TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Deniz Erdogmus, Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 26 September, 2018

Present: Professors Adams, Andrews, Barberis, Bart, Beauchesne, Bourns, Dennerlein, De Ritis, Desnoyers, Dyal-Chand, Ergun, Erdogmus, Hayward, Kaeli, Kelly, Kevoe Feldman, Lerner, McOwen, Onan, Powers-Lee, Shefelbine, Stephens, Stowell, Vicino, Wahl, Wertheim, Wood

Administrators: Bean, Echambadi, Hackney, He, Isaacs, Loeffelholz, Parish, Poiger, Wadia-Fascetti.

Absent: (Professors) Brooks, Dau,
         (Administrators) Ronkin

CALL TO ORDER: Provost Bean convened Senate at 11:47 a.m.

The meeting began with Senate Agenda Committee member, Prof. Neal Lerner's remarks regarding the passing of Prof. Dennis Cokely. Prof. Lerner noted Prof. Cokely's scholarly accomplishments and many contributions of service to the university.
Following these remarks, Provost Bean called for a moment of silence.

I. **SAC REPORT**
   - Prof. Powers-Lee began the Senate Agenda Committee (SAC) report for the first meeting of the year by asking all members of the Senate to introduce themselves.
   - Prof. Powers-Lee noted the 2018.2019 members of SAC and SAC's responsibilities which include:
     - o Arrange the agenda for all Senate meetings
     - o Staff and provide charges to standing committees
     - o Provide a regular channel for consultation and communication between the faculty and administration
     - o Meet at least once each year with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees
     - o At each Senate meeting, present a report briefing the Senate on its activities
   - Prof. Powers-Lee reported that since the last Senate meeting, SAC has met 11 times, with 2 meetings including Provost Bean.
   - SAC's focus has been on designing charges for and staffing the Senate's standing committees.
   - There has been an additional focus, in consultation with Provost Bean, on the implementation of the new workload policy and revision of the Faculty Handbook compensation module.
   - Midterm Faculty Elections
     - o COS election in progress to replace Mark Patterson who has accepted an Associate Dean position. First election for which all full-time faculty in a college are eligible for election and first online election.
     - o BCHS (1 Senator) and CAMD (2 Senators) elections to be held later this fall.
   - Updates to the Faculty Handbook and Faculty Senate website are in place.

- At its 9/12/18 meeting, the Graduate Council approved an item that is informational only for the Faculty Senate:
  1) CAMD's MS in Game Science and Design has been revised to yield more flexibility and to make the courses more competency based.
  The council is also currently reviewing and revising the Graduate Appeal Policy and the Graduate Council Bylaws.

- Each SAC member mentioned the Standing Committees for which they are liaison, stated the members of each committee and explained the charge or charges for the committees for the year ahead. (A complete listing of all Standing Committees, including charges and membership can be found on the Faculty Senate website.)

II. PROVOST REPORT:

- The Provost reported that he has learned that 83% of students enrolled in this fall indicated they wanted to be involved in undergraduate research. Opening up those opportunities will be important. Both the Provost and Sr. Vice Provost for Research, David Luzzi have in their goals a mandate from the President to increase the amount of research happening. How to make that work more effectively is highly aligned with what the Provost's Office is working on.

- Last year was an incredibly strong year for the University partly because of last year's large freshmen class. The University finished the year with a very strong bottom surplus. Definitely the strongest year of the 3 years that the Provost has been at the University.

- Nevertheless, rolling out to the deans a new budget model. It is still RCM based but designed to be more stable. More details on that over next 6 weeks.

- There has been lots of reorganization. Sr. Vice Provost David Luzzi has been working hard pulling together pre-award, post-award and compliance contracts into one co-located, co-managed group for research administration. This merger will not solve all research problems on day one but will empower us to solve these problems. There will be national search for a Vice Provost of Research Administration who can oversee this.

- Over the summer, Student Affairs was separated from Enrollment Management and now reports to the Provost Office.

- Also, the Center for Research Innovation (CRI) which did all the transactional aspects of technology transfer is being reorganized substantially. Going to be looking at our entrepreneurial ecosystem. The exact design for this reorganization is not put to bed yet. Sr. Vice Provost David Luzzi and Dean Raj Echambadi are working on this.

- And around campus, there are incredible plans for the 3rd and 4th floors of Snell Library. It will be an innovation space and collaboration space.

There were no questions or discussions regarding either report.

III.   NEW BUSINESS

Prof. Kaeli read the following; Prof. Desnoyers seconded.

WHEREAS the Student Government Association (SGA) has highlighted the impact of the rapidly evolving area of online learning platforms/homework codes/textbooks and requested Faculty Senate collaboration in capturing data that can inform both future faculty usage and future SGA initiatives, and

WHEREAS the pilot TRACE expansion during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 administrations allowed effective communication between students and faculty and provided preliminary informative data,

BE IT RESOLVED that usage of the expanded "General" section of the TRACE survey that includes the five additional items occurring as numbers 9-13 be continued during the fall 2018 and subsequent administrations, with the resulting data from these five additional items not to be used in any evaluative way for merit, promotion, or tenure deliberations.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Hayward asked if there was any student feedback on the results from the usage of these pilot questions? Prof. Powers-Lee responded that the Senate Agenda Committee did consult with the SGA as to whether we should continue this and the SGA responded that we should continue. We did look college wide at the responses to these questions but saw that no one college stood out. We did not see huge issues leap out at us. There is a sense that it is helping to have this conversation. Prof. Kaeli added that four of the questions are quantitative. One question is open ended and provides direct feedback to the faculty member and is an effective way to communicate students' feelings regarding that specific class.

Prof. Powers-Lee recognized Prof. Barenberg (COE) who stated that the faculty that get dinged by TRACE are the faculty who teach core courses such as Thermal Dynamics. He asked is it possible that these faculty should not be subjected to TRACE? Prof. Kaeli thought this was a bigger issue than what the Faculty Senate was discussing today. Prof. Powers-Lee stated that TRACE was a tool for students to talk to each other and that it was a lot of years and a lot of qualifications before TRACE could be used to evaluate faculty. She added that administrators are aware that there are required courses and electives.

The motion was called and passed 34-0-1.

The Provost noted that there was a lot of work on this issue last year on replacing these expensive books and software with open source materials adding that is a complicated question that is being looked at from a number of sides.

IV. Self-Authored Integrated Learning (SAIL) Presentation –
Dr. Katherine Ziemer, Acting Senior Vice Provost Undergraduate Education and Experiential Learning, &
Dr. Cigdem P. Talgar, Associate Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning

(The SAIL presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website.)

 QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

The following is a sampling of comments following the presentation. Prof. DeRitis asked whether or not this mapping takes place on a course by course basis or a course and professor basis. Dr. Talgar responded that given variations on how faculty may teach courses, empirically, these courses are mapped faculty to course.

Prof. Lerner added that a concern voiced in his department was that in future semesters students would have the ability to look up a course and see how a course scored and then make an enrollment decisions based on that information. Dr. Talgar responded that that functionality had not yet been developed.

Provost Bean added that one of the real values of SAIL is that it integrates the learning experience through the whole lifetime. It gets the student used to having a continual conversation with themselves about learning who they are as a learning being and how that relates to how their life is evolving.

Prof. Hayward asked if a student using this system will be able to see courses and activities and opportunities across the university. Dr. Talgar responded yes.

Prof. Kaeli observed that students are always telling us that their coop experiences are their most important educational experiences. Based on this, is SAIL going to be provided to employers? Dr. Talgar responded that they are working on bringing employers into the mix.

Prof. Lerner asked if there was any oversight or quality control over the attributes that an educator enters? Dr. Talgar noted that SAIL is not a certification system.

Prof. Kelly asked if the University plans on marketing or selling SAIL to other universities.
Dr. Ziemer responded that there is a discussion as to whether this is something that could become part of our portfolio beyond Northeastern.

ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at 1:25 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by:
Deniz Erdogmus
Secretary