



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

**TO: Faculty Senate**  
**FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate**  
**SUBJECT: Minutes, 21 September**

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

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

Absent: (Professors) Bickmore, Faleye, Hellweger

I. **CONVENED.** Provost Bean convened the Faculty Senate at 11:50 AM

II. **MINUTES.** The minutes of 4/27/2016 were approved as written.

**III. SAC REPORT**

- III.1 Professor Sceppa reported on a good year last year, introduced Agenda Committee members Robert Hanson, Antonio Ocampo-Guzman, Kruger, and Lerner as well as the Senate Parliamentarian, Professor Stuart Peterfreund.
- III.2 An election to the Senate to replace Professor Cushman-Associate Dean at CSSH is scheduled on 4 October.
- III.3 SAC has been authorized to convene the following search committees. These are being staffed.
  - Dean of the D'Amore-McKim School of Business
  - Dean of Libraries
  - Chair of the Department of Political Science in CSSH
  - Chair of the Department of Mathematics in COS
  - Chair of the Department of Art + Design
  - Chair of the Department of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies
  - Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- III.4 The following search committees will continue in 2016-2017
  - Bouvé College of Health Sciences
  - Director of the School of Architecture
- III.5 The 2016 Tenure Appeals Committee reviewed one appeal this summer.
- III.6 The following Senate committees have been staffed and charged. Information on each may be found on the Senate website.
  - Academic Policy Committee
  - Administrator Evaluation Oversight Committee
  - Enrollment and Admissions Policy Committee
  - Faculty Development Committee
  - Ad hoc Faculty Handbook Committee

- Financial Affairs Committee
  - Full-time Non-tenure-track Faculty Committee
  - Ad hoc HERI Committee
  - Information Technology Policy Committee
  - Research Policy Oversight Committee
- III.7 The status of Senate resolutions from 2015-2016 is: 27 approved and 17 not approved. SAC is working with the Provost and the Senate committees to help pass the resolutions. Information is available on the Senate website.

#### IV. **PROVOST'S REPORT.**

- IV.1 Provost Bean noted that the rejected Senate resolutions are not an indication of tension but rather of an attempt to come to an understanding of and implementation of process. The Provost's Office is working with SAC and Senate committees.

- V. **A MOTION** to amend the agenda to accommodate the arrival of President Aoun was made, seconded and approved.

#### VI. **PRESIDENT AOUN'S ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE SENATE**

- VI.1 Northeastern is well at all levels and is in a strong position. The University took advantage of the recession to move forward in a bold manner. However, there is no longer a recession and competition is keen to and is moving forward. Tactically, what carried the University to this point is not going to carry NU to next level. The Academic Planning process is essential and will determine the future for NU into the next 20-25 years. There must be heightened investment in the University's differentness in undergraduate education, professional education, and research. Experiential education is now global but Northeastern needs to heighten leadership in this area. The Academic Plan seeks to reach a high level of personalization and customization of offerings.

Undergraduate education: Looking at the future of a possible free public education, will people go to private or public school? The President maintains that parents want the best and will send their students to private school if they can justify that they will get superior teaching. Private education will attract the elite in terms of achievement. In addition, students can begin [their education] in one environment and finish at another institution. This presents opportunity and challenge.

Professional education: Northeastern University is a pioneer in this area however the world is waking up. A new consortium of 13 institutions now offers students the ability to begin in one institution and move through several to achieve the final degree. More institutions are offering programs endorsed by employers. Northeastern's edge will need to be maintained and to reaffirm the experiential component and student mobility. In addition, the University is ready to be networked which is an edge. What meets the needs of learners?

Research: Research has increased by 165% over ten years. NU has built the infrastructure but the Academic Plan needs to tell us where we will be leaders in this domain. What is our niche and differentiation? The President invited the community think about where we can achieve leadership. Faculty can choose domains where they can be leaders and tell us how to achieve it.

In other areas, experiential PhDs are being discussed which is relevant and bold. The Academic Plan forces us to look at ourselves, our leadership, and our differentiation.

Fund-raising increased by over 300% in the last ten years. In terms of faculty diversity, faculty members are encouraged think outside the box when recruiting other faculty.

The Academic Plan is a blueprint for future years and a basis for the Long-range Plan which is an action plan for the first five years. Under the previous ten-year LRP over \$1 billion was spent on infrastructure and close to \$800 million in recurring expenses. The next LRP is expected to do the same in half the time.

## VI.2 Questions

Professor Kelly asked about the role of the Senate and the President responded that it is leadership.

Professor Lerner asked about NU's relationship to the City of Boston. President Aoun responded that it is excellent and the local community was excited about the new residential building on Columbus.

Professor Sceppa suggested that this group of senators is a captive audience who could be thinking about the big vision for the University and asked how the President would capitalize on the energy around the Senate table. President Aoun responded that this is simple. As each College has moved to institute their own councils, the Senate becomes the council of councils with engagement at two levels – at the college level and at the University level. SOL said in past that the Senate was not to get involved in their curriculum to which the Senate agreed to at the time. The SOL was correct. The process for curriculum approvals takes too long. Is there a way to launch pilots right away? Is there a way to think about academic programs differently and approve them following a pilot? This is a macro issue that must be done at the Senate level. The Senate should rethink certain practices that do not represent the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Professor Fox noted that certain city counselors are concerned about the arming of campus police. To which the President replied that this is a non-issue that is in the past.

Professor Crittenden said that a recent session regarding experiential Coop with Coop advisors was completely unannounced. Neither administration nor Coop advisors were informed. He urged that communications take place well in advance. President Aoun said that he had no awareness of this. He expounded, however, that students want more flexibility. He noted that many Coops are local but more should be national and international. NU's curriculum is so structured that some students cannot have majors or minors in other disciplines. These areas need thought.

Professor McGruer asked if tuition would increase at the same rate that NU plans to spend. President Aoun maintained that faculty is in charge of the cost of higher education and holds responsibility in areas such as the high cost of textbooks. On the macro level, financial aid has increased at twice the level of tuition and NUPromise has added funding for four years. If public education becomes free NU will be competing with superb public institutions as well. Individuals can look at the high cost of textbooks.

The President made his exit at 12:50 pm, noting that the University has made an enormous commitment and could need to do more.

#### **VII. PROVOST'S REPORT**

- VII.1 The Provost explained that Susan Ambrose is leading a conversation with Coop faculty at the colleges. He noted that the quality of advising is uneven across the University.
- VII.2 The Academic Plan is nearly completed; a final draft will be on the website very soon and it will be brought to the Board of Trustees on the 30<sup>th</sup>. It differs from the last AP and is more about integration from all parts of the University. The LRP will be submitted to the Board of Trustees in December so needs to be organized soon. What can we afford to invest? What do we do with than money? Many lists of such things have been collected and are now in the process of being organized. The lists are longer than the budget.

#### **VIII. MOTION**

- VIII.1 Motion was made to move to a quasi-committee of the whole for a discussion led by Senior Vice Provost Ambrose on proposed additional questions to be added to TRACE.
- VIII.2 The motion was seconded and approved. The Senate moved to a quasi-committee of the whole at 12:57 PM
- VII.3 Motion was offered, seconded and accepted to move out of quasi-committee of the whole.

#### **VIX. ADJOURNMENT**

- VIX.1 Motion was offered, seconded and unanimously accepted to adjourn.
- VIX.2 The 21 September meeting of the Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary  
Faculty Senate