

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt 421 - Chicago
May 1, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Babette Sanders, Faculty Senate Chair, at 5:15pm. There were 44 of 79 members in attendance, with 28 attendees in Evanston, 7 in Chicago, and 9 off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance was the immediate past chair, serving as honorary member of the Faculty Senate.

1. Welcome and Chair's Report by Babette Sanders, chair.

Chair Babette Sanders welcomed everyone and gave a brief summary of the Spring Executive committee meeting with the administration. She reported that the Senate's concerns regarding current policies for terminating staff and post docs during the probationary period were expressed, so the administration has agreed to discuss the matter with Gene Sunshine and Pam Beemer and report back. In light of the recent cheating scandal at Harvard, concerns were raised about the university policy regarding e-mails. Chair Sanders also reported that at this time, there is no definitive plan to make NU campuses smoke free, but the administration is aware of the Senate's recommendations and conceptually supportive, but recognize that implementation has opportunities and barriers. Senators were reminded that complete details of the Executive Committee meeting can be found in the written report submitted by Chair Sanders.

2. Qatari Poet Motion, Social Responsibility Committee

The following motion was reviewed and forwarded by the Social Responsibility Committee, and adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2013.

Whereas the poet and University of Cairo student Mohammed ibn al-Dheeb al-Ajani was sentenced to life in prison (as reported by the BBC and The Guardian, Nov. 29, 2012) for a videotaped reading of a poem allegedly insulting the emir of Qatar Sheik Hamid bin Khalifa Al Thani and allegedly inciting the overthrow of the ruling regime (sentence subsequently amended to 15 years as reported by Al Jazeera English on Feb. 25, 2013);

Whereas Northwestern University supports the universal human right of persons to freedom of intellectual, political, and artistic expression;

Whereas Northwestern University and the United States of America support UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 10 ("Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him") and Article 19 ("Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this

right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”);

Whereas Northwestern University maintains an intellectual and institutional presence in Qatar through Northwestern University in Qatar or NU-Q;

It is resolved that the Faculty Senate calls for the full pardon and immediate release of Mohammed ibn al-Dheeb al-Ajani and supports freedom of intellectual and artistic expression for the people of Qatar.

3. Living Wage Petition, Social Responsibility Committee

Mary Pattillo, Chair of the Social Responsibilities Committee, reported that she is withdrawing the Living Wage Petition because Aramark has made it clear to the workers and to the university that they have no intention of getting in the way of workers’ organizing campaign and will in no way harass or intimidate them. In an effort of good faith, and to show this is not an adversarial moment, the workers have decided to pull back on all the various activities they had planned, including the Living Wage Petition.

4. Report from the Educational Affairs Committee

Susan Lee, Chair of the Educational Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is continuing the conversation regarding on-line education and there is no motion at this time to present to the Senate. Members are still gathering information, getting feedback and responses, and making sure that faculty are informed about all of the events that have developed over the year.

Senator Jeanne Herrick, Educational Affairs Committee member, gave an update on the Coursera and 2U SON initiatives and named all the members of the Faculty Distance Learning Workgroup, which is only dealing with the external partnerships (Coursera and 2U). She explained the differences between Semester On-line and Coursera (MOOCS). The Coursera contract was signed in late January and courses are scheduled to launch beginning in September 2013, and continuing through the winter and spring. There are currently six courses likely to be offered.

Jake Julia, Associate Vice President and Associate Provost of Academic Initiatives, talked about 2U Semester Online (SON) and reported that a contract was signed the 28th of February. Registration for classes are now open and the first course will launch this fall (during the SON semester). There are no definite plans for Spring semester 2014, and how many courses NU offers during that time will depend on the proposals received from faculty and the decision of the consortium curriculum committee. Jeanne Herrick added that at this point the commitment is for one year with a two course maximum. Senator Candy Lee’s course on Integrated Marketing Communications will be the first 2U Semester Online course to launch in the fall and will be open to Northwestern students as well as consortium students and students from other four-year institutions who enroll through SON and meet the requirements.

Jeanne Herrick concluded her report by stating that the Faculty Distance Learning Workgroup will continue to address and raise questions and concerns raised by faculty, and will be focusing on developing procedures for how the courses will be selected and developed that are transparent, fair, and clear. Procedures for 2U Semester Online have been finalized and procedures for Coursera are close to being finalizing. Other issues, such as intellectual property, are still being vetted.

Senators discussed the Coursera and 2U SON initiatives at great length and expressed many concerns. The Educational Affairs committee was asked to prepare a motion that is reflective of the discussion to be presented at the June Faculty Senate meeting.

5. Critical Committee Information

Benefits Committee: Chair Donna Jurdy reported that the committee met with the Benefits Department on April 17, 2013 and discussed the inquiry that was made on expanding investment options with TIAA-CREF and also having the option of after-tax 403b deductions. Additional regulations, federally-mandated, on 403b accounts require greater diligence in the future therefore, implementation of additional investment options appears unlikely. More information on impending changes to retirement accounts will be given as soon as they are available. Bob Cohen, Emeritus Organization representative, added that the Emeriti in conjunction with the Benefits office are sponsoring information sessions on health insurance, to be held Tuesday, May 7, 2013 for people who are retired or thinking about retiring in the near future.

The Benefits Committee was asked to investigate why Northwestern University gyms are not included in the list of Blue Cross Blue Shield approved gyms covered by their wellness program and to request that they be added. Additionally, the committee was asked to track the annual healthcare cost increase against annual salary increases.

6. Faculty Assembly meeting, May 13th

Chair Babette Sanders announced the upcoming Faculty Assembly meeting on May 13, 2013 and asked Senators to forward agenda items to her or to Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator.

7. Senator Vacancies

Chair Babette Sanders reminded outgoing Senators to contact their department to ensure a new representative is elected in time for the new year.

8. Vice Chair 2014 Nominations

Chair Babette Sanders asked that vice chair nominations be submitted as soon as possible. The nominees will be presented at the June Faculty Senate meeting and a vote will take place at that time. The individual elected will serve as vice chair in FY2013-14 and as chair in FY2014-15.

9. Announcements

1) Program Review Council – May 15 deadline: The Program Review Council is looking for members. The commitment would be for three years and Senators were made aware of the heavy time commitment. The process of program review is one of the most significant and successful collaborations between the faculty and administration at Northwestern University. Initially proposed by the faculty, the systematic evaluation of all academic and administrative units has had a profound effect on University decision-making including, among other things, the setting of unit, school, and University priorities, hiring plans, budget and space allocations, curriculum development, and program sizing. Senators interested in serving were asked to email Babette Sanders or Diana Snyder, Faculty Senate Administrative Coordinator.

2) Medill Community Connection: Medill Community Connection is a service provided by the Medill Career Services (MCS) office as a resource available to individuals and groups in the Chicago area or within the university community who make impromptu requests for the assistance of Medill students in specific projects, events, needs, etc. Senators were asked to pass along this information to their departments and also to forward it to anyone else who might be interested or could benefit from this resource.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Snyder

Administrative Coordinator