

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
Swift Hall 107 - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago  
October 2, 2013

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The meeting was called to order by Jerilyn Logemann, Faculty Senate Chair, at 5:32pm. There were 48 of 72 members in attendance, with 33 attendees in Evanston, 10 in Chicago, and 5 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 by Jerilyn Logemann, chair**

Jerilyn Logemann welcomed new and returning Senators to the first meeting of the 2013-14 fiscal year and briefly introduced herself. She affirmed the Faculty Senate's role of reestablishing, maintaining, and building faculty governance at NU and gave a brief historical overview of governance at NU, including her past involvement.

**2. Honorary Degree Presentation and Vote**

Members of the Honorary Degree Committee, Chair Sandy Waxman, and Jake Julia, Associate Vice President and Associate Provost of Academic Initiative, and Senior Vice President for Business and Finance, presented the 2014 nominees for Honorary Degree. Senators were given an opportunity to give feedback and ask questions. At the conclusion of the discussion each senator was given a ballot and a vote was taken.

**3. Call to join a committee**

Chair Jerilyn Logemann stressed the importance of committee membership and asked chairs that were present to give a brief overview of what their committee is charged with and/or currently working on.

- **Benefits:** Chair Donna Jurdy explained that the committee deals with items related to university benefits, such as healthcare, retirement, and childcare. Last year the committee led the smoke-free campus initiative and this year they plan to tackle the affordable care act and changes in retirement.
- **Budget:** Chair Helen Thompson explained that, although the committee is still not fully defined, it is planning to reestablish the strong relation to the administration that once existed.
- **Cause:** Chair Hank Seifert is a past Senator who is not currently serving in the Faculty Senate but has agreed to continue to chair the Cause committee. He explained that the committee meets only when there is a case and is called on by the administration or faculty member when there is a dispute between a department or school administration and a faculty member

that cannot be resolved. The committee weighs evidence given from both sides and gives an independent faculty advisory opinion.

- **Governance:** Chair Carol Simpson-Stern reported that immediate committee business is the establishment of bylaws for the Faculty Appeal Panel, which is the committee that handles faculty appeals such as denial of tenure.
- **Non-tenured:** Past Chair Christiane Rey reported that currently the committee is conducting research to identify all the non-tenured faculty members across the university since position titles and status vary across the schools and departments. Members are also examining the Faculty Handbook to ensure that language specific to non-tenured faculty is valid. Finally, the committee has been working with Jim Young, former Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, to get aggregate data, by categories, of the non-tenured faculty salaries from most of the schools. This data has been posted and can be found on the Faculty senate website.

#### **4. Call to serve as a committee chair**

Chair Jerilyn Logemann announced several committee chair vacancies and challenged Senators to serve in this capacity. Norman Harden was nominated as chair of the Research Affairs committee and Martin Block was nominated as chair of the Secure Faculty Survey. Both Martin Block and Norman Harden accepted and will take leadership of their respective committees. The chair vacancies that remain are for the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Non-tenured, and Social Responsibility committees.

#### **5. Topics for the Executive Meeting: Thurs. October 31, 2013 2-3:30pm**

Chair Jerilyn Logemann reminded standing committee chairs about the upcoming Executive Committee meeting with the administration taking place on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and strongly urged everyone to attend. Senators discussed possible agenda topics, including:

- President Schapiro's study – "Are Tenure-Track Professors Better Teachers?" - how does he interpret the findings?
- New move to take graduate school programs into the professional schools if they are leading to a professional degree. Faculty members were not asked about this.

#### **6. Topics for Assembly Meeting: Thurs. Nov 7th 4-5:30pm**

Chair Jerilyn Logemann asked Senators to think about possible discussion topics for the upcoming University Assembly Meeting taking place on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. She urged everyone to attend and also to invite colleagues to attend. Senators discussed possible agenda topics, including:

- President Schapiro's study "Are Tenure-Track Professors Better Teachers?" How are the findings interpreted?
- Job market: Undergraduate concern about the current job market and their own prospects. What are we thinking about with this generation of students? What is NU's niche in helping to advance these students?

- The Future of Research Scientists: What is on the line for the research scientist if the economy continues to be so troubled and access to the funds that support the kind of research that has made us distinctive diminishes?

## **7. Topics for Board of Trustees Meeting: Fri. Nov 15th 12-2pm**

Chair Jerilyn Logemann announced the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting with the Senate taking place November 15, 2013 from 12-2:00pm on the Evanston Campus. All Senate members are invited to attend this important meeting. Senators discussed a wide range of possible agenda topics, including:

- Building: Why are we building so much on campus and who decides when a building should be built and what the purpose is? What is the agenda for continuing to build, given the number of students at NU?
- Understanding the educational vision: What is the vision for education in five years (how is it going to be served and knowledge transferred)? How are MOOCS going to fit into the plan?
- How decisions are made that affect faculty: People were surprised by the decisions to build a new sports center and to vastly increase the medical school without a lot of faculty input. The NU social sciences are ranked very high when compared to peer institutions, yet the buildings that house these departments are, in many cases, in poor condition. Who decides the priorities?
- University vision for Qatar: What is it?
- What the senate and the faculty are entitled to: Establish a faculty senate/faculty bill of rights, giving faculty the right to express their views and be a part of the process on fundamental decisions made about buildings, budgets, and the strategic plan.
- The board's view of what they want NU to be known for in 15 years. Athletic school? Academic school? 50/50?
- Job market: Undergraduate concern about the current job market and their own prospects. What are we thinking about with this generation of students? What is NU's niche in helping to advance these students?
- The Future of Research Scientists: What is on the line for the research scientist if the economy continues to be so troubled and access to the funds that support the kind of research that has made us distinctive diminishes?

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Diana Snyder*

*Administrative Coordinator*