



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Elizabeth Howard, Interim Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 14 February 2018

Present: Professors Adams, Barberis, Brooks, Dencker, De Ritis, Erdogmus, Nyaga, Frader, Howard, Kaeli, Kanouse, Kelly, Monaghan, McOwen, Portz, Powers-Lee, Hayward, Silbey, Stephens, Vicino, Dennerlein

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

Absent: (Professors) Andrews, Barczak, Desnoyers, Fox, Hanson, McGruer, Kirda, Patterson, Sipahi,

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

I. MINUTES of 17 January were approved.

II. SAC REPORT

- A. SAC has met seven times since the last Senate meeting, one meeting with the University's Senior Leadership Team and two meetings with Provost Bean.
- B. The 2018/2019 Senate meeting dates are now available on the Faculty Senate website.
- C. Colleges currently are scheduling elections for Senators and, where necessary, representatives for a three-year term on the Graduate Council and/or a two-year term on Tenure Appeals Committee.
- D. The CPS Graduate Certificate in Computer Industry Writing and the CCIS Post MS-Certificate Completion programs were approved by the Graduate Council at the January 25, 2018 meeting.
- E. Staffing of the University Excellence in Teaching Award Committee has been completed.
- F. Professors Dana Brooks, Peter Desnoyers, David Kaeli & Paul Whitford are participating in interviews with the four finalists in CIO search.
- G. Acknowledgement of contributions of Peter Roby as he retires after ten years as Director of Athletics and Recreation.

III. PROVOST REPORT

- A. Budgeting process for fiscal year 2019 is near completion.
- B. Promotion & tenure dossiers due Thursday, Feb. 15th. Could be largest year we have ever had.
- C. RE: CIO Search, have now seen 2 of 4 finalists.
- D. Search for Dean of Law School is ongoing.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

College of Social Sciences and Humanities Graduate Semester Hour Conversion

Dean Poiger read the following and it was seconded:

***BE IT RESOLVED* That the Senate approve the proposed College of Social Sciences and Humanities Graduate Semester Hour Conversion and the accompanying curricular revisions as approved by the Graduate Council on 25 January 2018 (7-0-0)**

Dean Poiger noted the College of Social Sciences and Humanities has had a tradition of 3 credit hour graduate classes and 4 credit hour undergraduate classes. This conversion to 4 credit hour Graduate classes will better align the College with the broader University. It also facilitates taking classes across the university and better supports the PlusOne program. Thoughtful adjustments to course content were made in all graduate programs and all changes were approved by the Graduate Council.

VOTE on CSSH Graduate Semester Hour Conversion PASSED: 27-0-0.

FACULTY HANDBOOK RESOLUTION: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Professor Silbey read the following and it was seconded:

***BE IT RESOLVED* That the *Academic Freedom* module as discussed today replace the current *Academic Freedom* module in the Faculty Handbook**

Professor Silbey provided proposed amendments to the module as distributed with the agenda that the Handbook Committee considers to be friendly amendments. Provost Bean noted that he had been informed by some that they didn't consider the amendments friendly and asked Prof. Silbey to make a motion to amend.

Prof. Silbey did so move and it was seconded.

Prof. Silbey noted that the committee was concerned that the "fields of study" clause in the second sentence of third paragraph "Faculty members may not claim as a right the privilege of discussing controversial matters outside their own particular fields of study in the classroom" was limiting. The phrase did not take into consideration the need or desire to discuss contemporary issues like climate change that might be outside one's field of study but could still be relevant to discussion in the classroom and serve pedagogical goals.

Recommendation to replace this sentence with "Classroom discussions, including of controversial matters, should serve pedagogical goals."

Prof. Silbey said a second concern centered around the consideration of the word "good" in the fourth sentence of the third paragraph. The word felt too oblique to some people. The Committee wanted to contextualize judgement within the professional context of the field.

Recommendation to replace the word "good" with the word "professional."

VOTE to accept two amendments PASSED: 27-0-0

Prof. Silbey said the additional language added in the fifth sentence of paragraph three was not added by the Committee. "In addition, the Principles of Academic Freedom do not restrain the University from allocating teaching and scholarship resources in a manner consistent with its mission." The Committee expressed concerns about what that actually means and hoped for some clarity.

Provost Bean noted the intent on the part of the administration with this phrase was to prevent the use of academic freedom as a way to curtail the dissolution of a program if students are not enrolled in the program.

Prof. Silbey said while she believes it is true that the University can allocate resources, she did not think the phrased needed to be included in the handbook. Prof. Silbey made a motion to strike this sentence. Motion seconded.

VOTE to strike sentence PASSED: 23-0-4.

Discussion of revised Academic Freedom amendment:

Prof. Kanouse asked what does "appropriate discretion" mean instead of "personal judgement"? Provost Bean shared an exemple from his prior administrative experience to help clarify the phrase.

Prof. Dana Brooks asked who defines what is appropriate discretion? Prof. Silbey said Handbook Committee described this as a statement of principles and aspirations. Hopefully, it is defined through community participation.

VOTE on the module as amended PASSED: 29-0-0.

As amended the module is:

Academic Freedom

Northeastern University subscribes to the *1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure* issued by the American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Colleges, as amended in 1970. This policy applies to all individuals insofar as they are involved in teaching or scholarship at the University.

The University will impose no restraint upon the extramural pursuits of any member of the faculty unless the time devoted to that pursuit unduly interferes with their obligations to the University or violates the University's Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy or the Faculty Handbook module titled "Policy on Faculty Outside Professional Activities."

The University will impose no limitations upon the freedom of faculty members in the exposition of the subjects they teach, either in the classroom or elsewhere. Classroom discussions, including of controversial matters, should serve pedagogical goals. The University will also impose no limitations upon the freedom of faculty members in research/scholarship/creative activity. However, faculty members are expected to exercise appropriate discretion and professional judgment.

The University assumes no responsibility for the extramural statements of faculty members. When appropriate, faculty members will make it clear that their statements are personal and are not sponsored or approved by the faculty or by Northeastern University.

Report of the Senate Enrollment and Admissions Policy Committee

Professor Howard read the following and it was seconded:

***BE IT RESOLVED* That the Senate accept the report of the Enrollment and Admissions Policy Committee**

Unanimous vote to accept the report: 29-0-0.

Professor Howard yields floor to Professor Nathan Felde, co-chair of the Committee, to summarize the report.

Prof. Felde said the Committee's draft report is an effort to shed light on admissions and enrollment. The distribution of the draft report was to encourage discussion and possibly move to resolutions that may result.

Questions following presentation of report.

Prof. Silbey asked how costs and benefits of PAN programs would be distributed and noted that appropriate revenue sharing over time would benefit each unit and the university as a whole. Prof. Loeffelholz stated all academic programs are owned by their colleges and all revenue goes to colleges. CPS gets CPS revenue and no other revenue. Prof. Silbey noted she is developing a PAN class and that SOL apparently will not receive a significant portion of the revenue because of the development/implementation costs. Prof. Silbey questioned whether SOL should receive increased tuition revenue as the courses continue to be offered over time. Prof. Felde noted that the Committee didn't see themselves charged to look at the financials.

Prof. Sarah Wadia-Fascetti inquired about global students – undergrad versus graduate. Graduate goal setting is much less centralized than undergraduate goal setting. Is there any effort or thought about being more cohesive on that? The Provost responded that Luchen Li, Director of the Office of Global Services should be included in this discussion.

Prof. Kelly asked about combined majors and the fact that students sometimes choose a home college that might not be the best for the student because it may not have the appropriate resources. Prof. Felde said EAPC was looking for parity in how students view one college vs. another. And he added that, in principle, students should know about the resources of both colleges where they are taking their courses in the combined major. The Provost added that the need for a home college is driven by Registrar software.

The Provost noted that one asset of optimized co-op is that students have access to co-ops in all colleges, with the current exception of CCIS. Dean Brodley noted that CCIS devoted a lot of resources to their Introduction of College and Introduction to Co-op classes, where they prepare students for technical interviews.

Prof. Hudson said with new approach to co-op and optimization of co-op, the question of how should we be looking at co-op training in a more general way is a great question.

Prof. Kaeli asked if Committee considered PhD students in their review? Prof. Felde responded that they did not look at PhD students separately and that recruiting for PhD program happens in a different way than that for professional graduate offerings.

Motion to adjourn 12.41 p.m.