

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Library Forum Room - Evanston, Wieboldt 421 - Chicago
May 2, 2012

Paul Arntson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 5:16pm. There were 50 of 85 members in attendance, with 29 attendees in Evanston, 12 in Chicago and 9 via videoconferencing. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met.

1. Welcome by Paul Arntson, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Paul Arntson welcomed everyone and introduced the speaker, Board of Trustees Chairman William Osborn.

2. Discussion with Board of Trustees Chairman William Osborn

Senators openly discussed various topics that are important to the faculty and to the university with Board of Trustees Chairman, William Osborn. The discussion centered on issues concerning faculty salaries, the Strategic Plan, shared governance, raising tuition at NU, and emeriti faculty. Chairman Osborn plans to continue meeting with the Faculty Senate in the future.

3. Approval of the minutes of the April 4, 2012 Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes of the April 4, 2012 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved, pending additional changes, if any, be sent to Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator.

4. Agenda for Faculty Assembly Meeting on May 14th

A proposed agenda for the May 14th Faculty Assembly Meeting will be sent out to Senators, who will be asked to give additional recommendations and feedback. Senators will also be asked to generate questions for President Schapiro to answer and discuss, similar in nature to the topics discussed with William Osborn.

5. Vote: NEO Resolution, Bylaw Changes, Senate Rules

The Northwestern Emeriti Organization resolution, along with the changes to the University Assembly bylaws, and two changes to the Faculty Senate rules were adopted by unanimous vote.

Paul Arntson presented the resolution set forth by the Executive Council of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization, which makes a request to the Provost to form an ad hoc committee on engaging Emeritus Faculty in university life. He also reviewed the proposed amendment to the University Assembly bylaws to have a non-voting member from the Northwestern Emeriti Organization. Finally, he reviewed the amendments to the Faculty Senate rules to have at least one representative of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization as a voting member of the Benefits standing committee and to have a representative of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization who shall be a non-voting member of the Faculty

Senate. This recap established a second reading of the resolution and amendments. A motion was made and seconded to support the resolution, the changes to the University Assembly bylaws, and the two changes to the Faculty Senate rules. A vote was taken and all were adopted unanimously.

6. Report from the University Faculty Handbook Committee

The University Faculty Handbook Committee and the Administration have agreed upon a final version of the revised Faculty Handbook. The Handbook Committee voted six in favor of recommending this document to the Faculty Senate, with one abstention. Paul Arntson announced that a final vote will be taken at the June 6, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting, giving Senators one month to review the revised handbook. To address items that still may not have been addressed, changes to the Faculty Handbook will now be made on a yearly on-going basis.

John Elson, Chair of the Handbook Committee, reported on several items that were points of contention including standard of review of the Faculty Appeals Panel's decisions/recommendations, compulsory medical evaluations, Clinical Faculty status, what are the faculty's powers to determine how it exercises its power, issues about dependent care travel grants, and issues regarding the approval of faculty assignment texts of which they make a profit.

Chair Elson also gave a brief overview of matters to be addressed in the future that were important, but committee members felt the Handbook revision process was not the appropriate place to work out the details. It was recommended that these issues be handles by a Faculty Senate committee that will pursue a change in policy rather than just a revision in the Handbook. Some of the issues include conflict of interest in regard to research, grants issues, medical confidentiality procedures, wording of the outdated statement of academic freedom, and guidelines for faculty (or designated as research faculty).

James Young, Associate Provost and Chair John Elson have agreed to jointly work on an annotated statement highlighting the important handbook changes that can be presented to the faculty.

7. Upcoming June 6, 2012 Faculty Senate Meeting

Paul Arntson briefly talked about the three important items that will be voted on at the June 6, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting, including the approval of standing committee chairs for FY 2012-2013, election of vice chair for FY 2012-2013, and approval of the Faculty Handbook. To ensure a successfully vote a quorum must be met, so Senators were strongly encouraged to attend the upcoming meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.