



**TO:** The Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Secretary of the Faculty Senate  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes, 11 December, 2024

Present: Professors Adams, Alexis, Bhutta, Bloom, Carr, Chiou, Diani, DiBattista, Dicristina, Eckelman, Godoy-Carter, Hamandi, Herron, Hill, Homan, Ingemi, Ivanova, Kahn, Kevoe Feldman, Lahr, Landsmark, Lykourino, Mellette, Molnar, Rappaport, Rawson, Rejtar, Shrivastava, Sivak, Spencer, Stefanik, Strange, Tjiptowidjojo, Toledano Laredo, Triest, Un, Viola, Walker J., Walker L., West.

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

Absent: (Professors): Di Credico, Hodeghatta, Lowrey, Parameswaran

Absent: (Administrators): Gallagher

Call To Order: 11:45 a.m.

I. **SAC REPORT:** (The SAC Report has been posted on the Senate Website).

- Prof. Kevoe-Feldman noted that the Faculty Senate has not yet voted on new language for the Academic Freedom module. The Faculty Senate voted on and approved the formation of the Ad Hoc Academic Freedom Committee. This committee will review the language and make recommendations for updated language. The Senate Agenda Committee is currently working on charges for the committee.
- The CAMD Dean Search Committee has been staffed.
- The COS Dean Search Committee staffing is in progress.
- Prof. Kevoe-Feldman noted that there will be a Town Hall meeting in the spring semester with the Provost and Executive Vice Provost Tom Sheahan to talk about the global network.

II. **PROVOST REPORT.**

- Provost Madigan noted that White Hall, formerly a large residence hall on the corner of Huntington and Forsythe, has been demolished due to numerous maintenance issues. The space will not be developed right away.
- There has been an incredibly strong set of undergraduate applicants. Early decisions will go out soon.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

Professor Viola (Khoury) said that her college is in desperate need of office space and wanted to float the idea of possibly reserving one floor of whatever is built on the White Hall space for offices.

Prof. Homan (COS) said that co-op faculty are not eligible for the FTNTT Fellowship. She also wondered if there should be student representation on the Senate's Ad Hoc TRACE committee.

Sr. Vice Provost Franko said that when the FTNTT Fellowship program was launched several years ago, the administration determined that that Co-op faculty were not eligible for inclusion, but that the administration could review eligibility in the future.

Provost Madigan said student participation on the TRACE committee is an interesting suggestion.

Chancellor Henderson added that the Student Government Association has excellent leadership. He suggested asking the SGA if it has students that may be interested in volunteering.

Prof. Rappaport asked if the development plans of White Hall contemplate a skyscraper.

Provost Madigan said nothing has been determined, but that he believes a future building in that location could be quite tall.

### **III. PRESENTATION: PROVOST DAVID MADIGAN & CHANCELLOR KEN HENDERSON**

The presentation has been posted to the Faculty Senate website. Below are some highlights.

Provost Madigan said that he and Chancellor Henderson work very closely together, hence they do this presentation together every year. Provost Madigan oversees academic affairs, the colleges and the research enterprise. Chancellor Henderson oversees the student experience and learning.

Provost Madigan noted that Northeastern is in year three of implementing the academic plan, "Experience Unleashed." The University's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is woven throughout the entire academic plan. The global university system is an essentially important piece of this plan, as is our commitment to experiential learning. Personalization is also a key philosophical guiding force, allowing learners to chart their own paths.

Provost Madigan stated that the research enterprise is thriving. Northeastern received almost \$300 million in awards last year: the centers and institutes are a very important part of that.

Provost Madigan and Chancellor Henderson reviewed key appointments in their respective offices.

In the Office of the Provost, key appointments include:

- Akram Alshawabkeh Senior Vice Provost and Professor
- Javed Aslam, the University's Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer

In the Office of the Chancellor, key appointments include:

- Liz Zulick, Senior Vice Chancellor for Education Innovation
- James Genone, Senior Vice Chancellor for Learning Strategy

Chancellor Henderson presented an overview of the office of Experiential Digital Global Education (EDGE). This unit drives Northeastern's growth goals and digital strategy broadly by:

- Providing digital learning design and development services to Northeastern's schools and colleges.
- Working with colleges & corporate partners connecting learning to employment.
- EDGE is a revenue center for new innovative initiatives.

Chancellor Henderson noted that there is a decreasing market for on-ground domestic learners and an increasing market for digital learners.

Chancellor Henderson shared that many companies are interested in having Northeastern develop customized content. He anticipates that this demand will increase in the future.

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

Professor Strange (Khoury) asked what participants in the EDGE program receive?

Chancellor Henderson said that participants receive everything from non-credit certificates to full MA degrees.

Professor Hill (CAMD) asked if the administration is interested in providing a 3-year Bachelor's degree program, as a more equitable educational option for non-traditional age students.

Provost Madigan said that there are no existing plans to provide such a program, but it is an idea that may be developed in the future.

Professor Jean Charles (CSSH) asked if there will be a plan to support programs that focus on anti-racist work.

Provost Madigan indicated that the administration is paying close attention to likely changes that will result from the new federal government administration and that the university is "not walking away from its commitments."

Professor Heidi Kevoe-Feldman said that many research faculty are concerned about future funding availability for NIH and other government organizations.

Provost Madigan said the administration is concerned and paying close attention. He said that Northeastern is very good at pivoting and adapting, but did not know what the NSF budget would look like in the future.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **A. RESTRUCTURE OF WORLD LANGUAGES CENTER IN THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES.**

Professor Heidi Kevoe Feldman read the following and then introduced Professor Katz Bourns (CSSH).

**WHEREAS** the World Languages Center (WLC) already administers all language courses and programs, including a major, 4 combined majors, and 9 minors;

**WHEREAS** the current structure of housing language majors and minors in a different department is not transparent to students, potential students, and individuals on and beyond our campus;

**WHEREAS** this restructuring will position the unit for sustained growth, establish the Department of World Languages and Cultures as parallel with other CSSH undergraduate degree-granting departments, and align Northeastern with its peer institutions;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the World Languages Center be restructured into the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

Professor Stacey Katz Bourns' proposal to restructure the World Languages Center is posted to the Faculty Senate website.

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

Professor Walker (CSSH) expressed concern about the great deal of reorganization that is taking place and asked if there will be a robust cohort of tenure track faculty teaching higher level literature and cultural classes in the language.

Professor Katz Bourns said that in recent years they have been hiring faculty who have expertise in cultural studies. The combined majors have been very helpful for their growth. They are contemplating combined majors, such as French and International Affairs, for example.

**The VOTE on the resolution PASSED: 36-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Professor Dee Spencer