Northeastern University
Faculty Senate

TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: Secretary of the Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 25 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, Landsmark, Lykourino, 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.

CALL TO ORDER: 11:45 a.m.

I. **SAC REPORT** (The SAC report has been posted to the Senate website.)
Prof. Heidi Kevoe Feldman that SAC met once since the last Senate meeting and also noted that there would be an Elected Senator meeting on Wed., Sept. 9th.

Search updates include the COE, Depart. Of Civil and Environmental Engineering will have a broad search for a new chair. The COS will undertake internal chair searches for the Depart. Of Mathematics and Depart. Of Psychology.

She noted that the Senate Office can now make changes to the Faculty Handbook. And she also thanked the faculty from BCHS for a Town Hall letter that was shared with SAC. The letter detailed issues that were of concern to BCHS faculty. Prof. Kevoe Feldman encouraged other faculty to share similar communications with SAC. And she encouraged senators to email the Senate if there were specific speakers they would like to hear from.

Prof. Kevoe Feldman acknowledged fellow SAC member, Prof. Michelle Carr to discuss curriculum.

Prof. Carr said SAC has been hearing from faculty about the process to get a new course on the books. She said one of the things they have noticed is that there is no IT procedure in the sense you can't track your new courses in the entire process from development within your department all the way through UUCC.

Prof. Carr said she is on the curriculum committee for her department. One of the faculty members in their department is working on a system where you submit your proposal for a new course or

program and you can get emails when it gets to the next level. Right now, as it stands, each kind of committee has their own kind of review system and they are not connected in any way.

She said she thinks it would be a lot easier if it was more streamlined. She said the faculty in her department are working with IT to develop this system but they need buy-in from the colleges and the UUCC.

Prof. Carr acknowledged Exec. Vice Provost Tom Sheahan.

VP Sheahan said we shouldn't have to develop a new system for this. Courseleaf does the tracking and notifying. There should be a way for people to receive these notifications if they are not receiving them. VP Sheahan said he would discuss this in more detail with the Registrar Rebecca Hunter.

Prof. Carr said she wasn't sure if she knew how to check Courseleaf.

Prof. Bailey said to Prof. Carr she was excited about what she was saying because they also don't have a great way of tracking the curriculum history. Prof. Bailey said she was under the impression Courseleaf kicks in in the later stage of the process. She said if there was a way to expand the functionality of Courseleaf and everyone could get trained on that it would be great.

VP Sheahan will get more information and report back.

II. **PROVOST REPORT**.
Provost Madigan said this was the 115th anniversary of Co-op and there would be a variety of celebrations going on throughout the university and in COE which is where Co-op started. The first version of Co-op had 8 students and 7 of the 8 were working at railroads.

He said they just concluded an extraordinarily successful AI in Action Boot Camp that had 1829 participants.

He said they just launched an honorific award newsletter. He said in the last few years they have been more intentional about upping their game around awards and recognition of the faculty.

The Provost said some faculty may have met Davis Bookhart who joined NU from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He is an expert in sustainability. He is a faculty member in the Policy School. He has various initiatives underway.

There is a Global Sustainability summit happening on campus hosted by the Center for Emerging Markets in DMSB on October 5th and has a fantastic program lined up.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:
Prof. Godoy Carter from the COS in Mugar said they had a surprise when they started classes and that was that all the bathrooms now have locks and you can only enter the bathroom with your ID. She said they were not informed this was happening in advance and it has caused a lot of confusion. She said they were eventually told this was due to safety concerns. She asked if it was possible to undo the locks during the day.

Prof. Kevoe Feldman said in her meeting with the Facilities VP, she said they would be doing a lot of updates to all the bathrooms around campus. She will reach out to her.

Provost Madigan said he didn't know anything about the situation and he and Prof. Kevoe Feldman would check in.

A faculty member posted in the chat that this happened in Dodge Hall as well.

I.   **NEW BUSINESS:**

A.   **ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE of ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN.**

   Prof. Kevoe-Feldman read the following:

> BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Media, Technology, and Ethics, MS in the College of Arts, Media and Design as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 29 May, 2024 (13-0-0).

   Prof. Craig Robertson said that this program comes out of the Department of Communication Studies and is an interdisciplinary program within CAMD which is an interdisciplinary college. This degree is grounded in the critical approach to the study of Media Technology and Ethics which draws from the almost 100 years of tradition in the field of Cultural Communication Studies to look critically at the role of technology and society especially its ethical and normative dimensions.

   QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:
   The VOTE on the resolution PASSED: 39-1-0.

B.   **ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE of ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN.   (PROFESSOR MARK SIVAK)**

   Prof. Mark Sivak read the following:

> BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Creative Technologies, MS in the College of Arts, Media and Design as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 29 May, 2024 (13-0-0).

   QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:
   The VOTE on the resolution PASSED: 40-1-0.

C.   **ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE of ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN.   (PROFESSOR MARK SIVAK)**

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Fine Arts in [Creative Practices and Technology, MFA](#) in the College of Arts, Media and Design as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 29 May, 2024 (13-0-0).

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:
VOTE on the resolution PASSED: 38-1-2.

III. **PRESENTATION:**
MAUREEN O'SHEA
ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST, OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
UPDATE ON INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT:

(The presentation is posted to the senate website.)

Vice Provost O'Shea thanked the senate for the opportunity present. She said she appreciated the collaboration with faculty, Deans and associate Deans, program chairs and program directors.

She gave an overview of academic program quality activities. She said they have direct assessment, program, annual reports and their NUpath core curriculum.

She said they do direct assessment of program learning outcomes in HelioCampus.

This was the initial focus of their office beginning in 2020 because this was the biggest gap in terms of program quality activities and also where it was felt there would be the best benefit from having a systematic process with a computer program that could help coordinate things.

She said they talk about assessment in terms of defining the program learning outcomes and mapping the courses to those program learning outcomes. That curriculum structure that is so intentional that sets the intention of the program.
Then we look at how the faculty align assignments to that curriculum and ask faculty to grade those assignments. The data are collected in HelioCampus and we develop action items for continuous improvement.

Very often around curriculum structure -- refining program learning outcomes, looking at electives, looking at the structure of the curriculum right now. And those could also be pedagogical improvements going forward. The way HelioCampus is implemented at Northeastern, we use an embedded assessment practice that's really considered a best practice. So assessment is very integrated with the grading process through that linking assignment process. Faculty can grade and then that grade is converted to an assessment score. This is possible because our HeliosCampus platform integrates with Canvas.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Prof. Denise Spencer