



Northeastern University Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, February 15, 2023

Present: Professors: Avalon, Caracoglia, Carr, Chiou, Cisewski, Di Credico, Godoy-Carter, Gonyeau, Hertz, Jaeggli, Kitagawa, Krishnamoorthy, Landsmark, Lin, Marano, McSherry, Molnar, Moore, Oet, Rappaport, Rawson, Rolland, Sivak, Smith, Spencer, Strange, Toledano Laredo, Van Pelt, Willey

Administrators: Madigan, Hackney, Mynatt, Seshan

Absent: (Professors) Folmar, Musselman, Nieves, Vollmer

(Administrators) Isaacs, Reid, Wadia-Fascetti

CALL TO ORDER: 11:45 a.m.

I. SAC REPORT:

(The SAC report has been posted the Senate website.)

- Prof. Gonyeau noted that since the last senate meeting SAC has met twice.
- SAC, the Provost Office and Chancellor met once and discussed topics that included Wellness Days, enrollment and admissions and DEI in Snell Library renovations. In relation to this last topic, SAC met with Tim Singleton and Roseanna Molinaro.
- Prof. Gonyeau noted that administrator reports are now available for faculty from the respective colleges and departments to review.
- The Spring Faculty Survey has been distributed and Prof. Gonyeau asked senators to remind faculty to participate.
- Prof. Gonyeau reviewed the process to change the Faculty Senate Bylaws to ensure faculty senate representation for Mills at Northeastern. This process will slightly delay the usual election process for senators. Once the Bylaws changes are approved by a 2/3 vote in the Senate, there will be 10 working days of balloting so that all full time faculty can vote on the changes. If approved at this stage, bylaws changes automatically go into effect unless disapproved by the Board of Trustees within 90 days.

II. PROVOST REPORT:

Provost Madigan said Dr. Otonye Braide-Moncouer has joined us as the Provost Fellow for Faculty Awards. The Provost said we are behind our peers in terms of identifying opportunities for faculty awards – nationally, globally. And in being organized about making sure that our faculty get the recognition they are due. Dr. Braide-Moncouer will develop a robust program for identifying honors, awards and honorifics.

The Provost said Prof. Ali Arbur in COE was just elected to the National Academy Of Engineering. This is

the 2nd year in a row that a long-time Northeastern faculty member received this honor. Last year it was Prof. Jerry Hajjar. This is the kind of recognition our faculty should be getting.

The Provost said we did a DEI survey across the entire university a couple of years ago. This will happen again this year and it will be done on a 2 year cadence. The participation rate, particularly among students, wasn't great. The Provost is hoping for a more robust response.

In regards to the proposed Graduate Student Union, the United Autoworkers has filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB looks at this and decides what the nature of the bargaining unit should be and whether an election should be held.

The Provost has sent out a few communications to encourage graduate students to stay informed on this topic. It is a consequential decision. It is decided by a majority of students who vote not the majority of students.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Toledano Laredo asked if a 1-2 page summary report is all that faculty see for the Administrator Evaluation Oversight Committee reports.

Prof. Gonyeau confirmed that this is all that the faculty see.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. FIRST READING OF THE REVISION OF FACULTY SENATE BYLAWS (PROF. GONYEAU).

Prof. Gonyeau led the first reading of the proposed change to the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The discussion and debate of the amendment will occur at the 3.1.23 Senate meeting.

WHEREAS Mills College at Northeastern has been established as the tenth college of Northeastern University;

And WHEREAS the Faculty Senate of Northeastern University requires elected faculty from each grant awarding college to participate in its shared governance model;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Handbook section titled Faculty Senate Bylaws is updated as follows:

3. Composition

The Faculty senate comprises elected faculty members, the Provost, and six administrators who are full-time members of the faculty appointed by the President or their designee. There shall be no less than two elected faculty members from each degree granting college, with the total number of senators determined by two percent of the total number of full-time faculty in each college rounded to the nearest whole number. Faculty members are elected by and from the full-time faculty of the degree granting Colleges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Section 3b of the Faculty Senate Bylaws be updated as follows:

The term of office for elected Senate members shall be two years, and run from July 1 of

the first academic year to June 30 of the second academic year. In case of a vacancy during a term, a special election shall be held to select a member for the unexpired portion. A member may serve two successive full terms. A member who has just completed two successive full terms is eligible for reelection a year later. Full-time faculty members of the Senate shall be elected proportionately from the following degree-granting Colleges: Bouvé College of Health Sciences, College of Arts Media and Design, College of Computer and Information Sciences; College of Engineering, College of Professional Studies, College of Science, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, D'Amore-McKim School of Business, Mills College at Northeastern and the School of Law. Each of these Units shall have at least two Senate representatives, but those with larger faculties shall have correspondingly more representatives equivalent to two percent of the total full-time faculty of the degree-granting college. In the spring semester of every year, prior to the election, the Senate Agenda Committee will announce the number Senate seats to be given each College for the following year. Its determination shall be based upon the number of full-time faculty members in each of the Colleges on February 1.

[Please note that, during the Senate floor debate on an amendment proposal, the usual procedures in the most recent revision of Robert's Rules of Order for proposing amendments to any main motion shall apply, thus making advance notice not required.]

B. REPORT OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY COM. (PROF. WIHBEY)

(The report has been posted to the Faculty Senate website.)

Prof. Wihbey, committee chair, noted that in the course of doing the faculty senate survey, the committee discovered a number of issues in relation to charge 1, the examination of websites particularly web issues that relate to classroom technology.

Top findings include:

- Lack of consistency across classrooms, outdated desktops, NUWave Wireless weak connection.
- ITS engaging in a 5 year program, currently in year 2, Global Learning Spaces
- ITS continues to work with faculty users and Personalized Classroom Dashboards easy to use/find.
- Work with the CIO to work on the website to get rid of broken links, etc.
- Standardization of the University Website.

Prof. Wihbey noted that charge 2 was to identify technology infrastructure needs and upgrades (i.e. computers, software) across all colleges. Recommend best practices and considerations to apply across all colleges and campuses to ensure equity across all faculty positions.

Top findings for this charge included:

- Faculty report numerous problems, IT tickets not easy to retrieve.
- New personalized classroom dashboard recently released.
- Recommend IT Council to refresh Global Learning Classrooms, distinction between Registrar controlled and locally controlled classrooms, recommend all teaching faculty be provided with a NU issued device.
- Proactive communication with faculty before the semester regarding how individual classrooms are designed.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Moore noted some concerns from CAMD faculty around prioritization to address spaces in Ryder Hall. There have been some consistent problems. Audio seems to be a problem in most of the classrooms my colleagues and I teach in. We are just wondering who gets attention first in regards to these matters.

Cole Camplese said that overall they typically prioritize the most heavily used general purpose classrooms. Cole will work with Prof. Moore offline to learn what are the issues with Ryder rooms in particular.

Prof. Smith referenced the efficiency gains from centralizing some classroom scheduling under the Registrar that might be under the control of the college now. Prof. Smith asked about the committee's thoughts on the low end of space allocation that is coming up a lot in the Library Committee. The Library is overrun with students who want to study there all the time. There isn't sufficient study space. Dan Cohen and others have been going to other members of the administration to schedule study space in other buildings to take some pressure off Snell. How do those different scheduling concerns factor into things that Cole and your committee are doing? And are we going to run into problems where there will be competition between colleges, the Registrar and the Library trying to allocate study space?

Cole Camplese said this was a good point. Starting in the pandemic they implemented an app called Robin that allows students from the Student Hub to book study spaces. As more spaces get allocated for student use, they update that. With regards to Registrar vs. local classrooms, what Cole has seen at other institutions is that when colleges turn over departmental spaces, they receive priority scheduling.

Prof. Willey said that the classroom technology that went into 102 East Village is a slightly different system. He said he couldn't find where the microphone is. He said it would be nice to have some kind of outline of what equipment is in that room.

Cole Camplese said there is a pdf quick guide for this room. It is one of our older, pre-2020 rooms. Cole has taken a note and will follow up.

IV. PRESENTATION:**MADELEINE ESTABROOK, SR. VICE CHANCELLOR STUDENT AFFAIRS****UPDATE ON WELNESS DAYS**

(The report has been posted to the Faculty Senate website.)

Vice chancellor Estabrook reviewed survey results for the Wellness Day pilot project.

Highlights include:

- Only for students in Boston
- Not a one size fits all
- Want to create a toolkit for students.
- 12% of students took Wellness Days in Fall '22 semester
- Majority students are positive about the experience.
- Good return rate on the survey.
- Help students to navigate their personal wellbeing.
- Students would like more, 4 days and have also asked for extensions for the work due that day

- Not sure if that is a good idea.
- Faculty reaction was much more mixed and polarized.
- Faculty advocated for the expansion but also the cutback of the program and number of days.
- Faculty did experience more challenges in the Fall, related to technology, student expectations, class management, different types of challenges.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Carr said she had a student email her to say the student's advisor told the student to email Prof. Carr to tell her she was taking a Wellness Day. Prof. Carr told the student she had to fill out the form for it to be an excused absence. Prof. Carr said that some advisors have said they are confused as to whether they have to inform instructors. Perhaps more information needs to go to the advisors.

Vice Chancellor Estabrook will speak to the advisor group to clarify any questions they may have.

Prof. Carr's second question was about Dialogues. She wondered if there can be some kind of policy for Dialogues.

Vice Chancellor Estabrook said this was a good point. We need to make clear. She will work with Prof. Carr on this.

Prof. Spencer said in the summer Wellness Days are a huge impact. Will there be different rules for the summer? Prof. Spencer said she is also seeing a pattern of the students that are struggling the most are the ones taking the wellness days. Are you tracking any of that data – is taking Wellness Days impacting student's performance in the classroom?

Vice Chancellor Estabrook said in regards to the last question first that is the reason for the administrative dashboard and for now what is outreach to the students to find out what is going on. In regards to summer, the rules were only 1 Wellness Day allowed.

Prof. Whynot said they are getting some pushback around our absence policies and reduced because of the Wellness Days. Who can we refer students to when they are asking for too much? And Prof. Whynot asked if the office has materials for faculty to help manage the policy?

In regards to the student issue, students can be sent to Vice Chancellor Estabrook and her office. And there is a one pager and link to webpage and will be sent out again.

V. PRESENTATION:

SATYA DATTA GUPTA
CHIEF ENROLLMENT OFFICER, SR. VICE CHANCELLOR &
SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE FALL 2022

Some highlights of the presentation include:

- For undergraduate, total applications Fall 2023 (96,327), significant growth from last year -- +49% from Fall 2022.
- Fall 2023 there is a steep growth in early decision (3,746) +38% from Fall 2022. This is an indication of Northeastern's position in the market.

- Master's Applications significant growth vs. Fall 2022 +58%.
- Last year there was a decline domestically but now we are seeing growth in international students. Vice Chancellor Dattagupta is working with deans to develop strategies to combat domestic decline.
- In the professional/Master's space outside of Boston have seen an increase in enrollments are up for our global campuses – Toronto the highest of 92%.

Goals for Fall 2023 include:

- 2600 students in the fall Boston class
- 1600 student in the NU-in program
- Global Scholars program is about 750 students.
- Trying to work with admissions officers in London and Oakland to have a small cohort of full-time student there.
- Biggest question they get from students is on return on investment and making sure they can get a career afterwards.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Dean Hackney said he wanted to give Vice Chancellor Dattagupta an opportunity to talk about some idea about diversity in these student classes.

Vice Chancellor Dattagupta said this is something he is personally invested in. And they are bringing forward Northeastern's work over the past few years to increase the BIPOC population. In regards to the early decision group being admitted this year, they have more students represented that are low income, BIPOC, and international. It is important to us to have a classroom that is representative of the world we live in.

They are also working with community-based organizations and building relationships with organizations we haven't worked with before. We are also looking at our community here in Boston and Oakland in focusing on domestic diversity.

Prof. Teledano asked if for a future presentation, he could share some demographic numbers on the '22 cohort. And could this include the percentages and amounts of financial aid students receive.

Vice Chancellor Dattagupta said May 1st is the national deadline for deposits and at that point will have a good sense of the class that is coming in.

Regarding financial aid about 79% of students in our fall Boston campus entering class get some kind of institutional aid. About 40% get need based aid. About 40% get merit based aid.

Prof. Madigan noted that Northeastern has a diversity dashboard that is public:
[Northeastern.edu/diversity/our-demographics](https://northeastern.edu/diversity/our-demographics).

Prof. Moore was curious about the opportunity for faculty who are engaged in community based research to support recruitment. She works in the communities of Roxbury and Dorchester. They launched a pilot program last summer inviting high school students to take a 7 week course with them. The program was a huge success. They would like to continue this program. All the various tiered grants are no longer listed. We need smaller money to run this program. Wanted to throw that out as an opportunity.

Vice Chancellor Dattagupta said he was happy to follow up on this offline.

Provost Madigan thank her for the information about the grant.

Prof. Whynot when Vice Chancellor Dattagupta comes back to report on DEI will that include a picture on deaf and disabled students. What sort of work has been done around that?

She said she was happy to talk with someone about strategies on reaching that hidden community.

Vice Chancellor Dattagupta said he will connect with Prof. Whynot on this topic.

PRESENTATION:

TOM SHEAHAN, EXECUTIVE VICE PROVOST

UPDATE ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND PROCESSES

In the consideration of time, Vice Provost Sheahan's presentation will be moved to the 3.1.23 Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Prof. Michelle Carr
Senate Secretary