

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago
February 4, 2015

The Faculty Senate meeting of February 4, 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 56 of 80 members in attendance, with 32 attendees in Evanston, 8 in Chicago, and 16 participating off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance were Associate Provost Michael Mills, and Undergraduate student Danielle Faden from the Pure Playa Student Group at Northwestern University.

1. Welcome by Stephen Eisenman, President

President Stephen Eisenman welcomed Senators and made the opening remarks.

2. Associate Provost, Michael Mills: Low Income Student Admission at NU

Associate Provost Michael Mills gave an overview on where Northwestern stands in terms of low socioeconomic status and low income student admission, ranking just below the median in the Consortium for the Funding of Higher Education (COFHE) at about 14% of the NU undergraduate population of 8,307 students. He talked about Northwestern's commitment and efforts to progress further in this area, including the addition of resources for providing more financial aid to eligible students. A robust discussion took place with Senators asking a variety of questions, raising concerns, and making comments.

3. Pure Playa Plastic Water Bottle Ban – Student Presentation

Danielle Faden of the Pure Playa Student Group at Northwestern University explained that the group is part of the Engineers for a Sustainable World Team and its mission is to reduce plastic waste. She reported that the purpose of the *Pure Playa Plastic Water Bottle Ban* initiative is to encourage the University to go water bottle free due to the huge environmental, and other, impacts behind single use disposable bottled water. Her presentation included additional facts and statistics centered on costs and human rights issues. She also explained that the campaign has education and outreach components.

Further, she explained that a major initiative of the student group is to upgrade Northwestern's tap infrastructure, so Pure Playa members have been collaborating with the Administration and various NU offices that can bring about changes. Members have been working successfully with Norris to upgrade the water fountains in the building with bottle refilling station.

Finally, the Administration has asked the Pure Playa Student Group to attain the support of the Faculty Senate, so Danielle asked Senators to consider crafting and passing a resolution in support of the water bottle ban.

4. President's Report/Remarks, Stephen Eisenman

A. Reminder: Winter Executive Committee Meeting February 10, 2015:

Members of the Senate Executive Committee, made up of the Standing Committee Chairs, Senate President, Senate Vice President, and Senate Past President, will meet with Senior Administrators on February 10, 2015. Senators were asked to review the current agenda and send additional suggestions for discussion topics.

B. Committee Membership Update:

- **Facilities Advisory:** Senator Judy Ledgerwood and President Stephen Eisenman will serve on the Facilities Advisory Committee.
- **Investment:** Senator Candy Lee will serve on the Investment Committee.
- **Student Experience:** Senator Laurie Zoloth will serve on the Student Experience Committee.

C. Report: Visit to NUQ:

President Eisenman submitted to the Faculty Senate a written report on his recent visit to Northwestern University Qatar. He presented a summarized version of the report and offered insights into his experiences, observations, concerns, and recommendations. Senators discussed at great length the contents of the report, with several expressing interest in assisting President Eisenman in furthering the report and in addressing the many concerns that were raised both in the report as well as by Senators.

5. Standing Committees Update

A. Non-tenure Eligible: Chair Heather Colburn reported that the committee met on January 28, 2015 to discuss the results of a recent informal survey the committee rolled out to the NTE Faculty across schools at Northwestern that asked people specifically for their feedback regarding evaluation. The survey received 240 responses from both full-time and part-time NTE Faculty. Several themes emerged from the responses, including confusion regarding contract renewal; promotion and evaluation criteria and procedures; and concerns about lack of transparency. The NTE Committee will continue to vet the responses and plan next steps.

B. Educational Affairs: Chair Michele McDonough reported that the Committee is working to establish relationships with groups outside of the Senate that have similar interests as the Educational Affairs Committee. The goal is information sharing to avoid redundancy within the University and bringing awareness to initiatives that have collaborative potential.

Further, Chair McDonough reported that the Committee has been approached by the Associated Student Government (ASG) whose members are preparing a recommendation to be presented across schools to reduce the total number of credits required for graduation to 42 credits and to add a required experiential learning component. The committee will investigate this matter further.

6. Northwestern Board of Trustees Chair, William Osborn to Speak March 4, 2015

President Stephen Eisenman reminded everyone that Northwestern University Board of Trustees Chair, William Osborn, is scheduled to speak at the March 4, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting. Senators were asked to send in questions and discussion topics as soon as possible.

7. New Business

Re-Accreditation Council Report: Senator Michele McDonough, who serves on the Re-Accreditation Council with Past President Babette Sanders, reported that they were asked to, and will, share with the Faculty Senate information on an ongoing basis about the accreditation progression to ensure full transparency and awareness of the process. Senators were informed that there will be a site visit April 27th and 28th and Faculty may have an opportunity to speak with the seven-member evaluation team.

General and specific questions about the reaccreditation process, including requirements, should be directed to Jake Julia, Associate Vice President and Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, or Jenny Puchtel, Manager of the Accreditation Process.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Snyder

Administrative Coordinator