



Northeastern University

Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, September 28, 2022

Present: Professors: Avalon, Board, Caracoglia, Carr, Chiou, Cisewski, Di Credico, Folmar, Gonyeau, Kitagawa, Krishnamoorthy, Lin, Marano, McSherry, Molnar, Moore, Musselman, Rappaport, Rawson, Rolland, Sivak, Smith, Spencer, Strange, Toledano Laredo, Vollmer, Willey, Zulick

Administrators: Madigan, Hackney, Isaacs, Seshan, Wadia-Fascetti

Absent: (Professors) Godoy-Carter, Hertz, Jaeggli, Landsmark, Nieves
(Administrators) Mynatt, Reid

CALL TO ORDER: 11:45 a.m.

I. SAC REPORT:

- Prof. Gonyeau noted that each previous meeting's minutes will be considered approved via consent agenda.
- He reviewed some reminders about procedures such as speaking during meetings.
- Since the last Senate meeting SAC has met twice.
- The initial meetings of the Senate standing committees are now taking place.
- The 9.14.22 Senate newsletter has been sent to senators for collegewide distribution.
- The first elected senators meeting was held on 9.14.22.
- The senate continues with search committee work.
- SAC is developing a senate resolution dashboard to review past and current resolutions.
- SAC meets with Provost later today, 9.28.22. Topics will include: space planning, parking on Boston campus, and classroom space and technology.

II. PROVOST REPORT:

Provost Madigan highlighted 4 things in his report.

1. He is doing a series of faculty meetings with colleges, schools, departments, and groups over the next few weeks.
2. The London college is now officially called "Northeastern University-London". There has been a huge amount of progress aligning their existing degrees with NU degrees. There will be dual accreditation. In certain circumstances, there will be both a UK degree and a US degree.
3. Mills college at Northeastern – he visited last week. Going well. There is a lot of life there; classes started. Those students are now in "our" programs.
4. DMSB search committee is now reconstituted for this year's work. The first meeting is soon to be scheduled.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

There were no questions regarding either report.

III. PRESENTATION:**PRESIDENT AOUN'S ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE SENATE**

President Aoun noted that today the University is celebrating the 40th anniversary of Khoury College of Computer Sciences. If faculty see the dean, wish her well.

President Aoun shared an overview of what we are seeing in higher education.

1. We are seeing enormous demographic change; we are an aging population. The number of students applying to colleges, the 18-22 year olds, is shrinking. This has big implications for higher education.
 - Only 36% colleges and universities nationwide fill their seats. This has been a trend for the last 5-6 years.
 - Many colleges may not be able to continue to provide education; they are tuition dependent; they don't have enough students; they have deep discounts.
 - We are going to see and are seeing a big wave of mergers, acquisitions, and closures.
 - Families are looking for differentiation, values, and brand.
2. The university saw the residential model reaffirmed post COVID and the lifelong learning model.
3. COVID highlighted the need for research and use-inspired research that will help society.
4. The global landscape is shifting; for example we are seeing less opportunities for other countries' students to come to US.

How are we positioned to all that? We have the brand and the differentiation from others. The latter is built on the fact we are experiential. That is in demand and there is value in that. We are also a global university and that attracts students here. We are building a global university system. We have 13 campuses – why? A global university system allows undergraduate students to be very mobile. Only U.S. university to have two comprehensive campuses – Mills College in Oakland and Boston. Also, we are the only U.S. university to provide two degrees – dual – UK and US. That's huge, no other university has that. As we move forward, we will build a differentiation for each campus.

For instance, at Mills College we will focus on experiential entrepreneurship. No matter what they study, students will have opportunity for these. Especially, with Silicon Valley there. London also has global opportunities. Other universities use a curriculum export model but we will have a contextual differentiation.

The Global university system increases our value proposition and differentiation. The Global university system also provides us with an opportunity to test new models in higher education. For example, at the Roux institute we have partnerships. Our colleagues have over 75 partners. They work with Roux in determining the talent, solution, and research needs. Roux has an impact on society and we have celebrated that impact. That model can be applied anywhere, elsewhere. The upshot is we are constantly looking for relevance and impact. The campuses, through the work of our colleagues, provide this innovation and impact.

In terms of research, seeing something interesting in terms of the global university system. We are seeing that faculty colleagues are really excited about being involved with Roux, London, Mills with

new partnerships and opportunities at each campus. We can do in these campuses what we can't do in Boston.

The global university system is providing our students and faculty with opportunities that other universities don't have and that is extremely valuable. Our students are more mobile and experience different curricula and research opportunities. Northeastern received 91,000 applications and recruited 2,500 students. We are going to see more and more students able to start anywhere in our network.

The opportunity for us is to own collectively the global university system and look at it as a center for innovation and experimentation.

Moving forward, we are well positioned but can't take anything for granted. We are seeing we are desirable to other institutions as they look at how we integrated London and Mills. We are receiving various requests from other institutions to merge with them. We are looking at long-term partnerships, so we are very selective. What is strategic for us? That is what guides us. He will update us as these happen.

Our guiding star is the new strategic plan. It reaffirms the importance of the global university system and Humanics in our curricula. The largest increase in student choices is in the combined majors. Humanics is key here.

We want to continue to build global, personalized and experiential education at the undergraduate level. We want silos to disappear. What we are doing is unique, impactful and in demand.

We are a leader in nation in lifelong learning/graduate learning. We are going to where the learners are with our partners.

Our global system helps with faculty recruitment; our faculty are mobile and can be at one or 3 places. Research with impact engines is very attractive to people who want to join our community – we are innovative and seeking impact. Ultimately, we are seeking to further our leadership and our impact.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Spencer said she received an email from a colleague in another school who expressed concern about inflation; salary raises at NU are ½ of inflation rate. What is the plan at the university to help faculty and staff?

President Aoun said inflation is bad for higher education at all levels -- for the students, our operations, and our salaries. We are trying to further what we can do at all these levels. We are better positioned than other universities overall. That is not enough. We must work together. We are tuition dependent so must be attractive to students. Other challenges, one to diversity and inclusion. Back to your point, this is a challenging situation and we will work on it.

Prof. Chiou said in the past few years, huge change in global demographic and geopolitical situation. This will affect enrollment. US and China dynamics will affect student enrollment. Do we have a plan to

diversify source of international students?

The President said other universities around world have been receptive to international students including China. But we are seeing a change. There are tensions between countries and seeing the impact of mobility of Chinese students at all levels. This mobility affecting U.S. universities at all levels – UG, professional and PhD. Much of the STEM students are international. To answer the question, we need to continue to diversify and our colleagues are all working on this. We are working on this diligently at all levels.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Prof. Rhonda Board
Senate Secretary