



# Northeastern University

## Office of the Faculty Senate

**TO:** Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Secretary, Faculty Senate  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes, 3 February, 2021

Present: (Professors) Bart, Beighley, Board, Bormann, Caracoglia, Carr, Chai, Cisewski, Dau, Desnoyers, Erdogmus, Ergun, Gonyeau, Gundavaram, Hayward, Herlihy, Mages, McNabb, Mountain, Mukerjee, Musselman, Smith, Spencer, Stephens, Vollmer, Wertheim, Wood, Zulick

Administrators: Madigan, Gallagher, Poiger, Ronkin, Sive

Absent: (Professors) Dennerlein, Poe, Stowell  
(Administrators) Isaacs

**CALL TO ORDER:** 11:50 a.m.

The January 20, 2021 minutes were approved.

### I. SAC REPORT

Prof. Erdogmus reported that since the last Senate meeting SAC has met weekly preparing senate agendas and confirming speakers. These efforts included:

- Upcoming faculty handbook revisions on Academic Freedom and FTNTT Dismissal.
- Forming an Ad-hoc Committee on Climate Justice Action Planning.
- Staffing the committee for the annual University Excellence in Teaching Award Com.

Following today's meeting, SAC will meet with Provost Madigan and Sr. Vice Provost Franko. Topics of discussion will include the upcoming faculty handbook changes and the caregiving impact on faculty.

Curriculum inactivations include the following:

- Health Science Minor, BCHS (replaced by new Public Health minor)
- e-Learning and Instructional Design, Graduate Certificate, CPS (replaced by an MEd E-Learning and Instructional Design concentration)
- Learning Analytics, Graduate Certificate, CPS (low enrollment and course registrations)
- Adult and Organizational Learning, Graduate Certificate, CPS (replaced by an Med E-Learning and Instructional Design concentration)
- Leadership, MS, CPS (resubmission of a previously approved suspension proposal with revised approval record)
- Civil Engineering, PhD—Advanced Entry, COE (name change; PhD in Civil & Environmental Engineering - Direct and Advanced Entry)
- Civil Engineering, PhD, COE (name change; PhD in Civil & Environmental Engineering ( Direct and Advanced Entry)

## II. PROVOST REPORT

Provost Madigan provided a vaccination update. The University is at the beginning of Phase 2. When the University receives the next batch of vaccines, will be for those 65 years or older with 2 or more comorbidities.

The Provost also said faculty and staff town halls have been held in the past 2 weeks. Though attendance was relatively low, the Provost is willing to hold more of these events if the community would like more.

### QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- Prof. Ergun said she is receiving feedback from students and faculty about low student class attendance. It seems like there are still issues regarding testing cadence/user friendliness. Many students are falling out of compliance over the weekend. Some students still having issues with a mix of in person and fully remote classes. For remote classes, is there a place on campus where students can find a quiet place to sit and join class remotely? Prof. Ergun wondered from her own experience has the University made the remote option too appealing to students.

Provost Madigan said that in regards to compliance issues with students: if students come back into compliance on a Monday, they should be able to attend classes the next day based on the current plan, but he will double check that.

Regarding class schedules, Provost Madigan said a lot more spaces have been made available on campus this semester to allow students to have some classes remote while being on campus

The Provost added it is hard to know where the right balance between remote and in person learning. It is something that is evolving each semester. The University wants to continue to encourage students to be in person as much as possible, but cannot force them. Anecdotally, he said the numbers of students coming to campus is up.

- Prof. Laboy asked is NU thinking of testing for the new variants?

The Provost the current test tests at 3 locations on the virus genome, so it should be able to identify the UK and South African variants. The University also now has the ability to do full gene sequencing.

## III. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Dean Poiger read the following and Prof. Erdogmus seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Applied Quantitative Methods and Social Analysis in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities as approved by the University Graduate Council 13 January 2021 (12-0-0).**

Dean Poiger expressed her excitement about this program that relies on expertise built over the past few years. It uses data to ask questions about society, politics and other areas and will equip masters students to go into a number of professions.

Dean Poiger recognized Prof. & Associate Dean Tom Vicino. Prof. Vicino said the program aligns well with a number of university priorities. He added Co-op is an option for all students in this program.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Herlihy: asked about the practice of co-op information sharing.

Dean Poiger said that co-op coordinators work together to share information across programs in the university.

There were no further questions. The vote was taken. The resolution to approve the Master of Science in Applied Quantitative Methods and Social Analysis in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities PASSED: 32-0-0.

- B. Prof. Stephens read the following and Prof. Erdogmus seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Network Science in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities as approved by the University Graduate Council 13 January 2021 (13-0-0).**

Prof. Stephens said the program is to compliment the PhD in Network Science and serve as an off ramp if a student chooses to leave the PhD program.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Vollmer asked about which colleges are involved with this program and how curricula are managed?

Prof. Stephens acknowledge Prof. Vicino who said the PhD program is currently in transition from COS to CSSH, but remains a multi-disciplinary program involving 5 colleges. It will use existing curricula, and will not admit any students from the outside It is a largely a pro-forma measure.

There were no further questions. The vote was taken. The resolution to approve the Master of Science in Network Science in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities PASSED: 32-0-0.

- C. Prof. McNabb read the following and Prof. Erdogmus seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Professional Studies in Learning Experience Design & Technology in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the University Graduate Council 13 January 2021 (12-0-0).**

Prof. McNabb acknowledged Prof. Mahler who said the focus of the program is to build expertise in a number of professionals in learning design principles and technology. The program is experiential that contains embedded badging, updating current existing certificate programs.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Mages asked if there was concern regarding nomenclature? CAMD has a program in experience design, so there might be a bit of confusion here.

Prof. Mahler said they were making sure that the word learning is highlighted in the title. The field is moving in this direction in terms of naming of programs, which is why the title was developed in this way. The descriptions of the programs seem to discern the differences between the programs.

- Prof. Vollmer asked discussions took place based on this potential issue.

Prof. Mahler said they had not until the Graduate Council brought this up, and a slight name change was completed to reflect focus on learning as described.

There were no further questions. The vote was taken. The resolution to approve the Master of Professional Studies in Learning Experience Design & Technology in the College of Professional Studies PASSED: 28-0-4.

- D. Prof. Wertheim read the following and Prof. Erdogmus seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the Senate accept the report of the 2020/2021 Financial Affairs Committee.**

The report was accepted. (The report can be found on the Faculty Senate website.)

Prof. Wertheim noted AAUP data changes this year moving from compensation to salary. AAUP asked universities to include FTNTTF salaries. This meant our average salaries across the university decreased because of this. Not all of our match mates saw a decrease like Northeastern did. NU ranking on salaries went from 51 to 113 this year.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Smith asked if there is more information about the financial picture of the university as well as the FTNTTF salary data?

Prof. Wertheim said they have been trying to get this information for a number of years. It is difficult because of the way different universities classify their faculty. Maybe moving forward next year, the committee can get some progress on this issue.

- Prof. Spencer noted a marked disparity between men and women in report and asked is this something the committee would like to review moving forward?

Prof. Wertheim said yes. This is something that the committee should review in the future.

- Prof. Carr asked if the data in the chart includes all NTT in all titles?

Prof. Wertheim said only at professorial ranks.

- Prof. Gonyeau asked if now that AAUP is collecting salary data of FTNTTF, will this aid in the endeavor to better understand/compare FTNTTF salary data that we have been trying to get from Colonial Group?

Prof. Wertheim said yes.

Sr. Vice Provost Franko said Northeastern is not an AAUP university and she didn't think we had access to comparative salary data – but that should be verified with Rana Glasgal, Assoc. Vice Provost for Institutional Research & Decision Support.

- Prof. Herlihy asked if salaries between TT and NTT faculty are proven to be disparate, will there be an effort to bring them into parity?

Provost Madigan said it is a complicated issue due to the variety of NTT faculty titles and workloads, but something that could be investigated.

- E. Prof. Wertheim read the following and Prof. Erdogmus seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the recommended full-time faculty raise pool for merit and equity for FY 2022 be 4.0% of continuing salaries starting on July 1, 2021.**

VOTE on the resolution PASSED: 31-0-2.

- F. PRESENTATION BY BREEAN FORTIER, SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR BUDGET, PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION: Hybrid Budget Report – An Update to the Faculty Senate (The presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website.)

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Prof. Wertheim asked if Sr. Vice Provost Fortier could discuss how university surpluses fit into the budget?

She said that surpluses are reported before debt services, and before funds go back to colleges. Each year it is a different ratio about how much goes back to colleges and how much is retained by university for future investments. Last year 75% went back to colleges, 25% held by university.

- Prof. Erdogmus asked what fraction of money leaves a college and what fraction remains?

Vice Provost Fortier said ~50% is probably pretty accurate (which is what Provost Bean used to state). This depends on the college. NU RCM does have a lot more centralized support for economies of scale, which explains the common good rate here, but this should make things more efficient/adding value in many of the central services offered (i.e. library, registrars etc.)

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Michael Gonyeau, Senate Secretary