

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago  
April 1, 2015

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The Faculty Senate meeting of April 1, 2015 took place on the Evanston Campus in Pancoe Auditorium and on the Chicago Campus in Wieboldt Hall 421. President Stephen Eisenman called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. There were 50 of 80 members in attendance, with 36 attendees in Evanston, 7 in Chicago, and 7 participating off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance were undergraduate students, Danielle Faden, Associated Student Government President Julia Watson, and Daily Northwestern managing design editor Rebecca Savransky.

**1. Welcome by Stephen Eisenman, President**

President Stephen Eisenman welcomed Senators and announced that the Daily Northwestern design editor Rebecca Savransky is in attendance and will be reporting on the meeting.

**2. Bottled Water-Free Northwestern Resolution, Social Responsibility Committee and ASG**

President Eisenman introduced the Bottled Water-Free Northwestern Resolution from the Social Responsibility committee. He acknowledged Danielle Faden's presence, and briefly talked about the information she presented at the March 4, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting, which included facts about the negative environmental consequences of the use of plastic bottles and viable solutions, such as replacing old drinking fountains with new water bottle refilling stations.

Although the Bottled Water measure was first introduced at the last Faculty Senate meeting, the text of the resolution was not presented to the Faculty Senate one week in advance of a vote as is required. In light of this, President Eisenman made a motion that the Senate suspend the normal set of rules to allow this motion to be considered in the absence of the one week required verification of the Senate. President Eisenman called the vote and the motion carried.

Social Responsibility Committee Chair Marcus Moseley introduced the following Bottled Water-Free Northwestern resolution:

***Whereas, it is part of the University's mission** to "Contribute to the solutions for renewable energy and a sustainable environment and to how public policies and economic incentives promote implementation of new technologies and practices" (Northwestern University Strategic Plan 2011);*

***Whereas, the Northwestern University "We Will" campaign** will "help realize [the] transformative strategic plan," referenced above (Northwestern News);*

***Whereas, the "We Will" campaign** "is an invitation to the Northwestern community to join together to solve society's most critical challenges" (We Will Case Statement);*

**Whereas**, "As one of the world's leading academic institutions, Northwestern University recognizes its role in addressing the global challenges of sustainability and climate change" (Northwestern Office of Sustainability);

**Whereas**, "Reducing waste and increasing our diversion rate are an important part of our campus sustainability efforts" (Northwestern Facilities Management);

**Whereas**, Northwestern Facilities Management includes among its organizational values a commitment to stewardship and environmental responsibility;

**Whereas**, the reduction of plastic waste on Northwestern's campus fits into the missions and values above;

**Whereas**, the sale of bottled water on Northwestern's campus contributes negatively to our overall environmental impact;

**Whereas**, although plastic waste reduction is not limited to bottled water, eliminating the sale of bottled water on campus is a feasible and responsible step in the reduction process:

- The manufacturing, distribution, and disposal of bottled water have both environmental and human rights repercussions, as detailed below;
- There are suitable alternatives to bottled water in the form of water fountains, tap water, and reusable water bottles;

**Whereas**, bottled water produces environmental damages:

- Americans purchase a total of 31.2 billion liters of bottled water annually, which is equivalent to 65,937,500,000 sixteen-ounce water bottles. This requires nearly 900,000 tons of plastic (Pacific Institute);
- Only 29% of plastic bottles are recycled in the United States. Much of the remaining bottles end up in landfills and the oceans (EPA);
- There are 315 billion pounds of plastic in our oceans today (5 Gyres Institute);
- At least 267 species worldwide are known to ingest marine plastic debris, including 86 percent of all sea turtle species, 44 percent of all seabird species, and 43 percent of marine mammal species (California Coastal Commission);
- Marine animal ingestion of plastic causes blockages within the digestion system and eventual death (SEE Turtles);
- Given that nearly all sea turtle species are classified as endangered, plastic is a serious threat to species survival and global biodiversity (WWF);

**Whereas**, bottled water requires significantly more energy and material inputs to produce than does tap water:

- On average, bottled water requires 1,580 times more energy to produce and distribute than tap water (Pacific Institute);
- Northwestern University would conserve 107,507 gallons of water used in the production of bottled water per year by ending the sale of bottled water on campus (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Sodexo and CASE data);
- Northwestern University would avoid 233,701 pounds of CO2 emissions per year by eliminating the sale of bottled water on campus (Natural Resources Defense Council, Food and Water Watch). This is the equivalent of planting 4,868 trees (American Forests);
- Northwestern University would save 4,674 cubic feet of solid waste (PET bottles, caps, and secondary packaging) by eliminating the sale of bottled water on campus (Natural Resources Defense Council, Food and Water Watch);

**Whereas**, global water scarcities have produced human rights implications:

- It takes 3 liters of water to manufacture and bottle 1 liter of bottled water, resulting in a total of 93 billion liters of water wasted each year in the United States (Pacific Institute).
- Given that we are entering a global water crisis and 1 in 9 people lack access to enough clean drinking water, this waste is irresponsible (WHO/UNICEF);

- *In 2010, the UN General Assembly declared "the right to safe and clean drinking water as a human right";*
- *In 2007, Atlanta experienced an extreme drought and, despite the governor declaring a state of emergency, Coca-Cola continued to extract water from Lake Lanier, which supplies municipal drinking water for 5 million people, in order to bottle and manufacture Dasani brand-bottled water (New York Times);*
- *The bottled water industry continues to exploit communities in this manner, leaving them with low water tables and devastated ecosystems. Meanwhile, the community's water supply is being packaged in plastic and sold back to them (Corporate Accountability International);*
- *47% of all bottled water is derived from tap water, which is a problem as the bottled water industry is selling our municipal supplies back to us at an incredibly inflated cost (Food and Water Watch);*

**Whereas**, *Northwestern has a contract with Coca-Cola and purchased at least 244,272 bottles of water from Coca-Cola during the 2012-2013 academic year, thereby supporting this wasteful use of water;*

**Whereas**, *the sale of bottled water on campus is contrary to:*

- *The University's mission to contribute to solutions and practices of sustainable environment (Northwestern University Strategic Plan 2011);*
- *The Office of Sustainability's mission to address the global challenges of sustainability and;*
- *Facilities Management's commitment to environmental responsibility and mission to reduce waste on campus;*

**Whereas**, *there are feasible alternatives to bottled water that are more cost-effective, environmentally conscious, and accessible:*

- *Tap water is 240 to 10,000 times less expensive than bottled water (Natural Resources Defense Council);*
- *Northwestern provides every incoming student with a courtesy reusable water bottle;*
- *Water fountains are easily accessible on campus and water fountains are consistently upgraded to reusable bottle-friendly refilling stations;*
- *Norris collaborated with Pura Playa to install 6 new water-refilling stations in the summer of 2013;*
- *It is Residential Services' policy to upgrade water fountains to water refilling stations as each residence hall is remodeled (Paul Riel, Executive Director of Residential Services);*
- *It is campus policy to upgrade water fountains to refilling stations when the water fountain in question requires maintenance (Sheila Driscoll, Business and Finance Director of the Division of Student Affairs);*

**Whereas**, *a number of universities, including peer institutions like Harvard University and Brown University have taken concrete steps, including student referenda and sales phase-outs, to reduce the sale of bottled water on their campuses;*

**Whereas**, *a number of universities, including peer institutions like Washington University in St. Louis and regional institutions like Loyola University Chicago have already gone bottled water-free on their campuses;*

**Whereas**, *Washington University in St. Louis modified its contract with Coca-Cola in 2009 to exclude bottled water, demonstrating that the same change is possible with the Northwestern University Coca-Cola contract (Washington University in St. Louis Newsroom);*

**Whereas**, *over 1,000 Northwestern students have signed the petition urging Northwestern University to go bottled water-free;*

**Be it resolved by the Faculty Senate here assembled**, *that the Faculty Senate supports the Northwestern community to take immediate steps towards going bottled water-free, with the goal of being completely bottled water-free by April of 2016.*

**Be it further resolved**, *that the Faculty Senate supports that, as a bottled water-free campus, Northwestern University will not sell bottled water in on-campus locations, including, but not limited to, convenience stores and vending machines.*

*Be it further resolved, that the Faculty Senate believes that Northwestern has the potential and responsibility to be a leader in sustainable practices and that going bottled water-free is an important step in this process.*

*Be it further resolved, that the Faculty Senate recommends that all old drinking fountains be replaced with the new water bottle refilling stations by April 2016.*

Prior to the vote, a discussion took place and Danielle Faden answered questions and presented additional information. President Eisenman called the vote and the resolution was adopted.

### **3. President's report/remarks, Stephen Eisenman**

***Evanston, global warming initiative:*** [www.greenerevanston.org](http://www.greenerevanston.org): President Stephen Eisenman reminded, and strongly encouraged, Senators to join the Evanston global warming initiative to ensure strong Northwestern representation.

***Proposal to Create an Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing:*** President Stephen Eisenman explained that Julia Watson, Associated Student Government President, presented a proposal for the creation of an Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI), a joint advisory investment recommendation committee that would make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on ethical and social issues that arise in the management of the investments in the University's endowment. The committee would have an equal number of members from the student population, faculty, and alumni of the University, with the Faculty Senate assisting in the selection of the faculty members. Julia explained that currently, 24 out of 31 Consortium on Financing Higher Education (COFHE) schools have an ACSRI, including the University of Chicago, Georgetown, Stanford, Brown, and Harvard. Northwestern is one of only seven COFHE schools without an ACSRI, which speaks volumes to NU's transparency policy and commitment to socially responsible investing, or lack thereof.

Senators discussed the proposal and posed several questions to Julia Watson who provided additional information. The discussion produced the following motion:

*The senate expresses general support for the proposal creating an Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing.*

President Eisenman called the vote and the motion carried.

***Climate Change research:*** President Stephen Eisenman reported that the Climate Change initiative continues to advance. He met with the Research and Curriculum subcommittee of the Sustainability Council and Task Force on Global Warming which was formed last year and now tasked with evaluating the degree to which faculty are engaged in teaching and research in this area. As discussions about research and curricular matters advance, curriculum data is being collected on Global Warming and Sustainability as well as information on faculty research in these areas, which will be used to conduct a

gap analysis to find out what NU lacks. The group's objective is to produce an introduction report by end of Spring concerning moving forward in augmenting Northwestern's response to the crisis of Global Warming and a final full presentation in the Fall.

Recently, President Eisenman sent an email request to all department chairs asking them to provide names of faculty members who are engaged in teaching and/or research related to Climate Change and Global Warming. He asked Senators to follow-up with their department chair and then report back to the Senate on when that department plans to respond to the request if it has not done so already.

#### **4. Presentation of additional Handbook revisions and vote**

Faculty Handbook Committee Chair Wesley Roth Burghardt recapped the discussion from the last Faculty Senate meeting in which the Handbook committee transmitted to the Senate a proposed revision of the Faculty Handbook. Since that meeting, Senators were invited to send commentary and concerns, which were then discussed within the committee members and passed along to Associate Provost Lindsay Chase-Lansdale. These discussions have led to only the slightest of change and improvement in the actual proposed handbook revision, including changes in text at the start of the Disciplinary Procedures section on page 23 which now reads as follows:

*Faculty members who have not performed their required academic duties as set out by their School, Department, or Unit; or who have demonstrated conduct that is inconsistent with expectations of a member of the University community or the general community at large can be subject to disciplinary action by the administration.*

Chair Burghardt reported that there are two major changes to the Faculty Handbook including revised discussion of disciplinary procedures and a large new section concerning Title IX specific disciplinary procedures that was required to bring the university into compliance. In addition to these changes, the committee proposed revisions to the operating guidelines for the Faculty Appeals Panel.

**Motion:** *The Handbook Committee recommends approval of the proposed Handbook update and revised operating guidelines for the Faculty Appeals Panel.*

President Eisenman called the vote and the motion carried.

For the next round of revisions, a suggestion was made for the Handbook Committee to clarify exactly what major and minor sanctions are. Additionally, the committee will address academic freedom and freedom of speech.

#### **5. Standing Committees update**

**Credit Reduction:** Last Fall the Provost and the President wanted faculty feedback on the possibility of reducing the number of credits required for graduates, so the Educational Affairs committee has been investigating the matter. Educational Affairs Committee Chair Michele McDonough reported that in Weinberg the requirement is currently 45 credits and nine quarters of residency. Additionally each independent major and minor may have a much higher requirement for student graduation. The

committee investigated and considered many factors including the benefits to each of the schools of making this reduction (improved student mental health), the value of some experiential learning, students having more time to participate in other types of “outside the classroom” activities and AP credit policies within the different units and within schools. The committee also looked at alternative options such as offering pass/fail classes instead of reducing the credits.

While investigating, committee members learned that there are other groups exploring this matter including the Associated Student Government. ASG has been preparing a report to be presented to WCAS and to the Provost requesting that WCAS be the first school to reduce from 45 to 42 credits. ASG may expand this request to other schools at a later time. The Provost also formed a separate committee to investigate the undergraduate experience. This Provost undergraduate task force will also address credit reduction as part of its overall assessment.

Chair Michele McDonough stressed that the committee is not advocating in any one direction. She encouraged Senators to send in any input on the matter and to talk with colleagues about the impact of this change.

**Diversity Council Meeting:** Michele McDonough attended a recent meeting of the Academics and Education Committee of the Diversity Council and reported that WCAS has been getting an incentive to continue to design classes, ensuring that the learning goals are aligned and that there are a sufficient number of course being offered.

**NU Faculty Senate, NTE Committee Resolution regarding evaluation of NTE faculty:**

NTE Committee Chair Heather Colburn introduced the following resolution regarding evaluation of NTE faculty:

*Whereas the faculty of Northwestern University includes scholars, scientists, lawyers, doctors, and artists who serve in non-tenure-eligible, full-time, part-time, and adjunct positions;*

*Whereas those faculty members contribute in meaningful ways to the success of the University community and its mission to educate Northwestern University students;*

*Whereas effective, complete, and transparent professional evaluation of all faculty members is integral to ensuring the University’s success in its educational mission;*

*Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate encourages faculty and administrators from all University departments, schools and the Central Administration to clarify evaluation criteria and procedures of non-tenure-eligible faculty for the purpose of their continued employment, promotion, and compensation;*

*Be it further resolved that leadership within all University departments, schools and the Central Administration should clarify promotion pathways that are available to non-tenure-eligible faculty.*

President Eisenman called the vote and the motion carried.

## **6. Vice President for 2015-2016 -- Call for Nominations and Self-Nominations**

President Stephen Eisenman encouraged Senators to nominate themselves or other senators to serve as Vice President beginning in August 2015.

## **7. New Business**

**Concerns over Rising Academic Costs:** Senators expressed concern over the recent tuition increase as well as funding that is needed for students who are receiving financial assistance with tuition but cannot afford to pay for books, materials, fees, and tutoring. The Senate will continue to discuss these concerns with the administration.

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Diana Snyder*

*Administrative Coordinator*