

## May 13, 2013 Assembly Meeting Highlights

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**On-line learning: What is the current status of the 2U agreement? What role can/should the faculty play in determining future plans for on-line learning?:** Provost Daniel Linzer explained that Northwestern University is working with 2U to determine if there is value in offering a set of undergraduate, for credit, tuition charged, online courses. NU has agreed to use 2013-14 as a pilot year and is in the process of producing one course, in Integrated Marketing Communications, that will be offered in the Fall. In regards to intellectual property, all courses created by NU belong to NU. If the pilot year is successful, NU will continue the program. If it is not successful, NU would be obligated to teach courses produced in the 2nd year, but at the end of that timeframe would withdraw from the program and not produce any new courses. Faculty members, schools, and departments play an integral role in the success and direction of the program through course development, determining whether to allow students to take these courses, and deciding if these courses count toward any majors, minors, or certificates. The effectiveness of the program will be measured through achievement of certain learning outcomes being developed and faculty feedback.

**How should learning outcomes be assessed?:** Assessment data is essential for maintaining high academic standards and also required for the accreditation process administered by the regional accreditation agencies. President Morton Schapiro stressed that learning outcomes need to be assessed with great care since this is an extremely challenging, but important undertaking. He explained that assessment tools such as the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) are available, but emphasized that learning outcomes should be assessed mainly by individual faculty members, with minimal monitoring by the administration.

**What are standards for teaching excellence and how is accountability managed for those standards?:** President Morton Schapiro talked about the importance of setting and keeping the standards of teaching and accountability at the departmental level. It would be difficult for the administration to impose a set of university wide standards for teaching excellence when departments have different cultures and are better positioned to look more closely at the contributions of faculty to determine if the goals are being met.

**What is the impact on post tenure review?:** President Morton Schapiro encouraged departments to take responsibility for the post tenure review, as many already do, since learning is a more discipline specific exercise.

**What is driving the costs of higher education?** Although tuition has risen, President Morton Schapiro explained that approximately 60% of students do not actually pay the full tuition. Students receive subsidies resulting in little or no debt at graduation, with the average student getting more than half off the bill, which includes room and board.

**What is the university doing to reduce tuition increases after tuition went up twice the rate of inflation for students next year?:** President Morton Schapiro explained that the sticker price increase of 4.0 percent for next year is the smallest in many years and NU will continue to be responsive to the economic situation of our families.

**What are the relationships between the schools of Northwestern University and institutions in Doha, Qatar?:** President Morton Schapiro talked about NUQ, one of the twelve schools at Northwestern University, having quality programs that are proving to be very successful. NU has a great collaborative partnership with Al Jazeera and is providing excellent training for interns, producers, and directors. Provost Linzer added that NU has now graduated two classes of students, who are pursuing careers in Journalism and Communication predominantly in the Middle East. NU is equipping graduates to impact the dialogue in the Middle East by breaking communication and media barriers.