



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 4 November 2015

Present: (Professors) Adams, Andrews, Barczak, Bickmore, Brooks, Caligiuri, Cokely, Crittenden, Daynard, Devlin, Hanson, Hellweger, Howard, Kanouse, Kelly, Kruger, Lerner, Leslie, McOwen, Nelson, Ocampo-Guzman, Patterson, Piret, Portz, Sceppa, Suci, Vicino, Young

(Administrators) Bean, Ambrose, Aubry, Courtney, Hudson, Loeffelholz, Poiger, Reynolds, Tilly

Absent: Professors Gouldstone, Hajjar, and Dean Brodley

I. CONVENED: 11:46 AM

II. MINUTES

II.2 The 21 October minutes were accepted as amended.

III. SAC REPORT. Professor Sceppa reported

III.1 SAC has met twice since the last Senate meeting and met once with the senior leadership team. Among others matters, the primary talking points with the senior leadership team were the importance of early faculty engagement in university-wide initiatives which is essential to achieving goals in a timely and harmonious manner, and the value that the role of faculty brings to the institution.

III.2 SEARCH COMMITTEES

- The dean search committee for the College of Science has been staffed and convened. Professor Alex Vespignani is the chair.
- The dean search committee for Bouvé College of Health Sciences has convened with the search firm (DiversifiedSearch). Professor Ennio Mingolla is the chair.
- The chair search committee for the department of Philosophy and Religion has been staffed. An organizational meeting is being scheduled.
- The chair search committee for the department of Economics has been staffed. An organizational meeting is being scheduled.

III.3 OTHER COMMITTEES. Professors Mukerjee, Hajjar and Bickmore have agreed to serve on the Provost's advisory committee for NSF compliance remediation. Mukerjee and Hajjar currently serve on the Senate Committee for Research Policy Oversight; Professor Bickmore serves on SAC.

III.4 UNIVERSITY BENEFITS. Open enrollment information has been sent out. The Benefits Fair is on November 9th. There are two information sessions on November

12th and 17th as well as drop in sessions. Do not hesitate to call Benefits Manager Lisa Broderick at extension 5563 or Vice President Pendergast at extension 4322.

III.5 UPCOMING SENATE MEETING. Senior Vice President Mantella will speak to the Senate at the next meeting on November 18th.

IV. ATHLETICS PRESENTATION FROM DIRECTOR PETER ROBY.

IV.1. Director Roby presented a summary of the Athletic and Recreational department's mission, ~~Mission~~ and goals. The latter includes positioning club sports and recreational programs as national leaders, developing a more engaged Northeastern community, achieving sustainable excellence across all sports programs, and elevating basketball, ice hockey and rowing to national program status.

Club sports participation has increased to nearly 1,600 students which presents challenges for facilities. These are currently being addressed. More recently, changes to the Carter playground have completed the planning stage in collaboration with the City of Boston. Director Roby also reported the student athlete's grade point averages and statistics and championships won by the various teams.

IV.2 Questions

Professor Crittenden questioned why women's sports were not highlighted, given that many are performing with excellence. Director Roby responded that those chosen to be elevated are those with high profiles which garner national and international interest.

Professor Sceppa suggested that statistics on academic performance be fed back to faculty. Director Roby noted that faculty members should feed information to the Athletic Department who follow up with students requiring assistance.

In response to Professor Caliguiri, Director Roby noted the challenges for athletes' participation in Coop and study abroad programs given their schedules. Summer coops are an option and some coops provide more flexibility.

Professor Patterson asked whether foreign students are participating to which the Director responded that students from all over the world participate with the percentage being between 7-9%.

Professor Crittenden wondered about programs for boosting awareness on issues of communications among athletes and coaches. Director Roby responded that modules are offered for both athletes and coaches on a variety of issues including communications and violence against women. In addition, a psychologist works with students to provide support.

V. PROVOST BEAN ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS. The Provost announced that his presentation will be available on the strategic planning website.

V.1 Undergraduate report: The admissions rate was reduced to 28% last year, SAT scores are up to 1,416. Undergraduate admissions include 46% from out of region

and 20% international. Diversity is slowly improving. The University increased financial aid to \$239 million in 2015-2016.

Relative to the comparison group, which consists of Colonial Group institutions plus Carnegie Mellon, Rensselaer and Rice, NU's admissions rate is substantially better; SATs are higher; and retention is also substantially better. NU's six year graduation rate is increasing and should be at 85% next year. Northeastern's ranking in *US News and World Reports* fell due to a two tenths of a point change in scoring, which was statistically insignificant.

Co-op participation is high; student participation in global experiences now stands at 40% of all graduates including NUIN students.

By fall 2016 a pilot program will enable faculty to access co-op job titles, job descriptions and learning goals & outcomes for those students in their courses. NU Term allows sophomores to gain flexibility to allow them to explore potential minors, combine majors, minors and concentrations, engage in global opportunities, and shape their time to degree.

V.2 Global Network

There are approximately 16,000 online and hybrid students. NU currently offers 120 online degrees and certificates, and has four satellite campuses-Charlotte, Seattle, Silicon Valley and Toronto.

V.3 Ph.D. report

Ph.D. applications are down slightly and the number of Ph.D.s awarded declined to 157 this past year. The Provost is convening a committee for strategic planning related to the Ph.D. programs. NU's research funding goal is \$140 million; he reported that support is growing across foundations, industry and federal sources. ORAF has experienced improvements with, among others, the post award structure upgraded. Growth in research has caused some of the problems in keeping up with systems.

The Center for Research Innovation has continued to improve its commercialization services for research innovation and to improve the spin-off tech culture. It is important that faculty understand available research applications.

V.4 Faculty

Tenured and tenure track faculty numbers have increased, as has full-time non-tenure-track faculty numbers. The faculty profile is not as diverse as desired, however, there are a number of women in senior leadership roles.

V.5 Infrastructure

Ninety classrooms have been upgraded with new technologies and layouts and eight new classrooms have been added. Research facilities in several buildings are under construction and the new Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering complex is scheduled for completion in January 2017.

In response to a question from Professor Kelly, Provost Bean said that the new arc bridge is not proceeding well due to difficulties associated with the tracks.

Other space needs are being met with moves and rented space.

V.6 Questions

Professor Lerner asked which students are not graduating within six years. The Provost responded that they are disproportionately international students. He added that while the support staff are doing excellent work the system is not integrated.

Professor Cokely asked whether projected data on student debt is available. Provost Bean responded that it is not, although it is improving.

Professor Crittenden asked for clarification on exactly how well NU Promise is doing. Neither the Provost nor Vice Provost Ambrose had an answer at this time, but will enquire of Senior Vice President Mantella at the next Senate meeting.

Professor Kruger asked where, given the size of NU and peer research institutions, NU should be in terms of numbers of doctoral students. The Provost reported that NU currently enrolls between one-third and one-half the number of students compared to peer institutions. Students will come to NU to work with the faculty. NU needs to decide what size is best and define what quality is right for it. There is much to consider.

Professor Young, noting that doctoral students require funding and resources, asked whether there are plans to fund more students. The Provost responded that the undergraduate population will not expand (for TAs) so more grants are needed to support students as RAs. Also, the endowment must grow. but that will be a slow process. Conversations have been held about more corporate partnerships whereby doctorate students would be fully or partially supported by corporations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

VI.1 A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The Senate adjourned at 12:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary
Faculty Senate