



TO: All Full-time Faculty Members
FROM: Faculty Senate Agenda Committee
SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Meeting

The thirteenth meeting of the sixty fourth Faculty Senate will be:

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Time: 11:45 AM to 1:25 PM. ET

VIRTUAL MEETING via Teams

Please note, the meeting will be recorded for the purpose of taking notes. All Senators and Appointed Administrators have been sent an invite.

We ask all participants to start the meeting muted.
For other faculty who wish to participate, please click on the link below.

I. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. SAC REPORT (PROFESSOR HEIDI KEVOE FELDMAN).**
- B. PROVOST'S REPORT (PROVOST MADIGAN).**
- C. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION.**

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. REPORT OF THE TRACE AD HOC COMMITTEE (PROF. STEVE LUSTIG).**
- B. TRACE RESOLUTION (PROF. STEVE LUSTIG)**

RESOLUTION #1:

WHEREAS students are given neither a definition nor a rubric for the meaning and measurement of "effective teaching", and

WHEREAS a meaningful TRACE question must be composed as a precise and unambiguous query, appropriate for the students' training, that focuses on specific behaviors (actions) and outcomes, and seek an objective response that does not elicit bias, and

WHEREAS the TRACE question "What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?" does not meet all these criteria, and

WHEREAS “effective teaching” is defined in pedagogical literature in terms of (1) the instructor using effective teaching practices (actions) and (2) the instructor enabling the achievement of the intended course learning outcomes,

BE IT RESOLVED that the TRACE question “What is your overall rating of this instructor's teaching effectiveness?” be removed from the TRACE survey, and substituted with multiple questions that query (1) the instructor using specific effective teaching practices (actions) and (2) the instructor enabling the achievement of the intended course learning outcomes, each question being composed as a precise and unambiguous query, appropriate for the students’ training, and that focuses on specific behaviors (actions) and outcomes, and seek an objective response that does not elicit bias.

C. TRACE RESOLUTION (PROF. STEVE LUSTIG)

RESOLUTION #2:

BE IT RESOLVED that the TRACE survey be revised to the structure and content presented as Appendix C according to the recommendations provided in this report.

APPENDIX C: Recommended Revised TRACE Survey Questions

You are encouraged to evaluate this class based on *its content*, *your engagement with the material*, and *your mastery of intended course outcomes*, and the *instructor’s actions*, rather than any unrelated attributes. Given the intended use of the TRACE to enhance teaching, we welcome student comments that are thoughtful, professional, constructive, and considerate.

Student reflection

1. How often did you attend this class?
 - 80-100%
 - 60-80%
 - 40-60%
 - 20-40%
 - 1-20%

2. The number of hours per week I devoted to this course outside scheduled class meeting times.
 - More than 10
 - 8-10
 - 5-7
 - 3-4
 - 0-2

3. What could I have done to make this course better for myself?

Course-related questions

4. The syllabus was accurate and helpful in delineating expectations and course outcomes.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

5. Required and additional course materials were helpful in achieving course outcomes.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Learning-related questions

6. Class sessions (in person or online, or any other type of class meeting) were helpful for learning.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

7. I met the learning outcomes for the course.

- Met all
- Met most
- Met some
- Met few
- Met none

8. My grades in this course reflect my mastery of the course learning outcomes.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

9. This class had the expected amount of rigor in relation to the learning outcomes.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

10. The classroom conditions (i.e., time of day, class size, exterior noise, less aesthetic environment) negatively impacted my learning and achievement of learning outcomes.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Instructor-related questions

11. The instructor explained how I would be graded in this course.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

12. The instructor helped the class identify ways to master the learning outcomes.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

13. The instructor created opportunities for me to be engaged in class.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

14. The instructor promoted a classroom environment that enables learning.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

15. The instructor clearly communicated ideas and information.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

16. What did the instructor do well?

17. What could be improved about the course?

D. TRACE RESOLUTION (PROF. STEVE LUSTIG)

RESOLUTION #3:

WHEREAS student evaluations of teaching have been established to be subject to bias,

BE IT RESOLVED that TRACE survey results be used as one component in more comprehensive assessment of teaching effectiveness in faculty merit, promotion, and tenure processes that includes peer evaluations and instructors' teaching reflections.

E. TRACE RESOLUTION (PROF. STEVE LUSTIG)

RESOLUTION #4:

WHEREAS recent TRACE data aids students in choosing courses and enables instructor accountability, and

WHEREAS distant TRACE data do not necessarily reflect more recent teaching and course outcomes, and

WHEREAS limiting students' access to distant TRACE data limits preconceptional bias and encourages instructors to experiment with new and improved methods,

BE IT RESOLVED that historical TRACE survey results be made available to students for 2 years prior of the current academic year.

F. TRACE RESOLUTION (PROF. STEVE LUSTIG)

RESOLUTION #5:

WHEREAS recent TRACE data aids students in choosing courses and enables instructor accountability, and

WHEREAS distant TRACE data do not necessarily reflect more recent teaching and course outcomes, and

WHEREAS limiting students' access to distant TRACE data limits preconceptional bias and encourages instructors to experiment with new and improved methods, and

WHEREAS TRACE data made available to the students offer a biased perspective because the data do not include supporting response statements from the instructors,

BE IT RESOLVED that instructors have the optional opportunity to include their own response statements with the TRACE survey results made available to the students.

G. TRACE RESOLUTION (PROF. STEVE LUSTIG)

RESOLUTION #6:

WHEREAS high participation rates in TRACE surveys increase statistical validity of results,

BE IT RESOLVED that the university, colleges, departments, and instructors automate incentives to students to submit complete and thoughtful TRACE surveys.

H. REPORT OF THE GLOBAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PROF. NIKOS PASSAS).

I. GEC RESOLUTION (PROF. NIKOS PASSAS).

BE IT RESOLVED: The provost and chancellor's office develop and execute a Northeastern Network resource page that outlines research and creative activities across colleges, members across NEU's global network can learn about the other colleges, academic programs, research opportunities, etc. as detailed in the GEC report above.

J. REPORT OF NUPATH AD HOC COMMITTEE (PROF. BRIAN O'CONNELL).

III. PRESENTATION:

ALEXIS O. GOLTRA, CHIEF PRIVACY OFFICER AND SENIOR PRIVACY ATTORNEY

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