

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt 421 - Chicago
November 2, 2011

Paul Arntson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. There were 52 of 88 members in attendance, with 36 attendees in Evanston, 14 in Chicago, and 2 on video streaming.

1. Welcome by Paul Arntson, chair.

Paul Arntson welcomed everyone and introduced Ellen Wartella and Jake Julia, members of the Honorary Degree Committee.

2. Honorary Degree

Professor Ellen Wartella and Jake Julia, Associate Vice President/Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, presented the 2012 nominees for Honorary Degree. Senators were given ballots and a vote was taken. The results of the vote will be announced at a later date.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 5, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes of the October 5, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved unanimously as is, pending additional changes, if any, be sent to Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator.

4. Strategic Plan: Senate Response

Paul Arntson talked briefly about the University's Strategic plan and asked everyone to think about the final document and how the Faculty Senate should respond. The floor was opened for discussion and Senators expressed their views. The implementation process, especially as it relates to the funding of initiatives, was a reoccurring concern, as well as the minimal inclusion of the social sciences. Paul stressed the importance of having a thoughtful discussion with the administration about the Strategic Plan and felt it was important to do so at the upcoming University Assembly meeting. He asked Senators to form an online ad hoc committee charged with putting together all of the concerns and views in an organized and efficient manner. One Senator strongly recommended that members of the online ad hoc committee initiate dialogue with committee members who were involved in what was believed to be the shaping of the Strategic Plan to hear their responses to the final product.

5. NU Conflict of Interest Committee

The administration has asked for Faculty Senate membership on a new faculty conflict of interest committee. Paul Arntson asked Senators to email Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate

Administrative Coordinator, if they are interested in joining this committee. Babette Sanders agreed to solicit membership from the medical school community also.

6. Ombudsperson Meeting Report

Wes Burghardt, Chair of the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee reported the main points of the recent Ombudsperson meeting. There has been substantial activity since the program started a year and a half ago, clearly indicating that there is a need for such an enterprise. Currently there are three Ombudspersons who are affiliated with WCAS and are based on the Evanston campus. One of the objectives is to increase the number of Ombudspersons, ensuring there is representation on the Chicago campus and further broadening the representation from different schools. Another objective is to find ways to promote the existence of the Ombudsman program and to provide easy access to program information on the internet. One of the hardest tasks will be to digest the information that comes to the Ombudspersons, observing trends of where there might be problems at the university and reporting this information to the administration. The biggest challenge will be to find the best way to distill general information from individual cases.

7. Revised Time Table for University Faculty Handbook

Paul Arntson reported that Faculty Senate can expect to have a first reading of the proposed revisions of the University Faculty Handbook on December 7, 2011. John Elson, chair of the Handbook Committee, continues to work with the administration to finalize changes to meet this critical deadline.

8. Occupy Chicago Resolution

Joshua Hauser, Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee, presented the following resolution concerning Occupy Chicago:

WHEREAS, the citizens of Illinois are suffering from an ongoing economic crisis which includes a 10% unemployment rate, a poverty rate greater than 14%, the ninth worst foreclosure rate in the country, and an increasing gap in the average after-tax household income of the richest and poorest in our society, and WHEREAS the aforementioned economic concerns threaten the health, wealth and security of Illinois residents and WHEREAS, Occupy Chicago is supported by people by from every walk of life, stirred to protest economic injustice by the example of the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York City and over 100 other Occupy protests across the country; and WHEREAS, all the above economic ills are being lawfully and peacefully challenged and protested by people of all ages and backgrounds at Occupy Chicago; and WHEREAS, the right to free public expression, dialogue, debate and protest are cherished by Northwestern University faculty as essential to education and free scientific and scholarly inquiry, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwestern University Faculty Senate stands in SUPPORT of the continuation of the peaceful and vibrant exercise of First Amendment Rights carried out by Occupy Chicago. This RESOLUTION therefore additionally urges the mayor of Chicago, the Chief of Police, and other responsible public officials to facilitate the continued lawful assembly of the protesters and to help assure their safety and security.

The floor was opened for discussion. Faculty Senate members voted and the motion failed by one vote. A major concern for many Senators who voted against the motion was that the issue falls outside the purview of the Faculty Senate and not necessarily that they do not agree or support what the motion states.

9. Committee Reports

Benefits: Chair Jerilyn Logemann reported that the Benefits committee will have its first meeting on Monday November 7th to talk about childcare, increase in the cost of healthcare, and college tuition benefits for children of Northwestern faculty. Chair Logemann asked Senators to email her additional items for the meeting agenda.

Research Affairs: Chair Jim Kyriacou asked Senators who have recently joined the Research Affairs committee or who are interested in joining to email Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator. The committee plans to begin discussion of what questions to ask in the faculty survey the group is developing.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities: *[See 6. Ombudsperson Meeting Report]*

Social Responsibility: *[See 8. Occupy Chicago resolution]*

Governance: Chair Paul Arntson reported that the online deliberation and voting is up and running and currently being used by Senators who are not able to physically attend either meeting location. The committee has not met yet, but will soon be working on the establishment, the process, and the evaluation of the Faculty Appeal Panel (formerly UFRPTDAP).

Faculty Handbook: *[7. Revised Time Table for University Faculty Handbook]*

Budget: Chair Robert McDonald reported that the committee will be considering the budgetary implications of the Strategic Plan.

Cause: Chair Robert Wallace reported that there is no new business at this time.

Educational Affairs: Chair Sara Broaders reported that the committee plans to meet next week and will address online education, and issues with professional masters programs. She encouraged Senators to join the committee and also to email her additional topics or issues for the group to consider. The committee was asked to continue to think about the diversity of undergraduate students.

10. Board of Trustees Meeting

Paul Arntson reminded Senators about the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting taking place November 11, 2011 from 12-2pm in the McCormick Tribune Center Lobby on the Evanston Campus. The first hour will be spent in the auditorium. The speaker for the faculty will be Dan Lewis. Paul strongly encouraged everyone to attend.

11. Assembly Meeting

Paul strongly encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming University Assembly Meeting and to email discussion topics for the agenda to Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator.

12. Appointing a Faculty Member to Serve as Assembly Secretary

Professor Dan Garrison recently retired as Assembly Secretary so Paul Arntson will work with the Faculty Senate and the administration to fill this important vacancy.

13. CIC 2012 Annual Meeting to be Hosted by NU

Paul Arntson briefly talked about CIC's (the Council of Independent Colleges) annual meeting, which is designed for chairs or vice chairs of Faculty Senates from various colleges and universities. Each year a different university hosts the meeting and Northwestern was invited to do so for next year, which would take place sometime in the Fall of 2012. CIC provides some funds to support expenses, but Northwestern would be responsible for all additional costs. Paul asked the Senate for its approval to begin dialogue with the administration regarding the hosting of this important event.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.