



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 16 November 2016

Present: (Professors) Adams, Andrews, Barczak, Bickmore, Brooks, Crittenden, Dencker, Fox, Frader, Hanson, Hellweger, Kanouse, Kelly, Kruger, Lerner, McGruer, Nelson, Nita-Rotaru, Ocampo-Guzman, Patterson, Piret, Portz, Powers-Lee, Sceppa, Silbey

Administrators: Bean, Ambrose, Courtney, He, Hudson, Paul, Poiger, Ziemer

Absent: (Professors) Howard, McOwen, Sipahi, Vicino; (Administrators) Brodley, Loeffelholz,

I. CONVENED: 11:45 AM

II. MINUTES: The 2 November minutes were approved as amended.

III. SAC REPORT

III.1 Professor Carmen Sceppa reported that the Senate committees are working and that SAC is working with Vice Provost Ziemer to reach agreement on the proposed UUCB Bylaws.

III.2 SAC has met twice since the last Senate meeting and once with the Provost.

III.3 SAC members attended the LRP Town Hall meetings.

IV. PROVOST'S REPORT

IV.1 Administration continues development of the LRP. Town Hall meetings produced many ideas which are being discussed and prioritized. The LRP will be presented to the Board of Trustees on 12/2 .

V. PRESENTATION ON ATHLETICS (Director Roby)

V.1 A motion to move into committee-of-the-whole was seconded and passed unanimously.

V.2 Following the presentation and discussion, a motion to move out of committee-of-the-whole was seconded and passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VI.1 Interim report of the Senate Committee on Enrollment and Admissions Policy (Professor Barczak)

VI.1.1 The EAPC charge approved last year directed EAPC to lead discussions on strategies and processes that shape the undergraduate cohort. Professor Barczak provided statistics showing a 27% increase in enrollment in COS,

CCIS, COE and DMSB and a combined 36% decrease in enrollment in CAMD, BCHS and CSSH. Freshman enrollment is one part of a complex process. Another part is that some colleges see large increases in enrollments via transfers and this needs focus and discussion in the future.

VI.1.2 There are three phases involved in the process for enrollment and admissions:

- Application evaluation through use of matrix; counselor rating; academic rating both prior to GPA and SAT ratings. Criteria are qualitative, quantitative, and mission-driven.
- Shaping the class. The Vice President for enrollment management meets with the Provost to discuss institutional goals; consideration of college/unit goals (4 meetings); and uncontrollable market factors. Since 2009, the number of students for Architecture has declined by 29%; foreign language by 16%; Engineering has increased by +15%. This trend is happening at other universities as well. EAPC has identified following issues: What role if any should the Senate have in shaping the incoming class? It is not clear how often college meetings take place and the extent of involvement by faculty. This needs further exploration.
- Yield is the third phase. NU admits five applicants for each of 2800 openings. There is a low yield rate. Once students are accepted they want to hear from the colleges, particularly faculty. At this point faculty can play important role in the yield. So, what can the Senate do to assist the yield, i.e. data and methods to help colleges?

VI.1.3 Questions

- Professor Patterson asked whether colleges have intense calling by faculty over the holidays such as that done by COS. Vice President Kumarasamy responded that every college does this. NU has learned that personalized calls are better than cold calls and that nuances must be optimized. The overall applicant pool is shifting to top SAT bands resulting in more students in higher SAT bands.
- Professor Kruger noted that BCHS data shows enrollment in 2010 was 420 and is now 211. This wreaks havoc with budgets and programs. Many faculty and administrators are demoralized. The Colleges do not have sufficient flexibility in the selection process; for instance, health care professionals should be weighted more in interpersonal skills. Value should be placed on academic diversity and there should be sufficient flexibility to get there. Provost Bean noted that the overall budget at BCHS is doing fine. Admissions are not only part of the story, for example, the Dean of Nursing does not agree that lower SAT scores is what she wants to do.

- Dean Hudson noted that the larger question is the admissions process. Do we accept market forces? In terms of complexity, there are diverse ways to rate academic excellence. Provost Bean replied that he is not supportive of lowering the quality of students but is supportive of broadening the definition of quality. Regarding market forces, NU is very market-driven. The university culture is first to look to the market, which means different things at different times.
- Professor Kelly asked for statistics showing to which colleges we are losing students in order to determine how to remake ourselves. Dean Poiger noted that the data is available.
- Professor Adams suggested that admissions criteria should be broadened. Studies have shown how various admissions criteria correlate to future success. Are there data as to why admitted students do not accept? Vice President Kumarasamy described the complexity of the process.
- Professor Lerner asked if 20% will continue to be the number for international students. The Vice President said that the University is planning for this while monitoring the situation. The yield of accepts is comparable.
- Professor Ocampo-Guzman asked regarding the manner by which financial aid influences the process. The Vice President stated that overall NU has significant funds committed to financial aid. Any variances require mindfulness of the budget process. NU meets 100% of need when required. Financial aid is not awarded to one college or another but is a progressive system.
- Dean Hudson asked what percentage of financial budget goes to merit awards; Vice President Kumarasamy replied 'every dollar'.
- Professor Kruger asked about the percentage of merit versus need, and how that compared to what the competition is offering. He is aware of families that received money that had no apparent financial need. The Vice President said that he would provide that information.
- The Provost, in response to Professor Adams, stated that the SAT has changed their model to more closely resemble ACT.
- Professor Sceppa noted that, in terms of fall versus other entry points, the units face the "agility" question: how do they deal with smaller/larger classes based on fall/spring admits? How does the department/college adjust quickly to the size of the entering class when there is no budget ability to do so? How do we look at resources?
- Dean Poiger stated that this is an important issue and that faculty does not need to worry about this on a day-to-day basis. The matter requires new thinking. As to diversity [which was raised earlier], it is very important and more needs to be done to increase diversity at all levels.

While some may believe that the rise in SAT scores contributes to a lack of diversity, this is not true for CSSH.

- Professor Kelly stated that faculty must indeed be worried about this [matter of budget]. If classes of fewer than twelve students cannot be run, what is then done with the faculty? Dean Poiger explained that Professor Sceppa was talking about department budgets. She agreed that faculty does need to be involved.
- Professor Fox noted that there is a different level of preparedness among freshmen admissions and transfers. Is there a manner by which to measure the level of preparedness and whether the student is able to compete with traditional freshman? Vice President Kumarasamy responded that the answer is based in their curriculum work rather than by where they came from.

VI.2 Provost Bean announced that a new program developed in COE was not submitted to SAC in time for today's agenda. He suggested a special Senate meeting be held 11/30 to take up deliberation prior to the Board of Trustees meeting on 12/2, provided that a quorum could be reached.

VI.2.1 A motion for a special meeting on 11/30 was moved and seconded. Since the majority of senate members can attend, the VOTE to schedule the special meeting was unanimous: 27-0-0

VII. ADJOURNMENT. The Senate adjourned at 1:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary
Faculty Senate