

# Northwestern University

## Minutes of the University Faculty Assembly Meeting of January 25, 2012

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The University Faculty Assembly held its first meeting of the 2011-12 academic year on January 25 in the Pancoe Auditorium on the Evanston campus, with an audio/video connection to Wieboldt 421 on the Chicago Campus. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM by President Morton Schapiro.

1. President Morton Schapiro and Faculty Senate Chair Paul Arntson welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new University Faculty Assembly, designed to establish and promote shared governance with the administration.
2. The minutes of the June 3, 2010 final meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as received, pending additional changes, if any, be sent to Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator. Paul Arntson gave a brief overview of the historic transition of the former Faculty Senate structure to the newly established University Faculty Assembly structure and explained the similarities and the differences between the two entities.
3. Paul Arntson introduced the next agenda item by reporting the two important changes to the University Faculty Assembly Articles of Authorization and Bylaws. The first change sanctions tenured track and non-tenured track fulltime faculty to be members of the University Assembly. The second change increases the quorum from forty faculty members to ten percent of the tenured track and non-tenured track faculty at the university. The Assembly can still meet and pass motions and resolutions without a quorum, and in those instances when there is no quorum, approved resolutions are to be sent to the Faculty Senate for further response and consideration in terms of adoption or informing the University Assembly if they do not wish to move forward with their recommendation. The Faculty Senate is the representative body of the faculty to the administration however, if there is an Assembly quorum, the Assembly has the final say and can take precedence over the Senate. Paul Arntson gave the audience an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and provide feedback.
4. President Morton Schapiro talked briefly about the Financial Condition of Northwestern University as a follow-up to the recent report he sent out to the entire university. He stressed that in spite of the negative effects of the recent financial downturn NU is on a good trajectory and is recovering

nicely especially when compared to peer institutions. President Schapiro briefly touched on the Feinberg Medical School and Athletics at NU. He also talked about future building plans, including the Bienen Music School, Kellogg, and other major project initiatives aimed at making improvements to the social sciences facilities. President Schapiro gave the audience an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and provide feedback.

5. President Morton Schapiro introduced the next agenda item by providing background information about the development and purpose of the Strategic Plan. Provost Daniel Linzer added that the plan is a set of important initiatives that cross over many schools therefore there are many challenges to implementing such a plan. The implementation plan looks at what are the existing ways of doing business and much of what is to be accomplished will be done through conversations with faculty, staff, students, and administrators to bring about improvements in various areas of the university and get recommendations and ideas for how lofty goals are to be broken down and how to advance the plan to specific action steps. Ultimately, the key to the success of implementation is involving faculty, staff, and students and getting them to think over what are the best ways to do things. The administration will keep track of the progress using a matrix system to ensure that all the items are being addressed. President Schapiro gave the audience an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and provide feedback.

6. Paul Arntson introduced John Elson, Chair of the Senate's Faculty Handbook Committee, who has been negotiating with the administration on finalizing the changes to the current Faculty Handbook. He also introduced James Young, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, who has been working with John Elson and with the Faculty Handbook Committee. John Elson made the opening remarks by explaining the history behind what led to this recent initiative to revise the Faculty Handbook. The last revision was made in 2001 and needed updating. He continued by giving a brief overview of the revision process and mentioned those who were and continue to be involved at the faculty and administration level. Additionally, Chair Elson highlighted several major items that are under revision and review. Associate Provost James Young encouraged faculty members to look over the revised Handbook draft and provide feedback to their Faculty Senate representative and/or to the members of the Handbook Committee. Associate Provost Young briefly talked about the outdated conflict of interest policy and the actions being taken to bring the policy into compliance with NIH regulations. In general, the area of conflict of interest is actively evolving in a variety of disciplines

and a policy will be created, which will be brought to the Faculty Senate for discussion and will ultimately find its way into the Faculty handbook in future versions. Paul Arntson gave the audience an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and provide feedback. A brief discussion ensued, with several people making comments and asking questions. Paul Arntson concluded the discussion by presenting the proposed time line for the next, and final, steps of action.

7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate *Administrative* Coordinator