

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt 421 - Chicago  
October 5, 2011

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Paul Arntson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm. There were 51 of 88 members in attendance, with 39 attendees in Evanston and 12 in Chicago.

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

Paul Arntson welcomed everyone and thanked Provost Linzer for coming to speak to the group.

**2. Provost Dan Linzer**

Provost Linzer is pleased that the Faculty Senate is up and running and is looking forward to working with everyone on future initiatives. He talked about Northwestern's position when compared to other institutions and emphasized that when you examine the university's fiscal health, quality of students, accomplishments of the faculty, location, and all the things that are happening, NU has a remarkable and positive story to tell. Linzer challenged the Faculty Senate to focus on the areas that need improvement and to work with the administration on issues Senators would like to see addressed. Critical to Northwestern University's success is the strategic plan. Provost Linzer explained the rollout timeline and all the important groups of people that were involved in putting the plan together. He also gave a general overview of the plan's content and purpose and what is hoped to be accomplished going forward. Additionally, the Faculty Handbook revision is a top priority for the administration and Linzer hopes this will be finalized very soon. In closing, Provost Linzer thanked everyone for their involvement in the Faculty Senate.

**3. Approval of the minutes of the June 1, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting**

The minutes of the June 1, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved unanimously as is, pending additional changes, if any, be sent to Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator.

**4. Committee Reports**

Paul Arntson asked each Chair to give a committee report.

**Faculty Handbook:** Paul Arntson announced that the revised draft is in its final stages of completion and is expected to be ready for distribution to the Faculty Senate in several weeks. Additionally, the Faculty Handbook committee is working on a proposal for a yearly revision process to be in place as circumstances arise, with one of the standing committees having full responsibility over this.

**Benefits:** Jerilyn Logemann has agreed to serve as the Benefits Committee chair for the year.

**Research Affairs:** Jim Kyriacou encouraged Senators to email him with any specific research concerns or questions. One of the main goals for the committee this year is to create a survey to get an idea of what the barriers and hindrances are to achieve quality research throughout the university. Earlier this year Jim sent out a request for some unstructured ideas, and the committee will use these ideas to develop the survey. Some of the responses included lack of support (general and financial), lack of time, lack of statistical support, and the IRB. The idea, in general, is to create a valid and reliable survey and present the findings to the administration. One of the major areas of focus will be the interdisciplinary aspect, so Jim encouraged everyone to email him specific questions related to this topic Senators would like to be included in the survey.

**Faculty Rights and Responsibilities:** Chair Wes Burghardt would like the committee to focus on the Ombudspersons, given the committee's oversight responsibilities of the program.

**Social Responsibility:** Chair Joshua Hauser reported on the committee's activities during the summer. They had a productive meeting with students from the Living Wage Campaign, President Schapiro, Provost Linzer and Vice President Sunshine. The administration is concerned about having a committee that is specifically tasked with implementing a living wage, but they are in favor of creating a committee made up of students, faculty, and staff that is about improving work conditions for all workers at Northwestern, including subcontractor workers. The committee is working with Provost Linzer, President Schapiro, and Vice President Sunshine to draft language to finalize this initiative. There was a settlement between Sodexo and the university, which resulted in increased wages of ten dollars an hour and significantly improved health benefits. The committee still has more to accomplish, and has committed to do so, but this is a great start.

**Governance:** Chair Paul Arntson made a motion to approve the final draft of the proposed senate rules for on-line deliberation. The motion was seconded and a short discussion followed. Faculty Senate members voted and the motion passed unanimously. The Senate bylaws will be revised to reflect the changes approved.

**Faculty Handbook:** Carol Simpson Stern gave a brief overview of the committee's current standing. She praised the committee's chair, John Elson, for his excellent leadership and also praised central administration for their cooperation. In order to prevent future violations of faculty rights, the Handbook Committee drafted language about suspension that would greatly diminish future occurrences. Members of the handbook committee are also committed to addressing the mental fitness question as well as issues of academic freedom. John Alongi added that that there seems to be some disagreement on what the overall authority of the Faculty Handbook actually is. Additionally, fitness for duty is an issue that remains and will not be seen in the current version, but will be addressed in the future. Carol also reported that language was developed whereby a faculty member, regardless of rank, who is in any way disabled and needs to have assistance with them when they are doing professional travel, will have an allowance of money up to five hundred dollars which can be used for caretaking assistance.

**Budget:** Chair Robert McDonald encouraged Senators to email him with ideas on topics for the Budget committee to take on. Paul Arntson challenged the committee to work with the administration to build an ongoing relationship and find out about future university budgetary priorities and goals. Jerilyn Logemann shared her experiences while serving on the faculty committee known as the Budget and Resource Allocation Committee (BRAC) and suggested the committee continue with what BRAC was trying to accomplish by looking over the university budgetary priorities, like green space, see what the costs are, and how that is allocated versus school budgets. It is critical for the Faculty Senate to reestablish joint discussion between faculty and the administration and see if the administration's budgetary goals match up to the faculty expectations.

**Cause:** Chair Robert Wallace gave a brief report on the two cases taken up by the Cause committee. The committee works very well and will continue to serve the faculty as needed.

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

## **5. Potential reorganization of the standing committee structure survey**

Paul Arntson asked Senators to examine the current standing committee structure and think about whether they are sufficient for what the Faculty Senate needs to do. He also asked everyone to look at the incoming and on-going issues that need a committee home and think about permanent assignment solutions for all. The goal is to have a committee structure that is functional and effective.

## **6. Dependent eligibility verification**

Paul Arntson asked the Benefits Committee to take on the dependent eligibility verification initiative.

## **7. Mid Campus Green Project**

Senators were given information about the Mid Campus Green Project for reference. Paul Arntson or Babette Sanders will follow up with Facilities Management to ensure there is adequate faculty representation at future planning and implementation meetings.

## **8. BOT Meeting: Nov 11, 2011, 12-2 McCormick Tribune Center Lobby, EV**

Paul Arntson invited everyone to attend the Board of Trustees meeting taking place on November 11, 2011 from 12-2 p.m. in the McCormick Tribune Center Lobby on the Evanston Campus. He explained the importance of attending this meeting and the benefits, personally, professionally, and for the Faculty Senate as a whole. Senators were asked to look over the proposed agenda and give their input. A motion was made and seconded that the Faculty Senate agrees that this is a general topic area they would like to engage the Board of Trustees in as part of the Strategic Plan. Faculty Senate members voted and the motion passed unanimously.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.