



# Northeastern University

## Office of the Faculty Senate

**TO:** Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Secretary, Faculty Senate  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes, 18 November, 2020

Present: (Professors) Bart, Beighley, Board, Caracoglia, Carr, Chai, Cisewski, Dau, Dennerlein, Desnoyers, Erdogmus, Ergun, Gonyeau, Gundavaram, Herlihy, Laboy, Lorette, Mages, McNabb, Mountain, Mukerjee, Musselman, Poe, Smith, Spencer, Stephens, Stowell, Wertheim, Wood, Zulick

Administrators: Madigan, Gallagher, Isaacs, Loeffelholz, Poiger, Ronkin, Sive

Absent: (Professors) Bormann, Su, Vollmer

(Administrators)

**CALL TO ORDER:** 11:45 a.m.

The November 4, 2020 minutes were approved.

### I. SAC REPORT

Prof. Erdogmus reported that SAC met twice and worked offline with elected senators and senate committee members on potential resolution proposals for the December 2nd senate meeting.

Two questions came up in interactions with elected senators:

- Will reduced cost daily parking benefits continue in the spring term?
- Can unit heads decide on remote work requests while keeping faculty appeal to provost as an option?

SAC met with Provost Madigan & Sr. Vice Provost Deb Franko once, in addition to email communications. Topics of discussion included:

- Faculty remote work policy for Spring 2021
- Upcoming faculty handbook NTT faculty dismissal module
- Progress on gathering institutional data for senate committees

Prof. Erdogmus noted that the 2021 Klein Lectureship announcement was emailed on November 13, 2020.

Prof. Erdogmus added that at the last meeting, a motion by Prof. Vollmer to remove the “Whereas” statements that was thought to fail actually passed. Due to time constraints there was a rush in the vote counting. Sincere apologies to Prof. Vollmer. As a remedy, since Teams icon based voting did not work in a stressful situation, the Senate will now try a Qualtrics based voting system to make voting more accurate.

### II. PROVOST REPORT

Provost Madigan reported that the parking discount for the daily passes will continue into the spring. MasParc is also offering discounts on some of the regular permits. Regarding hardship requests,

Provost Madigan said that in response to the Senate resolution they have been made anonymous. Requests arrive in the Provost's Office without names. There should not be any concern about disclosure of personal information.

Provost Madigan said the University is initiating a new strategic planning exercise. A half dozen working groups have been created to push ahead with aspects of the plan. Whole idea is to be highly inclusive and involve anyone who wants to be involved – faculty, students, alums, staff, neighbors, employers. The timing of the process will probably take us into heart of spring semester.

Chancellor Henderson and Provost Madigan have been conducting Town Halls in the last couple of weeks. They have been useful in terms of finding out what is on everyone's minds.

There is also an effort underway to phone every single first year student to thank the students for being here and get their feedback. That information will be summarized and made available.

The Provost said leadership and the epidemic modelers are watching and monitoring a rise in number of positive cases. It was thought this was a result of Halloween parties. Contact tracing suggests this is not the complete case. Most cases are largely unrelated and are off campus. Seems this is just a result of a rise in cases in Boston.

There is no immediate concern in terms of operating the campus. The University is well below capacity in wellness beds.

After Thanksgiving, expect reduced density on campus. Students who go home for the break are being encouraged to stay there. Those that come back will need two negative tests before going to class.

What matters for spring is what Boston looks like late December early January.

#### **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Provost Madigan said in the Town Halls there has been discussion on the drop-off of students using the available class slots. While there are many dimensions to this, one piece has to do with the Scheduler. Cole Campese, V.P. for Information Technology, and his team are developing Scheduler.2. Students are finding it difficult to juggle classes in person and online. The University is opening a number of spaces for students to use in the spring.

One thing to emphasize in the run up to spring, is the social contact. Students should come to class. Don't want heavy hand but light hand should be -- come to class. There are concerns about mental health issues. Students should be encouraged to interact with the campus community.

- Prof. Herlihy asked if there will be a survey of students, so faculty can come to them with a data driven approach?

Provost Madigan said students will be surveyed about class attendance.

- Prof. Laboy said that some students have pointed to the inconvenience of having to do some class on campus and then rush to get back to do online classes. If they don't get seats for two classes on the same day, they don't want to bother.

Provost Madigan said they have heard these comments over and over. The Scheduler in the spring will allow the students much more fine grain control for which classes they want to be in. But there is also a sense of a kind of malaise among students.

- Prof. Spencer asked when faculty can expect a response to requests to be remote? Especially those who have submitted through HR?

Sr. Vice Provost Franko said that HR requests will be in parallel with hardship requests.

- Prof. Herlihy asked if faculty did submit a level 1 request early on, do they need to submit a new request now that there is a new form?

Sr. Vice Provost Franko said no. If someone has done their form and are finished, no need to resubmit.

### **III. Presentation by Cole Camplese, V.P. for Information Technology and C.I.O.**

VP Camplese gave an overview of what they are doing in Information Technology services during the pandemic and beyond. He noted highlights in the areas of Academic Technologies and Research Computing; Information Security; Network Telephony, Data Center; Enterprise Apps & Business Intelligence; Engagement & Customer Experience.

He said it had been fantastic working with so many faculty this fall and thanked everyone for their feedback noting without faculty input, they couldn't do their job.

#### **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Caracoglia asked, in regards to Microsoft Azure, if the University had capabilities to do any cloud computing or parallel computing. Microsoft Azure usually charges the user.

VP Camplese said yes. They have two landing zones. One with Amazon Web Services and one with Microsoft Azure. Both of which do have credits available and offered to manage those centrally with Prof. Caracoglia.

- Prof. Desnoyers said that although he had a few of annoyances with the rollout this fall, he had never seen a rollout a quarter of this magnitude with as few problems. Prof. Desnoyers also said as IT looks at a new hiring system to please make sure faculty hiring is taken care of.
- Prof. Erdogmus said the University doesn't have a convenient data storage location that is outward facing. For example, if we publish papers and want to make data sets available with a pertinent link, right now we don't have good solution for this. He has been trying to use the data repository maintained by the Library but the interface is not convenient. Are there plans for some kind of Northeastern scientific repository that can be our outward facing location?

VP Camplese said this was a really good question. He said they have licensed Globus as a way to store and share and access data. VP Camplese asked Prof. Erdogmus, to meet with him and VP Spencer Pruitt to think about the most appropriate way to proceed with that. Prof. Erdogmus said that increasingly funding agencies require that we make all data available so we need a University solution.

- Prof. Mountain asked if the University was considering a site license for Salesforce? She said a lot of people in the co-op community are using it and it is very expensive per person by the month.

VP Camplese said they do currently have site licenses and he will connect Prof. Mountain with the right people.

- Prof. Carr asked if there was an app in the works for faculty that would allow them to do their wellness check and schedule a test on their phone.

VP Camplese said they are working on this with the app store. Because it is considered health related, it makes the process a little longer.

#### **IV. Dean Dan Cohen, Vice Provost For Information Collaboration And Dean, University Library : "Remaking The Library During Covid And Beyond"**

Dean Cohen gave highlights about trends in services, collections, space and future renovations. The complete presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

##### **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Provost Madigan asked what is the future for books? Will the books that were taken offsite come back?

Dean Cohen said that a couple of years ago the Library moved about 2/3 of the books off campus. These were books that hadn't been circulated in 10 years or more or had high use electronic equivalents. They had about 170,000 volumes left. We've identified some section of those books that will return to a floor in the library. These will be combined with archival collections. These books are ones that have no electronic surrogates like musical scores.

- Prof. Caracoglia said the Library has a nice collection of ancient maps. Does the Library have any concerns about these maps being removed?

Dean Cohen said the maps that are public just the tip of the ice berg. He said they want to teach with the archives and want students to interact with these artifacts. It is part of what they want to do in expanding and increasing the aperture of the floors.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Prof. Bart read the following and Prof. Erdogmus seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Management in the D'Amore-McKim School of Business as approved by the University Graduate Council 28 October 2020 (15-0-0).**

VOTE on the Master of Science in Management in the D'Amore-McKim School of Business  
PASSED: 34-0-0.

B. Prof. Board read the following and Prof. Dennerlein seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Applied Nursing Research in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences as approved by the University Graduate Council 28 October 2020 (15-0-0).**

Prof. Board said this was in response to a call from the University for a PhD exit program. She explained it is for students who are already in the PhD program who for extenuating reasons are unable to complete the program. They wanted to offer such students a degree that reflects the time and work they have done. This would go into effect in fall 2021.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Dennerlein asked if this could still be a stand-alone MA program that would have admissions? Why strictly an opt out degree and not taking advantage of enrolloig MA students and be a feeder for the PhD program.  
Prof. Board responded that they would have to develop a different type of program. These are PhD courses. She said this could certainly be an idea for the future.

VOTE on the Master of Science in Applied Nursing Research in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences PASSED: 32-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Michael Gonyeau, Senate Secretary