



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: George Alverson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 29 April 2015

Present: (Professors) Alverson, Bickmore, Caligiuri, Carrier, Charles, Cokely, Craig, Crittenden, De Ritis, Devlin, Fitzgerald, Hajjar, Hanson, Howard, King, Kruger, Lerner, Leslie, Makriyannis, Nelson, McGushin, Rabrenovic, Rappaport, Strasser, Young

(Administrators) Ambrose, Aubry, Brodley, Courtney, Director, Fulmer, Gibson, Loeffelholz, Poiger, Ronkin

Absent: Professors Daynard, Gouldstone, Metghalchi, Piret, Suciu

CALL TO ORDER: 11:03 AM

- I. MINUTES: 22 April minutes were approved as written.
- II. SAC REPORT: In the absence of Professor Daynard, Professor Rappaport reported that SAC had met once since the last Senate meeting.

Today's 10 AM meeting of the 2015-16 Senate resulted in the following elections:

Professor Carmen Sceppa, BCHS -- SAC Chair
Professor Robert Hanson, COS -- Senate Secretary
Professors Timothy Bickmore, CCIS; Timothy Cresswell, CSSH; Louis Kruger, BCHS;
and Dennis Cokely, CSSH – SAC members

Thank you to all Senators who have served all year and are rotating off the Senate and special thanks to Professor Joan Fitzgerald (CSSH) and Professor Carey Rappaport (COE) who have served for four years.

- III. PROVOST'S REPORT. Provost Director reported that there are more graduating students this year than in all prior years.
- IV. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Professor Kruger raised a process issue whereby at the last meeting of the Senate he was interrupted twice in mid-sentence. He expressed his concern that a message is being transmitted that speaking is not welcome, which would cause a bad climate.

- V. In the absence of objections, a change in the order of the agenda was accepted.

VI. DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE

Professor Kruger moved the following; Professor Cokely seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that the name of the Department of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology be changed to the Department of Applied Psychology as approved by the Department faculty and the Bouvé College of Health Sciences.

Professor and Department Chair Lifter was recognized and explained that the current title is outdated and encompasses only a portion of what the department actually offers. The proposed title is more encompassing and inclusive and will allow further growth within the newer programs. Faculty members in the College of Science Department of Psychology are supportive of this change.

Professor Hanson inquired how and when the original department name was developed. Professor Lifter replied that it was approximately fifteen years ago and was developed to serve the director of the department at the time. It has now become somewhat restrictive and cumbersome. In addition, the breadth of the department today precludes listing all the disciplines offered.

Professor Miller, Chair of the Department of Psychology in the COS, was recognized and expressed support. The BCHS does not offer an undergraduate degree in psychology. The current BA in COS includes an entire range of disciplines in order that students are fully prepared for graduate work.

VOTE to change the name of the Department of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology to the Department of Applied Psychology: PASSED, 30-0-1.

VII. ADMISSIONS SUSPENSION

Professor Howard moved the resolution and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that admissions to the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences be suspended as approved by the UCC on 9 April 2015 (9-0-0).

Professor Mingolla, chair of Communication Sciences and Disorders, was recognized and explained that this program is a very small major and was a pathway to graduate work. There are now alternate pathways to graduate programs provided.

VOTE to suspend admissions to the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program: PASSED, 31-0-0.

VIII. ACADEMIC WITHDRAWAL DATE

Professor Young moved the following and it was seconded by Professor Cokely.

BE IT RESOLVED that the academic withdrawal date be extended from the eleventh week of the regular semester to reading day,

**typically the last business day before final exams begin, as approved
by the UCC on 9 April 2015 (9-0-0).**

Associate Provost Reynolds was recognized and said that the purpose of the proposal is to provide students with more time to make decisions. Professor Rasala was recognized and explained that the many pressures upon students make it difficult for them to decide whether they should withdraw. Not only are they concerned about the possibility of added financial investment but there is a question of dignity. There is nothing gained by receiving an “F” grade whereby the course must be retaken and the grade affects the student forever. .

Professor Hanson spoke against the motion noted that students who are experiencing difficulty are doing so in more than one course. Postponing the decision to withdraw merely diverts their attention from courses that they are able to pass. Students are counseled as early as possible when difficulties arise. They may be more successful if they withdraw early and not become distracted by attempting to pass a course that they have little hope of passing.

Professor Rasala, in response to a question, noted that the proposal would apply to summer. Professor Lerner proposed a friendly amendment as follows: “BE IT RESOLVED that the existing academic withdrawal date be extended ~~from the eleventh week of the regular semester~~ to reading day...” Professors Young and Cokely accepted the amendment.

Professor De Ritis asked whether students will have to stay longer at the University and added that the proposal suggests that students are avoiding the decision. He noted that it is the responsibility of faculty and advisors to ensure they make the decision.

Professor Hanson noted that the list of 50 or so institutions, including many peers, which were surveyed as to withdrawal dates, was varied. There was no common practice. Professor Hanson said that there is no significant reason to change as there are no significant problems.

Professor Devlin noted that remediation takes time so engaging students during those three weeks is positive. Professor De Ritis noted that it could open a window for large scale abuse by undergraduates who would not receive the “A” they expected.

Dean Ronkin proposed that the proposal could be helpful when a student wishes to change his/her major and their GPA is at stake to make that change. If an “F” is received, the student must retake the course but a withdrawal would allow the student to avoid retaking it and thereby change majors.

Professor Leslie spoke against the motion and was not persuaded that there could be big improvement in the last three weeks of the course. It is her considered opinion that intervention should be taking place prior to this point. Students are anxious and perhaps not thinking rationally at this point.

As amended, the motion is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the existing academic withdrawal date be extended to reading day, typically the last business day before final exams begin, as approved by the UUCG on 9 April 2015 (9-0-0).

VOTE to extend the academic withdrawal date to reading day, as amended: PASSED, 17-13-0.

IX. PROGRAM REVISION AND NAME CHANGE

Professor Charles moved the following and it was seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that the 'Master of Fine Arts: Studio' be changed to the 'Master of Fine Arts: Interdisciplinary Arts' with concurrent program revisions in the College of Arts, Media and Design as approved by the Graduate Council on 15 April 2015 (6-0-0)

The floor was yielded to Associate Dean Amidon who noted that the program is currently offered in conjunction with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. The total credit hours remain the same.

VOTE to change the name of the 'Master of Fine Arts: Studio' to the 'Master of Fine Arts: Interdisciplinary Arts and to accept the proposed programs revisions: PASSED, 30-0-0

X. NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Professor Fitzgerald moved the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the Master of Public Policy in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities as approved by the Graduate Council on 15 April 2015 (7-0-0).

Professor Bosso was recognized and explained that this program will replace the current MLPP. It both complements the MPA and is more competitive. Dean Poiger spoke in support, noting that this is an important program for the school.

Professor Hanson asked how many students are expected and Professor Bosso responded that 20-25 during the first few years which is favorable compared to other programs. Professor Bosso also said that this program better addresses current faculty strengths.

VOTE to establish the Master of Public Policy: PASSED, 31-0-0.

XI. NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Professor Cokely moved the following; Professor De Ritis seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the MA in Environmental Science and Policy in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities as approved by the Graduate Council on 15 April 2015 (6-0-0).

Professor Alverson proposed a friendly amendment to add the College of Science which co-sponsored the proposal. Professors Cokely and De Ritis accepted the amendment.

Dean Gibson reported that this is a joint program with a unique blend of science and policy which fulfills a need at the University.

VOTE to establish the MA in Environmental Science and Policy: PASSED, 31-0-0.

XII. NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Professor De Ritis moved the following and it was seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the Graduate Certificate in Arts Administration and Cultural Entrepreneurship in the College of Arts, Media and Design as approved by the Graduate Council on 15 April 2015 (7-0-0).

The floor was yielded to Associate Dean Amidon who reported that the program is twelve credit hours and extends across art, music and theatre. The targeted audience is business and non-profit professionals as well as small scale entrepreneurs who need business/leadership abilities.

VOTE to establish the Graduate Certificate in Arts Administration and Cultural Entrepreneurship: PASSED, 31-0-0.

XIII. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Leslie moved the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Senate accept the report of the Committee for Full-time, Non-tenure-track Faculty. Recommendations therein will be considered by the 2015-2016 Senate Agenda Committee.

Committee Chair Lori Gardinier was recognized and reported that the Committee was charged with examining whether FT NTT faculty members are protected against retaliation. Experiences among committee members are diverse. Focus groups were held across the colleges with participants recommended by the Deans. In addition, a survey was performed which yielded 41% participation. Fifty-nine percent indicated they would welcome participation in the Faculty Senate; 43% felt sufficiently protected.

Professor Kruger asked if there was convergence between the two sources of data. Professor Gardinier responded that the data was consistent.

Dean Gibson asked if the impact of a different voting method could be an improvement. Professor Gardinier responded that the Committee did not address that issue but noted that one focus group did express concern about voting publically and possibly facing retaliation. It should be made clear that participants are voting for their constituents.

Dean Brodley requested clarification as to what repercussions would look like. Professor Gardinier responded that SAC might be able to answer this and added that the survey indicated that yearly contracts could be one source of retaliation.

Professor Kruger noted that anyone can request a secret ballot. Another issue is that these faculty must speak and feel comfortable doing so. In regard to recommendations within the report, Professor Kruger noted that the first two address protection and wondered if these are prioritized. Committee Chair Gardinier responded that the Committee felt they were related. There is a general lack of knowledge about what protections exist and the contract matter is one that should be addressed.

Point of order: the Parliamentarian stated that a motion for a secret ballot requires second and majority approval.

Vice Provost Loeffelholz noted that the Senate had voted in favor of a promotion track for FT NTT faculty which empirically tripled the number of FT NTT faculty being considered for promotion and included FT lecturers for the first time. Five out of five lecturers considered this year were promoted. Senate action is producing results.

VOTE to accept the report of the Senate Committee for Full-time non-tenure-track Faculty: PASSED, 31-0-0.

ADJOURNED: 12:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

George Alverson, Secretary
Faculty Senate