



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 21 October 2015

Present: (Professors) Andrews, Barczak, Bickmore, Brooks, Cokely, Crittenden, Daynard, Devlin, Gouldstone, Hajjar, Hanson, Hellweger, Kanouse, Kruger, Lerner, Leslie, McOwen, Nelson, Ocampo-Guzman, Patterson, Portz, Sceppa, Suciu, Vicino Young

(Administrators) Bean, Ambrose, Aubry, Brodley, Loeffelholz, Poiger, Reynolds, Tilly

Absent: (Professors) Adams, Caligiuri, Howard, Hudson, Kelly, Piret, and (Deans) Courtney,

Hudson I. CONVENED. Provost Bean convened the Senate at 11:47 AM

II. MINUTES. The minutes of 30 September were approved as amended.

III. SAC REPORT.

III.1 Professor Sceppa reported that SAC had met 3 times since the last Senate meeting and twice with the Provost. Tomorrow SAC will meet with the senior leadership team.

III.2 SEARCH COMMITTEES have been requested as follows:

- External chair search in the Dept of Economics in the CSSH
- Review of an internal candidate in the Dept of Philosophy and Religion in the CSSH

The following search committees have been staffed:

- Director in the School of Architecture in the CAMD
- Director for the School of Criminal Justice and Criminal Justice in the CSSH
- Chair for the department of Political Science in the CSSH
- Dean for the Bouvé College of Health Sciences

The COS Dean Search Committee is under review by the Provost.

III.3 SENATE COMMITTEES

- The Senate Committee for Enrollment and Admissions Policy is staffed and charged. The chair is Professor Jeff Ruberti – COE.
- The Senate *ad hoc* Committee for the Assessment of the Higher Education Research Institute's (HERI) Faculty Survey. The chair is Professor Felecia Lask – DMSB.
- The CPS Academic Council has been staffed with seven faculty members
- Professor Ed Beighley and Assistant Clinical Professor Stephanie Sibicky will serve on the 2015-2016 University Classroom Committee.
- Professor Sceppa reported that all ten standing committees of the Senate are staffed and charged.

III.4 Professor Sceppa also reported that SAC will be inviting speakers for informational committee-of-the-whole discussions. These could potentially produce legislation at a future time.

III.5 SAC staffed all Senate committee, generally with five faculty members which means there are more than sixty faculty on committees. Professor Sceppa urged Senators to talk to faculty to be sure they see the value of participation.

IV. PROVOST'S REPORT

IV.1. The Provost reported that his first month has been spent setting up. The BCHS Dean Search Committee has been staffed and charged; the COS Dean Search Committee is close to being staffed. A committee to look broadly at graduate education broadly is being staffed.

IV.2. STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS. The Provost is building the infrastructure for strategic planning process which will be rolled out next week. A blog venue will be available the day following the presentation and all faculty members are encouraged to view what is on line and contribute. The blog will be open to the Northeastern community and will be process moderated. Exercises have been undertaken with some groups (deans, the senior leadership team and others) and the Provost's Office will be sorting through their comments and posting them as they become relevant. The process will be open to alumni.

IV.3 QUESTIONS

- In response to Professor Barczak, Provost Bean explained that Professor Rappaport, Vice Provost Loeffelholz and he will form a group to synthesize input.

V. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

V.1 *Part I: Early Course Evaluations*

Professor Portz read the following and it was seconded (Professor Cokely)

WHEREAS the Student Government Association has suggested mid-course evaluations, and

WHEREAS early course evaluations can help to improve the student learning experience while the course is ongoing,

BE IT RESOLVED That faculty be encouraged to offer voluntary, early course evaluations that feature open-ended or other appropriate questions pertaining to what aspects of the course are working well and what aspects need to be changed, with student suggestions for improving the learning experience.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED That the Center of Advancing Teaching and learning Through Research provide models, including a Blackboard option, to assist faculty members who desire assistance in such early course evaluations. Each faculty member should decide on the questions and form so that these surveys are tailored specifically to the course.

Professor Portz recognized Professor Ondrechen, chair of the FDC, who explained that the request for mid-semester evaluations originated with students. The evaluations are formative only and are voluntary.

Director of the Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning through Research (CATLR), Cigdem Talgar, explained that the CATLR website already offers tools for use by faculty and suggested such evaluations take place three to four weeks into the semester.

Professor Sceppa recognized Mr. Erik Tyler of the Student Government Association who explained that the TRACE is administered too late in the semester which leaves students with the impression that it has no impact.

Vice Provost Ambrose added that national data shows a high response rate for early evaluations.

Professor Sceppa noted that such a mid-semester evaluation is informational to the faculty member whereas TRACE is used for faculty tenure and promotion consideration.

Senators spoke in favor of the motion.

VOTE to recommend that faculty administer mid-semester evaluations: PASSED 32-0-0

V.2. *Part II: Committee reports on Digital Measures*

Professor Portz read the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate accept the report of the Faculty Development Committee on Digital Measures.

Professor Portz recognized Professor Ondrechen who stated that the report does not recommend mandating use of Digital Measures. Provost Bean noted that there is much interest in collecting common data to have a picture of what is happening. At the same time, it was noted that Digital Measures may not be ideal. Some colleges are requiring its use and others are not. The Provost asked if there was an alternative that the committee would propose.

Professor Portz responded that there is confusion about whether it was required and the committee was unable to identify any university policy. The committee did not review alternatives. Professor Lerner further explained that the committee realized that data is generated annually. It was pointed out, too, that it is important to clarify who will have access to the data and for what reason.

Discussion ensued of Digital Measures which described its use by colleges that are using it. DMSB has tailored it and it has become a part of the annual evaluation. It is useful for public relations when recommending faculty experts. It is sent out to faculty on a quarterly basis to inform faculty. It is also used at that point to place the faculty bio on the college website.

Following further discussion it was noted that the vote is to accept the report into the record rather than to take action. SAC should give thought to the next step.

VOTE to accept the FDC report on Digital Measures in the record: PASSED, 31-0-1

VI. INTEGRATED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

VI.1 Provost Bean passed the gavel to Professor Sceppa who called for a motion to move in a committee-of-the-whole. This was approved unanimously.

VI.2 Vice Provost Ambrose made a presentation on ISLE.

- This is a group of guiding principles for reeducating all students
- Strategy: identify a set of dimensions to help students
- The framework is the cognitive core which is the bedrock of allowing students to use professional experiences creatively toward intellectually agility, to have a global mindset, to be socially conscious, and to gain professional and personal effectiveness. All dimensions are developed by students and contributed to by the entire University community.
- Development plan is to have some input to build a system that allows students to identify where they are and to map where they are going.

VI.3 MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE was made and seconded. This was approved unanimously. Provost – good model for senate.

VII. ADJOURN at 1:21

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary
Faculty Senate