



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 1 November 2017

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

Administrators: Bean, He, Henderson, Hudson, Parish, Poiger, and Ziemer

Absent: (Professors) Fox, McGruer, Patterson, and Sipahi,
(Administrators) Brodley, Loeffelholz, and Wadia-Fascetti

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

II. **MINUTES** of 4 October were approved as amended.

III. SAC REPORT

- III.1 Professor Powers-Lee reported that SAC met ten times since the last Senate meeting including twice with the Provost and twice with the senior leadership team.
- III.2 The Faculty Handbook resolutions on Faculty Discipline and on Dismissal Proceedings for Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty which the Senate approved on 9/20 have been approved by the Provost and will be considered by the Board of Trustees in December.
- III.3 SAC has completed staffing the search committee for the Department of Economics.
- III.4 Dean Parish has received permission from the Provost to suspend chair search committees for the Departments of Applied Psychology, Communication Sciences and Disorders and Health Sciences. The Office of the Faculty Senate has notified members of these search committees. When notification to resume is received from the Dean, the Office of the Faculty Senate will poll all committee members to ascertain their willingness and ability to continue.
- III.5 Two informational items for the Faculty Senate from the 10/11/17 Graduate Council meeting:
- III.6 There is a new concentration in COE's MS Computer System Engineering: Internet of Things
- III.7 There is a new course repeat and course exclusion policy in COE as follows: If a course cannot be repeated due to limited scheduling, COE has added an additional mechanism called 'course exclusion': "*Students will be allowed to petition and exclude up to two grades in their GPA calculation. Students must take the course in the same category and the course cannot be a core course. This will allow students to improve their GPA and get out of probation. The original course will be shown as excluded on the transcript. This is appropriate when repeat may not be an option and substitutions does not work well.*"

IV. PROVOST'S REPORT

- IV.1 Provost Bean reported that the integration team is making progress on the research administration matters. Several new staff members have been hired. Last year's resolution for software reporting capacity on funds for PI: *Priority I AD* should be working in January. The PI's will not be able to access this but research administrators in the colleges will.
- IV.2 *EPod* will move to full web-based platform to track grants next December 2018.
- IV.3 The Deans are working on a template to explain what central research administration and what college research administration should do.

V. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Professor Brooks wondered about the level of faculty input in this process suggesting that there should be a broad level of faculty input to be sure these programs work for them. The Provost noted that the priority came from faculty and that Professor Budil has served for a while. Professor Brooks noted that the Senate has several committees whose members would add value to the Integration Team and that one faculty member's input may not be sufficient. Professor Kirda agreed. Provost Bean noted that speed is important but the problems need to be resolved well.

VI. REPORT. Jane Moyer, Vice President of Human Resource Management (HRM)

- VI.1 The Vice President spoke of her background noting that Northeastern wishes to move into the world in a new way.
- VI.2 The 2025 academic plan has different requirements for HRM and in order to bring the University forward, rethinking in order to be agile, effective and consistent is necessary. For instances, there is currently little interaction between employees and HRM but to get to 2025 HRM needs to change in areas such as staffing and recruiting. Key human resources contacts at the colleges will have more interaction and assistance from the HRM IT infrastructure to assist in recruitment and in the enhancement of orientation and development. These are global initiatives as well.
- VI.3 Professor Silbey asked if HRM was looking into parental leave and child care to which the Vice President responded that this is indeed being reviewed. Professor Kanouse asked about cooperation in hiring non-tenure-track faculty to which the Vice President said that she was not informed on the subject.
- VI.4 The Vice President continued that a survey was performed to benchmark benefits among NU's cohorts which revealed that NU's medical offerings are equal or better; dental is behind but is being enhanced; life and disability insurance is better; paid time off is more generous. NU contributes less to medical insurance than others. Professor Deniz noted that more life insurance could be provided for the same price and that some institutions offer compensation if an employee opts out of medical coverage. The Vice President noted the other voluntary benefits made available such as Care.com, E4Health, Healthy You Programs, mortgage services, and others.
- VI.5 On open enrollment. Vice President Moyer reported that the University had negotiated a very good increase to medical of 4.7%. She added that ACA requires a 2% surcharge so the overall increase is 6.7%. Dental will be enhanced.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- VII.1 TWO-TERM PILOT ADDITION TO TRACE. Professor Howard read the following; Professor Hanson seconded.

WHEREAS the Student Government Association (SGA) has highlighted the impact of the rapidly evolving area of online learning platforms/homework codes/textbooks and requested Faculty Senate collaboration in capturing data that can inform both future faculty usage and future SGA initiatives,

BE IT RESOLVED that the "General" section of the current TRACE survey be expanded during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 administrations to include the five additional items occurring as numbers 9-13 in the proposed expanded survey, with the resulting data not to be used in any evaluative way for merit, promotion, or tenure deliberations.

Student Government Association representative Ben Howell of the academic affairs committee was recognized and affirmed the need to provide empirical evidence in order that the matter of textbooks and packages allow reevaluation by faculty and administration. Question arose as to whether such fees were being fed back to Financial Aid. Professor Hayward questioned what a student might think is an acceptable expense, what are match mate institutions costs, and how much are student spending annually. Professor Kaeli noted that the costs are concentrated in the first two years and that on-line homework material is only good for the semester unlike textbooks which retain some value. Professor

Silbey suggested that Vice President and Dean of Libraries Dan Cohen be brought into the larger conversation to address licensing. The Senate continued to discuss e-materials.

An amendment was proposed to #11 to include a broader definition of supplementary materials, "e.g., course packs, lab supplies, etc." and was seconded. Several faculty spoke against the proposed amendment as they wished to retain current language. Discussion was had concerning what rises to the level of textbooks.

VOTE on the proposed amendment: FAILED, 4:21:3

VOTE on the original motion: PASSED, 31:0:0

V11.2 ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE. Vice Provost Ziemer read the following; Dean Hudson seconded.

***BE IT RESOLVED* That the Bachelors of Fine Art in Digital Art and Game Design be renamed to the Bachelors of Fine Art in in Game Art and Animation in the College of Arts, Media and Design as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on 07 December 2016 (11-0-0).**

There being no discussion the vote was taken.

VOTE to rename the Bachelors of Fine Art in Digital Art and Game Design to the Bachelors of Fine Art in Game and Animation: PASSED, 31:0:0.

VII.3 ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: GRADUATE COUNCIL. Vice Provost He read the following; Professor Erdogmus seconded.

***BE IT RESOLVED* That the Master of Science in Telecommunication Systems Management be changed to the Master of Science in Telecommunication Networks in the College of Engineering as approved by the Graduate Council on 11 October 2017 (9-0-0)**

There being no discussion the vote was taken.

VOTE to rename the Master of Science in Telecommunication Systems Management to the Master of Science in Telecommunication Networks: PASSED, 31:0:0.

The Provost explained that such renaming no longer must be sent for approval to the Board of Trustees.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at 12:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary
Faculty Senate