



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, March 18, 2020

Present: Professors: Bart, Bourns, Caracoglia, Carr, Chai, Cisewski Dennerlein, Desnoyers, Dyal-Chand, Ergun, Erdogmus, Goluch, Gonyeau, Laboy, Lerner, McNabb, Mountain, Musselman, Powers-Lee, Shapiro, Shefelbine, Spencer, Stephens, Wahl, Wertheim, Wood

Administrators: Bean, Echambadi, Hackney, Hudson, Loeffelholz, Sceppa, Ziemer

Absent: (Professors) Bormann, Dau, Kevoe Feldman, Mylott, Stowell, Vollmer

CALL TO ORDER: 11:45 a.m.

The minutes of 2.19.20 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with a correction.

I. SAC REPORT

Prof. Powers-Lee said SAC had met five times since the last Senate meeting, with two meetings including the Provost. Topics included COVID-19 contingency planning and handbook revisions.

As part of the COVID-19 planning, SAC and Provost Bean have agreed that updating the Senate Bylaws to revise the original description of voting procedures (that generally requires multiple rounds of balloting and pre-balloting) constitutes a “simple updating of factual materials” that aligns voting processes with a global university that needs to use asynchronous online voting for search committee members and Senators. This “simple updating of factual materials” requires only approval of the Provost and SAC – and does not require balloting by all faculty as is required for substantive changes to the Bylaws. The new election procedure is shown in the Faculty Senate Bylaws module.

SAC and Provost Bean also agreed on the need for “simple updating of factual materials” in the Faculty Handbook’s “Appointments, Terms and Reappointments” module. Some of the material in two modules the Senate just deleted (Research Faculty and Professors of the Practice) contained unique information about those appointments that needs to be available in the Handbook that is now available in the Appointments, Terms and Reappointments module.

Prof. Powers-Lee reported that SAC is in the process of staffing two search committees:

- Internal search for the Director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, with Amy Farrell as the preferred candidate.
- Broad search, both inside and outside Northeastern for the Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate School of Education in the College of Professional Studies.

Informational curriculum updates from the Graduate Council are:

- Name change of the CPS MPS to Applied Machine Intelligence (from previous name Enterprise Intelligence).
- Restructuring of the CPS MS Program in Regulatory Affairs.
- Inactivation of the CPS MS in Technical Communication, with Technical Communication courses remaining active in other graduate degree programs and in the graduate certificate Computer Industry Writing (consisting entirely of Technical Communication courses).

Finally, Powers-Lee said SAC was sad to share the news of Arvin Grabel's death. As noted by Jackie Isaacs, Arvin contributed so much to so many over his illustrious career. His many contributions to shared governance included three terms as SAC chair, in 1970, 1994 and 1995.

II. PROVOST'S REPORT

The Provost said there is a new process for taking care of proposals for collaborations with other schools. The new process is that if you have one of those send it to Tom Sheahan, Senior Vice Provost, Curriculum and Programs. He will triage where it needs to go in the system and will get it through.

The Provost said there will be no face to face commencements from April 27th to May 1. This is partly driven by the CDC pronouncement that there should not be gatherings of 50 people or more until about mid-May (8 weeks). Exactly what will be done is not quite known at this time. The Provost said a communication would go out today, March 18, inviting University members to make suggestions of how we move forward. The Provost said we might be doing something in the fall or there might be a number of graduation elements at a number of events next year to make up for what we have lost here.

The Provost said there are a number of upcoming terms that the University must decide for each whether we are teaching online or in person. The University has decided to follow public health guidelines and any term that begins while we are still restricted from meeting in large groups will be an online term. These include CPS Spring 1, Summer 1 and CPS Summer 1. There are others that start later like the Law School Summer which begins in late May. The University will make those decisions as it gets closer to those dates but the Provost's guess is that all of these terms will move to online. The Provost said they are trying to avoid nervousness in our decision making when there is so much nervousness around us.

The Provost said currently research at the University is open. He said at some point the city may cause us to lock down but right now, the University is still operational though the University is advising people to work from home where at all possible.

The Provost said at request of the city, all students were asked to leave the dorms and return home. Undergraduates and MS students, whether they were in the dorms or living off campus, were encouraged to return home and continue their online learning. The Provost said there are a number of people for whom this doesn't work. If, for example, they live in a foreign country and the borders have been closed and they can't return or for other socio-economic reasons they can't leave here. The Provost said some dorms may be used to house students who can't return home. If we have the kind of challenge to the healthcare system that some people are predicting, other dorms may be used as make-shift hospitals or quarantine wards.

The Provost said the now standard set-up for building security on campus is that campus buildings are locked down. To gain entrance to buildings, people need to call NUPD. The Provost added buildings with 1 or 2 people are a security concern. The Provost said Snell Library as a library is virtual but the building is locked down. The Marino Center is locked down now because there are no users left.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Prof. Caracoglia asked if other commencement ceremonies that occur later like CPS and the Law School would be cancelled as well. Provost Bean said yes. He said they are still considering what to do about ceremonies that are later in August.

The Provost noted that commencements were important for their families and eventually the University would want to satisfy that interest when the University can.

Prof. Caracoglia asked for research, will there be power in the buildings as usual? Would he be able to reach his office and lab over the next few months?

The Provost said they don't expect any power shutdowns associated with the Covid-19 crisis. He added that David Luzzi is coordinating with all the colleges to find out what needs to be kept up and running. They are cataloging activities and experiments that must continue and are trying to be ready for the case if the city declares a shut down.

Prof. Caracoglia asked if people who have books from the library can renew them online. Prof. Bourns asked what would occur with interlibrary loans. Dean Cohen said there would be no charges for extension or failure to return books. Dean Cohen also sent a link to the Snell Library Resources page: <https://library.northeastern.edu/accessing-northeastern-university-libraris-resources-and-services>. Dean Cohen added that library fees should not accrue during this time. If there is a fee associated with your items, the library will waive those fees once the library service desk re-opens. He also added that on interlibrary loans, the library could potentially digitize and ship to faculty. Please see: <https://library.northeastern.edu/services/borrow-renew/request-from-other-libraries/if-you-need-an-article>.

Prof. Bourns asked how can faculty return books that they have now? Dean Cohen said there are no return slots outside the library and that faculty should hold onto their books.

Dean Cohen said there is a whole resilience link up. He added the library has upped their web and online chat because they don't have people in the building. If people reach out, they will do the best to get faculty what they need. Provost Bean added the overall goal is to maintain the operations of the university as best as we can. He added the University community is doing a good job adapting to rapidly changing circumstances.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Prof. Gonyeau read the following and Prof. Powers-Lee seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that, effective by the Fall 2020 Semester, the current TRACE survey be revised to include two diversity/inclusion queries: (1) modification of the current Likert scale query "The instructor treated students with respect" to "The instructor facilitated a

respectful and inclusive learning environment” and (2) addition of the open-ended query “Please expand on the instructor’s strengths and areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.”

Prof. Gonyeau yielded the floor to Erykah Kangbeya, SGA Vice President for Student Affairs. Erykah noted that this was work that the SGA started a year ago in order to recognize and meet student needs. There was a lot of support from the community to add these questions. She said they did a lot of work on gathering input as to how the questions should be phrased. She added that this is in line with the Northeastern 2025 vision.

Provost Bean recognized Prof. Wendy Smith. Prof. Smith said as a member of the Faculty Development Committee (FDC), she wanted to emphasize how important these additions are for students. As the VP of SGA indicated, they have been working on these for a long time and they received direct input and feedback from CATLR on these. Prof. Smith wanted to give her voice of support from FDC and indicate how much work has gone into this. She added she thought the hesitancy to roll this into an broad change of TRACE, that will take a long time, is well founded and that is why this has come up as a separate issue.

Friendly amendment from Prof. Bourns offered a proposed change to the open ended question. She asked that “and/or” replace “and” in the last sentence of the resolution.

“Please expand on the instructor’s strengths and areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning” would be changed to ““Please expand on the instructor’s strengths and/or areas for improvement in facilitating inclusive learning.”

Both Prof. Gonyeau and Prof. Powers-Lee accepted this change as a friendly amendment.

Prof. Dennerlein said with “and/or” people might only talk about weaknesses. He said he worries about only getting negative comments and not the positive comments. Could we separate these into two separate responses? Could we ask for strengths and then separately about weaknesses?

Prof. Gonyeau yielded the floor to Erykah Kangbeya. She said thought the “and/or” could confuse student as to what they should be reflecting on.

There being no further discussion, the vote was taken. The resolution, including the friendly amendment PASSED: 20-0-0.

B. Prof. Erdogmus read the following and Prof. Spencer seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed module entitled “Procedural Guidelines in the Appointment and Evaluation of University Administrators” replace the current module entitled “Procedural Guidelines in the Appointment of University Administrators”.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There were no questions.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 21-0-0.

- C. Prof. Painter presented the report of the Enrollment and Admissions Policy Committee (EAPC)

The report can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

- D. Prof. Ergun read the following and Prof. Spencer seconded.

Whereas NU-In programs represent a valuable, dynamic, global learning experience for freshmen students, and whereas NU-In programs are currently experiencing rapid revision, expansion, and oversight,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee charge the 2022-2023 EAPC to monitor the experience of NU-In students, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and the Chancellor, with a particular reference to NU-In student exit surveys and TRACE evaluations in comparison with similar metrics for Fall Freshmen.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There were no questions.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 27-0-0.

- E. Prof. Ergun read the following and Prof. Hayward seconded.

Whereas PlusOne programs represent a growing option for students to access intrinsically valuable and accelerated Master's degrees; and whereas PlusOne programs encourage Northeastern undergraduate students to stay at the University to complete their Master's degree,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommends that the Provost's Office establish a uniform, standardized process for PlusOne admissions, explore greater visibility of marketing for PlusOne programs in the course catalog, employ a single user-friendly system for PlusOne applications (such as the Apply Yourself system that is currently widely used for Northeastern graduate applications), and retain the current policy of exempting applicants from submitting standardized testing scores, application fee, and transcripts.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Dean Loeffelholz asked if the committee explicitly discussed whether CPS admissions would be part of this process. Prof. Ergun recognized Prof. Zulick, one of the the co-chairs of EAPC, who said the committee did consider CPS when thinking about PlusOnes and the admissions process.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 23-0-0.

- F. Prof. Ergun read the following and Prof. Spencer seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommends that the Provost's Office work with the deans to standardize undergraduate academic advising for all PlusOne Programs and to provide ready access to graduate academic advising for undergraduates interested in the

PlusOne Programs.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Prof. Lerner asked if we know now that that is not happening? He added as far as he understood in CSSH, advising is already doing those activities. Prof. Ergun said this was not uniform in all the colleges and there are actually programs in certain colleges where there are issues of students not knowing who to talk to.

Provost Bean said he thought the University was going through an adolescent to an adulthood stage. As the University evolves, it will be much more Humanics oriented. The Provost said he thought this would add to advising burdens and we probably do need a centralized mechanism that we can coordinate advising across all these substantial cross – college combinations.

Prof. Wood said he was unclear as to whether this was going to fall on the regular undergraduate advising staff or is there some other body that would take this on. Prof. Ergun responded that currently there is confusion around this issue. She said that the hope of the resolution is to encourage the university in the future to resolve this issue.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 27-0-0.

- G. Prof. Ergun read the following and Prof. Lerner seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee monitor the change in PlusOne management, marketing, and growth in partnership with the Office of the Provost in AY 2020-2021, with a particular reference to accessibility, flexibility and ease of application to PlusOne programs.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There were no questions.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 24-0-0.

- H. Prof. McOwen summarized the Report of the Academic Policy Committee.
The report can be found on the Faculty Senate website.
- I. Prof. Bart provided an Update on the 2019 Dialog of Civilizations.
This summary report can be found on the Faculty Senate website.
- J. Prof. Gonyeau read the following and Prof. McNabb seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate Agenda Committee establish a working group, with membership drawn from faculty, students, staff (Assessment Director and/or CATLR staff), associate deans and the Office of the Provost, to draft for future Senate consideration customized versions of the TRACE queries for common categories of classes, including online/hybrid, lab, and Dialogue of Civilizations.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There were no questions.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 24-0-0.

K. Prof. Gonyeau read the following and Prof. McNabb seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that, effective by the Fall 2020 Semester, the current TRACE survey be revised as shown in the document TRACE revision 2020, with elimination of redundant sections of the survey resulting in 10 fewer queries.

Prof. Powers-Lee explained that this is an editing of the current TRACE questionnaire to make it more user friendly for students, who need to fill out a lot of these and each one is very time consuming. The SGA has done student surveys that indicate a large majority of responding students view the current TRACE as too long.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There were no questions.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 25-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Deniz Erdogmus
Senate Secretary