

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago  
June 3, 2015

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The Faculty Senate meeting of June 3, 2015 took place on the Evanston Campus in Pancoe Auditorium and on the Chicago Campus in Wieboldt Hall 421. President Stephen Eisenman called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. There were 65 of 85 members in attendance, with 43 attendees in Evanston, 8 in Chicago, and 14 participating off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance were 8 guest faculty members, with 3 attending in Chicago and 5 in Evanston.

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

President Stephen Eisenman welcomed everyone and reminded Senators that this is the final meeting of the academic year. The next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2015.

**2. President's report/remarks, Stephen Eisenman**

*A. Executive Committee Meeting– May 22<sup>nd</sup>:*

Several important topics were discussed at the executive meeting including, in general terms, Title IX. A summary of the meeting will be sent to Senators.

*B. Assembly Meeting, June 2<sup>nd</sup>:*

The President and the Provost gave reports on several items including the Trustee meeting/retreat, undergraduate education reform, and Divestment. Additionally, Associate Provost Lindsay Chase-Lansdale gave a status update on the "*Provost Initiative on Support for Faculty Excellence.*" A summary of the meeting will be posted on the Assembly website.

*C. Faculty Excellence – reminder to complete the survey:*

The Faculty Excellence survey is a Faculty Senate initiative that asks faculty about their experience at Northwestern, spearheaded by Secure Faculty Survey Chair Martin Block. President Eisenman strongly encouraged Senators to complete the survey as soon as possible and also to remind colleagues to do the same. The administration will send out the survey once again in the next few days to those who have not yet completed it. The Faculty Senate will have access to the aggregated results of the survey in the Fall.

A concern was raised about the confidentiality of responses from faculty members in smaller departments where one can easily be identified. Chair Block confirmed that the results from small departments will be aggregated, making it very difficult for anyone to identify a specific respondent.

### **3. Vice President's Report/Facilitation**

#### *A. Executive Committee report on Baron Reed's "Formal Request" to the Senate:*

Vice President Edward F X Hughes reported that the Executive Meeting of the Faculty Senate, consisting of the chairs of the eleven committees, the Senate Vice President, Past President, and current President (who was not in attendance at this particular meeting), met on Friday, May 29, 2015 to deliberate and formally respond to Baron Reed's formal request to the Senate. On May 12, 2015 Senator Baron Reed presented, via email, a formal written complaint lodged by the Philosophy Department in which the Senate is called upon to inquire into whether Stephen Eisenman, in his role as President of the Northwestern Faculty Senate, violated his duties by discussing details of an ongoing confidential university investigation on the Senate floor and should therefore step down from office. Vice President Hughes read the Executive Committees conclusions on the matter as follows:

- 1. It was inappropriate and an error in judgment for President Eisenman to have spoken about "an ongoing confidential University investigation" on the floor of the Senate;*
- 2. There was no abuse of power in his doing so; and,*
- 3. His behavior does not warrant sanctions by the Senate.*

*It was further recommended that the Committee on Governance develop guidelines for oversight of Officers of the Senate in the future.*

A lively discussion ensued that focused on the proceedings, conclusions of the Executive Committee, confidentiality, and protection of freedom of speech.

#### *B. Academic freedom and free speech compatibility with Title IX:*

Vice President Hughes reported that the Senate leadership is considering a recommendation to create a task force that would entail not just the Senate but also individuals from across the university to investigate and make recommendations regarding compatibility between title IX and free speech.

### **4. Antibodies Proposal Revisions --Thanks and Next Steps**

President Stephen Eisenman gave a step by step historical overview of the events that led him to write the Antibodies report and the motivation behind doing so. He maintained that throughout his investigative journey he went through the proper channels, exploring and soliciting information from reputable sources both within NU and outside of NU. He also stressed that the document was clearly marked as follows: *"From time to time, the Senate President will publish short essays and reports on issues affecting the community. The views expressed are solely his own. Faculty are invited to reply to faculty-senate@northwestern.edu."* President Eisenman addressed, point by point, specific concerns and objections that were brought to his attention about the report including the following: *"The final, non-substantive objections I heard was that I was pursuing a personal agenda, incompatible with my role as Senate president. To that I plead guilty: Every Senate officer must have an "agenda" in order to lead and be effective. Over the past two years, mine has been ambitious: a) To encourage greater NU engagement in study and education about global warming; b) to promote greater faculty pay so that it*

may be at least comparable if not exceed peer institutions; c) to support and possibly expand university efforts to enroll lower income students; d) to review and offer criticism of the program in Qatar; e) to regain for the Senate a place at the central administration budget negotiating table; f) to ensure that faculty internet and email privacy is protected; g) to use my office to resolve personnel matters before they get to the stage of acrimony or lawsuits (I have done this three times); h) to protect academic freedom, congruent with the Senate Statutes and Bylaws; and i) to encourage best practices in biomedical research that involve animals, in particular concerning the sourcing of antibodies.” He added that the goal of his antibodies report is 1) to encourage and enable good, replicable science; 2) help NU remain in the very front tier of biomedical research; and 3) reduce the unnecessary suffering of animals.

Senators, and guests attending, made comments, raised objections, and identified inaccuracies. A grave concern that surfaced multiple times was that Stephen Eisenman did not seek the counsel of NU Faculty and expert researchers who would have been able to educate him and set the record straight on many inaccuracies. Additionally, several procedural oversights were cited, including the public release and posting of the report before it was fully vetted and approved by the Faculty Senate.

The following motion was adopted:

**Remove “President’s Report to the Senate Concerning the Procurement and Use of Research Antibodies at Northwestern University” from the Faculty Senate website.**

As a next step, the Research Affairs Committee will continue to review the current Antibodies report and its merits, and will consult with experts in the field to gather additional information. The Committee will also investigate whether there is interest in the rAB facilities by the people who work on this issue and will explore people’s opinion on this matter.

##### **5. COIA Resolution on H.R. 275**

The following COIA Resolution on H.R. 275, introduced by Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics Northwestern Representative, Jeanne Herrick, was adopted:

***WHEREAS, Northwestern University is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); and***

***WHEREAS, the NCAA’s recent restructuring effort has failed to effectively address critical issues currently confronting intercollegiate athletics: significant lapses of academic integrity, grave threats to the financial stability of athletic programs, the alarming escalation of coaches’ salaries, the escalation of student fees and institutional general fund subsidies to support athletics, excessive athletics time demands that do not allow athletes to devote sufficient time to their academic studies, and ongoing concerns about the health and safety of college athletes, among others; effective reform of intercollegiate athletics is so complex and important to higher education that a blue ribbon commission of faculty, collegiate sports***

*experts and members of Congress should be convened to objectively study these issues and propose solutions.*

*WHEREAS, the academic integrity and reputation of our higher education institutions and the education, health and welfare of college athletes are too important to allow these questionable practices to continue.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Faculty Senate/Council that the Senate go on record in support of H.R. 275, a bi-partisan bill being considered by the 114th Congress, that would establish a blue-ribbon Presidential Commission "to identify and examine issues of national concern related to the conduct of intercollegiate athletics and to make recommendations for the resolution of such issues;" and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individual faculty members consider contacting their respective Congressperson to ask that they co-sponsor the H.R. 275.*

## **6. Election of Vice President FY2015-2016**

Professor Laurie Zoloth briefly introduced herself and declared her interest in serving in the position of Vice President of the Faculty Senate for academic year 2015-16. She believes that faculty in every department must devote serious attention to the ongoing work of creating an academic community. Her goal is to increase the ability of the faculty not only to do excellent research and to teach with grace and integrity, but to be citizens of the university with a stake in the nature, goal and meaning of the academy.

Professor Laurie Zoloth was elected to serve as the Faculty Senate Vice President for the 2015-16 academic year and will begin her duties on August 1, 2015.

## **7. Standing Committees update**

Faculty Rights and Responsibility Chair Edward F X Hughes reported that the committee is continuing to address internet access and members had a productive session with Sean Reynolds, Vice President & Chief Information Officer, IT Vice President, and David Keown, Planning Director/ Advisor to the CIO. They discussed, from ground zero, the university statement regarding internet privacy drafting early language for a revised policy. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for mid-June.

Chair Edward F X Hughes announced that Rives Collins will be the Faculty Rights and Responsibility Chair in the coming academic year as he steps in to his role as Senate President.

## **8. Farewell and thanks to outgoing Senators**

President Stephen thanked outgoing Senators for their service and encouraged them to reach out to their department chairs to remind them to run an election to fill the vacancy.

**9. Motion thanking President Eisenman**

The following motion was adopted:

**Thank President Stephen Eisenman for an excellent job that he has done with the Faculty Senate.**

**12. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Diana Snyder*

*Administrative Coordinator*

*Approved by,*

*President Edward FX Hughes*