

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago
April 2, 2014

The Faculty Senate meeting of April 2, 2014 took place on the Evanston Campus at the Pancoe Auditorium and on the Chicago Campus at 421 Wieboldt. Chair Stephen Eisenman called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. There were 55 of 79 members in attendance, with 36 attendees in Evanston, 11 in Chicago, and 8 participating off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance were the immediate past chair and the Northwestern Emeriti Organization representative, both serving as honorary members of the Faculty Senate.

1. Welcome and Chair's Report

The Chair's report included a call for nominations to the Vice chair position for 2014–2015. The Title IX suit against a professor of Philosophy will be considered by the Committee on Cause. Based upon the March 5 Senate Resolution, a Special Committee has been formed to revise the rules concerning the Committee on Cause.

The Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee has been reconstituted and will begin its meetings, Eisenman reported. He said that the Administration is very open to its findings and recommendations. The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, created by and representative of faculty senate leaders in the bowl championship series conference schools, will have a report on the effects of intercollegiate athletics, but a member from Northwestern needs to be appointed. In this respect as in others, Eisenman remarked, the Senate is in a position to do good work in the University.

2. NU Board of Trustees Chair, William Osborn

NU Board of Trustees chair William Osborn addressed the Senate on subjects suggested for his comment. The strength of the student body was impressive, in his view. Admission is especially challenging for prospective undergraduates, as the number and quality of applicants has caused the bar to be raised. Northwestern's ability to capture research funding remains strong, he said. The \$9.5B endowment also puts Northwestern in a strong position. President Schapiro and Provost Linzer are attentive to input from students, faculty, and alumni, and new buildings are changing the campus.

Osborn added that his involvement with NUQ has shown that it a fascinating exercise for Northwestern. The journalism and educational programs at Qatar have been stimulated by the Arab Spring. This is a part of the world that can change quickly and requires alertness to the political and social environment.

In course development worldwide, the prospects for MOOCS are still an open question without a clear path to the future. In other growth, the current building campaign is closely watched for questions of cost and sustainability. Operating costs of new buildings must be weighed relative to endowment, which is the target of the University's \$3.75B campaign. Meanwhile, Northwestern's credit rating of AAA remains strong. The faculty plays an important role in development, as for example with faculty input for the new global hub of the Kellogg School of Management next to the Allen Center.

Osborn responded to a variety of questions from members of the Senate. He acknowledged that the Trustees could shrink their numbers and increase their cultural and geographic diversity, and that the intercollegiate athletics program will require close scrutiny.

3. Committee Reports and Motions

NTE Committee Report: In other business, Heather Colburn's motion to publish the most recent version of the Non-Tenure Eligible Faculty Data Table under password protection, and to annually update this published table as necessary, passed.

4. NU football players and the NLRB

A second motion, to request that before any future appeals of NLRB rulings of the employee status of football players, the University should consult with the Faculty Senate to ascertain the level of support among Faculty for such appeals, failed. Eisenman encouraged all supporting the spirit of the motion to frame a new statement. One Senator suggested that Bob Gundlach and the Athletics Committee should be invited to address the Senate on this question.

5. Adjournment

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel H. Garrison
Secretary