

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago
October 7, 2015

The meeting of the Faculty Senate of October 7, 2015 took place on the Evanston Campus in Pancoe Auditorium and on the Chicago Campus in Wieboldt Hall 421. President Edward FX Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. There were 66 of 83 members in attendance, with 41 attendees in Evanston, 11 in Chicago, and 14 participating off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance were 3 guest faculty members, one attending in Evanston and 2 in Chicago.

1. Greetings and Welcome!

President Ed Hughes gave a self-introduction and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2015-16 academic year.

2. Brief Perspective on the Senate—Ed Hughes, Senate President:

President Ed Hughes talked about the exciting year ahead, including working closely with Senators and the Executive Committee to achieve the Senate goal to expand the influence of faculty governance in every aspect of the university. He briefly talked about the recent Committee on Institutional Cooperation Faculty Governance Leadership Conference, the annual meeting of the Big Ten Faculty Leadership that he and Vice President Laurie Zoloth attended two weeks earlier at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. They found the meeting to be extremely valuable and potentially very helpful for the Senate goals.

3. Introduction of Senators:

Senators attending on the Chicago Campus, Evanston Campus, and remotely introduced themselves.

4. Senate Structure, Roles, and Responsibilities:

President Ed Hughes explained that the work of the Senate is conducted primarily, but not exclusively, through the means of Standing Committees and Special Committees or Task Forces. The bylaws of the Senate require that the Chairs of the Standing Committees, as well as the Nominees for vacant positions, be re-elected/elected each year at the first Senate meeting of the year.

5. Election/Reelection of Committee Chairs:

The motion to accept the following slate of Standing Committee Chairs carried unanimously:

Slate:

Incumbents:

Committee

Educational Affairs:

Faculty Handbook:

Governance:

Non-Tenure Eligible:

Research Affairs:

Social Responsibility:

Secure Faculty Survey:

Chairs

Michele McDonough

Lois Hedman

Carol Simpson Stern

Heather Colburn

Andre De Gouvea

Marcus Moseley

Martin Block

Nominees:

Cause:

Charlotte Crane

Budget and Planning:

Rob Hariman

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities: Rives Collins

The Salary and Benefits Committee Chair position remains vacant.

6. Filling of Office of Past President:

The motion to fill the Office of Past President with Babette Sanders, previously President and Past President of the Senate, carried unanimously.

7. Filling of Parliamentarian Positions:

President Ed Hughes reported that the Executive Committee of the Senate voted by consensus that Rives Collins serve as the Parliamentarian and Charlotte Crane serve as the Parliamentarian Mentor.

8. The Role of Committees:

A. Invitation for Membership: President Ed Hughes asked Senators to think about which Committee they would like to serve on and encouraged them to consider two or more Committees if they are interested in more than one area. He stated that criteria for Committee membership include: "interest, commitment, and expertise." Non-Senate faculty members with expertise in specific areas are at times also invited to serve on Committees. He encouraged Senators and Committee Chairs to submit nominations.

B. Description of Committees and Charges: by Chairs: Vice President Laurie Zoloth had drafted a charge to the members of the Executive Committee in their capacity as Chairs of the Standing Committees that emphasized commitment, the specification of goals, and measurable outcomes. This charge was discussed at the recent Executive Committee meeting. Each Chair

was also charged with developing a charge for their Committee to be shared with, and affirmed, by the Executive Committee and the Senate as a whole.

The Standing Committee Chairs then briefly described the purview and goals of their Committee, inviting interested Senators to join.

9. New Initiatives: Task Forces:

- A. Shared Governance:** President Ed Hughes discussed the Shared Governance Task Force initiative, to be chaired by Vice President Laurie Zoloth. The charge to the Committee was distributed to the Senators at the beginning of the meeting. See attached. The Task Force is to advance the influence of Faculty Governance in decision making in all substantive aspects of University functioning. Members will identify examples of/processes for "Best Practices" in Shared Governance in higher education through review of the literature on the topic, surveying practices at other institutions including the Faculty Senate standards of the Committee on Institutional Collaboration (CIC), and evaluating their effectiveness and applicability to Northwestern University. Vice President Zoloth asked Senators to join her in advancing this initiative.
- B. Free Speech/Academic Freedom:** President Ed Hughes announced plans to create a Task Force on Free Speech and Academic Freedom across the University that may also involve members of the administration.
- C. "Evaluation of Effectiveness":** President Ed Hughes briefly discussed the "Evaluation of Effectiveness" Task Force which he will be spearheading. The goal of the initiative is to extend evaluation techniques and technologies throughout the University.

10. "Shout-out to Iowa", Laurie Zoloth:

Vice President Laurie Zoloth presented background information related to a "Statement of Support for the Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa." The issue derived from concerns by the Faculty of the University of Iowa regarding the recent appointment of the President of the University. The faculty of the University of Iowa had voted no confidence in their Board of Regents as a result. At the recent CIC Conference, strong support had been expressed for the Faculty of the University of Iowa by the leadership of the Big Ten Faculties. Resolutions had been introduced, and/or passed by varying Faculty governing bodies of the Big Ten in the interim. Vice President Zoloth proposed that our Faculty Senate pass the identical "Statement of support for the Faculty Senate of Iowa" that had been passed by an overwhelming majority of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska the day before.

Given the motion to support the "Statement" fell outside of the Senate's standard voting procedures, a motion was introduced to waive the Senate's standard voting procedures. The motion was passed unanimously.

The motion, given below, to support the "Statement of Support for the Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa" was then passed by an overwhelming majority with no objections and three abstentions. The statement read as follows:

The Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa voted by a large majority at a September 8, 2015 meeting to issue a statement of no confidence in their Board of Regents. ()*

We, the undersigned representatives of faculty governance systems across the CIC, express our support for the faculty senate of the University of Iowa.

Principles of shared governance dictate that the voice of the faculty, which carries out the core mission of the university, is accorded considerable weight in all important decisions of university governance. In appointing Bruce Harrelld as the President of the University of Iowa against overwhelming opposition from the faculty, the Regents of the University of Iowa appear to have violated these principles. We have a common interest in ethical conduct, honesty, open and effective communication, public accountability, stewardship and service, and transparency in the process of the appointment of University Presidents and Chancellors.

We call on the Board of Regents of the University of Iowa to adhere to the principles of shared university governance and to ethical behavior and transparency.

This statement will be communicated to campus, local, state, national, and education publications and to the Board of Regents of the University of Iowa.

**This is the text of the resolution voted by the University of Iowa Faculty Senate:*

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has failed in its duty of care to the University of Iowa and the citizens of Iowa and shown blatant disregard for the shared nature of university governance, and

WHEREAS the Regents have failed to act according to their own strategic plan's core values, namely ethical behavior, honesty, open and effective communication, public accountability, stewardship and service, and transparency, we therefore have no confidence in the ability of the Board of Regents wisely to govern our institution.

11. Adjournment

The business of the meeting concluded with a passage of the above motion and was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Diana Snyder
Administrative Coordinator*

Charge
To
Shared Governance
Task Force
2015-2016
Chair: Laurie Zoloth

The goal of the Shared Governance Task Force is to advance the influence of Faculty Governance in decision making in all substantive aspects of University functioning.

The Task Force is asked to identify examples of/processes for “Best Practices” in Shared Governance in higher education through review of the literature on the topic, surveying practices at other institutions including the Faculty Senate standards of the Committee on Institutional Collaboration (CIC), and evaluating their effectiveness and applicability to Northwestern University.

The Task Force is asked to identify areas within Northwestern University where Shared Governance can, and should, be enhanced and make recommendations for specific and concrete enhancements in those areas.

The Task Force is also asked to identify processes and action steps as to how these enhancements can be achieved and implemented at Northwestern University as well as identifying a timeline for doing so.

The Task Force is asked to update the Executive Committee of the Senate and the Senate as a whole on a regular basis as to its progress and submit a Final Report in the Spring of 2016 detailing specific recommendations and action steps for their adoption and implementation.