



# Northeastern University

## Office of the Faculty Senate

**TO:** FACULTY SENATE  
**FROM:** Deniz Erdogan, Secretary and Joan Collins, Executive Assistant, Faculty Senate  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes, 14 November, 2018

Present: (Professors) Adams, Barberis, Bart, Beauchesne, Bourns, Brooks, Cisewski, Dennerlein, De Ritis, Desnoyers, Dyal-Chand, Ergun, Erdogan, Kelly, Kevoe Feldman, Lerner, McOwen, Onan, Powers-Lee, Shefelbine, Stephens, Vicino, Wahl, Wertheim, Wood

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

Absent: (Professors) Andrews, Dau, Hayward, Kaeli, Stowell  
(Administrators) Hackney, Ronkin

**CALL TO ORDER:** Provost Bean convened Senate at 11:48 a.m.

**MINUTES** of 24 October were approved.

### I. SAC REPORT

- Since the last Senate meeting, SAC has met 3 times, with 1 meeting including Provost Bean.
- Topics included the Compensation module.
- Graduate Council has approved a Concentration in Computer Science for the DMSB MBA.
- Senators De Ritis, Hayward, Onan, Shefelbine & Wertheim, and SAC participated in meetings with the NECHE site visit team.
- New Senators, with Spring 2018 terms, have been elected by BCHS (1 Senator) and CAMD (2 Senators)
  - To replace Senators who will be on sabbatical in Spring '19: Jack Dennerlein, Ed Andrews and Tony De Ritis
- Michelle Carr, Senior Lecturer, Communication Studies, CAMD
- Michael Gonyeau, Clinical Professor, Pharmacy and Health Science Systems, BCHS
- David Herlihy, Teaching Professor, Music, CAMD
- Election for SAC member to replace Jack Dennerlein at the 1/9/19 Senate meeting
- Staffing for two Ad hoc Academic Appeals Committees
  - Undergraduate -- Laurie Edwards, Associate Teaching Professor, English, CSSH & William Robertson, Associate Professor, CCIS
  - Graduate -- Bert Spector, Associate Professor, DMSB & TBA
- Faculty Participation in Administrator Surveys
  - Carla Brodley, Dean, CCIS: 136 requests sent, 66 surveys completed
  - Ken Henderson, Dean, COS: 292 requests sent, 97 surveys completed
  - Anthony Braga, Director, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice: 21 requests sent, 16 surveys completed
  - José Buscaglia, Chair, Cultures, Societies & Global Studies: 16 requests sent, 12 surveys completed
  - Mike Pollastri, Chair, Chemistry and Chemical Biology: 36 requests sent, 21 surveys completed

- NCH at Northeastern - Thanks to our Faculty Senate representatives
  - Neal Lerner, CSSH
  - Sandra Shefelbine, COE

For their extensive work over the last year on the partnership between Northeastern and London-based New College of Humanities

## II. PROVOST REPORT:

The Provost noted that the partnership between Northeastern and London-based New College of Humanities (NCH) was very exciting. He noted that the college is a very high-end liberal arts college that was founded by 5 Oxford professors who wanted the Humanities to be a part of everyday life. Provost Bean acknowledged this is actually an acquisition. For the first period, a year and a half or so, NCH will be treated as a separate college with its own governance structure, its own faculty and its own students. This is necessary for the ongoing accreditation in the U.K. One of the upsides here is that it usually takes about six years to get accreditation in the U.K. NCH is about a year and half away from being done.

During that period, we will be discussing various issues such as are NCH faculty going to be represented on the Faculty Senate? Can NCH students participate in all our programs?

Initially, we will be treating those students like special students from another college. We will probably invite them to join Dialogues or to do PlusOne programs. The formality of merging of faculty and students is an undecided issue that we will be figuring out with the Senate over a period of time.

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

There were no questions on either report.

## III. UNIVERSITY UPDATE with Provost Bean and Senior Vice President and CEO of the Lifelong Learning Network Philomena Mantella

*(The University Update Presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website.)*

### PROVOST BEAN

- Provost Bean noted updates regarding a couple of leadership changes. Cole Campese is now Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. James Hackney was appointed Dean of the School of Law after a national search. Dean Hackney had spent a couple of years working as chief of staff for the President and so this is a good opportunity to bring that university perspective to the School of Law. David Luzzi has been appointed Senior Vice Provost for Research and Vice President of the Innovation Campus at Burlington, MA.
- Regarding reviews, the Provost noted that this year there will be a 5 year review of Dean Brodley, CCIS and a 3 year review of Dean Henderson, COS. Over the past couple of months, the Provost has been meeting with many subgroups regarding these reviews.

- Oct. 28-31, NECHE conducted its decennial visit to the University. Though the initial feedback was positive, NECHE indicated there were a couple of areas that the University could work on. They indicated certain professional degrees have higher debt levels than they had seen at other schools. Also, some Northeastern students take too long to graduate. Overall, the group was overwhelmed with the alignment of mission and vision from the academic plan through the administration, through the faculty, through the department chairs and the deans.

#### SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT MANTELLA ON ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT & NETWORK ACTIVITY

- On Undergraduate education Northeastern continues to perform very well in the market. Every year, there is a rise in applications and every year that rise is in the top half of the class. The profile of our students continues to grow. Our admit rate is below 20% - the most selective. SAT continues to rise. We continue to diversify our student base.

Similarly, our graduation rates, satisfaction rates, and retention rates are rising. With this entering class, we are able to support 100% of demonstrated need.

The University continues to offer the Northeastern Promise that makes a commitment for 8 semesters and then couples that with option to reevaluate if a 2<sup>nd</sup> student goes to school or a parent loses a job. Our participation in co-op and global experiences continues to rise.

- Over the last couple of years, the network has been evolving. As we have worked closely with Provost Bean, we have tried to create one Northeastern view and a network supporting our activities out of region and online. With some restructuring and new hires, Vice President Mantella feels we are at a place where this has coherence.

#### PROVOST BEAN – PHD AND RESEARCH

- Among many statistics regarding Graduate Programs, Provost Bean noted that 33% of our domestic graduate students are minority students. He added in the PHD area, Northeastern is going more towards quality rather than quantity. The PhD program is really about getting the best students possible in appropriate numbers to support our research function and some of the teaching they cover.

Last year we introduced the concept of PhD Network. This year we have formalized the roles of Sara Wadia-Fascetti and Phil He. Generally, administrative functions are in the PhD Network. Phil He continues to work on graduate functions that overlap with the Senate and he has moved much of his attention to Academic Affairs working with Deb Franko.

#### QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

The following is a sampling of questions following the presentation.

Noting that admission standards have improved quite a bit, Prof. Adams asked Vice President Mantella to what extent there is a feedback loop in terms of admission criteria and how well the

students do 2, 3 or 4 years down the road. Vice President Mantella said that they watch students all through their progression.

Professor Lerner noted that a few years ago there was some concern about retention of international students and asked what is the status of that issue? Vice President Mantella responded that it is still slightly below by a percent or two if you are looking at the tracking of retention. But its performance is improving. She said they feel they have identified the relevant issues impacting this issue.

Prof. Wertheim said the increase in the SAT scores (Mean SAT for 2018 is 1469) is impressive. He wondered what students were not covered by that number? Vice President Mantella said it is about 50/50 the number of students who now take SATs and ACTs and there is a concordance table that provides a way to look at those two things together. With some international students, depending on whether or not that test is relevant, there is a percentage of our international students where their scores are not used as a part of the calculation for admissions. The *N.U.in* students are slightly below because they are not getting into freshmen entry. But their number is above 1400 as well.

Prof. Adams noted another area where the university has improved is the meeting of demonstrated need at 100%. He asked does that apply to spring admits or just fall admits? Vice President Mantella said spring admits have a slightly different profile because they can't get financial aid until they are fully admitted to the university and they are not fully admitted to the university if they are on a partner program like *N.U.in*.

Prof. Adams asked in defining demonstrated need, is there a universal way of doing that that all colleges use? Vice President Mantella said yes, there is a universal way but colleges nuance it. For example, in cases of divorce, some colleges might differ on whether to count the income of the non-custodial parent. Vice President Mantella said that the University's objective is for the student to make it through the degree without finances interrupting it.

Professor Stephens asked Provost Bean to say something about distribution of the 9 colleges and how they are interacting or not. She added she was thinking of distribution in light of the 2025 goals with new faculty and how would they get allocated.

Provost Bean responded that he felt Prof. Stephens was pushing at the budget model because that is what drives those issues. He said Northeastern has an interesting variation on RCM. It is roughly half RCM and half strategic. RCM part means that basically half the tuition goes to the Deans. Faculty hiring for the most comes up from the schools and colleges.

The Provost added that it is a complicated top down, bottom up communication process. The concept of allocating faculty slots doesn't exist. It is what the colleges can afford. The colleges have different financial, temporal challenges that impact their abilities to hire faculty.

Prof. DeRitis asked Vice President Mantella and the Provost what they would be talking about 5 years from now when they are talking about the success of the New College of Humanities (NCH) and its relationship to Northeastern? And over time, will there be an enhanced relationship with the NCH and CSSH and CAMD?

Vice President Mantella said they see a great deal of synergy in the way NCH thinks about the Humanities and thinks about its relationship to experience and about its relationships with business and industry in the UK. The Vice President added that they think this platform and partnership will bring more attention to CSSH and CAMD.

Professor Lerner recognized a reporter from the Huntington News. The reporter said a Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Wall Street Journal article reporting on the acquisition of the New College of the Humanities also mentioned Northeastern University wants to expand into Asia. The reporter asked if this was accurate. Vice President Mantella responded that the University is not actively pursuing a campus in Asia at the moment but that the University is very interested in its global footprint.

#### IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

##### A. Graduate Policy Revision (Professor He)

**BE IT RESOLVED That the proposed version of the Graduate Academic Appeals Policies and Procedures, as approved by the Graduate Council, and as reviewed by the Office of General Counsel and the Graduate Student Government, replace the current Graduate Academic Appeals Policies and Procedures.**

Prof. Erdogmus seconded.

Professor He explained that because the University has evolved and undergone many changes, the Graduate Policy was due for an update. A committee including Linda Allen, Natasha Frost, Chris Madison, Tom Sheehan and Prof. He was formed to revise the policy. They worked together for the last 7 months on the proposal consulting with the Graduate Student Government, General Counsel, Provost Office, Graduate Deans and Senate Agenda Committee. The proposal was approved by the Graduate Council on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>.

Professor Brooks asked if Prof. He could outline the main changes. Professor He said they streamlined the language. Also, the revisions now provide a pretty specific timeline for when a student should file an appeal and when the college should respond. The new proposal also changes the ad hoc committee to standing committee appointed by the Faculty Senate. It also takes into account the changing composition of university by adding language in regards to international students. The new policy applies to all colleges including CPS and the Law School.

Professor Adams asked how many appeals are made in a given year. Professor He said that given the student size, they have a very manageable number of appeals. In the past 7 years, he did not recall when there were more than 5 in a year (including MA and PhD.)

VOTE to approve Graduate Policy Revision PASSED 31-0-0.

The Senate adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deniz Erdogmus, Secretary, Faculty Senate