



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: George Alverson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 8 April 2015

Present: (Professors) Alverson, Bickmore, Charles, Cokely, Craig, Crittenden, Daynard, De Ritis, Devlin, Fitzgerald, Gouldstone, Hanson, King, Kruger, Lerner, Leslie, Makriyannis, Metghalchi, Nelson, Piret, Rappaport, Strasser, Suciu, Young

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

Absent: Professors Caligiuri, Carrier, Hajjar, McGushin, and Rabrenovic

The Senate convened at 11:45 AM

- I. The 21 January minutes were approved as written.
- II. Professor Daynard reported that The SAC met eleven times since the last Senate meeting on 21 January. SAC also met twice with the Provost and once with the Board of Trustees.

This year's Robert D. Klein Lecturer award was presented to Kara Swanson, Associate Professor in the School of Law. Her lecture, "*Banking on the Body: The Market in Blood, Milk and Sperm in Modern America*" was delivered to the University community yesterday. We hope you were all able to attend.

The following faculty members were recently elected to the 2015-2016 Faculty Senate. Some are new to the Senate and some are being welcomed back. A listing of 2015-2016 Senate meetings may be found on the Faculty Senate website.

George Adams – COE
Edwin Andrews – CAMD
Gloria Barczak – DMSB
Dana Brooks – COE
Tim Cresswell – CSSH
Ferdinand Hellweger – COE
Kathleen Kelly – CSSH
Lou Kruger – BCHS
Robert McOwen – COS
Brent Nelson – COS
Antonio Ocampo-Guzman – CAMD
Jacqueline Piret – COS
John Portz – CSSH
Carmen Sceppa – BCHS

The following committees were staffed and convened:

Department of Theater Chair Search Committee

Elected members from the department:

Professor Jonathan Carr
Professor Nancy Kindelan
Professor Antonio Ocampo-Guzman

Appointed members:

Professor Anthony De Ritis, CAMD-Music
Professor Laura Greet, CSSH-English

Department of Pharmaceutical Science Chair Search Committee

Elected members from the department:

Professor Ray Booth, Chair
Professor Greg Miller
Professor Michail Sitkovsky

Appointed members:

Professor Ennio Mingolla, BCHS-Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology
Professor Wendy Smith, COS-Biology

Department of English Chair Search Committee

Elected members from the department:

Professor Nicole Aljoe
Professor Lori Lefkovitz, Chair
Professor Marina Leslie

Appointed members:

Professor Nathan Felde, CAMD-Art+Design
Professor Susan Setta, CSSH-Philosophy & Religion

Faculty Development Committee

Members:

Susan Asai, CAMD-Music
Mary jo Ondrechen, Chair, COS-Biology
Neal Lerner, CSSH-English
John Portz, CSSH-Political Science
Viera Proulx, CCIS

Background to the Charge to the FDC

This Committee shall be concerned with the rights and status of faculty personnel. Matters to be dealt with are standards of tenure, promotion, and advancement for University faculty; and questions of professional development, academic freedom, and economic welfare.

Committee Charge

1. The FDC will determine the efficacy of the automated on-line program for curriculum vitae "*Digital Measures*" in terms of faculty needs.
2. The FDC will review the [Promotion module](#) of the Faculty Handbook to determine if substantive editing is required.
3. The FDC will review pros and cons of an SGA proposal for a mid-term feedback opportunity to be viewed by the faculty member only (as opposed to the TRACE).

Professor Daynard reported that a fourth charge precipitated by concerns expressed by faculty regarding a lack of clarity surrounding named professorship was deleted. He added that the Provost's office had assured the SAC that they would be taking steps in the direction of standardization (not 100%) of the terms and conditions and making them more transparent. The matter will be revisited by SAC with the Provost's Office.

2015 Tenure Appeals Committee

Elected members:

Professor Libby Adler (Law)
Professor Susan Assai (CAMD)
Professor Kenneth Baclawski (CCIS)
Professor William Detrich (COS)
Professor Olubunmi Faleye (DMBS)
Professor Ying-Yee Kong (BCHS)
Professor Masoud Salehi (COE)
Professor Susan Setta (CSSH)

Appointed members:

Professor Lee Breckinridge (Law)
Professor John Engin (COS)
Professor Natasha Frost (CSSH)
Professor Engin Kirda (CCIS/COE)
Professor David Zgarrick (BCHS)

Staffing is underway to convene a Hearing Committee in compliance with the Faculty Handbook module on *Dismissal*.

- III. The Provost reported that the current applicants are the most academically talented group thus far. There were 50,564 applicants. 72% of offers have gone to applicants with SATs of 1400 and above. Over half (including international admits) are from outside the region; the mean SAT is 21 points above the LY number. It is now in the hands of faculty to convert admitted applicants into enrolled students.

The annual budget report is not completed. A motion to postpone the report to 22 April was made and accepted.

IV. Professor Leslie moved the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the School of Education in the College of Professional Studies be renamed to the *Graduate School of Education* as approved by the CPS Academic Council for Lifelong Learning (9-0-0).

Dean LaBrie was recognized and explained the rationale for the request noting that it is consistent with peer institutions and with present offerings within CPS. The School migrated from the former College of Arts and Sciences some years ago and is now dedicated to graduate education.

VOTE to approved the name change of the School of Education to the Graduate School of Education in the College of Professional Studies: PASSED, 33-0-0

V. Dean Poiger moved the following; Professor Cokely seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Senate approve the proposed updated Core to be effective at the fall 2016 semester.

Professor Fitzgerald asked how the current Core is broken. Dean Poiger proceeded to ask Committee members to speak in favor of the proposal.

Professor Daynard relayed a history of the proposal which began with discussion in the SAC. He proposed that today's students today want more from their liberal arts education and NU is capable of delivering a broader and wider ranging education which includes the skills and perspectives needed throughout their careers. An *ad hoc* committee wrote and distributed a white paper last year and the Senate undertook a committee-of-the-whole discussion in January of 2014. A committee was then convened co-chaired by Dean Poiger and Professor Daynard and staffed with input from the deans. Three open forums for faculty were held; two meetings with the UCC which subsequently voted 10-2 in favor; an open discussion with the Associate Deans Committee was held; and feedback by email was considered. Suggestions engendered much revision in the spirit of producing a good outcome. There were also conversations with the Registrar's Office to determine if the change could take place in fall 2016.

Dean Poiger reported that the proposal moves away from a core with distributions requirements tied to certain courses to one that defines an overall experience within ten modes of learning experience to which all students should be exposed.

Professor Gouldstone, the Committee's representative for COE, spoke of flexibility noting that any course offered by any department has the potential to satisfy two core requirements and one major requirement. Much AP credit may be included. Professor Strasser, the CAMD representative, echoed sentiments regarding the wide-ranging education. Professor Gallagher, CSSH representative, noted that the current core does not hold students to a high enough standard or maintain the breadth of education they should have.

Professor Hanson asked if there was an outpouring of student dissatisfaction with current core and, if so, what does it imply about the on-going curriculum or what has been accomplished over the past years. Programs have been expanded significantly, co-op has become international, and many changes have taken place and yet the core

must be replaced? In addition, why replace it immediately? The proposal does not clearly define many areas. Professor Hanson expressed skepticism that the current curriculum is not doing its job and that haste is needed.

Professor Crittenden reported that the most deficient subject among DMSB students is their use of English in writing. That deficiency appears not to be addressed here. He expressed concerns regarding unintended outcomes such as the immediate development of in-house courses by the Colleges thus creating silos. This proposal will not encourage internal transfers whereby students will experience other Colleges and programs. Such experience is one of the positive aspects of the current core experience. He noted, too, that the three-college requirement has been dropped.

Dean Courtney assured the Senate that he is not interested in creating new courses in the ten new areas of inquiry. The proposal will engender innovation and students will choose the right courses. The best courses for English are offered outside DMSB.

Dean Brodley said that what students should learn should come from what we believe rather than the budget. The proposal will provide CCIS the ability to look at learning outcomes, as required by accreditation procedures

Professor Kruger inquired how the subcommittee to be established by UUCG to review courses will do so and expressed concern about unintended consequences. How many courses will this subcommittee have to vet? Professor Gouldstone responded that there will be many and they must satisfy explicitly identified learning outcomes. Activities are connected to goals. Professor Kruger estimated that courses are in excess of 800.

Professor Nelson noted that his own program requires 92 credit hours and that implementation is not practical according to his own count of probable core credit assignment. He recommended against the proposal or that the proposal is postponed until such time as parameters for implementation are designed. The impact on the STEM fields is enormous.

Professor Poiger reported that the Committee spoke with the Deans to clarify whether credit requirements would increase. In many majors, modes of inquiry may be fulfilled by courses within the major. Courses will also be offered that will fulfill more than one mode of inquiry. Senators must make leaps of faith that Colleges will be creative and submit courses that are flexible. She agreed that implementation is a massive effort but assured the Senate the work can be done. UUCG will work closely with the Colleges to accomplish implementation. Dean Courtney suggested forming sub-committees around each mode of inquiry and stated that doing a similar job at his previous institution involved 50–60 individuals

Provost Director passed the gavel and noted that NU has endured multiple changes over many years. Change does not imply that things were wrong but that change occurs. There is great advantage to being a leader. He reported having seen no core programs such as this one that is based on modes of inquiry and this proposal provides the opportunity for NU be a leader and develop principles that might become a model. Such an opportunity brings attention to the University.

Professor King said that his own concerns have been amplified by the discussion and that this proposal is overly hasty. Professor Cucio called for more explicitly defined

goals and implementation plans. Professor Young inquired if there will be documents to explain how courses will map.

Dean Reynolds, chair of UUCC, reported that the matter of implementation underwent significant discussion and that guidelines will be established that will be useful at the local levels to map courses.

Professor Devlin inquired whether use of a pilot implementation rather than University-wide change had been considered to which Dean Reynolds responded that it had not. Dean Poiger reported that the change will apply only to in-coming freshman so that implementation will be accomplished over time.

Professor Cucio asked whether the proposal could be amended; the Parliamentarian responded that it could but suggested that the complexity might require UUCC participation.

Professor Crittenden proposed an amendment requiring students to take courses from at least three Colleges/Schools to ensure they take variety of courses. As there was no second the proposal failed.

Professor Nelson motioned to postpone to 29 April and this was seconded. He noted that an implementation guideline is needed that is closer to reality.

Professor Metghalchi noted possible miscommunication whereby the Deans have given their imprimatur and yet chairs are not convinced. Professor Kruger asked that SAC or UUCC give thought to whether the effective date is reasonable.

VOTE on the motion to postpone the proposal to 29 April: FAILED, 15-18-0.

VOTE on the original motion: PASSED, 25-7-2.

VI. Professor Daynard moved the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That, as of the 2015-16 academic year,

- 1. Each college (Bouvé College of Health Sciences, College of Arts, Media and Design, College of Computer and Information Science, College of Social Science and Humanities, College of Engineering, College of Science, College of Professional Studies, D'Amore McKim School of Business, and School of Law) is encouraged to select one faculty member by February 1 of each year for a [name of College or donor] Excellence in Teaching Award. Each college may determine for itself the eligibility criteria and procedure for its Award, with the exception that significant student participation is required. If the college wishes to nominate its Award recipient for the University Excellence in Teaching Award, it should forward the recipient's name and an explanation of why the recipient was chosen to the Faculty Senate Office by February 1.**

2. **The University-wide Excellence in Teaching Award process, last amended on 6 October 1997, is discontinued. In its stead, the following provisions shall apply:**
 - a. **The University Excellence in Teaching Awards Selection Committee shall consist of four faculty members (with two-year staggered terms) chosen by the Senate Agenda Committee; an undergraduate student chosen by the Student Government Association; a graduate student chosen by the Graduate Student Association; and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, who will chair the Committee.**
 - b. **The Committee will choose two of that year's college award recipients to receive the University Excellence in Teaching Award who will be honored at the University Honors Convocation.**

Professor Daynard explained that the underlying motivation is to move teaching awards to the place where faculties are teaching and to encourage Colleges to produce their own procedures and to perhaps solicit donations. This will restore appropriate emphasis on teaching. The central committee will choose only among those chosen by the Colleges.

Professor Crittenden asked what criteria the University Committee might use to select the two University Teaching Excellence Awards. Professor Daynard responded that the University Committee would consider the materials received from the Colleges making a case for their own faculty.

Vice Provost Loeffelholz offered a friendly amendment to substitute "*the Provost's designee*" for "*the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs*" in section 2.a. There were no objections.

VOTE to accept the motion as amended: PASSED, 34-1-0.

The Senate adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George Alverson, Secretary
Faculty Senate