



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 20 September 2017

Present: (Professors) Adams, Andrews, Barberis, Barczak, Brooks, Dencker, Dennerlein, Desnoyers, De Ritis, Erdogmus, Fox, Frader, Hanson, Hayward, Howard, Kaeli, Kanouse, Kelly, Kirda, McGruer, McOwen, Monaghan, Nyaga, Patterson, Portz, Powers-Lee, Silbey, Sipahi, Stephens, Vicino

Administrators: Bean, Brodley, He, Henderson, Hudson, Loeffelholz, Parish, Poiger, Wadia-Fascetti, Ziemer

Absent: (Professors)
(Administrators)

I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Provost Bean convened the Senate at 11:48 AM

II. ***Stuart Peterfreund – in memoriam***

Members of the Faculty Senate. I would like to take a brief time at the beginning of this session to mark the passing this summer of Professor Stuart Peterfreund, a member of the Northeastern community whose participation in faculty governance we wish to note. As indicated in his obituary in the Globe, Stuart was an alumnus of Cornell, UC-Irvine and the U Washington before joining the faculty of Northeastern in the English Department. In addition to his commitment to the academic programs at Northeastern, which included promoting the development of the graduate program in English, he also had a passion for faculty governance. He served as a senator over a period of thirty years, both from CAS and subsequently from CSSH, and was a member of the Agenda committee nine times, including a stint as Chair. Stuart served on many of the Senate's standing committees, including AEOC and Faculty Handbook (2000-2004). Those of us who served with him recall that he was known to hold strong opinions on many of the issues and was unafraid to share them. His knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order was legendary. As such, he frequently served as the Senate parliamentarian, and was in that role this past year prior to retirement. Therefore it is right and proper that we acknowledge in this venue his many contributions to faculty governance at Northeastern University.

***–Robert N. Hanson, Professor
and Secretary of the Faculty Senate***

Professor Kathleen Kelly, English, invited the body to a memoriam on 12 October at 4:00 pm sponsored by the Department of English.

III. SAC REPORT (Professor Powers-Lee)

- Since the last Senate meeting, SAC has met eleven times, including three joint meetings with the 2016/17 SAC, as well as three times with the Provost.
- SAC has staffed and charged search committees for the SOL dean and the Pharmaceutical Science chair. Staffing of six other chair search committees is in progress: Economics (CSSH) and five Chair search committees for Bouvé (Department of Applied Psychology, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Department of Health Sciences, Department of Pharmacy and Health Systems Sciences (School of Pharmacy), and Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences.
- SAC has drafted charges for the Senate committees and has nearly completed staffing of the committees.
- Last year's resolutions that were pending approval at the time of the last Senate meeting have been approved.
- Last year's resolutions that resulted in handbook inclusion or in current committee charges and *ad hoc* committee creation have been implemented.
- Two resolutions from last year have been implemented: the resolution to implement IRB staffing ASAP; and, the resolution for ITS to take a formal role in new faculty orientation to apprise new faculty of the range of ITS software, services and activities related to faculty research and teaching.
- The Senate Office is working with the IT group in the Provost's Office on web site redesign

IV. PROVOST'S REPORT (Provost Bean)

- The Board of Trustees last week talked about concepts of experiential education throughout and the global system. Experiential throughout includes PhDs and on-line programs as well as all other programs. This will happen within two years. Presently, 97% of undergraduate students do coops; many PhDs are already working in other labs. But hopefully it means more than that.
- The Global University System began to be discussed when more understanding of what external campuses mean came about. Students are out there; faculty are out there. Students are currently doing internships two days a week. For formalities the administration will need to engage with Senate.
- The University is a year out from the NEASC site visit. Vice Provost Franko and Dean Loeffelholz are leading the effort. A Long Range Plan will be produced for that process and will include more research space and more faculty. As a part of NEASC, NUPath will need to be assessed. Therefore, a second student survey parallel to TRACE (LEARN) is being implemented to accumulate data on satisfying the competencies. This will not, however, be used to evaluate faculty in any way.
- Tom Nedell developed a presentation on the financial health of the University that was highly encouraging. The Board of Trustees found it useful; it will be shown at the Senate.

- Despite the travel ban, international applications saw a 6% increase with high yield as well. Vice Provost Ronkin is monitoring the student-faculty ratio.

V. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

- V.1 Professor Barczak wondered if more research faculty are being hired in STEM to which the Provost responded that all colleges are averaging ten new faculty per year overall. Tenured/tenure-track faculty will be expanded as well as research scientists.
- V.2 Professor Erdogmus related that the 5% that departments must pay to promote a research scientist is onerous. Provost Bean suggested that he should talk with Art Kramer [Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education) noting that such surcharges are holdovers.
- V.3 Professor Adams, noting that the last NEASC report was only made available to SAC with the request that it not be shared. Will this NEASC report be made available to everyone? The Provost responded that he would research why it happened, noting that NU is a completely different University.

VI. DEAN OF LIBRARIES DANIEL COHEN

Dean Cohen spoke of the Interaction between the physical and the virtual library and the busyness of the library. A new interface providing entry to all digital holdings was launched this summer. Plans to allow access to all off campus students are underway.

Plans for the fourth floor: archives is moving to that area; space for graduate students; space for researchers and researcher services; space for the digital scholarship group.

The library has acquired several unique Boston-related collections recently including *The Boston Globe* and the *Phoenix* archives. There are also several community collections held by Northeastern. Dean Cohen envisions a Boston Research Center and is meeting with donors. This too will be located on the fourth floor.

Physical space: digital versus analog means volumes will need to be moved off campus. Certain types of books will be available but those not circulated in the last ten years will be easily retrieved from off campus.

The Dean is working on collaboration across the university and across the globe and creating *Northeastern Commons*, a collaborative on-line space which enables group conversations with NU and others. More will be forthcoming.

A podcast was launched yesterday called "*What's New*" where an interview of a faculty researcher takes place every two weeks of a faculty researcher.

- Provost Bean noted that Dean Cohen chairing the CIO search for a forward-thinking person with flexibility. Professor Kaeli is also on that committee. In addition, there will be the creation of substantial maker-space in the basement of library and group collaboration space underground next to the Provost's Office.

- Professor McOwen asked about access to past journals and Dean Cohen said he will look into it. 89,000 volumes were moved where the statistics on accessing them were in the single digits for years. Access could be a one or two day turn-around. The Dean noted that all research libraries are moving to sharing common storage which allow access to larger collections.
- Professor Erdogmus pointed out that publishing data sets is a problem because of security and the Dean responded that part of this matter will need to be addressed by ITS.
- Professor Kanouse asked how faculty might contribute to the Boston Research Center. Dean Cohen announced that there will be a regular series of open meetings beginning in January around this issue.

VII. FACULTY HANDBOOK

VII.1 Resolution #1 – Faculty Discipline Module

Professor Silbey read the following; Professor Hanson seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed module entitled “Faculty Discipline” replace the current module entitled “Policy regarding Faculty Discipline”.

Professor Silbey explained that the Handbook Committee’s charge is to make changes necessary to reflect the move toward one faculty with the same rights and responsibilities. Each module needed input from various areas. Adjustments to the Faculty Discipline are largely relative to that charge.

Professor Adams inquired after the “published guidelines” referred to in the module and Professor Silbey explained that the module represents the published guidelines along with each unit’s procedures if they choose to make them. Professor Board, Handbook Committee chair, was recognized and added that there are also University-published guidelines that are not in the Faculty Handbook. Dean Poiger asked if it was a precedent to have department or college level guidelines. Professor Silbey, noting that the Dean had raised the same question last year, explained that units are not required have guidelines but some do such as the School of Law.

Professor McOwen questioned the word “alleged” in paragraph six and Professor Silbey noted that it should have been removed.

**VOTE in favor of the proposed Handbook module entitled “Faculty Discipline”: PASSED,
33-0-0**

VII.2 Resolution #2 – Dismissal Proceedings Module

Professor Silbey read the following and was seconded by Vice Provost Zeimer.

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed module entitled "Dismissal Proceedings: Tenure and Tenure-Track Faculty" replace the current module entitled "Dismissal Proceedings".

Following the introduction of this module last spring, more conversation was required both in committee and in Senate. The proposal clarifies the rights of faculty if they do not respond to the notice of hearing and the scope of evidence provided as related to their job. This is as protective as possible for the faculty member. The Committee also defined the evidence of reason for dismissal as relative to the job. This means that the Bill of Particulars that is submitted must relate to the employees job as a faculty member. These are meaningful changes from the perspective of due process.

Professor Portz related an experience in a Hearing Committee a year ago where the faculty member did not participate and the question became of when that faculty member can participate after the first invitation. Professor Silbey referred to II.B. and C. explaining that the intent is to not allow the faculty member to backload testimony. The module is saying that, as long as the procedure requires the faculty member to attend, invitations should continue.

Professor Adams noted that the Board of Trustees need not abide by the Hearing Committee's decision. Professor Silbey agreed pointing out that the Senate cannot change the power of the Board. Professor Adams offered that the Board should provide evidence if they do not abide by the Hearing Committee's decision and that the Senate could request this.

Professor Kanouse posed a question about section IX. Publicity. Provost Bean responded that the section only restricts publicity during the Hearing, not prior or following the Hearing.

Professor Portz requested clarification of Section VI. on 'findings of fact' whereupon Professor Silbey responded that the 'record' includes all of the meetings and not just the 'findings of fact' statement.

**VOTE in favor of the proposed Handbook module entitled "Discipline Proceedings":
PASSED, 33:0:0**

VIII. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

At 1:03 pm a motion was made and seconded to reconvene in Committee-of-the-whole. At 1:14 pm the Senate moved out of the Committee-of-the-whole.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 1:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary
Faculty Senate