



# Northeastern University Faculty Senate

**TO:** FACULTY SENATE  
**FROM:** Secretary, Faculty Senate  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes, 11 September, 2024.

Present: Professors Adams, Alexis, Bailey, Bhutta, Bloom, Carr, Chiou, Di Credico, Diani, DiBattista, Eckelman, Godoy-Carter, Herron, Homan, Ingemi, Ivanova, Kahn, Kevoe Feldman, Lahr, Landmark, Lykourinou, Mellette, Molnar, Rappaport, Rawson, Rejtar, Shrivastava, Sivak, Spencer, Stefanik, Strange, Tjiptowidjojo, Triest, Un, Viola, Walker J., West.

Administrators: Madigan, De Cremer, Dyal-Chand, Isaacs, Gallagher, Jackson, Tsai.

Absent: (Professors) DiCristina, Hamandi, Hill, Hodeghatta, Lowrey, Parameswaran, Toledano Laredo, Walker L.  
(Administrators)

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

I. **SAC REPORT:** (The SAC Report has been posted to Senate website.)

Prof. Kevoe-Feldman started the first senate meeting of fall 2024 by acknowledging the anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> and to remember the first responders and civilians who sacrificed their lives on that day.

She introduced the new student SGA representative to the Senate, Ada Spiwak, a fourth-year Journalism & Political Science major from Bogotá, Colombia.

Prof. Kevoe Feldman also introduced the new members of Senate Agenda Com. (SAC) and emphasized that SAC is here for their fellow faculty members and encouraged faculty to reach out to SAC. She said this year SAC wanted to focus on collaboration with the administration to get some faculty needs met and to have specific answers about the future direction of the university and how we can contribute to the university's vision.

She reviewed Senate meeting and procedures and noted that during the summer 2024 SAC met 3 times and met with the Provost's Office once. She noted that Senate committees are now fully staffed, charges have been finalized and are posted to the Senate's website.

II. **PROVOST REPORT:**

Provost Madigan welcomed everyone to a new year on the Senate.

The Provost said he assumed that many faculty were at the Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> Town Hall and that many faculty seemed to think it was useful. There were almost 500 people at the peak of the meeting.

He noted there was a leadership retreat a couple of weeks ago on the Boston campus and SAC was in attendance. The focus was AI and thinking what does higher ED look like with AI.

The Provost noted that right now everyone is using different large language models – ChatGPT or Gemini. A lot of people are paying \$20 a month and another problem is that they are not very secure. The university is currently in discussion with several vendors about this.

The Provost also reminded faculty of the AI in Action online Bootcamp occurring Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> and open to all faculty, staff and students. There are currently 3,000 people registered for the event including 1,000 alums.

He also said there is an updated policy on protests that can be found on the policies website: <https://policies.northeastern.edu/policy617/>. The Provost noted there was a lot of work on this over the summer. One thing that is new – no one is allowed to pitch a tent on campus.

The Provost added a quick word on Marymount Manhattan College on the upper east side of Manhattan. This is a merger. The earliest the merger could take affect would be the summer of 2025. This merger will very quickly be revenue positive to the university.

The Provost also said that Richard O'Bryant, Director of the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, has been appointed Northeastern's Chief Inclusion and Belonging Officer, effective immediately.

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

- Prof. Laney Strange asked Provost Madigan if he could talk more about the plan for PhD students and potentially tenure track faculty at the Network campuses.

Provost Madigan said regarding PhD students, until very recently, they were here – Boston, Nahant, Burlington. Now have first PhD students located at Portland mainly from the COE. They are in existing PhD program but they're physically located in Portland. We will have PhD students in the near future in Oakland. Then in London, we already do have PhD student in our collaboration with the University of Kent.

The Provost said there are a lot of things that have to be worked out in this regard.

How do we provide that coursework to what is a presumably small number of students to begin with? How do we replicate the community building activities we do here on this Boston campus on other campuses so that we ensure PhD student don't feel isolated. Provost Madign said he would like to have a conversation with Prof. Strange offline and said that Sarah Wadia-Fascetti, Vice Provost of the PhD Network, is focused on this.

He said they absolutely want to have the full range of our activities throughout the global university system and that includes tenure and tenure track faculty and they will be within the colleges.

- Prof. Bailey said at the Town Hall Provost Madigan mentioned plans for mobility programs in the coming academic year. What kind of student population numbers are you envisioning for those programs? Would students be expected to spend a semester or even a year on a network campus?

Provost Madigan said many undergraduates will spend their entire four years in one space and that is fine. But we want to provide really compelling experiences that will dramatically enhance a student's journey – particularly their experiential journey. We are not going to do this overnight

but want to do this on scale -- to provide these opportunities for hundreds if not thousands of students over the years.

- Prof. Ivanova asked Provost Madigan, in relation to the PhD programs, what was his vision to support a drive to have more interdisciplinarity in PhD programs across the university.

Provost Madigan said it is a balancing act between expertise and discipline. True expertise in narrow areas coupled with wanting to make an easy, smooth path for people to use that expertise. Then use that knowledge in the context of world problems where we can move the needle.

The Provost said what that means in the terms of the Provost Office space is that he works closely with the deans. The Provost also mentioned a program in the COS where all incoming PhD students to the COS spend the first summer together participating in a series of activities.

### III. NEW BUSINESS:

#### A. PRESENTATION:

**DEBRA L. FRANKO, PH.D., SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY.**

*UPDATES:*

*INITIATIVES AND WHO'S WHO IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (The presentation has been posted to the senate website.)*

Sr. Vice Provost Franko gave an overview of her office reviewing the various members and the members of ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development. She reviewed the many various areas of responsibilities of the office including Tenure and Promotion, Leadership Training, NECHE accreditation, Global Safety & Security Assessment Committee, and the Policy Oversight Committee.

Sr. Vice Provost Franko reviewed Faculty Development plans in the Network for 2024\_2025 and updates on initiatives in Mental Health Matters for Faculty, Staff, and Students. She noted a new resource: Togetherall which is a new, safe, online peer-to-peer mental health community for students that is monitored and moderated 24/7 by licensed clinicians.

#### QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- Prof. Lahr you mentioned that the JED partnership is one where there are trained respondents on campus. Is this for all campuses or just Boston?

Sr. Vice Provost Franko said the Jed Foundation partnership is a non-profit organization who we work with. We we have a 2025 person task force of representatives from around various units of the university as well as around the global network. We're split up into four separate groups that work on different areas of mental health. So there aren't responders but there are a tremendous number of resources that are available to the whole university.

- Prof. Mellette asked how Togetherall is this being advertised to the students?

Sr. Vice Provost Franko said it has been discussed at all new student orientations. Resident hall directors and resident assistants know about this as well and have shared this with their students. There is also information on the University Health & Counseling Services website.

She added that she would love for faculty to put this program on their syllabi to let students know about it.

- Prof. DiBattista asked when would NECHE next be coming to Boston.

Sr. Vice Provost Franko said there will be another 10 year review in 2028.

**B. PRESENTATION:  
SATYA DATTAGUPTA  
CHIEF ENROLLMENT OFFICER, EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR &  
SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT**

*ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE FALL 2024*

Vice Chancellor Satya Dattagupta gave an overview of undergraduate and graduate enrollment.

He noted that this fall the university welcomed on of the most exciting undergraduate classes with students from all walks of life with an average GPA of 4.4.

He pointed out that this had been one of the most challenging years in enrollment management due to problems around the federal application for student financial aid that caused havoc across the entire industry. He said a lot of his peers have not been able to meet their enrollment goals because of what happened with that.

We received 98,124 applications this past year for acceptance rate of 5.2%. The University's yield was a record high of about 54%. We saw 52% growth in applications just over the last five years.

In regards to undergraduate enrollment, we are the the largest global campus network in the world and we have students that start in different locations. In Boston, we welcomed about 2,780 students this week. The London Scholars program where students start in London and then move to Boston after the first year went from 220 students last year to 643 this year. NUin, which is the program where students spend 1 semester at one of our ten partner sites welcomed 1,543 students. Oakland welcomed the second cohort of 463 full time students. Global scholars welcomed 714 students and the London dual degree program welcomed 158 students.

Vice Chancellor Dattagupta noted one change happening moving forward is that the Global Scholars program will be eliminated. He said that they learned that students really want to spend one year at a campus.

They are going to increase the London scholars and the Oakland goal and they will be adding a new program called New York City Scholars where students spend one year at our campus at Marymount Manhattan College when the merger is complete and then they come to Boston after the first year.

Regarding the acceptance rate, the Vice Chancellor said that this year we will finish at about 5%, making us the most selective institution in the entire cohort of of institutions that we compete with.

In regards to professional Masters and graduate certificates it has bee a difficult enrollment climate.

The campuses in Toronto and in Vancouver are heavily reliant on our students from India and China and in the past two years there's been some significant issues between the Indian and Canadian government. As a result, we and a lot of our peers, did see significant drops in students that come from India into Canadian campuses. He said they have seen significant growth in markets like Ghana, Nigeria and and places in Latin America and Southeast Asia.

He added that two years ago Provost Madigan made a significant investment with Chancellor Henderson and Vice Chancellor Dattagupta in domestic graduate enrollment. As a result of those investments, our domestic enrollment has almost doubled in the last two years.

Vice Chancellor Dattagupta said he continues to be very excited about the work that they are doing in this in this space for lifelong learners, but there are a lot of enrollment challenges that we are facing including enrollment cliffs and pricing.

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

- Prof. Bailey asked if the 5.2% acceptance rate, does that only reflect Boston admits or does it include all the other programs?

Vice Chancellor Dattagupta said it is just Boston.

- Prof. Strange asked where the list of peer group institutions came from? Is that the same as our Match Mate institutions that we compare ourselves with for other kinds of things like finances and salaries? And she asked the Vice Chancellor to speak to the diversity of the incoming class since this is the first class since the June Supreme Court decision to significantly limit the use of race status in admissions.

Vice Provost Dattagupta said in regards to the peer set Northeastern is part of this group called the Enrollment Planners Network that has been in existence for 25 years. It consists of chief enrollment officers of institutions that see applications overlap and are also research 1 institutions primarily mid-size to large size in larger cities. One institutions primarily mid size to large size in, in, in in larger cities. This group shares best practices and also share cumulative data.

In regards to diversity, Vice Chancellor Dattagupta said this was the first year they were not able to use race as one of many factors in the admissions decision process. He said they will be releasing the race data for the entire campus very soon.

He said in a matter of days, they will be releasing that information and everybody will have access to that.

He said what he can say is that they have spent a lot of time working and strategizing in regard to outreach to community based organizations around the country as well as increasing our presence in public schools, specifically in our own backyard in Boston and in Oakland. And that has paid off.

- Prof. Carr had a question around tuition. She noted that in London they have laws and regulations that cap tuition costs for they year. She asked are all students, no matter where they are studying, pay the same tuition cost?

Provost Madigan said we do have local pricing. The tuition at the Canadian campuses is different from US and UK campuses. Tuition does vary.

- Prof. Ivanova said in regards to tuition they are also seeing this issue in the graduate space. There is a different cost between Boston and Arlington.

At some point it would be great to have broader discussions about scholarships and how we attract graduate students and to perhaps fundraise and create some named scholarships. A lot of graduate schools attract people by giving them a scholarship.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Prof. Denise Spencer