



Northeastern University
Office of the Faculty Senate

TO: FACULTY SENATE
FROM: Secretary, Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Minutes, 1 April, 2020

Present:

Professors Bart, Bormann, Bourns, Caracoglia, Carr, Chai, Cisewski, Dennerlein, Desnoyers, Dyal-Chand, Ergun, Erdogmus, Goluch, Gonyeau, Hayward, Hudson, Kevoe Feldman, Laboy, Lerner, McNabb, Mountain, Musselman, Mylott, Powers-Lee, Shapiro, Shefelbine, Spencer, Stephens, Vollmer, Wahl, Wertheim, Wood
Administrators: Bean, Echambadi, Hackney, Loeffelholz, Sceppa,

Absent:

Professors Dau, Stowell
Administrators Ziemer

CALL TO ORDER: 11:45 a.m.

The minutes of 3.18.20 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

I. SAC REPORT

Prof. Sue Powers-Lee reported that SAC has met three times since the last Senate meeting, with one meeting including the Provost. Topics included Covid-19 contingency planning and handbook revision.

She also reported that the revised Faculty Handbook "Tenure" module has received approval by the Board of Trustees.

Prof. Powers-Lee noted two informational curriculum updates from the Graduate Council included the inactivation of two CPS programs: Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Professional Studies and the Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

II. PROVOST REPORT

Provost Bean reported that there has been a lot going on relative to Covid-19.

He reported that Summer 1 and Summer 2 will be online. He said there have been many requests from faculty to accelerate the transition from Blackboard to Canvas, and students don't want to be on two different platforms. He said the University will begin the transition this summer in a non-mandatory way and by fall will have transitioned completely to Canvas. The Provost said that Canvas has integrated well with Zoom. He added there will be a lot of help for faculty over the transition.

The Provost reported that fall applications look surprisingly good. He said looking at

undergraduates, deposits were ahead of last year in both regular fall entry and N.U.in. He added that the administration is planning contingencies for the case that we cannot bring students to campus. Based on current applications, it seems the undergraduate class will be strong.

The Provost said that the University has had to be careful about N.U.in. A number of N.U.in sites are Covid hotspots. What they have done this year with N.U.in is restrict it to London, Dublin and Montreal. If those sites aren't possible, Northeastern will have N.U.in based somewhere in the Boston area.

The Provost said there was more concern about graduate professional degrees, because there is a higher number of international students who may have visa problems. This is not a government visa restriction issue. All of our consulates overseas are currently out of action. By the time consulates are in place and starting to process visas, there will be such a backlog that it is unlikely we will get everyone here in the fall. The Provost said they have just put together a committee to address this issue. The Provost said there are still high hopes that we will be able to start teaching on ground in the fall.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Erdogmus asked if international students could be onboarded online if their arrival is delayed due to visa issues?

The Provost said this was being reviewed. He said they were looking at many contingencies. One option might be to have students start online at home and then as soon as possible to transition to on-ground. Another option might be to get students visas into Canada instead of the US. He said there are some programs in COE, Khoury and CPS that are licensed to start in Toronto. We may have students start there and migrate to Boston when we can get the visas. The Provost added that the administration is looking at a number of options, because we need the flexibility. Each student may have different challenges.

Prof. Spencer asked when the faculty will know if fall courses will be online? The Provost said he did not know yet.

Prof. Wertheim asked if the Provost could comment on extending the tenure clock.

The Provost said the administration is watching the developments on this carefully. What has been decided so far is that we will not do anything that is mandatory. We will be making a decision on this before too long. This is firming up as we learn more.

Prof. Wertheim also asked the Provost to comment on pay for dining hall, cleaning staff workers, etc.

The Provost said the Commonwealth opened up unemployment insurance to be available to people immediately. In addition, the CARES Act from the Federal Government said that a worker gets what they would get from the states plus \$600 a week for the next eight weeks. For most of these workers, they are doing better with those provisions. If we were to follow the path of MIT or Harvard, these workers would actually take a cut. The Provost added when the CARES Act funding

ends in eight weeks, we will have to revisit this. Right now, we think we are in the best place for supporting our workers.

Prof. Mountain asked if there was a decision timeline on Summer 2 housing? She said this greatly affects our co-op students that have already accepted and are searching for July-December co-ops.

The Provost said since Summer 2 will be online, there will not be students in the dorms for learning. He said he is not aware that a final decision on housing was reached, but it is probably not feasible to open up housing for very few students. The Provost will ask Sr. Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Madeline Estabrook for an update on housing.

The Provost said the University is also in discussion with a number of hospitals to share our dorms with healthcare professionals who want to avoid going home to potentially infect their families.

Prof. Spencer said several NTT faculty expressed concerns that they might be laid off or cut altogether.

The Provost said there had been no serious discussions about layoffs at this point. He added at this point Northeastern has continued faculty hiring at full speed and we are being cautious about staff hiring, but there are no freezes.

Prof. Carr said that post-docs are worried about the same issue.

The Provost said according to newly released Federal guidelines, we can continue to fund researchers until June 18th for now and we will be watching out for extensions to that.

Prof. Dennerlein asked if it is a definite policy that an extension will not apply to faculty going up for tenure this year. And secondly, if that is the case, will there be an extension to the tenure process since no one can really work full time especially our diverse faculty?

The Provost said there has not been any definite decisions about the tenure clock. If a faculty person's case is to go in now, an extension doesn't add anything. How the tenure clock will evolve next year is still being reviewed.

III. PRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR JEFF KONYA, ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Athletics Recap for 2019-2020

Director Konya reviewed the highlights of the 2019-2020 athletic season, noting it was a very good year. He said when talking about varsity student athletes we need to acknowledge their academic accomplishments, noting that just under 40% had achieved Dean's List status at the University. He noted that student success couldn't be possible without the cooperation of faculty.

Highlights of the year included the men's hockey team winning their third straight Beanpot and women's team winning their Beanpot combining for the first double Beanpot victories since the late 1980's.

The entire presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Prof. Wood asked Director Konya how Athletics was handling the recruitment of high school senior athletes whose seasons have been cut short?

Director Konya said there is currently no in-person recruiting. Everything is virtual. They are relying on videos sharing past performances and other recruiting services.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Prof. Lerner read the following and Prof. McNabb seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the University approve the Bachelor of Arts in History, Culture and Law in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities as approved by the UUCS on 11 March 2020 (9-0-0).

Prof. Lerner acknowledged Dean Poiger who said that this proposal was modeled on a program CSSH founded a few years ago that is called Politics, Philosophy and Economics. The lesson learned from that major was that the combination of deep inquiry from multiple social sciences and humanities perspectives with a pre-professional tinge is something that is attractive. We are hoping that this major will attract students who want to look at problems from multiple perspectives and have an interest in humanistic perspectives and culture and also have an interest in how the law impacts society and culture. Hope to attract such students. Dean Hackney added that the School of Law was also excited about this proposal.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION: There were no questions.

The vote was taken. The resolution to approve the Bachelor of Arts in History, Culture and Law in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities PASSED, 31-0-0.

B. Dean Sceppa read the following and Prof. McNabb seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the University approve the proposed reorganization of Bouvé College of Health Sciences School of Health Professions into two new schools.

Dean Sceppa described the process briefly. Dean Sceppa said the College vote for the reorganization happened in Oct. 2018, but the planning was delayed due to multiple transitions in administrators. Dean Sceppa said there was a decision to create two task forces and the task forces would have a charge of working with each department in the organization.

Provost Bean recognized Prof. Mohammed to explain further details about the process and reasoning behind this reorganization. Dean Sceppa recognized Prof. Greenwood who also provided additional information.

The Proposal can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Carr recognized Rebekah Moore from the Department of Music who asked about the opportunities for collaboration between CAMD and new School of Public Health on research and curriculum development.

Prof. Mohammed said he thinks this speaks to the interdisciplinary nature of Public Health. He added the benefit of jointly appointed faculty allows for a lot of collaboration around health and communications. He added there are also opportunities to look at how we will expand existing degrees or double majors.

Prof. Vollmer asked what are the added administrative costs of splitting into new schools?

Dean Sceppa said this move will allow to create better parity with the other schools.

The vote was taken. The resolution to approve the proposed reorganization of Bouvé College of Health Sciences School of Health Professions into two new schools PASSED: 28-0-0.

C. **Prof. Wood presented the Report of the Research Policy Oversight Committee.**

The report can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

D. Prof. Wood read the following and Prof. Powers-Lee seconded.

WHEREAS the sharing of research laboratory resources is becoming more common at Northeastern University,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommend that the Provost establish and communicate a framework and related process for agreements that would be required for shared research resources (space, facilities, equipment).

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION: There were no questions.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 27-0-0.

E. Prof. Hayward read the following and Prof. Gonyeau seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that usage of Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) surveys such as TRACE in merit, tenure, and/or promotion considerations must involve (a) analysis of multiple SET queries and (b) utilization of multiple measures of the distribution of the responses (such as median or mode) rather than only the average of responses.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Hayward recognized Prof. McOwen for any possible questions.

Prof. Caracoglia asked if the median and mode were currently available in the TRACE reports. Prof. McOwen said the median was available but he wasn't sure if one could currently get the mode.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 25-0-0.

F. Prof. Powers-Lee read the following and Prof. Gonyeau seconded.

The Provost added that the effort and performance of the faculty has been exceptional during these difficult times and he thanked them all and asked them to thank their colleagues.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommend that the provost and deans consider the irregularity of the spring/summer 2020 terms and recognize the faculty effort required for the unexpected transition from on-ground to online instruction in the evaluation of teaching performance that is utilized for merit, tenure, and/or promotion considerations.

Prof. Bourns suggested a friendly amendment changing the word online to remote. Prof. Powers-Lee considered this as a friendly amendment.

The resolution now reads:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommend that the provost and deans consider the irregularity of the spring/summer 2020 terms and recognize the faculty effort required for the unexpected transition from on-ground to remote instruction in the evaluation of teaching performance that is utilized for merit, tenure, and/or promotion considerations.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Lerner asked what will be the specific types of guidance that will be put in place and what will be the process for determining that guidance for these considerations.

The Provost said he is involved with promotion and tenure. He could see, for example, a peer committee noting that this occurred during the Covid's term. Then everyone along the line would be cognizant of this.

He said he was also happy to leave his successor and SVP Franko a recommendation that a memo be sent out later in the year to recall our special circumstances.

The vote was taken. The resolution PASSED: 28-0-0.

Adjourned 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Deniz Erdogmus
Senate Secretary