

SAC Report

Faculty Senate Meeting
7 October 2020

SAC Activities

Since 16 September 2020 SAC met 3 times and finalized the members and charges for senate committees.

SAC also met with Provost Madigan & Deb Franko twice, with the Officers (formerly SLT) once. Topics of discussion included Spring 2021 plans, FT-NTT Dismissal Module draft, merit raises, and assistance to faculty during COVID pandemic times, and progress on housing benefits.

SAC liaisons started having kick-off meetings with senate committees.

Curriculum Update

Inactivation:

CPS – Criminal Justice MS Program (sunset due to decreased enrollment)

Status Updates on Senate Committees

SAC appointed two members to the standing University Classroom Advisory Committee (UCAC), which started working.

SAC helped appoint a replacement student member for the COE Dean Search Committee.

Enrollment and Admissions Policy Committee (EAPC)

Members:

- Rob Painter (COS, Chair)
- David Smith (Khoury, Senator)
- Yakov Bart (DMSB)
- Kelsey Kaul (COE, Seattle)
- Jane Saczynski (BCHS)
- Ann McDonald (CAMD)
- Sundar Kumarasamy (VP for Enrollment Management; ex officio)

Charges:

1. The EAPC shall (a) review the experience of Academic Advisors for combined majors and specialty degree programs, particularly with a view to advising the Fall 2020 student cohort, and (b) report on current challenges to Advising across all colleges for combined majors and make recommendations for improvements.
2. In collaboration with the Registrar's Office and other appropriate groups, the EAPC shall review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cohort of newly admitted undergraduate students, particularly analyzing the relevant questions in Fall 2020 TRACE evaluations, recommend improvements to remote and hybrid instruction.
3. In collaboration with the Offices of the Provost and the Chancellor, the EAPC shall (a) review admission standards for MS programs across colleges, (b) analyze performance differences, as measured by letter grades, between BS, MS, and PhD students in courses where the three groups are mixed, and (c) provide recommendations on best practices to improve learning outcomes for students at all levels for these courses.
4. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Faculty Development Committee (FDC)

Members: Michelle Laboy (CAMD, Senator)
Bala Maheswaran (COE)
Tova Sanders (CPS)
Janet Dewan (BCHS)
Veronica Godoy-Carter (COS)
Neal Lerner (CSSH)

Charges:

1. The Committee shall (a) investigate faculty concerns related to work circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic and how this will impact their merit and promotion evaluations, (b) how related new policies and procedures were communicated to faculty, and (c) taking into consideration passed Senate resolutions #25 & 28 (on 4/1/20) related to the impact of unexpected transition from on-ground to remote instruction and NUflex, recommend revisions to COVID-induced teaching policies and practices.
2. The Committee shall (a) evaluate how colleges and departments are evaluating faculty teaching for purposes of merit and promotion, in ways besides Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) instruments, and (b) recommend best practices and guidelines for implementation across the university.
3. The Committee, in collaboration with CATLR and other appropriate units, shall (a) investigate how well the transition to remote learning and Canvas was received by faculty, (b) investigate faculty perceptions of the effectiveness of the training procedures, and (c) make recommendations to improve future teaching and learning outcomes.
4. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Financial Affairs Committee (FAC)

Members: Ed Wertheim (DMSB, Senator)
Gary Young (DMSB)
Margaret Gorman-Kirchoff (CPS)
Deb Copeland (BCHS)
Yustianto Tjiptowidjojo (COE)
Blaine Saito (SOL)

Charges:

1. Considering the yearly increases in the cost of living and the special circumstances induced by the COVID-19 pandemic the Committee shall (a) examine the total faculty compensation, (b) review of match-mate institution data and compare salary raises, and (c) make recommendations for 2021 merit raises for full time faculty.
2. The committee shall review the costs and custodian selections for fund selections in the retirement accounts, assess these in comparison to those offered by peer institutions, and provide recommendations to improve the selections to enable better faculty retirement account growth unhampered by high expenses.
3. The Committee, in collaboration with the FT-NTT-FC, shall (a) inquire and examine the granular match-mate data for FT-NTT faculty salaries that have been obtained by the university leadership from the Colonial Group, and (b) make recommendations regarding FT-NTT faculty compensation.
4. In order to improve our competitiveness in attracting and retaining superb faculty members, working with appropriate units in the administration, the Committee shall continue to explore mechanisms and opportunities to provide subsidized housing to new and existing faculty.
5. The Committee shall provide an evaluation plan for the newly implemented equity process and its implementation.
6. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Administration Evaluation Oversight Committee (AEOC)

Members: Under construction

Administrators under evaluation:

Dean James Hackney, School of Law

Chair Bob Triest, Economics

Chair Geoff Trussell, Marine and Environmental Science

Chair Srinivas Tadigadapa, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Director Dan Adams, Architecture

Director Jennie Stephens, School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs

Director Stacy Bourns, World Languages Center

Library and Information Collaboration Committee (LICC)

Members:

- Shuishan Yu (CAMD)
- Sean O’Connell (CPS)
- Brian O’Connell (COE)
- Lynn Reede (BCHS)
- Sarah Sellke (Khoury, Silicon Valley)
- Dan Cohen (Dean of Library; ex officio)

Charges:

1. The Committee shall investigate policy issues involving strategic planning and infrastructure/resource adequacy to ensure broad, deep, and maximally available sources of scholarly information for the entire Northeastern community, and to guide services around the creation of new knowledge by that community.
2. The Committee shall assess information resources within and beyond the library system and shall review and recommend services that aid in the full lifecycle of student and faculty learning, research, and publication.
3. The committee shall consider and recommend new platforms and mechanisms that forge new collaborations and discoveries, especially across the colleges, schools, and campuses of the university.
4. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Information Technology Policy Committee (ITPC)

Members:

- Xiaomu Zhou (CPS)
- Matthew Smith (CSSH)
- Stephanie Sibicky (BCHS)
- Peter Whitney (COE)
- Gunar Schirner (COE)
- Cole Camplese (VP for Information Technology; ex officio)

Charges:

1. The ITPC shall (a) review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on IT infrastructure and policy changes in support of both teaching and research, (b) analyze availability of and investments in short-term and long-term computing resources in support of remote teaching and research, (c) identify the mechanisms for collecting, sharing, and reporting faculty suggestions on these topics, and (d) provide recommendations to for improvements.
2. The ITPC shall (a) identify and engage with interested faculty, connect them with ITS, NULab, and library leadership, (b) work with these stakeholders to construct and document a set of resources specifically targeting public-facing datasets, interactive web pages, and public computing and project sharing platforms, in order to boost the availability of computational resources for faculty in the social sciences and humanities, and (c) provide recommendations for future maintenance and improvements of this infrastructure.
3. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Research Policy Oversight Committee (RPOC)

Members:

- Richard Wamai (CSSH)
- Steve Lustig (COS)
- Patricia Mabrouk (COS)
- Amy Lu (COE)
- Tamara Bonaci (Khoury, Seattle)
- Eric Steward (Director of Academic Space Planning; ex officio)
- Kim Holloway (VP of Research Development; ex officio)

Charges:

1. The committee shall review NU-RES and Accounts Payable pre-award and post-award processes to identify how they can be made more efficient and more visible to faculty to better serve faculty and their funders. In particular, the following areas should be examined leading to recommendations: (a) Adoption of template contracts and Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) to expedite contract approvals; (b) Future phases of ePAWs that can track expenditures on existing research accounts – verify the implementation of a “dashboard interface” for faculty to monitor status and delays; (c) Establishing a set of key performance indicators that can meaningfully be used by NU-RES and RPOC to monitor productivity and process efficiency for faculty investigators.
2. The committee shall examine the policies related to research activities and space. In particular, the following items should be examined leading to recommendations: (a) Implementation of template agreements regarding shared resources (space and equipment) in accordance with the recent senate resolution and with the Provost’s Office (Sr. Vice-Provost for Research); (b) Shared research activity and space restrictions, limitations (and opportunities) implemented by NU initiatives for combating COVID-19, along with recently-established policies and procedures for their execution.
3. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Full-time Non-tenure-track Faculty Committee (FTNTTFC)

Members:	Carol Mallory (SOL)	Laura Adrien (COE)
	David Hagen (CPS)	Mark Gooley (DMSB)
	Jessica Maxwell (BCHS)	Michelle Carr (CAMD)
	Jonathan Benda (CSSH)	Vaso Lykourinou (BCHS)
	Kathleen Durant (Khoury)	

Charges:

1. In collaboration with FAC, the FTNTTFC shall (a) inquire and examine the data that have been obtained from the Colonial Group, (b) explore sources of more granular match-mate data for FT-NTT faculty than is currently available, and (c) and make recommendations to improve FT-NTT faculty compensation.
2. The FTNTTFC shall (a) collect data from HR and colleges regarding various titles of FT-NTT faculty across colleges, their workload and compensation (in ranges by unit or college to preserve anonymity), (b) analyze to determine if there are significant differences in workload and compensation for similar titles and across demographics, (c) if needed, recommend changes to titles and responsibilities towards achieving increased uniformity.
3. Following on Resolution #14 of the AY2018-2019 Faculty Senate, the FTNTTFC shall review the availability and assignment of leadership positions for NTT faculty within each college, including chairing M.S. Thesis and Ph.D. Dissertation Committees, and shall make recommendations for wider implementation of this resolution through policy and bylaw changes within each college. The FTNTTFC shall also recommend best practices for FTNTT promotion processes at the departmental and college levels.
4. The FTNTTFC shall follow up on professional development support, including one-term paid leaves. The FTNTTFC shall work with the Provost Office to develop an assessment plan for the ongoing semester-long professional development leaves for NTT faculty taking place during AY2020-2021, and shall make recommendations regarding wider implementation of this program.
5. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

Members:

- Steve Vollmer (COS)
- Enrique Moreno (COS)
- Harvey Shapiro (CPS)
- Ke Zhang (COS)
- Kellianne Murphy (CAMD)
- Deb Franko (SVP for Academic Affairs)

Charges:

1. The committee shall conduct a full-time faculty survey on faculty satisfaction with the workload policy implementation in their unit and report on findings and recommendations.
2. The committee shall take the lead and work with student/faculty groups, Registrar's Office, CATLR, Director of Institutional Assessment, Associate Deans, and Provost's office to develop and implement customized TRACE or other Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) instruments for common categories of classes, including lecture, online, hybrid/remote, labs, pop-ups, and DOCs (Senate resolution #19, 3/18/20). Include the inclusivity of learning environment recommendations from SGA (Senate resolution #13, 3/18/20).
3. The committee shall develop policy/guidelines for inclusion of a formative midcourse SET.
4. The committee shall follow up on implementation of the new merit/compensation process in the Faculty Handbook (Senate resolution #1 10/02/19).
5. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.

Ad-hoc Committee on Inclusion and Diversity

Members:

Brianne McDonough (Khoury)	Patty Goodman (CPS)
Dawn Cisewski (COS)	Phillip Larese-Casanova (COE)
Heather Hauck (DMSB)	Tad Hirsch (CAMD)
Hemanth Gundavaram (SOL)	Theodore Landsmark (CSSH)
Jenny van Amburgh (BCHS)	

Charges:

1. The committee shall acquire data from recently conducted faculty surveys regarding diversity and inclusion to gauge attitudes and perceptions of faculty, (b) determine perceptions of where we are strongest and where we are weakest, (c) provide recommendations to improve inclusivity.
2. The committee shall research what businesses and competing institutions are doing to facilitate and improve inclusive climate, identify best practices, and report recommendations.
3. The committee shall liaise with the existing workgroups, and (a) research what concrete/specific diversity and inclusion initiatives are being undertaken within each college, and make recommendations for improvement (b) recommend mentoring and development opportunities for women and minorities in faculty ranks, (c) identify short and long term goals for improving inclusion and diversity among faculty, and provide recommendations.
4. Other charges may be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee as new priorities arise.