

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Pancoe Auditorium - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago
November 4, 2015

The meeting of the Faculty Senate of November 4, 2015 took place on the Evanston Campus in Pancoe Auditorium with videoconferencing to the Chicago Campus in Wieboldt Hall 421. A number of Senators participated remotely. President Edward FX Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. There were 66 of 84 members in attendance, with 40 attendees in Evanston, 8 in Chicago, and 18 participating off-site. The quorum of fifty-one percent was met. Also in attendance on the Evanston Campus were 2 guest faculty members.

1. Greetings and Welcome:

President Ed Hughes welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the 2015-16 academic year.

2. Brief Introductory Remarks and Overview of Meeting:

President Ed Hughes commented that he was pleased by the positive response to the initial meeting in October, by the enthusiasm with which the Chairs of the Committees have prepared new charges, and by the strong response of Senators to the Committee opportunities. He explained that the Senate is off to a good start and is currently in "Phase One" with a focus on building structures and identifying personnel to enable the various activities of the Senate to be effectively implemented and brought to fruition over the course of the year.

a) Very Pleasant Announcement:

President Ed Hughes announced that the President of Northwestern University has invited all the members of the Faculty Senate to his home for dinner on the evening of Monday, February 8th. A number of Administrators and the Dean of each school will also be invited to attend. The President's house can accommodate only 67 individuals for dinner. An invitation will go out to each Senator in the near future from the President's office for a first-come, first-serve sign-up process, with some weight to be given to Committee membership and Chairs.

3. Approval of the Senate minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting carried unanimously.

4. Introduction of Senators not Previously Introduced:

Senators attending in Evanston and in Chicago who did not attend the October meeting or were recently elected introduced themselves. There were no such Senators joining remotely.

5. Carry-Over Business, Accreditation Update:

Michele McDonough reported that the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission has renewed Northwestern's accreditation for the next ten years, through the 2024-25 academic year. This is one of six accrediting agencies that provide institutional accreditation on a regional base. The renewal of the accreditation means that Northwestern meets the educational quality and regulatory compliance requirements for a University and allows NU to be eligible to participate in federal student aid programs.

Michele McDonough also reported that the University's Assessment Accreditation Council, on which she and Senate Past President Babette Sanders serve along with other faculty, staff, and students, will stay intact. As part of the Open Pathways ongoing accreditation process, the University will engage in several activities with the Higher Learning Commission during the upcoming 10-year cycle. In the first year, in addition to several other items, NU will need to present information on their commitment to student learning outcome assessment and to show commitment to understanding how Northwestern is assessing that the students are learning from the classwork and coursework. In year four, NU is required to give an update on the assurance argument, articulating how they are meeting these accreditation criteria that are being laid out. In years five through nine, NU will complete a quality initiative and show improvement projects that demonstrate challenges and aspirations are being met. And then in year ten, Northwestern will go through the entire reaccreditation process once again.

6. Honorary Degrees: Nominees and Elections—Professor Linda Broadbelt Chair, Honorary Degree Committee:

President Ed Hughes explained that one of the important symbolic and substantive activities of the Faculty Senate, mandated by the bylaws, entails voting on the nominees for Honorary Degrees to be awarded by the University. He introduced Professor Linda Broadbelt, Chair of the Honorary Degree Committee, and Marianna Kepka, Assistant Provost for Academic Administration and Director of the Office of Change Management. Chair Broadbelt gave a brief overview of the nomination process for Honorary Degrees and explained that, each year, the University Faculty is formally invited to submit nominations. Nominations are accepted from the University community, but outside external parties are allowed to submit nominations also. Once all of the nominations are collected, they are reviewed by the Faculty Honorary Degree Committee. The criteria used by the Committee of Honorary Degrees for reviewing nominations can be found at <http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/committees/honorary-degrees/>. The Honorary Degree Committee is appointed by the Provost.

Linda Broadbelt, with assistance from Marianna Kepka, presented the 2016 nominee recommendations of the Honorary Degree Committee for Faculty Senate review. She stressed that confidentiality is extremely important and explained that if the slate of nominees is approved by the Senate the next step would be to present it to the Committee of the Board of Trustees for their approval. Additionally, nominees that were approved last year may also be considered. Those approved are invited, but not required, to come to Northwestern's commencement exercises to receive the Honorary Degree.

An open dialogue ensued and Senators asked questions and gave feedback regarding both the nominating process and the nominees. At the conclusion of the discussion, each Senator was given a ballot and a vote was taken.

7. Election of Committee Chair:

The motion to nominate Larry Christiano as Chair of the Salary and Benefits Committee carried unanimously.

8. Committee Reports:

Secure Faculty Survey: Chair Martin Block reported that the first piece of the report of the results of the survey are coming in a few weeks and will be sent via email to Faculty.

9. Report on Special Committees:

President Ed Hughes reported that the two Special Committees that were set up in February 2014, the Special Committee on Climate Change and the Anthropocene and the Special Committee on Faculty Salary and Benefits are no longer active. The Special Committee on Faculty Salary and Benefits has been dissolved due to a lack of membership involvement. The Special Committee on Climate Change and the Anthropocene was deactivated when members joined forces with already ongoing activities of the Office of Sustainability led by Rob Whittier. The Sustainability Initiative is moving forward successfully under Rob's leadership. Mr. Whittier will report on the progress of the Initiative at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

10. New Initiatives: Task Forces:

- A. Shared Governance:** President Ed Hughes reported that he and Vice President Laurie Zoloth have been working on constituting the membership of the Shared Governance Task Force, approximately eight or nine members. The main goal of the Task Force is to research shared governance at peer institutions, move towards expanding shared governance at Northwestern, and correct the systematic erosion of the role of the Faculty Senate within the University. President Hughes asked Senators to send him and Laurie Zoloth examples of roles and responsibilities the Senate previously had but no longer does.
- B. Free Speech/Academic Freedom:** President Ed Hughes explained that the stimulus for creating the Free Speech/Academic Freedom Task Force was the U of C "Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression" (see attached). The goal of the Task Force is to find a similar highly regarded, disciplinarily distributed array of Faculty to serve on this Task Force and to be Chaired potentially by someone with expertise in this area.
- C. "Evaluation of Effectiveness":** President Ed Hughes explained that the "Evaluation of Effectiveness" Task Force will investigate the feasibility of, and recommend the, extending evaluation techniques and technologies throughout the University. He is currently meeting with individuals across the University familiar with evaluation methods.

11. Other Initiatives:

President Ed Hughes reported that the Research Affairs Committee has been tasked with taking the lead on having the Faculty Senate prepare a Copyright Policy, to comment on potential University policy, to invite experts in this field from across the University to join the Committee and to come out with a substantive and constructive policy, a policy that “will enable the University to get it right.”

12. Other Items:

President Ed Hughes announced that, per the will of the Senate, moving forward Minutes of Senate meetings will be presented at each Senate meeting for approval.

13. University Faculty Assembly:

President Ed Hughes reminded everyone that the University Faculty Assembly will take place Friday, December 4, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Swift Hall, Room 107, with videoconferencing to Wieboldt Hall, Room 421. He stressed the importance of attending and also bringing colleagues to this important biannual meeting that brings the President, Provost, Administrators and Faculty together in the same room to discuss important University issues and priorities, to express opinions, and to ask questions. President Hughes invited Senators to submit topics and issues to be forwarded to President Schapiro for potential discussion at the Assembly.

14. Next Meetings:

President Ed Hughes announced that the Executive Committee will meet Wednesday, November 11, in Kellogg, Room 619 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Executive Committee will also be attending the Summit Meeting on Thursday, November 12, from 10:00-11:30 a.m., in Rebecca Crown Conference Room. The agenda will consist of one item: “From Faculty Leadership to Administrative Leadership:

What are the critical challenges facing you in your Administrative position and the University as a whole, and how can the leadership of the Faculty be of help to you in addressing those challenges and enhancing the greatness of Northwestern University?”

President Ed Hughes reminded Senators that the Winter Quarter meetings, February and March, will meet from 4:00-5:45 p.m. rather than 5:00-6:45 p.m. There will be no Faculty Senate meeting in January. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, 2015 from 5:00-6:45 p. m., in Pancoe Auditorium with videoconferencing to Wieboldt Hall 421.

15. Adjournment:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Snyder
Administrative Coordinator

Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression

The Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago was appointed in July 2014 by President Robert J. Zimmer and Provost Eric D. Isaacs “in light of recent events nationwide that have tested institutional commitments to free and open discourse.” The Committee’s charge was to draft a statement “articulating the University’s overarching commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the University’s community.”

The Committee has carefully reviewed the University’s history, examined events at other institutions, and consulted a broad range of individuals both inside and outside the University. This statement reflects the long-standing and distinctive values of the University of Chicago and affirms the importance of maintaining and, indeed, celebrating those values for the future.

From its very founding, the University of Chicago has dedicated itself to the preservation and celebration of the freedom of expression as an essential element of the University’s culture. In 1902, in his address marking the University’s decennial, President William Rainey Harper declared that “the principle of complete freedom of speech on all subjects has from the beginning been regarded as fundamental in the University of Chicago” and that “this principle can neither now nor at any future time be called in question.”

Thirty years later, a student organization invited William Z. Foster, the Communist Party’s candidate for President, to lecture on campus. This triggered a storm of protest from critics both on and off campus. To those who condemned the University for allowing the event, President Robert M. Hutchins responded that “our students . . . should have freedom to discuss any problem that presents itself.” He insisted that the “cure” for ideas we oppose “lies through open discussion rather than through inhibition.” On a later occasion, Hutchins added that “free inquiry is indispensable to the good life, that universities exist for the sake of such inquiry, [and] that without it they cease to be universities.”

In 1968, at another time of great turmoil in universities, President Edward H. Levi, in his inaugural address, celebrated “those virtues which from the beginning and until now have characterized our institution.” Central to the values of the University of Chicago, Levi explained, is a profound commitment to “freedom of inquiry.” This freedom, he proclaimed, “is our inheritance.”

More recently, President Hanna Holborn Gray observed that “education should not be intended to make people comfortable, it is meant to make them think. Universities should be expected to provide the conditions within which hard thought, and therefore strong disagreement, independent judgment, and the questioning of stubborn assumptions, can flourish in an environment of the greatest freedom.”

The words of Harper, Hutchins, Levi, and Gray capture both the spirit and the promise of the University of Chicago. Because the University is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters, it guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the University, the University of Chicago fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the University community “to discuss any problem that presents itself.”

Of course, the ideas of different members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although the University greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. The University may restrict expression that violates the law, that falsely defames a specific individual, that constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, that unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or that is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of the University. In addition, the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the University. But these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the University's commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

In a word, the University's fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission.

As a corollary to the University's commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the University community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the University community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, and to criticize and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or

otherwise interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the University has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it.

As Robert M. Hutchins observed, without a vibrant commitment to free and open inquiry, a university ceases to be a university. The University of Chicago's long-standing commitment to this principle lies at the very core of our University's greatness. That is our inheritance, and it is our promise to the future.

Geoffrey R. Stone, Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law, *Chair*

Marianne Bertrand, Chris P. Dialynas Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, Booth School of Business

Angela Olinto, Homer J. Livingston Professor, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Enrico Fermi Institute, and the College

Mark Siegler, Lindy Bergman Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Surgery

David A. Strauss, Gerald Ratner Distinguished Service Professor of Law

Kenneth W. Warren, Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor, Department of English and the College

Amanda Woodward, William S. Gray Professor, Department of Psychology and the College