



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 18 April 2018

Present: Professors Adams, Andrews, Barberis, Barczak, Brooks, Dennerlein, De Ritis, Desnoyers, Erdogmus, Fox, Frader, Hanson, Hayward, Howard, Kaeli, McGruer, McOwen, Nyaga, Portz, Powers-Lee, Sipahi, Vicino

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

Absent: (Professors) Dencker, Kanouse, Kelly, Kirda, Monaghan, Patterson, Silbey, Stephens
(Administrators) Parish

CALL TO ORDER: Provost convened Senate at 11:47 a.m.

I. MINUTES

Minutes of 4 April were approved.

II. SAC REPORT

Prof. Susan Powers Lee reported that since the last Senate meeting, SAC had met three times, including one meeting with the Provost. SAC's focus was on agenda items for the 4.18.18 and the final 4.25.18 Senate meeting.

SAC also met with the Academic Affairs and Student Experience Committee of the Board of Trustees. SAC had as an overall theme: faculty engagement and shared governance to advance the Northeastern 2025 vision of building diverse and inclusive networks of endless possibilities. SAC's focus areas were:

- Research
- The "One Faculty" initiative
- How to leverage our leadership in experiential learning to create a sustainability and resilience working group aimed at bridging the gap between our academic research and our implementation as a campus community
- How to optimize the student experience
- How to move forward in a couple of areas where faculty think we could be all be doing better – communication and transparency.

At its March 28th meeting, the Graduate Council approved 3 items that are informational only for the Faculty Senate:

- 1) 5 new concentrations in COE's MS in Information Systems: Smart Contracts, User Experience, Big Data Systems and Analytics, Intelligent Systems, and a General Concentration.
- 2) Reducing the required semester hours from 33 to 32 for COE's PhD in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and for the MS in Bioengineering.
- 3) Increasing the required semester hours from 32 to 36 for CAMD's Media Innovation Track of the Journalism MA.

At its April 11th meeting, the Graduate Council approved 3 items that are informational only for the Faculty Senate:

- 1) New COE Graduate Certificate in Experiential PhD Leadership
- 2) New Bouve Graduate Certificate in Nursing Informatics
- 3) New COS option for Post MS in Biotechnology Certificate Completion – allows up to 9 SH to be double counted to a certificate
- 4) Concentration Name Change: from Sports Strength & Conditioning to Sports Performance in the Bouve Physical Therapy Program

5) Increasing the required semester hours from 52 to 60 for Bouve's MS Speech-Language Pathology Program

A number of EAPC resolutions are included in the 4.18.18 agenda. That committee's final report is posted on the Senate sharepoint site since some of the discussion points are intended for our own faculty and staff. The RPOC report is not posted since it consisted solely of recommendations for the resolutions that are also included in the 4.18.18 agenda. The ITPC report is also referenced in this meeting.

III. THE PROVOST'S REPORT:

Provost Bean reported that the members of SAC did a fabulous job in their meeting with the Academic Affairs and Student Experience Committee of the Board of Trustees. He noted that SAC pushed in areas of research administration and engaged in an enthusiastic discussion with the Board. Provost Bean said that the university will see real movement in regards to the improvement of the research process.

There were no questions or discussions regarding either report.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **New Graduate Program: MS in Robotics**-Professor Dennerlein moved the following resolution and Professor Desnoyers seconded it.

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Robotics in the College of Engineering and the College of Computer and Information Systems as approved by the Graduate Council on 3/28/18 (8-0-0).

There being no discussion the vote was taken.

The resolution to establish a MS in Robotics in the College of Engineering and the College of Computer and Information Sciences PASSED, 29-0-0.

B. **New Graduate Program: PhD in Human Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences** – Professor Dennerlein moved the following resolution and Professor Hayward seconded. (Provost Bean interjected that the college and provost office have come to a financial agreement to ramp this program up and noted it is an exciting moment for the program.)

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the PhD in Human Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences in Bouvé College of Health Sciences as approved by the Graduate Council on 3/28/18 (8-0-0).

There being no discussion the vote was taken.

The resolution to establish the PhD in Human Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences in Bouve College of Health Sciences PASSED, 29-0-0.

C. **Program Name Change: MS in Urban Planning and Policy**-Vice Provost He moved the following resolution and Professor Fox seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Master of Science in Urban Regional Policy be changed to the Master of Science in Urban Planning and Policy in the Colleges of Arts, Media & Design and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities as approved by the Graduate Council on 3/28/18 (8-0-0).

There being no discussion the vote was taken.

The resolution to change the name of Master of Science in Urban Regional Policy to the Master of Science in Urban Planning and Policy PASSED, 29-0-0.

- D. **Faculty Handbook Resolution: Presence at the University**-Prof. Howard moved the following resolution and Prof. Adams seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the proposed Presence at the University module replace the current Presence at the University module in the Faculty Handbook.

Prof. Loeffelhoz noted that the College of Professional Studies is on quarters and suggested a friendly amendment to the resolution. Prof. Loeffelhoz suggested that the phrase “academic year” replace the phrase “Two semester” preceding the word faculty in the first sentence of the resolution. In addition, Prof. Loeffelhoz suggested the phrase “fall term” replace the phrase “fall semester” in the first sentence.

The resolution to replace the current Presence at the University module with the proposed Presence of the University Module PASSED, 29-0-0.

- E. **Faculty Handbook Resolution: Policy on Outside Professional Activities** – Professor Howard moved the following resolution and Professor Frader seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the proposed Policy on Outside Professional Activities module replace the current Policy on Outside Professional Activities module in the Faculty Handbook

Professor Adams suggested the removal of the sentence in paragraph B that references the University’s Policy on Conflict of Interest and Commitment stating he had concerns faculty were agreeing to a blank check because that policy could change in the future. Provost Bean noted those policies mostly come from the state and federal government. Provost Bean also noted if this phrase was struck from the resolution it would have to return to the Office of General Counsel.

Professor Adams proposed this phrase be removed. There was no second. The motion died. There being no further discussion the vote was taken.

The resolution to replace the current *Policy on Outside Professional Activities* module in the Faculty Handbook with the proposed module passed 29-0-0.

- F. Professor Brooks moved to accept the ITPC report. Professor Kaeli seconded. Motion passed 29-0-0.

(The ITPC report and the ITPC Powerpoint presentation are posted on the Faculty Senate website.)

Professor McGruer asked what is EPAWS supposed to do? Professor Brooks acknowledged Joan Cyr, the Associate Director of Research Operations and Systems. She noted that EPAWS was a complete reworking of dealing with grants and tracking not just federal contracts but also contracts with companies. Provost Bean added that he sees two major advantages. First a faculty person can see where the grant is in the process. And second, once we get going we can measure how long the process is taking. Once the University can measure, the university can improve.

- G. **ITPC Resolution #1**- Professor Brooks moved the following resolution and Professor Kaeli seconded.

WHEREAS the University administration is actively working to roll out a short-term software solution for grants management (Priority ONE), as well as a longer-term research management system with a significant software component (ePaws), and WHEREAS these initiatives are being led by ORAF, and WHEREAS

integrated faculty and ITS involvement is essential for these and other software tools that impact faculty to effectively serve faculty needs,

***BE IT RESOLVED* that, as a matter of policy, ITPC, along with ITS, should have a formal role in decision-making process related to the design and delivery of ePaws and any other ongoing and future institutional software planning and rollout that will have a direct effect on teaching and research.**

Provost Bean expressed a concern around the phrase “formal role in decision-making process.” Professor Kaeli asked if faculty were represented on the ITEC Committee. Provost Bean responded only by him. Provost Bean noted that faculty do need to be involved in evaluation process adding he was not opposed to concept and acknowledged we need to do better.

Professor McGruer proposed a friendly amendment substituting the words “planning and evaluation” for “decision making.” Professor Kaeli seconded this amendment. There being no further discussion, a vote ensued. The resolution as amended is:

WHEREAS the University administration is actively working to roll out a short-term software solution for grants management (Priority ONE), as well as a longer-term research management system with a significant software component (ePaws), and WHEREAS these initiatives are being led by ORAF, and WHEREAS integrated faculty and ITS involvement is essential for these and other software tools that impact faculty to effectively serve faculty needs,

***BE IT RESOLVED* that, as a matter of policy, ITPC, along with ITS, should have a formal role in the planning and evaluation process related to the design and delivery of ePaws and any other ongoing and future institutional software planning and rollout that will have a direct effect on teaching and research.**

The resolution to involve ITPC in the planning and evaluation process related to the design and delivery of institutional software planning PASSED, 30-0-0.

H. **ITPC Resolution #2**-Professor Brooks moved the following resolution and it was seconded by Professor Kaeli.

WHEREAS the growth in size and diversity of research computing activities across Northeastern’s Colleges requires more comprehensive and multi-pronged research computing support than is currently available, despite advances in recent years in ITS support for research computing,

***BE IT RESOLVED* that ITPC and ITS should jointly develop a set of recommendations regarding IT services and staffing to broaden and deepen ITS support for research computing, and present the plan to the Senate by Dec 2018.**

There being no discussion the vote was taken.

The resolution that ITPC and ITS should jointly develop a set of recommendations regarding IT services PASSED, 30-0-0.

I. **Resolution #3**-Professor Brooks moved the following resolution and Professor Kaeli seconded.

WHEREAS ITS and the Provost's Office are in the midst of an outside consultant review of cloud storage architecture and planning across the University,

***BE IT RESOLVED* that ITPC, ITS, and other relevant Senate committees should return in Fall 2018 to the 2016-2017 approved Senate resolution on backup, and the 2017-2018 charge to multiple standing committees to**

coordinate with ITS and other stakeholders to design a comprehensive backup/data storage plan for academic and research computing and develop an appropriate strategy to implement it.

Provost Bean noted the wording of this resolution seemed awkward and that the resolution was referencing old material.

There being no further discussion the vote was taken.

Resolution that ITPC, ITS, and other relevant Senate committees should return in Fall 2018 to the 2016.2017 Senate resolution on back-up PASSED, 30-0-0.

J. RPOC Resolution #1-Professor McGruer moved the following resolution and Professor Desnoyers seconded.

***BE IT RESOLVED* that Research Finance and Research Administration should jointly develop a set of recommendations regarding (a) enhanced communication/synchronization between the two functions, (b) decreased turnover of personnel within ORAF, (c) plans for upgrading or replacing the outdated Banner system, and (d) facilitation of necessary personal interaction while maintaining the efficiency of the mandatory University Prior Approval Form, and present the plan to the Senate by Dec 2018.**

Provost Bean noted that replacing Banner would be a massive process and that asking these two groups to do this is waste of their time. Provost Bean also noted that the person who might be the new CIO has replaced Banner everywhere he went. Provost Bean recommended striking recommendation “c” and making “d” c. Professor McGruer accepted this as a friendly amendment.

There being no further discussion the vote was taken. The resolution as amended is:

***BE IT RESOLVED* that Research Finance and Research Administration should jointly develop a set of recommendations regarding (a) enhanced communication/synchronization between the two functions, (b) decreased turnover of personnel within ORAF, and (c) facilitation of necessary personal interaction while maintaining the efficiency of the mandatory University Prior Approval Form, and present the plan to the Senate by December 2018.**

The vote that Research Finance and Research Administration should develop a set of recommendations PASSED, 30-0-0.

K. RPOC Resolution #2-Professor McGruer moved the following resolution and Professor Kaeli seconded.

***BE IT RESOLVED* that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the 2018-19 Senate Agenda Committee should charge the Research Policy Oversight Committee to (a) undertake a study of the current process for university-level seed funding of faculty research with a focus on the priorities, expected outcomes, and actual outcomes, (b) undertake a study of the current mechanisms to foster faculty-mentored undergraduate research, and (c) make recommendations for both sets of processes.**

***BE IT ALSO RESOLVED* that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the 2018-19 Senate Agenda Committee should charge the Faculty Development Committee to undertake a study of the practices and procedures related to course buyout using overhead return funds and make recommendations.**

Provost Bean noted that these resolutions are written correctly since technically one senate can't charge another senate. He added this was a way to preserve institutional memory.

There being no further discussion the vote was taken.

The resolution noting the sense of the Faculty Senate regarding charges for the 2018.2019 Faculty Senate Agenda Committee PASSED, 30-0-0.

- L. Professor Barczak noted that the EAPC report was submitted to SAC and is on the Sharepoint site. Professor Vicino said that since the report was posted to Sharepoint that can be considered a submission to the Senate.

EAPC Resolution #1-Professor Barczak moved the following resolution and Professor De Ritis seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that students pursuing combined majors be provided access to academic and co-op advisors and to ongoing communication regarding opportunities for both areas of their combined degrees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prospective student Welcome Days, Open Houses and new student Orientations provide access to information, staff, faculty, and students relevant to both areas of their intended combined degrees.

Professor Barczak recognized Professor Nathan Felde, who said the goal of the resolution is to make students feel at home in combined degrees with some parity. Some discussion ensued regarding combined majors and co-op classes. Provost Bean noted that he thought there would be some proposals coming forward about combined majors and co-op resulting from co-op optimization.

Provost Bean added that how he read this was that what a student sees should be seamless. Adding that from the student view, who is doing the paperwork shouldn't be a concern.

Professor Lorna Hayward wondered where student's the home college was situated. Asking, was it in the advisor's office? Professor Ziemer noted that the Co-op Advisory Council is aware of many of the issues surrounding co-op classes and combined majors.

There being no further discussion the vote was taken. The resolution regarding combined majors and opportunities around both degrees PASSED, 29-0-0.

- M. **EAPC Resolution # 2**-Professor Barczak moved the following resolution and Professor Hayward seconded.

Whereas Northeastern students increasingly customize their plans of study,

BE IT RESOLVED that a software platform (e.g., *DegreeWorks*, already in use by CPS) be implemented that permits students to create, visualize and save multi-year course planning and "what if" scenarios, allowing access to these plans across Colleges by academic advisors, co-op advisors, and faculty mentors.

Provost Bean objected to some of the language specifically the phrase "be implemented" that was stepping on IT toes. Professor Powers-Lee suggested that the language "that it is a sense of the Senate " be added to the resolution. Professor Hayward seconded the amended language.

Responding to a question from Professor Barberis, Professor Barczak noted that the resolution was not intended to have any influence on curriculum.

Professor Kaeli asked about the system's ability to do an audit and expressed a concern about students using this system might create more work for the advisors.

Professor Barczak recognized Sundar Kumarasamy who talked about the technical aspects of the software. He added that when talking about students customizing their education, the software uses exactly the requirements of the college. There was further discussion among the senators that this software should not be a substitute for students speaking directly with an advisor. And some concerns were expressed regarding a student being given a false sense of certain courses fulfilling program requirements. Professor Ziemer noted

there was some overlap regarding SAIL and student planning. Provost Bean said that no one will graduate from the University if they don't fulfill expectations. Professor Wadia Fascetti noted she didn't see how these resolutions were pulled out from the report and that the resolutions have quite a bit of specificity. Professor Barczak noted that the Committee did not do user studies. Provost Bean wondered if this was not changing requirements, why was it coming before the Faculty Senate. Professor Barczak noted that based on the Committee's discussions, this seemed like a concern that the Committee wanted to note on the record.

There being no further discussion a vote ensued. The resolution as amended is:

Whereas Northeastern students increasingly customize their plans of study,

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that it would benefit our students if a software platform (e.g., *DegreeWorks*, already in use by CPS) be implemented that permits students to create, visualize and save multi-year course planning and "what if" scenarios, allowing access to these plans across Colleges by academic advisors, co-op advisors, and faculty mentors.

The resolution regarding allowing student to use software for multi-year course planning PASSED, 25-0-4.

N. **EAPC Resolution #3**-Professor Barczak moved the following resolution and Professor Nyaga seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that EMSA, with support from ITS and with collaboration from the Associate Deans of the colleges, work to create a "One Application" prototype in the coming year which allows learners to navigate multiple educational opportunities at Northeastern through a single application platform throughout their professional lives and which eliminates a learner's need to complete entirely new admissions applications or registration forms for Northeastern programs in the future.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the "One Application" platform will create a single lifelong academic record – which will be updated as each student progresses – that can be utilized to both match students with targeted experiences and to facilitate decisions about future educational opportunities for learners, such as gaining admittance to graduate programs, earning micro-credentials, and qualifying for fellowships/scholarships.

Provost Bean said he would like resolution reworded to a "sense of the Faculty Senate" so that the Senate is not telling EMSA and ITEC to do things. He added he would be thrilled to have the Senate throw its weight behind this. Professor Barczak recognized Sundar Kumarasamy who noted that this was more a repository for all of a student's experiences. He added this would prepare them for lifelong learning. Dean Henderson noted he thought this sounded like a good idea but was unsure who would get access. There was some additional discussion around issues of transparency and who sees the information. Professor Hanson noted that there was a proposed friendly amendment to amend resolution to a "Sense of the Senate." Professor Barczak accepted.

There being no further discussion a vote ensued. The resolution as amended is:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that it would benefit our students if EMSA, with support from ITS and with collaboration from the Associate Deans of the colleges, work to create a "One Application" prototype in the coming year which allows learners to navigate multiple educational opportunities at Northeastern through a single application platform throughout their professional lives and which eliminates a learner's need to complete entirely new admissions applications or registration forms for Northeastern programs in the future.

The resolution around "One Application" prototype and platform PASSED, 30-0-0.

O. **EAPC Resolution #4**-Professor Barczak moved the following resolution and Professor McOwen seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that EMSA work with the Graduate Associate Deans of the colleges, the Graduate Council, the PhD Network, and the Lifelong Learning Network to design and maintain a comprehensive web portal for all Northeastern graduate offerings which clarifies program distinctions and requirements.

Provost Bean asked was this a "Sense of the Senate" since this was instructing EMSA to do something. A friendly amendment was suggested to change to sense of the Senate. Professor McOwen okayed.

Professor Wadia Fascetti expressed concern that it seems that the information is already somewhere just a matter of teasing it out. Professor Barczak noted the committee spoke to some of the associate Deans at different colleges and there was a lot of unhappiness with the current graduate portal. Provost Bean thought this was what the Faculty Senate talked about in middle of year, about all graduate programs in one place. He added we need to continue to look at this and continue the discussion about how we label things so that we can get customers to where they need to be.

There being no further discussion a vote ensued. The resolution as amended is:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that EMSA work with the Graduate Associate Deans of the colleges, the Graduate Council, the PhD Network, and the Lifelong Learning Network to design and maintain a comprehensive web portal for all Northeastern graduate offerings which clarifies program distinctions and requirements.

The resolution regarding the Lifelong Learning Network PASSED, 28-0-2.

P. **EAPC Resolution #5** - Professor Barczak moved the following resolution and Professor Hanson seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That it is the sense of the Senate that the Dean's Council develop a framework to guide the lifelong learning approach across the University and to monitor and assess the progress/quality of the approach and that they develop mechanisms for clear communication about lifelong learning initiatives to faculty in the relevant units.

Provost Bean noted that there is already a group charged to do this and that process has been revised dramatically in last 6 weeks. There is a whole organization that is doing this now. It is what used to be PAN. The Provost said he would entertain coming back by end of Fall semester for an update on lifelong learning. Professor Barczak offered to withdraw the resolution. Professor Hanson seconded. The resolution was withdrawn.

Q. **FAC Resolution #3**. Professor Adams moved the following resolution and Professor Barczak seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Senate Agenda Committee draft policies for follow-up and implementation of Senate-approved resolutions, and that these policies be brought to the Senate for approval.

Professor Adams noted that the reason for it involved a proposal from the previous year regarding MatchMates and Faculty salaries. Provost Bean noted that the 2017.2018 Faculty Senate can't restrict the 2018.2019 Faculty Senate. A friendly amendment was suggested to change the wording to "it is the sense of the Faculty Senate" and to remove the word "Senate" from "Senate approved resolutions".

There being no further discussion a vote ensued. The resolution as amended is:

BE IT RESOLVED That it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the next Senate Agenda Committee draft policies for follow-up and implementation of approved resolutions, and that these policies be brought to the Senate for approval.

The resolution regarding SAC follow-up and implementation PASSED, 27-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at 1:20 PM.
Respectfully submitted by:
Robert N Hanson
Secretary