



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: All Full-time Faculty Members
FROM: Faculty Senate Agenda Committee
SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Meeting

The seventh meeting of the Sixtieth Faculty Senate will be:

Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Time: 11:45 AM to 1:25 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING via TEAMS

Please note, the meeting will be recorded for the purpose of taking notes.

All Senators and Appointed Administrators have been sent an invite.

For others who wish to participate, please email: FacultySenate@neu.edu.

I. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the 10/21/2020 minutes
- B. SAC Report (Professor Erdogmus)
- C. Provost's Report (Provost Madigan)
- D. Questions and Discussion

II. DIANE LEVIN, UNIVERSITY OMBUDS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

The View from the Ombuds Office: Trends in 2020

III. MICHELE GRAZULIS, VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER SUSAN UHL-MILLER, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES LISA BRODERICK, BENEFITS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Presentation on Upcoming Benefits

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution on Spring 2021 remote work policy (Professor Erdogmus)

Whereas COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Boston, in Massachusetts, and throughout the country, public health experts are recommending staying home and reducing in-person contact;

Whereas the recently announced Spring 2021 remote work policy is clearly in contradiction with current trends in virus proliferation and public safety in the greater Boston area;

Whereas most state and local agencies, and school districts are postponing phased re-opening or in-person activities;

Whereas the numbers of positive cases at Northeastern's Boston campus are currently low principally because of low face-to-face interaction and low density due to a limited number of people coming from off-campus;

Whereas the faculty and campus community at Northeastern University will be exposed to unnecessary physical health risks on-and off-campus by a premature return to in-person instruction and their department offices and suites, where space does not allow maintaining social distance at the regular occupancy levels;

Whereas a forced return to campus can exacerbate mental health conditions of the faculty and campus community;

Whereas faculty and staff have significant additional burdens of caregiving during the pandemic, and most have been unable to find caregivers to help;

Whereas faculty have invested substantial effort and time to adapt their instruction and introduced significant pedagogical innovations catered to the remote format, and mandating NUFlex-only mode of instruction reduces the quality of instruction for many interactive and discussion-based courses;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Senate recommends extension of the option that allows faculty and staff members to teach courses, provide service, and conduct research remotely through Spring 2021; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Senate recommends that approval and authorization process for remote work be directly administered by College Deans and Unit Heads, following the Fall 2020 guidelines of "Option 2" designated by the University Administration.