



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

TO: FACULTY SENATE  
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate  
SUBJECT: Minutes, 4 October 2017

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

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

Absent: (Professors) Barberis, Desnoyers, Frader, and Kirda  
(Administrators) Brodley and Parish

I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Provost Bean convened the Senate at 11:46 AM

II. **MINUTES** of 20 September were approved as amended.

**III. SAC REPORT**

III.1 Professor Powers-Lee reported that SAC has met four times since the last Senate meeting, with one meeting including the Provost and one including the Senior Leadership Team.

III.2 SAC has completed staffing chair search committees for Communication Sciences and Disorders, for Economics and for Pharmacy and Health Systems Sciences. Search committee staffing is in progress for Applied Psychology and Health Sciences. The chair search committee for Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences has been staffed but will not be meeting until the search is initiated; a delay of at least one year is anticipated.

III.3 The Department of English has asked us to share the invitation to a memorial for Stuart Peterfreund that will be held on Thursday 12 October at 4:00 p.m. in the Sacred Space, 200 Ell Hall.

III.4 The new Faculty Senate web site will launch within a week. Thanks to Tim Albert, Helen Broderick, Thercia Jozefzoon and Matt Salerno for their work to design and populate the new site. We will continue to add material to the site.

**IV. THE PROVOST'S REPORT**

Provost Bean reported that the Deans Council has been discussed the resolution from last year regarding the selection of match mates, and upon doing some research, has found complications. CUPA has information but they have rules based on security. Following that there are issues related to allocation where some Colleges cannot get the best colleges to which to compare. The process being discussed is to over specify, i.e. twenty from each college. Professor Fox inquired whether salary match mate data be performed at the unit level. The Provost responded that this must be a negotiated matter otherwise there is systemic overload.

**V. UNIVERSITY UPDATE with Provost Bean and Senior Vice President Mantella**

The following was presented (this presentation may be found at the Faculty Senate [website](#).)

New appointments  
Undergraduate

V.1 Questions and discussion in conjunction with the presentation

Professor McGruer requested clarification of the confusing relationship between different parts of University such as regional campuses, PAN, continuing education, etc. Senior Vice President Mantella responded that PAN is a shared responsibility for life-long learning for which the Provost still maintains academic oversight. Provost Bean said that the University is changing. Many programs from traditional schools and colleges were "out there" originally under the global network. These are now a brand business aimed at people advancing their professions and require different advertising to a different demographic. Senior Vice President Mantella added that the CCIS programs in Seattle are still under the CCIS Dean. However, the entire enterprise is still being worked through. Marketing and demographics are a good indicator but it is noted that complications arise when CCIS, for instance, offers a program in Seattle which is the same as that offered in Boston and under CCIS academic jurisdiction but for professional students.

Professor Brooks asked about the percentage of underrepresented minorities within the incoming class. Vice President of Enrollment Management Sundar Kumarasamy responded that the percentage was 14-16% which was generally better than other private universities. The Provost noted increases in African-American and Latino students. Professor Silbey asked about the yield for underrepresented minority students, and Vice President Kumarasamy responded that it was approximately 20%.

Rankings. Provost Bean reported that the Board has asked that we start thinking outside the rankings. The Provost is working with the Deans to form a Northeastern metric to compare to other schools.

Professor Silbey asked if there is a plan to facilitate structural problems in combined degrees which are difficult to administer for both faculty and administrator. How does the University count students in relation to financial model and cross registration? The Provost responded that the first is underway. Dean Poiger added that faculty should not worry about this as there are many good people working on it. Faculty should maintain focus on the students and the prospects that result from these cross-collaborations.

Professor Silbey inquired if there are other metrics for college admissions in relation to those Colleges who are experiencing lower admissions. The Senior Vice President responded that students are not admitted by college; rather, the best students are admitted and then placed in their field of study.

The Provost noted the need to create a finer grade of course offerings for flexibility (modularization). The deans have agreed that all new degrees proposals will be designed in modular fashion, in half semester modules. Rules and polices are needed. The Provost asked the Senate to begin thinking about what are the challenges for discussions in the future.

Senior Vice President Mantella reported that PAN grew over 34% over the past five years.. An enormous growth in providers has been experienced. The Provost addressed the intersections of various programs but it is confused. Professor McGruer reported that faculty in COE are concerned that program offerings are not easily distinguishable in the way the outside world sees them. The Provost responded that they are distinguishable enough that a professional learner knows what they are looking at. At one level the programs are the same, i.e. high quality; at another level NU is looking at high quality differently among students. The Senior Vice President agreed that there are many questions but all offerings are high quality. Provost Bean averred that NU is looking for broad sets of excellence among professional students. What is appropriate for those students? This is indeed confusing and difficult but it is being figured out.

Professor Brooks asked about the relationship between CPS and other colleges. Dean [CPS] Loeffelholz responded that CPS is fully represented across the domains and conversations are underway to identify where CPS is within those domains for all possible learners.

PhD and Research. Applications are up as is yield. The number of Ph.D.s awarded has increased. An integration team is assigned to get around silos and perform a focused task, complete it and return it to SLT. Professor Kaeli inquired whether this would include signing off on contracts to which the Provost replied "maybe." There will be templates and, if a contract fits within the template, then yes. But if changes to the template are required the contract goes to Legal.

Provost Bean averred that the University needs to own the concept of Experiential Throughout which incorporates contextualized learning in order to optimize the experience of students. And, on the Global University System, we are to think more deeply about what it means to admit a student to the NU system rather than to Boston.

VI. **ADJOURNED** at 1:13 pm.

**NB:** The presentation by Provost Bean and Senior Vice President Mantella may be found at the Faculty Senate [website](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary  
Faculty Senate