



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, November 6, 2019

Present: Professors: Bourns, Caracoglia, Carr, Cisewski, Desnoyers, Dyal-Chand, Ergun, Erdogmus, Goluch, Hayward, Laboy, Lerner, McNabb, Mountain, Musselman, Mylott, Powers-Lee, Shapiro, Shefelbine, Spencer, Stephens, Vollmer, Wahl, Wertheim

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

Absent: (Professors) Bart, Bormann, Chai, Dau, Dennerlein, Kevoe Feldman, Stowell, Wood
(Administrators) Ziemer

CALL TO ORDER: 11: 48 a.m.

Minutes of 10.2.19 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

I. SAC REPORT

- Prof. Powers-Lee noted that, since the last Senate meeting SAC has met six times, with one meeting including the Provost, and one including the Senior Leadership Team. Topics included Faculty Handbook revisions and follow-up on Senate resolutions, including those on benefits.
- The SAC liaisons for various standing committees introduced the members of each committee and reviewed the committee charges. These committees included the Administrator Evaluation Oversight Committee (AEOC), the Information Technology Policy Committee (ITPC), the Research Policy Oversight Committee (RPOC), Full-Time Non-Tenure-Track Committee (FTNTTC), Faculty Development Committee (FDC), Academic Policy Committee (APC) and Library and Information Collaboration Committee (LICC). (A complete listing of all Standing Committees, including charges and membership, can be found on the Faculty Senate website.)
- Prof. Sue Powers-Lee reviewed the membership for the current Chair Search Committees for the Theatre, Psychology, Mathematics and Political Science Departments.
- A complete SAC report can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

II. PROVOST REPORT

- In light of the joint presentation by Provost Bean and Chancellor Henderson, the Provost did not offer a report.

There were no questions or discussions regarding the SAC report.

III. UNIVERSITY UPDATE with PROVOST BEAN and CHANCELLOR HENDERSON.

In their presentation, Provost Bean and Chancellor Henderson presented a joint integrated look at the restructure of the Provost's Office and the Chancellor's Office. The presentation noted strategic priorities, new appointments and new policies. The complete presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

The following is a sampling of questions asked following the presentation. In relation to the project with the Colonial Group to create a matchmate salary database for NTTF, Prof. Lerner asked Provost Bean how were the 5 institutions chosen. The Provost responded that everyone was invited and 5 agreed. He added those institutions that were engaged in union negotiations with NTTF declined to participate.

Prof. Wahl asked Chancellor Henderson if the London campus could be used to increase Northeastern's visibility in Europe. Chancellor Henderson said there were two aspects to this answer. From an enrollment management perspective, the University has moved away from using contractors to having our own people on the ground for recruitment fairs and visiting high schools. Right now the University has 16 recruiters mostly in Asia but some in Europe as well.

The Chancellor added another part of this was brand, adding Northeastern was not yet a global brand. He said there was an upcoming meeting scheduled with Mike Armini, Senior Vice President for External Affairs and the regional deans to discuss how do we build a strategy for a global brand as an organization. He added another way to build brand from a university perspective was through research. More outward facing activities from our faculty would increase our research profile.

Prof. Stephens asked Chancellor Henderson in general about mobility and how does our global network and mobility strategy interface with social movements about sustainability and the movement to avoid travel? Chancellor Henderson said we already started activities about building a global mindset. Being immersed in a culture is irreplaceable for an individual learning experience. However, in terms of administration, we are always using technology to bring people together (ex. Microsoft Teams). He added three of his direct reports don't even live in Boston.

The Provost added that we are at the start of a process that will take about a year to completely replace the entire communications structure of the university.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Prof. Gonyeau read the following and Prof. Hayward seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed module entitled "Rights and Responsibilities" replace the current module entitled "Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Rights and Responsibilities".

Prof. Musselman expressed a concern from someone who had been on the Faculty Handbook Committee about language in the original module that had been removed. Prof. Gonyeau also expressed concern on the part of a faculty member who had also been on the Faculty Handbook Committee about this sentence. Prof. Gonyeau said this faculty person would like that language

retained in the module.

The original sentence in question was:

It is incumbent on the university to create and nurture a critical mass of tenured and tenure track faculty members to maintain the range and quality of its programs.

Prof. Gonyeau said that the rationale from this faculty member was that the best reason to insist on greater proportional number of tenure track faculty is to make sure the jobs are higher quality. The faculty person added that effective self-governance of faculty in support of our research mission depends on the protections and privilege of tenure. And that precisely because the faculty can't control the hiring agenda of the university, this is an important statement of principle and why it was in the Faculty Handbook in the first place.

Provost Bean said the language was taken out by the OGC.

Prof. Powers-Lee said that SAC was comfortable with the removal because they felt there was no definition of critical mass. They did not see it as an integral statement. Prof. Vollmer asked how senators should be looking at the documents. Are there other deletions due to counsel? Prof. Powers-Lee responded that with so many changes, tracking them would make the document cumbersome to read.

Provost Bean said the main changes here are to change this from tenure-track rights document to a faculty rights document. The Provost said the options were to accept as is or table so that we can talk to the general counsel or amend it and then he would not sign until he spoke with the general counsel.

Prof. Shapiro asked what would be the consequences of tabling the module. Prof. Powers-Lee said it would be good to see what the Senate wanted to do and not just table the module with no changes.

Prof. Lerner moved that the Senate add to section B at the end of the first paragraph the language read by Prof. Gonyeau. Prof. Gonyeau was asked to read the language again and noted that this was modified language from the original as recommended by former members of the Faculty Handbook Committee (see below). Provost Bean said he agreed with Prof. Powers-Lee that the statement had no teeth.

It is incumbent on the university to create and nurture a critical mass of tenured and tenure track faculty members to maintain and support the research agenda of the university and the oversight of its programs.

Prof. Desnoyers seconded the motion.

Provost Bean noted that some NTTF are research faculty.

The vote was taken. The motion to adding that passage to the draft failed, 9-13-4.

The vote was taken on the resolution that the module entitled "Rights and Responsibilities" replace the current module entitled "Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Rights and Responsibilities",

PASSED, 20-2-5.

Prof. McNabb read the following and Prof. Hayward seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed module entitled “Performance Expectations” replace the current module entitled “Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Performance Expectations”.

The vote was taken. The resolution that the module entitled “Performance Expectations” replace the current module entitled “Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Performance Expectations”, PASSED, 24-0-3.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Deniz Erdogmus
Senate Secretary.