



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 6 April 2016

Present: (Professors) Adams, Andrews, Barczak, Bickmore, Brooks, Cokely, Daynard, Devlin, Hajjar, Hanson, Howard, Hudson, Kelly, Kruger, Leslie, McOwen, Nelson, Ocampo-Guzman, Portz, Sceppa, Suci, Vicino,
(Administrators) Ambrose, Bean, Brodley, Courtney, Loeffelholz, Poiger, Reynolds, Tilly

Absent: (Professors) Caligiuri, Crittenden, Gouldstone, Hellweger, Kanouse, Lerner, Patterson, Piret, and Young and Dean Aubry

I. **CONVENED.** Provost Bean convened the Senate at 11:45 AM

II. **MINUTES.** The minutes of 3/2 were approved as written.

III. SAC REPORT

III.1 Professor Sceppa reported that SAC met five times since the last Senate meeting, once with the senior leadership team, once with the Academic Council of the Board of Trustees, and once with the Provost.

III.2 The 2016 – 2017 Faculty Senate has been fully staffed and may be found at the Senate website along with dates for meetings.

III.3 The SAC is pleased to announce the following committee members for the *Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology* chair search:

Elected from the Department: Professor Penny Beuning
 Professor George O'Doherty
 Professor Tom Gilbert

Appointed: Professor Heather Clark, BCHS-Pharmacy
 Professor Chris King, COS-Mathematics

III.4 The following Senate resolutions were returned as follows:

- 1516-04 Promotions pool to be separate; salary increase % for promotions announced at the same time as merit & equity pool. Approved by Provost
- 1516-07 Establishment of procedures for determining equity adjustments consistent with Faculty Handbook. Approved by Provost
- 1516-09 exploration of establishment of health insurance group for retired employees. Approved by Provost

IV. PROVOST'S REPORT

- IV.1 Provost Bean reported that he'd met with the Senate Committee for Full-time Non-tenure-track faculty and with the Senate Committee for Library Policy and Oversight.
- IV.2 The two deans' searches are proceeding well with many good qualified candidates.
- IV.3 The raise process is proceeding on a normal track.
- IV.4 The promotion/tenure process is nearing conclusion with results due in a week or so. Provost Bean has been meeting with deans and some of the candidates to discuss the matter and has received very positive responses.
- IV.5 The budget process for next year is beginning.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- V.1 SENATE COMMITTEE FOR LIBRARY POLICY OVERSIGHT (LPOC) REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS (Professor Cokely)

The report was accepted by the Senate.

LPOC Resolution #1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee work with the Provost's office to establish a University-wide research data management working group, with membership drawn from the faculty and staff, the Library, ITS, and the office of Research Compliance, to be charged with identifying and/or recommending a full suite of integrated services supporting the research data lifecycle. Among other possible charges, this working group will identify a protocol for data management and related data curation activities as well as the resources needed to support this protocol, including a budget.

Dean Brodley inquired whether security is a component. Associate Dean and Director of Research & Information Services at the SOL Sara Hooke-Lee was recognized and responded that all aspects of security and preservation are included. Professor Feinberg asked the body to keep in mind instructional use of data.

VOTE: 28-0-0

LPOC Resolution #2

BE IT RESOLVED that the Dean of the Library submits to College/School Deans a list of library personnel with their expertise at the start of the academic year so that library personnel can be invited to participate in relevant department/unit, College and University committees.

VOTE: 28-0-0

Professor Cokely read the following; Professor Daynard seconded.

LPOC Resolution #3

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that Central Administration provide a one-time significant allocation to the Library collections budget in order to

establish an appropriate new working baseline that takes into account levels at peer institutions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual allocation for collections funding should, at the least, match the projected inflation index for information resources.

Dean Brodley requested clarification of the meaning of “significant allocation”. Associate Dean Hooke-Lee explained that the library’s baseline compared to other universities is low, especially while Northeastern is attempting to raise its research profile. In addition, the library needs support Library going forward.

Professor Sceppa inquired whether a survey of aspirant institutions was performed to determine funding. Associate Dean Hooke-Lee introduced Amira Aaron, Associate Dean of Libraries, who explained that Northeastern is among the lowest funded compared to Colonial Group (approximately 15 institutions) and as compared to Colonial Group plus others. The median for Colonial Group is \$11 million; Northeastern is at \$6 million. Dean Tilly asked what comprised the collections to which Associate Dean Aaron responded that the majority is in electronic format. The library is attempting to support research; is occasionally asked to provide streaming media but is unable to do so; and has very little funding for monographs as much of the budget is directed to subscriptions. Vice Provost Loeffelholz requested clarification of what is being requested – a significant on-time allocation or an annual change in the baseline. Professor Cokely noted that an increase is required to keep up with inflation. A friendly amendment to omit “one-time” and replace “allocation” with “increase” was made and accepted by the mover and seconder. Brief discussion was had on the amount each college is presently charged and could be changed.

As amended, LPOC resolution #3 is:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that Central Administration provide a significant increase to the Library collections budget in order to establish an appropriate new working baseline that takes into account levels at peer institutions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual allocation for collections funding should, at the least, match the projected inflation index for information resources.

VOTE: 20-7-1

V.2 SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE HERI FACULTY SURVEY RESULTS REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS (Professor Kruger)

A motion to accept the report was passed by the Senate.

Professor Kruger recognized the committee members Professor Felicia Lassk; Professor Janet Randall; Professor Ann Golub-Victor and Professor Yiannis Levendis who presented their report on findings. The report may be found at [the Committee webpage](#).

Data is presented by tenure status; exhibits were by NU's Office of Institutional Research; the Committee worked with raw data sets to examine the major findings on research, teaching, relationships and faculty careers. [NB: PU = private universities]. On research, longitudinal analysis with earlier data showed an increase in faculty responses to 'engaged in academic research that spans multiple disciplines. Funding is down from foundations but showed and from state/federal.

On teaching: faculty perceptions of being rewarded for good teaching are lower than PUs and have been consistently low. Web-based courses are higher than PUs which reflects NU's leadership in this area.

On satisfaction with careers: satisfaction percentages have increased since the 2010-11 data but are lower than PUs. The percentage is lower from NTT from non-tenure-track (28%). #3-"Criteria for advancement and promotions decisions are clear" is significantly lower than PUs and is similar to the 2010-11 data.

On relationships among faculty and between faculty and administration: 49% of faculty found the statement that "faculty are at odds with administration" as "very descriptive" in comparison to 18% at PUs. This percentage has increased steeply over the past ten years. 43% of faculty survey described the statement "faculty here respect each other" as "somewhat descriptive" compared to 58% at PUs.

The survey is very large and it is important to share it with faculty. The data does not address the 'why.'

HERI Committee resolution #1 was read by Professor Kruger and seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that Northeastern University's 2013-2014 HERI Faculty Survey results be shared with Northeastern full time faculty.

The survey includes non-tenure-track faculty. Vice Provost Loeffelholz suggested that the data be share in summary form as the raw data should not be posted publically as individual responses could be gleaned. A friendly amendment to insert "the summary" was made and accepted by the mover and seconder. Vice Provost Loeffelholz responded to Professor Randall that, with effort, individual responses could be mined from raw data by combining gender, rank, etc. in small units.

The amended resolution is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the summary of Northeastern University's 2013-2014 HERI Faculty Survey results be shared with Northeastern full time faculty.

Vote: 27-0-0

HERI Committee resolution #2: Professor Kruger read the following resolution and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee convene an ad hoc Senate Committee to address key concerns revealed by the 2013-2014 HERI Faculty Survey.

Professor Daynard pointed out that it is not appropriate for the Senate to determine a new ad hoc committee. Rather, it is the purview of the Senate Agenda Committee. A friendly amendment was offered to *recommend* the committee. The mover and seconder accepted.

Dean Hudson asked why the Senate would explore old data. Professor Kruger responded that the committee would explore the fundamental reasons for the responses. Professor Kelly suggested that key questions be identified and faculty be resurveyed. Professor Kruger noted that a HERI survey is due to be performed this summer and duplication is not desired but if questions could ask without redundancy it is a possibility. A friendly amendment was offered replace "Address key concerns" with "explore the underlying reasons". This was accepted by the mover and seconder.

As amended, the motion reads:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee be recommended to convene an ad hoc Senate Committee to explore the underlying reasons revealed by responses to the 2013-2014 HERI Faculty Survey.

VOTE: 28-0-0

VI. ADJOURNMENT

VI.1 The Senate voted unanimously to adjourn for a Ph.D. Joint Task Force exercise.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary
Faculty Senate