



**Northeastern University**  
*Office of the Faculty Senate*

TO: Faculty Senate  
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate  
SUBJECT: Minutes, 30 November 2016

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Present: (Professors) Adams, Bickmore, Brooks, Crittenden, Dencker, Fox, Frader, Hanson, Howard, Kanouse, Kelly, Kruger, Lerner, McGruer, McOwen, Nyaga, Ocampo-Guzman, Patterson, Portz, Powers-Lee, Sceppa, Vicino

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

Absent: (Professors) Andrews, Barczak, Hellweger, Nelson, Nita-Rotaru, Piret, Silbey, Sipahi;  
(Administrators) Brodley, Loeffelholz,

I. CONVENED: The ***Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate*** convened at 12:01 PM

II. NEW BUSINESS

II.1 UUC PROPOSAL: BS IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING. Professor Brooks read the following and it was seconded:

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the University establish the BS in Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering as approved by the UUC on 9 November 2016 (10-0-0).

- II.1.1 *Questions*. Professor Beighley was recognized to address questions. He noted that the proposed program compares to others at regional institutions and is a timely addition. Faculty resources have been enhanced over the past year and there is interest from students.
- Professor Hanson, noting that other regional programs enroll 12-15 students, inquired as to anticipated enrollment and whether those students would be from within COE or without. Professor Beighley responded that enrollment is anticipated to grow beyond COE and that some current COE students have expressed interest.
  - Professor Hanson noted that the proposal is offering four new courses but that elective sciences, identified only within COS, are eliminated in this program. Is there anticipation of expanded electives? Professor Beighley noted that content is tight for COE students. There is one earth science elective. Other courses related to process design for removing contaminants are on the applied side of engineering and focused on specific engineering. Professor Hanson inquired whether COE has the expertise. Professor Beighley affirmed it does and the College has been hiring dually-appointed faculty.
  - Professor Sceppa asked whether there is value in attempting to retain interdisciplinary courses with COE. Professor Beighley averred that COE is open to inclusiveness especially as environmental issues are broad. The proposal encompasses six general electives which allow students to expand and which provide

- opportunities for joint faculty hires. Professor Sceppa asked whether an attempt was made to pursue these conversations prior to the proposal being advanced for approval. Professor Beighley said that some conversation had taken place.
- Professor Powers-Lee asked whether it is assumed that entering students will have 18 AP credits of calculus. Associate Dean Sheahan was recognized and responded that 65% of students enter with calculus AP credit.
  - Professor Kruger pointed out that the document presents strong evidence for employer demand; however, Massachusetts institutions offering this program experienced a substantial decrease in enrollments between 2013 and 2016. Does the data suggest a different trend? Professor Beighley responded that a survey is currently being conducted to assess COE students. Associate Dean Sheahan added that there is much positive data on job growth in the area. Also, the Northeastern program is likely larger than others. Dean Aubrey was recognized and agreed that job growth in environmental engineering is expanding. There is also opportunity to expand it creatively into policy, law, and other areas.
  - There being no further questions, the vote ensued.

**II.1.2 VOTE to establish the BS in Environmental Engineering: PASSED, 27:0:0**

II.2 TENURE ON ENTRY. Professor Bickmore read the following and it was seconded.

**WHEREAS** any issues involving the hire of a faculty member with tenure on entry should be resolved in advance, and

**WHEREAS** it is desirable that all hires of faculty with tenure proceed smoothly and without delays:

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the following addition be made to Faculty Handbook section on Tenure on Entry as a new paragraph, inserted before the current first paragraph under 2b, page 4: “Before an offer is made to a faculty candidate to be hired with tenure on entry, regardless of the time of year, the tenure committee of the primary unit shall ***be given the opportunity to*** provide a written opinion on the hiring of the candidate with tenure ***within three weeks.***”

- II.2.1 Professor Bickmore explained that, following conversations with the Provost and upon input by several senate members, he wished to postpone consideration of this matter.
- II.2.2 Motion to postpone consideration to time certain (2/15) was seconded. There being no discussion, the vote followed.
- II.2.3 VOTE to postpone consideration of Tenure on Entry to 15 February 2017: PASSED, 27-0-0**

III. ADJOURNMENT. A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed unanimously viva voce.  
Adjourned: 12:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary  
Faculty Senate