

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt 421 - Chicago  
February 1, 2012

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Paul Arntson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm. There were 51 of 85 members in attendance, with 38 attendees in Evanston, 10 in Chicago and 3 via videoconferencing.

**1. Welcome by Paul Arntson, chair.**

Paul Arntson welcomed everyone and briefly talked about the meeting agenda.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting**

The minutes of the December 7, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved unanimously as is, pending additional changes, if any, be sent to Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator.

**3. University Assembly Meeting Report**

Paul Arntson gave a brief overview of the recent University Assembly meeting, at which President Morton Schapiro and Provost Daniel Linzer were in attendance and spoke about important topics affecting the university, such as the financial condition of NU and the newly implemented Strategic Plan. Faculty members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the Strategic plan and the current version of the proposed Handbook.

Paul Arntson stressed the importance of the University Assembly and how critical it is to meet at least once a year. He solicited feedback on how the University Assembly meeting could be a more functioning and improved shared governance event, asking for comments about the meeting format, content, and usefulness. The floor was opened for discussion and a number of positive remarks were made about the attendance. Approximately seventy people attended the meeting, which is a vast improvement over previous years. Two key areas for improvement were suggested. First, continuing to involve more of the younger faculty, getting their perspectives and finding out their areas of interest and key issues they are facing. Second, taking full advantage of the opportunity the Assembly meeting affords faculty members to address important issues and topics with key administrators who are in attendance. One Senator would like future meetings to begin at 5:00pm rather than 4:00pm, which would increase the attendance. Additionally, Chair Arntson reported that when members of the administration were asked for their input on the Faculty Assembly meetings, they expressed interest in continuing the event and thought it was very useful.

Paul Arntson will present several Assembly bylaw changes at the next faculty Senate meeting, scheduled for April 4, 2012.

#### **4. Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Handbook**

Paul Arntson led the Faculty Handbook discussion with Senators and members of the Handbook Committee, who examined specific sections of the proposed revisions in great detail and made additional recommendations for changes. Associate Provost James Young joined the conversation, answering questions and giving the administration's perspective on specific handbook content that was being discussed. Paul Arntson announced February 10 as the deadline for sending in any final handbook changes or comments and challenged Senators to go back to their departments to solicit any final thoughts and suggestions for improvement.

#### **5. Childcare Options with Bright Horizons/Faculty Input**

Several Faculty members approached Paul Arntson about the new childcare center being built in downtown Evanston. As it turns out, as part of Bright Horizons, a private daycare operating nationally, the university has committed to sixty slots for Northwestern University, which contributed to the final decision to open the Evanston location. The question being raised among some faculty is whether the administration checked with the people who have been working on childcare both in the Senate as a committee and also in terms of the Women's Center before making the final decision to commit to the slots. Were any faculty members involved in the decision making process? Paul Arntson opened up the floor for discussion.

The Organization of Women Faculty (OWF) is also looking into the childcare matter, with a strong push for on-site childcare, as so many of NU's peer institutions have. Anyone interested in joining forces with OWF should contact Heather Colburn or Katrin Voelkner.

#### **6. Northwestern Emeriti Organization Resolutions**

Paul Arntson presented three Northwestern Emeriti Organization Resolutions to the Faculty Senate, which constitutes the first reading of the documents. The first resolution is asking the administration to develop a task force that would look at emeritus faculty and ways in which they could be supported, as well as ways they could continue to contribute to the intellectual research and teaching functions of the university. The second and third resolutions are directly related to the Senate. There is a proposal that there be a non-voting representative of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization that would attend Senate meetings and give input on various issues. The third, and final, resolution is to have a representative of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization serve as a member of the Benefits committee. This would not affect other retired faculty who wish to serve on the Benefits committee.

The Governance Committee will meet to construct bylaws that would include the two resolutions affecting the Faculty Senate. At the April 4<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting there will be a motion to support the formation of a committee that would work with the administration to help support emeriti faculty to continue to contribute to the teaching and research part of the university.

One Senator quoted the following statement from the second resolution that states "*The NEO Executive Council shall also designate an alternate to attend meetings of the Faculty Senate when the*

*regular representative is unable to do so*" and remarked that this rule should apply to the Faculty Senate equally when a Senator is not able to attend a meeting. Paul Arntson agreed and will work with the Governance Committee to make the appropriate language changes to the current bylaws in the membership section.

## **7. Committee Reports**

Paul Arntson asked each Chair to give a committee report and reminded everyone that, going forward, Senate meeting agendas will be comprised mainly of items coming from the standing committees. Committees should meet regularly to discuss important issues affecting their respective area of concentration and then report back findings or initiatives and present resolutions to the Faculty Senate.

**Benefits:** Chair Jerilyn Logemann reported that at the January meeting, NU Benefits Director Anne Fish committed to drafting a memo designed to answer faculty questions about why healthcare costs increased so significantly this past Fall. The memo was generated and the Benefits committee will forward the draft to the Senate for review before it is sent to the entire faculty body. The Benefits committee is also looking into Childcare at NU.

**Research Affairs:** Chair Demetrios Kyriacou discussed three items. First, he wanted to congratulate the team that selected Paul Farmer as commencement speaker and thanked Senators for voting in favor of this excellent nomination. Second, he has created the survey regarding research issues based, largely in part, on a survey done by John Hopkins that he was given access to and approved to use. He will be sending the survey out to the members of the Research Affairs committee for review and then will keep in contact and make revisions as needed. Third, and final, the committee wanted to know when they will be able to implement the survey and whether it will be treated independently or be included as part of a larger survey. Paul Arntson was not able to speak to item number three at this time.

**Faculty Rights and Responsibilities:** No report at this time.

**Social Responsibility:** Chair Joshua Hauser reported that, as a follow-up to the recent meeting with Morton Schapiro, Dan Linzer and Eugene Sunshine, he and Mary Pattillo met with Bob McDonald of the Budget committee and will be forming a joint group with membership from both committees, and with administration representation also, in the hope of resuming transparency in the university budgetary process. The Social Responsibility committee will continue to keep their attention on the living wages issues.

**Governance:** Chair Paul Arntson reported that the Governance committee will be presenting at least three bylaw changes and some Senate rule changes at the April 4<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting.

**Budget:** No report at this time. The Budget committee was asked to meet with the administration and investigate whether the university is anticipating raising the tuition next year.

**Cause:** Chair Robert Wallace reported that there are no new cases at this time.

**Educational Affairs:** No report at this time.

**Secure Faculty Survey:** No report at this time.

## **8. Standing Committee Chairs for FY2012-2013**

Paul Arntson reminded Senators that Standing Committee chairs for FY2012-13 will need to be selected before the last meeting of the fiscal year.

## **9. Chair-elect for FY2012-2013**

Paul Arntson encouraged Senators, who are in their second year of their term, to consider running for the position of Chair-elect for FY2012-13. An election will take place before the final meeting of the fiscal year.

## **10. Faculty Club Survey**

A Faculty Club survey will be developed and added to the general faculty survey the Faculty Senate plans to implement. This will fall under the purview of the Secure Faculty Survey committee.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.