

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago  
February 5, 2014

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The meeting was called to order by Stephen Eisenman, Faculty Senate Chair, at 5:10pm. There were 53 of 80 members in attendance, with 32 attendees in Evanston, 12 in Chicago, and 9 off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance was the Northwestern Emeriti Organization representative, who serves as an honorary member of the Faculty Senate.

**1. Welcome by Stephen Eisenman, Chair**

Stephen Eisenman welcomed everyone and made several announcements. He thanked Senators who joined one or more Standing Committees and alerted everyone else that they will be receiving notices to make selections for Committee membership. He reminded members of the Executive Committee, made up of all Standing Committee Chairs, about the WINTER Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2014 3:30-5pm.

**2. The Chair Offers the Following Resolution**

Chair Stephen Eisenman put forth the following motion:

*That the Senate honors Jeri Logemann for her many years of service to her students, her department, her discipline, and particularly the Faculty Senate. By this resolution, members officially extend to Jeri their sincere wishes for improved health and a speedy return to the Senate chamber.*

The motion was adopted unanimously.

**3. Chair's Report**

**1) "The Senate's Two Bodies -- Professional and Intellectual (Scientific)":** Chair Eisenman remarked that the Faculty Senate, in order to be an effective organization, must act in two different registers more or less at the same time. The body should represent the Faculty in all departments as a professional organization would, making sure important issues such as salary, benefits, working conditions, etc. are addressed but the body should also focus on the things that by law Faculty are responsible for, including the teaching program, curriculum, students, student life, the educational program, and the research program. It is for the reasons mentioned that Chair Eisenman will put forward two resolutions found later in the Agenda for the creation of two Special Committees, one to address salary and benefits and the other to tackle climate change and the Anthropocene.

**2) Severe parking shortage on North Campus near Music building construction site (See Appendix 1):** Chair Eisenman will be monitoring the parking shortage on the North Campus near the Music building construction, therefore Senators were asked to send information and

share personal experiences, especially if their respective department has been particularly affected. He will send feedback to the Administration.

**3) Political statements by the President and Provost (See Appendix 1):** Chair Eisenman reported that he voiced his concerns about the broad statement made by the President and Provost that "Northwestern University strongly disagrees" with the American Studies Association's vote to boycott Israeli educational institutions. Although he was told he raised a good point, it was also stated that the President and Provost speak for the University on a number of occasions and it would take time for the Senate to issue a statement. The Social Responsibilities Standing Committee, Chaired by Marcus Moseley, will pursue the matter further.

**4) Vice Chair for 2014-2015:**

Chair Eisenman announced that the Faculty Senate needs a Vice Chair to serve out the remainder of 2013-14 and then to serve a full term 2014-15. Anyone interested in serving or nominating a fellow Senator to serve should alert Chair Eisenman.

#### **4. Nominations for Committee Chairs**

Chair Stephen Eisenman asked for and received unanimous consent to ratify the following as Standing Committee Chairs:

Faculty Handbook: Wesley Roth Burghardt

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities: Marcia Bosits

Social Responsibility: Marcus Moseley

#### **5. Committee Reports**

**Benefits:** Chair Donna Jurdy reported that the Committee will meet on Thursday, February 27, 2014 to discuss a major issue that has surfaced concerning mandated changes in the retirement plan. The Committee will continue pursuing the "no smoking campus" matter and the influence of Obamacare on NU. A Senator asked the Committee to look into the tuition plan for dependents, which is currently four years but some NU programs are five years in length.

**Educational Affairs:** Chair Susan Lee reported that the Committee has been meeting regularly, continuing their work on Semester Online as well as other online initiatives.

Bradley Zakarin, Director of Residential Academic Initiatives, whose office is tasked with maintaining and strengthening the existing formats for Faculty and students in residential settings, spoke to the Senate about wanting to make it easier for Faculty to offer academic opportunities in the residential context which means more seminar rooms and support of technological and pedagogical needs.

Senator Candy Lee reported that she taught the first Semester Online course and found that people have a lot of questions and have the idea confused with MOOCs. She gave a brief slide presentation that took Senators through what happens during a Semester Online course.

**Faculty Handbook:** Chair Wesley Roth Burghardt reported that the Committee met and has generated a number of action items. He presented them in three categories: (1) Proposals for content or policies that go beyond current scope; (2) proposals for nontrivial updates and/or modifications of current handbook; and (3) minor updates to keep content current and relevant. Senators were asked to send in additional suggestions for changes.

**Governance:** Chair Carol Simpson-Stern reported that the Committee has recommended the Faculty Appeals Panel draw members from eligible Senators during this academic year to serve on any panels that we might have to establish. Eligibility would require that the Faculty member be of the rank of Associate Professor or full Professor and hold tenure. Additionally, on the recommendation of Jeri Logemann, the Committee is considering advancing a resolution to allow electronic acceptance of Faculty Senate Minutes and also to offer the right to vote to emeritus members.

**Non-tenure Eligible:** Chair Heather Colburn reported that the Committee continues to collect data on who non-tenure eligible Faculty are at Northwestern and the categories that exist.

**Secure Faculty Survey:** Chair Martin Block reported that the Committee is at the stage of clarifying survey objectives. Members have found a 2007 Northwestern Faculty survey, including both the questionnaire and results, which will be very helpful in moving forward.

## **6. The Chair Offers the Following Resolutions**

### **Faculty Salary and Benefits:**

Chair Stephen Eisenman put forth the following resolution, which was thoroughly discussed and adopted as follows:

*The Senate Chair proposes the formation of a Special Faculty Committee -- see Article 5, Section 3, Part 1, including representatives from the Budget, Benefits and Non-Tenured faculty committees (membership chosen by the committees themselves) and at least one senior NU administrator, to undertake a year-long review of NU policy concerning faculty salary and benefits. The Senate Chair will serve ex officio. Among the issues it may address are: national standing of NU compensation levels at every rank; current system for awarding wage increases; over-emphasis on outside offers as a basis for salary raises and consideration of alternative procedures; apparent decline in value of benefits; equity and fairness of current benefit system; and mediated relationship between endowment income and salary and benefit levels. Upon completion of its review, the committee will write a succinct report and make recommendations to the Senate.*

### **Global Research and Teaching:**

Chair Stephen Eisenman put forth the following resolution, which was thoroughly discussed, amended, and adopted as follows:

*The convening of a Special Faculty Committee to consider the most effective ways to coordinate and strengthen Northwestern's effort related to climate change and the Anthropocene (actual name to be determined later). The committee will include representatives from the Educational Affairs, Research, and Social Responsibility committees (membership chosen by the committees themselves) and at least one senior NU administrator. The Senate Chair will serve ex officio. Though Northwestern has placed global issues at the top of its recent Strategic Plan, established centers for Global Engagement, Global Culture and Communication, and Global Health Studies, developed a Global Opportunities website, hired a new Vice President for Global Marketing, and made global outreach the focus of its recent trustee/faculty luncheon, it has not addressed as an institution global climate change and the anthropocene. (The latter term, popularized by the atmospheric chemist and Nobel Prize winner Paul Crutzen, describes "a geologic age of our own making" in which natural ecosystems have been so transformed and degraded that they may in the near future be incompatible with human life.) In coordination with existing centers and programs, [including the Institute for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern], the new Center would coordinate research and teaching in the following areas (among others): the science of climate change; climate policy and national education; ecology and biodiversity; water systems (droughts, floods, and water wars); alternative fuels; transition to more sustainable plant-based diets; soil erosion and depletion; deforestation; species extinction; and zoonotic diseases. Upon completion of its evaluation, the committee will write a succinct report and make a recommendation to the Senate.*

### **Organization of Senate Committees**

Chair Stephen Eisenman put forth the following resolution:

*The Chair proposes the establishment of a Special Faculty Committee -- see Article 5, Section 3, Part 1, on Governance and Ways and Means, including representatives from the existing Governance, Handbook, Budget, and Faculty Rights and Responsibilities committees (membership chosen by the committees themselves) and one senior administrator to review the current structure of Senate committees. The Senate Chair will serve ex officio. The Special Faculty Committee will evaluate standing versus Special Faculty Committees, and consider the proper role of Northwestern administrators in Senate committees. The committee will also review existing (non-Senate) campus-wide committees and address the idea of bringing them into the Senate portfolio. Finally, the committee will consider what personnel and financial resources are necessary to establish the most effective committee structure and most productive system of shared governance. Upon completion of its evaluation, the committee will write a succinct report and make a recommendation to the Senate.*

After a thorough discussion, the resolution was withdrawn by Stephen Eisenman.

### **7. New Business**

NU senior Kain Colter, a quarterback and co-captain of the football team, is leading the effort to unionize the football team under the National Labor Relations Act ("NLRA") in an effort to protect players

financially, academically, and physically. Chair Stephen Eisenman has placed this issue on the agenda for the February 6<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting and will report back on this at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

#### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Diana Snyder*

*Administrative Coordinator*

## **Appendix I**

### **Chair's report on severe parking shortage on North Campus near music building construction site:**

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, I was informed by Merrill Silverman that facilities management was going to remove the snow on the parking structure in order to open up about 30 more spaces. He also said he would talk to the head of the construction crew and have more of the guys park on the actual construction site. I suggested he have the crew park at Ryan Field and take the shuttle. He said they might do that, but that a lot of the crews have tools in their trucks they need. I also indicated unease with the suggestion (made to one Senator) that she park at Ryan Field and take the shuttle even though she had paid to park on the campus. He said they had accommodated this concern by agreeing not to raise parking fees next year. I indicated I would be following up soon.

### **Chair's report on political statements by the President and Provost:**

On December 20, the president and provost published a statement indicating that "Northwestern University strongly disagrees" with the American Studies Association's vote to boycott Israeli educational institutions. I wrote him that such a statement was overly broad since it was made without consultation with the Faculty Senate, the student association, the Board of Trustees, staff or others that comprise the University. He cordially replied that I "raise a very good point", but that "the president and provost speak for the university on a number of occasions," and that "it would take time for the Senate to issue a statement like this." I remain unconvinced that the president or provost should make political pronouncements in the name of others who may disagree. Administrators are of course welcome to make political statements in their own names or on behalf of (with the agreement of) their offices or organizations. So are we all. The matter indicates again the need for a Faculty Senate that meets often and can act swiftly.