



Northeastern University Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, October 18, 2023

Present: Professors: Adams, Alexis, Baker, Chen, Chiou, Diani, DiBattista, Di Credico, Folmar, Godoy-Carter, Henderson, Herron, Homan, Ingemi, Jaeggli, Kevoe Feldman, Krishnamoorthy, Lahr, Landsmark, Lin, Lowrey, Mellette, Molnar, Oet, Rappaport, Rawson, Rejtar, Rolland, Saczynski, Shrivastava, Sivak, Strange, Toledano Laredo, Triest, Viola, Walker J., Walker L., West

Administrators: Madigan, Isaacs, Pollastri, Sceppa, Wadia-Fascetti

Absent: (Professors) Kitagawa, Moore, Rivera, Smith.
(Administrators) Brown, Seshan.

CALL TO ORDER: 11:45 a.m.

I. SAC REPORT:

- Prof. Landsmark noted that since the last senate meeting, SAC has met 3 times and has met with the Provost Office 3 times.
- SAC continues to work with the Senate's standing committees and to staff various search committees.
- On Thurs., Oct. 12 SAC met with the Senior Leadership Team. Topics included:
 - Communications
 - One Faculty initiative
 - Technology
 - Salary Equity
- On Nov. 15th Provost Madigan and Chancellor Ken Henderson will give their annual presentation to the Senate.
- Also on Nov. 15th Sr. V.P. and General Counsel Mary Strother along with Satyajit Dattagupta, Chief Enrollment Officer & Senior Vice Chancellor, will give a joint presentation on the impact of the Supreme Court decision on the role of affirmative action in higher education.
- President Aoun has changed the date of his annual presentation to the Senate to Dec. 6.

II. PROVOST REPORT:

- Provost Madigan said on the Dean search front a search for the Dean of College of Professional Studies will soon be launched in conjunction with the Faculty Senate according to the guidelines in the Faculty Handbook.
- Two Deans – Dean Sceppa of Bouve College of Health Sciences and Dean Abowd of the College of Engineering -- have 3 year reviews underway.
- Srinivas Tadigadapa will be assuming the role of Senior Vice Provost for Institutes, Centers and

Impact Engines. This has previously been part of the Senior Vice Provost for Research David Luzzi's operation but has become too large.

- The Provost mentioned Northeastern has a long standing partnership with the University of College Dublin, Ireland. They have been an N.U.in site for 10 years and have a number of research collaborations with them. We are formalizing that a bit more. Our London campus is no longer in the EU. Access to EU research funding is tenuous. So we are creating a legal entity in Ireland to collaborate with UCD on European research projects. We put out a call for seed grants to seed joint research projects and currently have 23 proposals.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Lahr said they just received the notice about the Humanics course development initiative. She asked for more information about the thoughts and intentions behind that.

The Provost said the concept of Humanics is centrally important in our academic plan. During Covid it kind of fell through the cracks. We are now engaged in an effort to amplify and strengthen our efforts in the Humanics area. The Provost acknowledged Prof. Uta Poiger, Special Advisor to the Provost on Humanics.

Prof. Poiger noted that since she was listed on the senate agenda as giving a presentation on this topic today, perhaps the question could be tabled until after the presentation.

Student government representative Devyani Anand announced that the Dining Advisory Board and the Student Government Association have been working with members of administration and the dining vendors on campus on a new meal plan to ensure the dining needs of the diverse student body population are being met. They are looking for any and all outlets through which to reach students in order to get information on how best to serve the population.

Provost Madigan asked Anand to send him an email and the Provost would put them in touch with a few people.

Prof. Chen thanked Provost Madigan for the announcement about the Dublin connection. He noted that Northeastern has a connection with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI). He wondered what is the review process that the university uses to review those proposals for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute? And is there any plan to expand that collaboration?

Prof. Madigan said that Woods Hole is an important partner for us and will be going forward. Provost Madigan asked Prof. Chen to shoot him an email to continue this conversation.

Prof. Kevoe Feldman had an announcement. She said SAC called for elected senators meetings for the coming academic year. This is an opportunity for senators to get together and talk about things that are happening in their respective colleges. This was also inspired by Prof. Kevoe Feldman's senator colleagues in CAMD who wanted to hold open office hours for faculty. SAC wants to talk about how senators can be better ambassadors for faculty by meeting with department chairs and faculty deans and such. We want to make sure we uphold and maintain faculty voice.

The Senate office is still fielding a lot of faculty concerns. Mostly they are anonymous and so we can't respond publicly but we attend to them one at a time. We have resolved a number of issues already. We

are going to try to put those concerns in the faculty newsletters.

Prof. Landsmark said there have been quite a few conversations about communication. It is important for us to make sure that the information we have is distributed among our faculty. That means having conversations with our deans and directors as to how it is best to distribute information.

Prof. Toledano said we had impressive opening of the EXP building. What are the plans for allotting the space? A related question that cuts across my college – COS – but also CSSH. Mathematics, Psychology, Linguistics are housed in Lake Hall which is very substandard. It often rains in the building. There is sometimes the sighting of mice. We have heard there is asbestos in some of the insulation. So it is not a fantastic space to work in as researchers and teachers. Not a great space to welcome students during office hours.

Could some of these departments be housed in EXP and if not, what would be the plans to house those programs?

Provost Madigan said regarding EXP the building is largely occupied right now. Some of space allocations were baked in from get go. Chemistry has largely moved there along with the Chemistry teaching labs. That was built into the design. Decisions about space is a very complex process with many constraints and many competing priorities. David Luzzi is the best person to speak about Research space and perhaps he can give a presentation to the senate.

Regarding specific concerns about Lake Hall, the university is constantly reviewing our spaces; prioritizing what spaces need to be upgraded both in terms of safety issues and in terms of quality of life issues.

The Provost suggested perhaps Kathy Spiegelman could give a presentation about how they think about this. How they prioritize and upgrade buildings. The Provost said we have buildings in great shape and some that need work. There are many tens of millions of dollars we spend each year in updating our campuses.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL:

PROGRAM UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.

Prof. Oet read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the [Master of Arts in National Security and Intelligence](#) in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 20 September, 2023 (13-0-1).

Prof. Oet acknowledged Prof. Terpinas. He gave a little information on the program. The current program was developed after a wholistic review and some market data research that suggested we make some changes. One of the changes. The big focus of the program is national security strategy at a kind of 30,000

foot look at the field which would encompass everything like Homeland security, intelligence analysis, working with private sector – a whole of government approach. We feel this is where our niche is in a program to develop strategic thinkers in the field and to prepare our graduates for leadership positions in the field.

One of unique features we embedded in our program is to add a piece about legal powers and constraints in our program that was missing. The emphasis of this name change is that is better emphasizes what our program is teaching.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Landsmark asked how this connected to our campus in Arlington.

Prof. Terpinas said this program will launch in Sept. 2025 in Arlington.

Prof. Landsmark asked how is curriculum evolving particularly in collaboration with other departments and schools.

Prof. Terpinas said the name change is what is on the proposal today. We are sensitive to other programs that are in this field as well. We work along with them when appropriate. We feel this is the right plan for our program.

Prof. Baker said he hasn't heard much about this program. He knows certainly at the Law School and probably elsewhere in the University there have been concerns about intelligence gathering by the United States in the past. He wondered to what extent does the curriculum address more critical perspectives on existing intelligence gathering and the security apparatus.

Prof. Terpinas they introduced two new courses to show what the powers and tools of government are and to show the potential abuse and bad things that can happen.

VOTE on the resolution PASSED: 38-0-2.

IV. PRESENTATION:

Uta Poiger, Special Advisor to the Provost on Humanics
Humanics: Integration for Impact

(The presentation is posted to the senate website.)

Prof. Poiger thanked Prof. Landsmark and the Senate for having herself and Jen Grieve, Project manager to present on Humanics. Prof. Poiger said she would be speaking broadly about Humanics and how it can be part of our move forward impact and innovation at Northeastern.

She said that Humanics is key to our academic plan and builds on key areas like multi-disciplinary collaboration, experiential learning, entrepreneurship and partnership beyond the university.

Humanics asks people with different skills set to work together and use data and technology to address key questions.

Humanics is very about integration. The integration of Human Literacy, Data Literacy and Technology Literacy. Humanics is a broad integrative concept. All of us are engaged in Humanics. It gets interesting for us at the university when we think about how we can collaborate from perspective of different skill sets.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Strange asked for this first course development proposal that you have if we want to propose a new course how is the process different from traditional process? How does it get approved? How does it affect our courseload?

Prof. Poiger hopes that some of these questions are answered on the website and if there are additional questions don't hesitate to email Uta Poiger or Jen Grieve.

Any courses that are taught at the university should be part of the load that faculty work out with their unit head. These are not courses that are thought of as overloads. This is also an opportunity to redevelop and redesign existing courses. What is different is that provost and colleges together will provide some seed funding for the effort of collaboration. The course approval processes will be the same as usual. Uta urged everyone to talk to unit heads, undergraduate program directors and associate deans of undergraduate studies in these context.

Prof. Kevoe Feldman said she is in Communication Studies in CAMD. She said instead of bringing technology into communication, she thinks that communication can bring communication into technology by partnering with a lot of other units particularly in the area of language and social interaction in which there is very little in this Humanics and yet it would seem to be the core of Humanics many ways.

What kind of vision do we have for Humanics? Is it a program in and of itself. Is it largely just through combined majors? Is it a section in different departments? Are these course that are supposed to fit within our current curriculum? Or are they courses that are going to be fitting within some other curriculum? These are questions that come up a lot in faculty meetings.

Prof. Poiger said they are happy to go into faculty meetings. Prof. Poiger said she stressed Humanics as a set of experiences and that Humanics can come in many flavors. Our President has used the term "a new discipline." She would not like us to think about it in those terms. She thinks a set of integrative experiences that we are curating with our partners and with our students and for our students in particular. She thinks the way Prov. Kevoe Feldman formulated how important communication underpins technology can be part of that.

She thinks there will be a lot worked out through concrete examples. She urges everyone not to let the conceptual questions people are asking hinder trying to give concrete meaning to collaborations you would see as good for our students.

Prof. Triest said this was an exciting initiative. He understands there will be teams of 2-4 teachers developing courses. When it comes down to actually teaching courses in a given term, do you envision that there would be 1 lead instructor for the usual teaching credit or there would be teams of people teaching?

Prof. Poiger said there are many models possible. There will be more information at the information

sessions regarding the initiative. Also, associate deans are very aware of this as well. There are different models such as 2 credits from one college 2 credits from another college.

There are courses where faculty from another college go into a course and teach modules – for example in Computer Science version.

She added she hoped faculty won't be too shocked when they download the word version of the application because there are many questions that are being asked. It seemed important for those who are proposing the courses to think about a sustainability plan. The idea isn't necessarily A faculty lead but that might be right. It doesn't make sense to invest very much on a team taught class on different models without that being taught more than once. Asking our colleagues who can work on development but who can also take this shared curriculum and move it forward.

If faculty are running into issues let's try to get together to remove the obstacles to good ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by
Prof. Yingzi Lin, Senate Secretary