



# Northeastern University

## Office of the Faculty Senate

**TO: FACULTY SENATE**  
**FROM: Secretary, Faculty Senate**  
**SUBJECT: Minutes, January 19, 2022**

Present: Professors: Avalon, Board, Bourns, Caracoglia, Chiou, Cisewski, Dau, Dennerlein, Ergun, Fernandez, Gonyeau, Gundavaram, Herlihy, Hertz, Mages, McSherry, Molnar, Musselman, Rappaport, Smith, Spencer, Wood, Zaarour, Zimmerman, Zulick

Administrators: Madigan, Abowd, Cohen, Gallagher, Ronkin, Sceppa

Absent: (Professors) Carr, Mukerjee, Nieves, Toledano Laredo, Vollmer, Willey  
(Administrators) Reid

**CALL TO ORDER:** 11:50 a.m.

I. The minutes for the 12.1.21 Senate meeting were approved.

II. **SAC REPORT:**

- Prof. Gonyeau reported that since the 12.1.21 Senate meeting, SAC has met five times.
- SAC has:
  - Distributed the latest Senate newsletter.
  - Sent out a survey with questions from the standing committees to which there was a robust response rate.
  - Scheduled senate meeting agendas for Elected Senator meetings (first meeting Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>) and Senate meetings.
  - Met with Provost Madigan and Sr. Vice Provost Franko three times and continued a number of discussions on Mills College, past senate resolution follow-up and all things COVID.
  - Responded to SGA outreach about increasing communication. A member of SGA, Giovanni Falco, CSSH, will attend senate meetings. SAC will recognize said member if they wish to add student perspective to senate proceedings where it makes sense.

III. **PROVOST REPORT:**

- Provost Madigan thanked everyone for their efforts to get the semester underway. noted that with the semester underway there are excited student all over campus.
- On the COVID front the University saw some high numbers over the break. The University expects these to fall rapidly for two reasons. First, when we get back into our regular surveillance testing it is quite different than the testing over the break which was optional. Also, the peak has passed ten days ago. We will see a rapid drop in Boston and that should be reflected in our numbers.
- A lot of Provost's focus at moment is on the academic plan. The BOT adopted the academic plan three months ago. The Provost encouraged everyone to review it. It is very high level and there is a lot of hard work yet to do to translate that into action including a Long Range Plan (LRP) which is a very detailed financial plan for the next five years.

- Mills College – the University signed a definitive agreement last year and will close that on July 1. The work in the fall was very tactical -- HR, finance, IT and accreditation. We are now moving into a more academic or intellectual phase. Thinking about what will we do with our new partners. They are tiny in comparison to Northeastern and trying not to overwhelm them.
- The CPS Dean search is fairly far advanced. Two finalists are coming to campus in the next couple of weeks.
- The DMSB Dean search is not as far along. First round interviews will probably be held in early February. In both cases, still hoping for a July 1 appointment.

#### QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- Prof. David Herlihy asked about an item included in the SAC report in regards to follow-up on previous senate resolutions. Which resolutions were in this group?

Prof. Gonyeau said SAC's approach has been to first look at last year's resolutions first. Prof. Gonyeau followed up on a couple of those resolutions at the December SAC report. SAC is going systematically through Senate resolutions and asking for updates where necessary. This is now a standing agenda item in the SAC/Provost meetings. SAC had been hearing from some faculty on a lack of closing the loop on some resolutions. Prof. Gonyeau noted that Provost Madigan and Sr. Vice Provost Franko have been very helpful in this endeavor.

- Prof. Chiou asked about the issue of accreditation issue when merging with Mills college.

Provost Madigan said that right now the creditor for Mills is WASC the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. After the merger the accreditor will be NECHE.

DMSB at the school level has a separate accreditation process for business schools. The Mills business school is not accredited by that body. There are some issues that the University will have to work through.

Sr. Vice Provost Franko added that particularly in regard to DMSB she has been working closely with Jeff Born and others to interact with AACSB to make sure we are all good on the two sides.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Prof. Jack Dennerlein read the following and Prof. Board seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) in Healthcare Leadership in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences as approved by the Graduate Council Committee on 10 November 2021 (14-0-0).

Prof. Dennerlein introduced Prof. Carey Barry, Chair of the Dept. of Medical Science to describe the degree.

Prof. Barry said this is a professional degree designed to be taken exclusively online. The focus is healthcare leadership and individuals who are in healthcare and looking to advance in healthcare leadership in general across different disciplines would be eligible for this 33 credit program, with a core in healthcare leadership and seven concentrations.

They have worked with different collaborators across the university to develop foci of instruction that would be beneficial professional personal goals.

There is also an interdisciplinary concentration in which a person could select different courses from those concentrations. These include healthcare, health informatics, health law, public health, business management for healthcare, pharmacy and health science systems, and the interdisciplinary where they choose their own project.

#### **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Arnold Mages said he noted that the proposal is mainly structured around the business side of this degree and how it is viable as a path of education within the structure of the university and where those graduate will end up going. He said it seemed like the degree is mainly focussed on physician's assistants with MA degrees already bringing them to the doctoral level. Is it also open to an RN or other kind of healthcare professional?

Prof. Carey said hopefully it is designed to be interdisciplinary and we are looking to recruit physical therapists, nurses, occupational therapists, anyone with a healthcare background. The admission requirements for the program are a MA degree in a healthcare profession or a Bachelors and three years in any field of healthcare with experience. So it is open to a wide variety of people.

- Prof. Arnold Mages also asked if this professional doctorate does this have a research component?

Prof. Carey said there is a thesis component to the program.

The VOTE to establish the Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) in Healthcare Leadership in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences: PASSED: 32-0-0.

#### **V. PRESENTATION:**

##### **SUNDAR KUMARASAMY, SR. VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STRATEGIC GROWTH & VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Enrollment Management Update – Fall 2022

Vice Chancellor Kumarasamy reviewed highlights of undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2021 and how Fall 2022 is looking as well as graduate enrollment.

Fall 2021 was an interesting year with many travel restrictions for international and domestic students. This year was also test optional due to the pandemic. In spite of this, Northeastern had a historically strong class with 70,000 applications. Yield rates increased. This also proved to be a very diverse class.

Northeastern's successful reopening in 2020 proved a huge role in families looking positively at the University as the University gave students an exciting and safe place to live and learn.

Northeastern's academic reputation and research strength continue to resonate in the marketplace.

In addition to co-op, combined majors continue to play a critical role in the way undergraduate students are looking at their choices. One in 4 students continue to seek this feature.

In terms of Fall 2022 applications, Northeastern is outpacing its competitors. Northeastern will be close to 91,000 applications for the first time in the history of the university. The University is seeing explosive growth in domestic markets including the south, west and midwest. Growth is coming across all colleges.

The application pool is also increasing in diversity with an 62% increase in African American students and a

54% increase in Hispanic students.

Northeastern will be in single digit acceptance rate for the Fall 2022 class that will also be one of the most talented student bodies.

For graduate enrollment in Fall 2021, since a majority of students tend to be international, pandemic related travel restrictions hit hard in the fall. However, domestic enrollment increased during this time.

For Fall 2022, the University has bounced back with a 72% growth over the previous year.

Regional campuses have played a huge role in how growth has resulted in graduate programs. The campus in Canada became the largest regional campus for Northeastern.

Overall, our growth is strengthened by the global and regional campus systems.

Vice Chancellor Kumarasamy noted that this has been the 7<sup>th</sup> year he has given a presentation to the Faculty Senate. He will be moving into his new role Sr. Vice Chancellor for Strategic Growth. He thanked the Faculty Senate for the tremendous support and confidence for the work he and his team have done.

Provost Madigan thanked Sundar sincerely and deeply for all he has done for Northeastern University. Provost Madigan noted Sundar has been a transformative figure. Prof. Gonyeau echoed that from the Senate perspective. It is very much appreciated the level of clarity and transparency in the information Sundar has given the Senate over the years.

#### **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Professor Chiou said he thinks the mindset of gen Z students is different from past generation. Are their adjustments to enrollment strategies due to this? Also, since a majority of international graduate students come from India or China, is there thought for a plan B if students can't travel to this country?

Vice Chancellor Kumarasamy said they continuously learn from the marketplace by doing a deep dive analysis of the data. We see who is applying and where they wind up enrolling. We look at it from a student choice behavior and final destination behavior.

For example, if you look at our overlap schools, 6 of 8 overlap in our top ten. The kind of students we attract continues to evolve.

The test optional is bringing students that we may not have a full understanding of yet.

For example, the deep growth we are having in the west coast, are they coming because of Mills because they think they might stay on the west coast or are they coming because they want to come to Boston. We have a lot to learn from the market.

The global aspect of how mobility and the impact of geopolitics is a big thing. The rebound is different in different areas. India is rebounding at a different rate than China. Some parents are concerned about sending their children to the United States and are more comfortable going to the UK or Canada.

We have to be mindful of the strength of our global campus. We also have to continue to innovate. A different dynamic may emerge because of the pandemic. The students in K-12 will be impacted by the pandemic. Their behaviour, level of preparedness and expectations will be different.

- Prof. Poe noted that Vice Chancellor Kumarasamy talked about what's appealing to applicants was the co-op program and the level of Northeastern's preparedness for the fall reopening. To what degree is the messaging about the network playing out in students' decision in coming to Northeastern? The idea that students can move within the network. How is that message getting out to them?

Vice Chancellor Kumarasamy said the effect of the network is a front and center conversation they have in the common application itself. Undergraduates are asked what are their aspirational preferences. There are so many questions that students have, it is one factor but not a dominant factor yet.

- Prof. Arnold Mages said in earlier slides that looked at diversity, he was wondering if there is data on how many students might be matriculating into programs.

Vice Chancellor Kumarasamy said the university has taken advantage of the opportunity the market has given the university by enrolling a large diverse class of students.

- Prof. Arnold Mages asked if the Enrollment Management department tracks retention through the programs?

Vice Chancellor Kumarasamy said that is a collective effort. From the first semester data for the first test optional class, we have learned a lot.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Prof. Rhonda Board  
Senate Secretary