



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

Report of the activities of the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate

Robert N Hanson, Secretary

The secretary of the Faculty Senate is charged by the Faculty Handbook to make a report on the Senate's activities to the University faculty at the end of each academic year. Detailed [agendas and minutes](#) of each Faculty Senate meeting during the 2016-2017 academic year are available on the Faculty Senate website so that this current report is to be a summary of what I considered to be the more notable topics or achievements covered by the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate

1. Continued faculty participation in Senate-related activities

[See [minutes](#) of 21-Sep-2016, 19-Oct-2016, 2-Nov-2016, 16-Nov-2016, 30-Nov-2016, 7-Dec-2016, 18-Jan-2017, 1 Feb-2017, 15-Feb-2017, 1-Mar-2017, 22-Mar-2017, 5-April-2017, 19-April-2017, and 26-April-2017] Ten standing committees of the Senate were staffed and charged by October. In addition to the standing committees, dean (3) and chair/director (6) search committees, Excellence in Teaching and Klein Lectureship committees were also staffed. And finally, faculty representatives were selected to serve on the University Classroom Committee, various Grade Appeal Committees, and a Dismissal Hearing Committee. As a result, similar to the previous year, over 200 members of the faculty were involved in Senate-related activities. This resulted in a number of reports and resolutions emanating from the various committees. The [reports](#) and [resolutions](#) can be found on the Faculty Senate website. As with the previous year, the Senate Agenda Committee reached out personally to faculty in seeking their involvement in Senate committee work as well as during Faculty Senate elections.

2. Full Time Non Tenure Track (FT NTT) Faculty Committee.

[See [minutes](#) of 18-Jan-2017, 1-Feb-2017, 1-Mar-2017] A major undertaking during the academic year was the work done by the FT NTT committee, which continued the charges developed the previous academic year and expanded by introducing the Sense of One Faculty and what this means. Resolutions related to retaliation, grievance procedures, and voting rights/governance were approved. The thrust of these resolutions was to further the integration of all full-time faculty at Northeastern University. [The [resolutions](#) are posted on the Faculty Senate website.]

3. Discussions of ongoing issues at the Senate meetings

On a number of occasions, the Senate convened as a Committee of the Whole to undertake discussions of topical issues. These included the use of additional questions in TRACE to evaluate NUPath [21-Sep-2016], the Long Range Plan for NU [2 Nov-2017], CPS and the Professional Advancement Network-PAN [18-Jan-2017], the Global Experience and the Office of Global Studies [1-Feb-2017], the budget process [15-Feb-2017], and Divest NU [1-Mar-2017]. While not generating resolutions, the discussions fostered improved understanding among the parties involved.

4. Shared governance

This past year provided examples of ongoing efforts by the Senate/SAC and the administration to promote shared governance. SAC meet twice a month with the Provost, once a month with the Senior Leadership Team and once with the Academic Affairs committee of the Board of Trustees. In addition, several of the Senate committees had representatives from the administration present which facilitated the crafting and ultimate passage of resolutions. The administration also included members of the Senate and other faculty on its long range planning committees. These efforts fostered a more collegial atmosphere which is conducive to constructive engagement.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert N Hanson, Secretary of the 2015-2016 Faculty Senate
August 28, 2017