

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago
May 6, 2015

The Faculty Senate meeting of May 6, 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 5:20 PM. There were 58 of 80 members in attendance, with 37 attendees in Evanston, 6 in Chicago, and 15 participating off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met.

1. Welcome by Stephen Eisenman, President

President Stephen Eisenman welcomed everyone.

2. President's Report/remarks, Stephen Eisenman

A. Provost Initiatives on Support for Faculty Excellence:

The Senate is making much progress collaborating with the Provost on several important initiatives including the Faculty Survey, which will be sent out soon under the dual auspices of the Senate and the Provost Office. Further, the initiative on salary is moving forward and believed to be as a result of the Senate's influence on the administration.

B. An issue of academic freedom:

Serious concerns were raised over the implications of a recent Title IX complaint that was filed against a Northwestern Professor based upon an article that was published, which resulted in the Faculty member being investigated. The Senate will work with the Administration to form a committee that will address academic freedom and freedom of speech, slated to occur at the beginning of Fall 2015-16.

C. Assembly Meeting, June 2nd – call for topics:

Senators were reminded to submit any additional topics to be discussed at the upcoming June 2nd Assembly Meeting.

D. Climate Change research – update:

The Special Task Force on Global Climate Change is continuing its work on research and curriculum issues and will report back to the Senate in a few weeks.

E. Research antibodies issue:

President Stephen Eisenman introduced the draft document he composed titled "Report Concerning the Procurement and Use of Research Antibodies at Northwestern University." He asked Senators to review the report and send feedback.

F. Executive Committee Meeting– May 22nd – call for topics

Senators were asked to submit topics to be discussed at the upcoming May 22nd Executive Committee Meeting.

3. REMINDER of Faculty Discussion on Low-Income Student Population

President Stephen Eisenman reminded Senators about the upcoming Panel and Faculty Discussion on low-income student populations scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2015.

4. Undergraduate Education Reform: channeling all applications into one pool so students apply to NU rather than to the separate schools, Michele McDonough

Michele McDonough felt it was important for this item be discussed at the June 2nd Assembly Meeting so she reached out to Provost Daniel Linzer who has agreed to speak to this matter at that meeting.

5. COIA Resolution on H.R. 275

Jeanne Herrick, Senator and Northwestern COIA representative, introduced the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Resolution on H.R. 275 and asked Senators to present the information to their respective Departments. She asked Senators to be prepared to vote on the resolution at the June 3rd Faculty Senate meeting.

6. Standing Committees Update

President Eisenman announced that there will be five Chair vacancies next year including Benefits, Budget, Handbook, Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, and Governance. He encouraged Committees to begin discussing the matter now and plan accordingly.

7. Smoke Free Initiatives, Babette Sanders

Past President Babette Sanders reported that neither ASG nor NUSAC are willing to support a resolution at this time and the Administration will not support the Smoke Free initiative without the support of ASG, NUSAC and the Senate. Someone from the Evanston Health Department has chosen to spearhead this cause and the Senate will be joining the effort.

8. Accreditation Activities

Past President Babette Sanders reported that she and Senator Michele McDonough are representing the Senate on the Re-Accreditation Council. She remarked that they are heavily involved in the work, preparing documentation, writing various pieces, reading the document, and providing input.

9. Senate Membership Vacancies

President Stephen Eisenman alerted Senators of the upcoming Spring election to fill vacant membership slots. He asked outgoing Senators to alert their respective Departments and encourage timely election of the new Senate representative.

10. Vice President for 2015-2016

President Stephen Eisenman reminded Senators about the current Vice President vacancy and encouraged Senators to nominate themselves or other senators to serve as in this capacity.

11. New Website

President Stephen Eisenman announced the launch of the new Faculty Senate website which is now up and running. Senators were encouraged to examine the content and to inform colleague of the Senate website's existence.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Snyder

Administrative Coordinator