

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
Library Forum Room - Evanston, Wieboldt 421 - Chicago  
November 7, 2012

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Babette Sanders, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 5:10pm. There were 42 of 78 members in attendance, with 31 attendees in Evanston, 8 in Chicago, 2 via streaming, and 1 via phone. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met.

**1. Welcome by Babette Sanders, chair**

Babette Sanders welcomed everyone and introduced members of the Honorary Degree Committee, Professor Ellen Wartella and Jake Julia, Associate Vice President and Associate Provost of Academic Initiative, and Senior Vice President for Business and Finance.

**2. Honorary Degree Presentation and Vote**

Ellen Wartella and Jake Julia presented the 2013 nominees for Honorary Degree. Senators were given an opportunity to give feedback and ask questions. At the conclusion of the discussion each senator was given a ballot and a vote was taken.

**3. Chair's report, Babette Sanders**

Chair Babette Sanders reported on the recent meeting with Associate Provost Jim Young. The university will move forward with a request to explore the area of background checks for faculty and the Faculty Senate will be involved in formulating a policy. There will also be a group looking at developing a policy regarding contact with minors and, more specifically, who on the campus can have contact with minors. Senate leaders have asked the administration for Faculty Senate involvement and representation in this initiative.

The issue of faculty background checks and how they relate to contact with minors will be raised at the upcoming CIC meeting being hosted by NU late November through early December.

At the recent Executive Committee meeting, Faculty Senate leaders and the administration discussed the current committee structure once again and are looking to make sure that there are representatives from the Senate, or people that the Faculty Senate has selected to serve on their behalf, even if they are not Senators, to sit on university standing committees. The objective is for the university to have joint committees to ensure that in the future there are no parallel committees working on the same issues. The university administration is beginning to think more globally about how committees are formed and when to seek Faculty Senate involvement, not just faculty members that are selected by the administration. Another item on the table for further discussion is how to compensate, reward, and/or reimburse individuals who serve, particularly Chair of the Faculty Senate. Compilation data retrieved from other member schools in the CIC shows that many of Northwestern

University's peer institutions already have incentive programs in place, such as reduced workloads, which is a fairly common practice.

In response to Senators' concerns about the drastically reduced meeting time with the Board of Trustees, as compared to previous years' meetings, Chair Sanders shared these concerns with the administration. As a result, Board of Trustees Chairman Bill Osborn has agreed to speak at an upcoming Spring Senate meeting as he did last year, but this year Chair Sanders would like to change the format of the discussion. Last year, Chairman Osborn spoke primarily and Senators had very limited opportunity for question and answer time. This year, the Senate would like to invite the Board of Trustees Committee Chairs also to give Senators an opportunity to have an extended and more interactive session with a smaller BOT group. The administration responded positively to this suggestion, so Chair Sanders will pursue the matter further.

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes of the October 3, 2012 Faculty Senate Meeting**

A motion was made, and seconded, to adopt the minutes of the October 3, 2012 Faculty Senate Meeting. The motion passed, with one abstention. The minutes will be posted to the Faculty Senate website.

#### **5. Creation of University Faculty Handbook Standing Committee**

Chair Babette Sanders gave a brief historic overview of the revision process for the current Faculty Handbook, which is now available in electronic format. The faculty Senate is in the process of establishing a University Faculty Handbook Standing Committee that will ensure the handbook is kept current and that revisions are made on an ongoing basis. One Senator raised concerns over version control and stressed that there needs to be different versions available at all times. The new handbook committee will be responsible for keeping, tracking, and ensuring the availability of various versions.

#### **6. Committee Reports**

Faculty Senate Chair Babette Sanders asked each Chair to give a committee report.

*Benefits:* No report at this time.

*Budget:* Chair Helen Thompson reported that the Budget Committee is meeting later this month to discuss ways to rearticulate the mission and role of the group and help identify how to begin finding their mandate. They will also focus on education and the provision of information to faculty.

*Cause:* No report at this time.

*Educational Affairs:* Chair Susan Lee reported that the committee has been working on the Diversity Requirement and online education and distance learning. Members of the committee have gone back to their respective departments to get feedback and input, which they have brought back to the

Academic Committee of the Diversity Council where they are working on course design. As it currently stands, there is a push towards allowing existing courses or newly designed courses to count for the requirement, but these courses must respond to a set of learning outcomes that have been generated by another subcommittee of the Academic Committee of the Diversity Council. There is also a desire to have better definitions of diversity and to be in agreement in what falls under that umbrella. There is still a lot of discussion about two different realms of intention for this course. First, aiming for a more traditional academic understanding of creating opportunities for students to connect and understand this area in a more rigorous academic way and, second, changing the climate of the institution by looking at experiences that in fact will begin to have an impact on behavior and thinking. The Educational Affairs Committee hopes to do both, communicating the academic content and challenging and engaging student in a way that will be impactful.

The educational Affairs Committee is hoping to develop a detailed list of issues and concerns that are coming from faculty about how and where NU is headed in terms of online education and distance learning. Chair Lee asked Senators to go back to their home departments and get feedback and lists of issues and concerns they would like to be added to a white paper currently in development. She challenged Senators to think about and solicit ideas on how to continue to navigate this new aspect of our educational process.

A challenge for the Educational Affairs Committee, relating to both the diversity requirement and online learning, is trying to get clarification on the relationship of these initiatives to the strategic plan. A bigger issue to be addressed is the way in which the whole notion of thinking about how things relate to the strategic plan is filtered out in very different ways throughout the institution. There doesn't seem to be any coherence in how faculty is invited to participate in those conversations in a meaningful way.

*Faculty Rights and Responsibilities:* In Chair Wesley Roth Burghardt's absence, Babette Sanders reported that this year the committee's main focus is making sure the Ombudsman program is fully functional.

*Governance:* Babette Sanders reported that the Governance Committee is planning to meet before December to work on a proposal for the new Faculty Appeals Panel.

*Non-tenure:* Chair Christiane Rey reported that the committee met a week ago. There are twelve members in the committee, with representatives from almost all of the schools. In discussing the role of non-tenured faculty it became evident that each school treats this group of faculty differently. Chair Rey also explained that the discussion brought to surface concerns about transparency on issues of salary, promotions, and the way non-tenured faculty is evaluated for promotion.

*Research Affairs:* In Chair Jim Kyriacou's absence, Babette Sanders reported that the committee is gathering information about the status of research, and more specifically what the successes and barrier are for doing research at NU.

*Secure Faculty Survey:* Babette Sanders reported that although Chair Malcolm MacIver is questionably going to be able to spearhead this initiative in the next few months, the Senate will move forward with a secure faculty survey.

*Social Responsibility:* Chair Mary Pattillo reported that the committee held its first meeting and all of the members were able to attend. This was an opening discussion and a number of topics were brought forward for future consideration.

*Executive Committee:* Chair Babette Sanders reported that at the November 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting with the administration they discussed concepts of are we one university or many colleges, having consistent faculty senate representation on university committees, the diversity requirement, online learning, the Ombudsman program, the Board of Trustees meeting, the CIC meeting, agenda items for the upcoming December Assembly meeting, and moving forward with a faculty survey. Additionally, Babette raised the issue of lack of information flow down to the faculty on what is happening with major initiatives on campus. In response, the administration has agreed to make available to the entire faculty a quarterly report they generate and distribute to the Board of Trustees, which contains updates on initiatives that are going on around campus.

## **7. Board of Trustees Meeting**

Chair Babette Sanders reminded Senators about the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting taking place November 9, 2012 from 12-1:30pm in the Allen Center Atrium Dining Room on the Evanston Campus.

## **8. Fall Assembly Meeting**

Chair Babette Sanders reminded everyone about the upcoming University Assembly Meeting taking place on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and strongly urged everyone to attend and to invite colleagues to attend.

## **9. CIC 2012 Annual Meeting**

Chair Babette Sanders invited Senators to attend the Committee on Institutional Cooperation Annual Conference hosted by Northwestern University, taking place on November 30 and December 1, with an opening reception on November 29. The focus of this event is Governance.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.