



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Robert Hanson, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 19 April 2017

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

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

Absent: (Professors) Fox, Hellweger, Nelson, Nyaga, Patterson, Vicino
(Administrators) Ambrose, Ziemer

I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Provost Bean convened the Senate at 11:46 AM

II **MINUTES.** The Senate minutes of 5 April were approved as written.

III. SAC REPORT

III.1 Professor Sceppa reported that SAC met twice since the last Senate meeting as well as once with the Provost and once with the Board of Trustees. The meeting was successful with the SAC reporting on the elected senators' meetings, the hope of the Senate facilitating a faculty community network, shared governance, and collaborations across the University. SAC will meet this afternoon with the senior leadership team.

III.2 The **2017-2018** Senate members will meet at 10:00 a.m. to vote upon their Senate Agenda Committee representatives. This will be the sole agenda item. If you have not received a reminder about this meeting at 10:00 a.m. then you are not on next year's Senate and are ineligible to vote.

III.3 The last meeting of the **2016-2017 Senate** will begin at **11:00 a.m.** with a newly created Senate award named the Gerry H. Herman Shared Governance Leadership Award. The first recipient is Professor Gerry Herman who has informed us that he plans to attend. SAC wishes to give particular thanks to Lou Kruger whose idea it was for this superb award and to Provost Bean and Vice Provost Franko who assisted, with their wholehearted support, in making it happen. In the future, this award will be bestowed at the Honors Convocation.

IV. PROVOST'S REPORT

IV.1 Provost Bean reported that the new Dean of Libraries, Daniel J. Cohen, begins his term on 1 June. This is a very prestigious appointment. The DMSB dean search is ongoing. Three candidates have been interviewed and two more are scheduled.

IV.2 Tenure and promotion letters are to be sent immediately following BOT review and approval.

V. QUESTIONS

- VI. Professor Portz asked when salary determinations would be made. Vice Provost Franko was recognized and responded that matchmate data was received today and reviews of materials will be ongoing through the end of April.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- VII.1 ACADEMIC PROPOSAL FROM THE GRADUATE COUNCIL. Vice Provost He read the following and it was seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED That the Master of Professional Studies in Geographic Information Technology be changed to the Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Services in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the Graduate Council on 4 April 2017.

Dean Loeffelholz noted that the name change clarifies the technology application within the business industry.

VOTE to change the name of the Master of Professional Studies in Geographic Information Technology to the Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Services: PASSED, 28-0-0

- VII.2 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH POLICY OVERSIGHT. The final report of the 2016-17 RPOC was accepted into the record: 28-0-0.

The RPOC presentation made at this meeting may be found on the Faculty Senate website.

Professor and Committee Chair Nita-Rotaru read the following; Professor Hanson seconded:

WHEREAS the Senate Committee for Research Policy Oversight (RPOC) recognizes the exemplary service provided by the IRB office and that IRB staff members face immediate and ongoing difficulties in maintaining such standards due to case load increases and new responsibilities while operating at same number of FTE's for fourteen years:

BE IT RESOLVED that Northeastern IRB FTE staffing be increased as soon as possible.

Provost Bean observed that the Deans consider that 80% of the problem is about speed and the Office of General Counsel (OGC) is a major cause. Professor Nita-Rotaru responded that the Committee was aware their concerns but was not able to meet with OGC. Provost Bean persisted, asking how the Committee could prioritize the many problems. Professor Nita-Rotaru agreed that the Committee could not respond to all

issues at this time, but that IRB staffing is important and visible, and must be brought to the attention of those who implement it. Many other matters should be addressed in parallel. Professor Silbey spoke in support noting that while there are many dire thresholds, IRB is a critical entry point for many projects. Understaffing is the cause of many problems; the next threshold will become apparent when this is fixed. Provost Bean called the question and announced that another staff person is being added.

VOTE to increase the IRB staff as soon as possible: PASSED, 30-0-0

- VII.3 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY (ITPC). The report of the Senate Committee for Information Technology Policy was accepted into the record: 30-0-0

Professor and Committee Chair Brooks, noting that one resolution, #4, had been inadvertently omitted from the agenda, moved to amend by addition to the roster of ITPC resolutions. This was seconded and passed: 30-0-0.

The presentation made at this time by Professor Brooks may be found on the Faculty Senate website.

ITPC Resolution #1: Professor Brooks read the following; Professor Hanson seconded.

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate Committee for Information Technology (ITPC) recognizes that Information Technology Services (ITS) has many services and licensed software available for faculty use that most faculty are unaware of, and that both ITPC and ITS recognize that there is a need for significantly more effective communication between ITS and faculty,

BE IT RESOLVED that Northeastern ITS visit a faculty meeting in each college at least once per year to ascertain faculty concerns; to offer to visit faculty meetings of any individual units within each college that request such a meeting; to apprise faculty of the range of ITS software, services and activities related to faculty research and teaching; to solicit suggestions for both software and services; and to identify unmet faculty IT needs. ITS shall also provide all faculty with an organization chart and directory of contacts within ITS, organized in cooperation with ITPC so as to align categories with faculty needs.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Northeastern ITS meet with the ITPC at least twice per year.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Northeastern ITS, the Provost's Office, and Human Resources work together so that ITS has a formal role in new faculty orientation to apprise new faculty of the range of ITS software, services and activities related to faculty research and teaching.

Professor Brooks reminded the Senate that similar resolutions passed last year were not approved by the Provost and that these proposals were the result of many meetings with ITS and much collaboration and cooperation. Provost Bean noted that, prior to last year, resolutions were approved by the Senate without prior conversations with administration. This year conversations are taking place which result in more effective resolutions. Professor Hanson questioned the necessity of requiring an organization chart. Professor Brooks explained that the need is for both a list of and the general roles of staff. The Committee realizes that it is not reasonable to expect a single contact point but that a generic set of needs might be handled by the same staff members. There being no further debate, the vote ensued.

VOTE to further communication between ITS and faculty, as stated: PASSED, 30-0-0

ITPC Resolution #2: Professor Brooks read the following, submitted jointly by RPOC and ITPC; Professor Hanson seconded:

WHEREAS the ITPC and the Senate Committee for Research Policy Oversight (RPOC) recognize that long-term efforts are underway to upgrade the University's financial management systems, but also that faculty and College research support office face ongoing difficulty managing current and near-term grant expenditures that requires a near-term solution,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office establish a University-wide grant management working group, with membership drawn from principal investigators from each College, along with representatives from Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Office of Research Administration and Finance (ORAF). The committee shall be charged with identifying best practices and existing IT reporting tools within units at Northeastern and at other universities that will be implemented, expanded, or developed, and adopted University wide by September 2018.

Professor Brooks noted that the Committee had determined that there was no perfect tool, that the matter was currently being address in the long-term, and that a short-term, temporary solution is required with the assistance and involvement of ITS. Professor Hanson motioned to amend by substitution as follows: delete "Faculty Senate" and substitute "Senate Agenda Committee" noting that it is SAC which convenes and charges committees. This was accepted as a "friendly" amendment.

Professor Brooks explained that the need is for a post-award program. Principal Investigator's must be involved so that any platform meets the needs of faculty. The Provost noted that this is a Presidential-level organizational matter. Professor Brooks said that the Committee had procured cooperation from that level. Professor Nita-Rotaru recognized Associate Vice-Provost for Research Administration, Dana Carroll who agreed that the Committee report points to the need for a coordinated response. The matter is the how proposals and awards are managed. She advocated for a networked approach to

coordinate offices and share information across platforms. There are large issues but there are solutions—coordination is key. Provost Bean spoke in favor. Professor Sceppa added that issues of compliance can affect accreditation. Professor Nita-Rotaru asked that SAC communicate to faculty about these plans. Provost Bean suggested an organizational study of best practices among the schools and colleges.

There being no further discussion, a vote ensued. The resolution as amended is:

WHEREAS the ITPC and the Senate Committee for Research Policy Oversight (RPOC) recognize that long-term efforts are underway to upgrade the University's financial management systems, but also that faculty and College research support office face ongoing difficulty managing current and near-term grant expenditures that requires a near-term solution,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee and the Provost's Office establish a University-wide grant management working group, with membership drawn from principal investigators from each College, along with representatives from Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Office of Research Administration and Finance (ORAF). The committee shall be charged with identifying best practices and existing IT reporting tools within units at Northeastern and at other universities that will be implemented, expanded, or developed, and adopted University wide by September 2018.

VOTE to establish a University-wide grant management group, as amended: PASSED, 30-0-0

ITPC Resolution#4 was read by Professor Brooks and Professor Bickmore seconded.

WHEREAS many faculty research computers, data, and research results, are not backed up in a systematic way,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee be urged to work with the Provost's Office to establish a University-wide faculty computer backup working group with membership drawn from faculty from each College and with representatives from ITS. The committee shall be charged with developing a comprehensive backup plan to ensure that all faculty computers are backed up, providing cost estimates for the plan, and making recommendations for how the backup service should be paid for.

Professor Brooks noted there is a need for a comprehensive plan, resources, and a systematic approach as opposed to the current ad hoc approach. The Library currently has a system that is not advertised. Professor McGruer spoke in favor, noting the dismal state of even finding information about back-up from any sources within the University. There being no further discussion, the vote ensued.

VOTE to establish a University-wide group to investigate, develop and propose a computer back-up plan: PASSED, 30-0-0

- VII.4** REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (HERI) SURVEY. The final report of the 2016-17 RPOC was accepted into the record: 28-0-0.

The HERI presentation made at this meeting may be found on the Faculty Senate website.

HERI Resolution #1 was read by Professor McOwen; Professor Hanson seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the 2017-18 Senate Agenda Committee charge the Senate Standing Committee for Faculty Development to undertake a study of funding levels for faculty development and travel for all categories of full-time faculty across the colleges, and make recommendations for the appropriate minimum levels of funding, including adjustments for inflation.

Provost Bean indicated that this data could be provided within days. There being no debate, the vote was taken.

VOTE to charge the 2017-08 Senate FDC as stated: PASSED, 24:0:5

HERI Resolution #2 was read by Professor McOwen; Professor Kruger seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the 2017-18 Senate Agenda Committee should charge the Research Policy Oversight Committee to undertake a study of unit-level support for research and make recommendations.

Dean Poiger pointed out that research support is not managed the same across units at this point in time. Professor Sceppa noted that the intent is to look at best practices. Some support is provided at the unit level. The Provost noted that it is a complicated process. A 'friendly' amendment by deletion of "unit level" was accepted; a friendly amendment by the addition of "across the institution" immediately following "...support for research" was accepted.

As amended:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the 2017-18 Senate Agenda Committee should charge the Research Policy Oversight Committee to undertake a study of support for research across the institution and make recommendations.

VOTE to charge the 2017-18 RPOC as stated: PASSED, 26-0-2

HERI Resolution #3 was read by Professor McOwen; Professor Hanson seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the 2017-18 Senate Agenda Committee charge a joint committee comprised of staff from the Office of Marketing and Communications and faculty members to assess the impact of recent efforts to increase the dissemination of information about faculty accomplishments in teaching and research, and if warranted, make recommendations for improving this dissemination.

Several "friendly" amendments were offered and accepted. As amended:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the 2017-18 Senate Agenda Committee charge a joint committee that invites participation from staff at the Office of Marketing and Communications and faculty members to assess the impact of recent efforts to increase the dissemination of information about faculty accomplishments in teaching and research, and if warranted, make recommendations for improving this dissemination.

VOTE to charge a joint committee as stated: PASSED, 27-0-0

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT.** The Provost adjourned the Senate at 1:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanson, Secretary
Faculty Senate