentation may be viewed at the following link- http://www.facultysenate.neu.edu/meetings/20102011/documents/HANDBOOKResolutions2.pptx

Professor Herman added that part of the process was to identify policies that apply to the entire University and to add links rather than restate them in the Handbook. He noted that teaching regulations were part of Handbook until 1990 when it was split into the Academics Operations Manual which remains integral to the Faculty Handbook. Ultimately, teaching regulations were created in a separate document and are on line.

Professor Daynard expressed concern that a printed version be archived whereupon Professor McKnight noted that this is addressed in the resolution.

Professor Cokely added that a recent recommendation is to provide a searchable website.

Professor Gaffney wondered about the status of the 2005 Handbook which was passed by the Senate. Professor Bruns explained that the current resolutions are an attempt to begin at a place that everyone may agree upon [that is the current Faculty Handbook]. Vice Provost Loeffelholz added that there has been a “logjam” around some parts of the 2005 proposed Handbook, and the Board of Trustees will not entertain a decision on the entire Handbook. The proposed procedure allows upgrading in sections.

Professor Waszczak asked if there was a repository of [Faculty Handbook] items passed by the Senate but not by the Board of Trustees. Professor Kruger confirmed that there is. As well, there are resolutions that passed at all levels and by the Senate only that did not explicitly refer to the Faculty Handbook and so were not included. These are addressed by the next group of resolutions.

Professor McKnight added that the modular Faculty Handbook will be available on the Senate website by next year.

Vote to accept the resolutions for a modular, updated Faculty Handbook: Passed, 31-0-0.

XII. Professor Bruns moved the next group of resolutions to the floor and was seconded.

Resolution #1

***WHEREAS* Senate Resolution 0203-32*, which amends the Senate Bylaws by adding a Standing Committee on Library Policies and Operations, was approved by the Senate on 6/02/03; and**

***WHEREAS* the President approved Senate Resolution 0203-32 on 8/14/03; and**

***WHEREAS* the teaching faculty ratified this addition to the Senate Bylaws on 4/6/2005; therefore,**

***BE IT RESOLVED* that Senate Resolution 0203-32 be forwarded immediately to the Board of Trustees for approval and inclusion in the Senate Bylaws of the current Faculty Handbook as Standing Committee number six.**

Resolution #2

***WHEREAS* Senate Resolution 0203-35* which amends the Senate Bylaws by adding a Standing Committee on Research Policy Oversight was approved by the Senate on 6/02/03; and**

***WHEREAS* the President approved Senate Resolution 0203-35 on 8/14/03; and**

***WHEREAS* the teaching faculty ratified this addition to the Senate Bylaws on 4/6/2005; therefore,**

***BE IT RESOLVED* that Senate Resolution 0203-35 be forwarded immediately to the Board of Trustees for approval and inclusion in the Senate Bylaws of the current Faculty Handbook as Standing Committee number seven.**

Resolution #3

***WHEREAS* Senate Resolution 0304-21* on Workload Policy was approved by the Senate on 3/10/04; and**

***WHEREAS* the President approved this resolution on 10/26/04; and**

***WHEREAS* the Board of Trustees approved this resolution as general University policy on 1/28/05; and**

***WHEREAS* this policy has been in effect University-wide since 2005; therefore,**

***BE IT RESOLVED* that Senate resolution 0304-21 pertaining to Workload Policy be forwarded immediately to the Board of Trustees for approval and inclusion in the Load section of the current Faculty Handbook.**

Resolution #4

***WHEREAS* Senate resolutions 0708-20*, 0708-21*, 0708-22*, 0708-23*, 0708-24* pertaining to merit reviews were approved by the Senate on 2/13/08; and**

***WHEREAS* these resolutions were approved by the President on 4/30/08; therefore,**

***BE IT RESOLVED* that the Senate resolutions pertaining to merit review be forwarded immediately to the Board of Trustees for approval and inclusion in the Merit section of the current Faculty Handbook.**

Resolution #5

***WHEREAS* Senate Resolution 0809-28* on Faculty Compensation Outside of Base Salary was approved by the Senate on 4/15/09; and**

***WHEREAS* this resolution contained language intended to replace language in the Faculty Handbook regarding summer salary; and**

***WHEREAS* the Provost approved this resolution on 4/29/09; and**

***WHEREAS* this policy has been in effect University-wide since 2010; and**

***WHEREAS* this resolution has not yet been forwarded to the President or the Board of Trustees; therefore,**

***BE IT RESOLVED* that the Provost immediately forward Senate Resolution 0809-28 to the President and the Board of Trustees for approval and inclusion in the Appointments and Compensation section of the current Faculty Handbook.**

Professor Bruns noted that the content of these resolutions which were previously approved by Senate are not debatable but are simply for addition to the Faculty Handbook.

Professor Herman added that the additional standing Senate committees have existed as ad hoc committees and must be inserted into the Handbook. The other resolutions are not new legislation but are simply telling Board of Trustees that they need to be in Handbook.

Professor McKnight further explained that these resolutions did not contain language specifically adding them to the Handbook but the intent was clear that they be added. The Senate Agenda Committee has been assured by Provost that he will recommend these for approval by the Board of Trustees. Provost Director confirmed that he will bring the five resolutions to the Board of Trustees and urge approval.

<u>Vote to approve the second set of Handbook resolutions adding previously excluded legislation to the updated modular Faculty Handbook: Passed, 31-0-0.</u>

Provost Director extended gratitude to everyone involved in the process and noted that passage of the resolutions address the NEASC observation on the lack of an up-to-date Faculty Handbook.

XIII. Vote to Accept Report of the Financial Affairs Committee

It was called to the attention of the body that in the previous meeting the Senate had failed to formally accept the report of the Financial Affairs Committee. The acceptance of a committee's

report is a formality that does not represent approval of all the conclusions of the report, but is an action that usually precedes the discussion and debate of the committee's conclusions. It was suggested that the Senate correct its oversight by voting to accept the report at this meeting.

Vote to accept the previously presented (20 April) Financial Affairs Report: Passed, 28-0-1.

Professor Fox extended thanks to Professor Kruger for his hard work and dedication during the past year and the Senate concurred.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and the Senate adjourned at 1:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen W. McKnight, Secretary
Faculty Senate